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# Tsunami tower tests cancelled

By Sompratch Saowakhon & Stephen Fein

PHUKET: Regional testing of the National Disaster Warning Center (NDWC) tsunami warning system, scheduled to begin at 9 am on Saturday April 7, was canceled at the last minute by the agency, which claimed that it feared that audibly testing the siren towers could create a panic in areas where the public had not been adequately informed.

Dr Smith Dharmasaroja, who heads the Nonthaburi-based NDWC, told the *Gazette* later the same morning that a comprehensive audible testing will take place soon, probably next month, but only after coordination with Governor's offices in each of the six provinces where warning towers are located: Ranong, Phang Nga, Phuket, Krabi, Trang and Satun.

In the meantime, officials may conduct localized testing that could result in some siren tower loudspeakers making a "knocking" sound as officials test them by tapping on a microphone from nearby, he said.

During such testing the sounds, expected to last just a few minutes, will be audible within a radius of about 50 to 70 meters, he said.

Admitting that reports of the testing had created some confusion, Dr Smith said the NDWC's main goal had been to inform the public that they should not be alarmed by any non-siren sounds emitted by the towers starting April 7. Such sounds would only be a new part of routine daily testing, he said.

He reiterated that all of the system's 79 warning towers were operational, saying that



**PHUKET CITY:** Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit poured lustral water over the hands of some 100 top provincial officials in a Songkran ceremony at the Governor's Mansion on Narisorn Rd on the morning of April 10.

Phuket Vice-Governors Worapoj Rattasima, Tri Augkaradacha and Smith Palawatvichai all took part in the traditional ceremony, along with Phuket Provincial Police Commander Maj Gen Decha Budnampetch and many other office heads.

V/Gov Worapoj represented all government officials in wishing the Governor health and happiness in the new year.

they are "silently" tested on a daily basis.

In Phuket, officers of the Phuket Provincial Office for Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (ODPM) did test one of three tsunami towers in Rawai on the morning of April 7 using a microphone tapping test. Video images of the test, along with English-language commentary, were broadcast locally on Thai TV Channel 11's Andaman News.

After the regional test was canceled, the Rawai test was the

only audible test of a siren tower on that morning that the *Gazette* could independently confirm. Phuket ODPM Chief Aroon Kersdom told the *Gazette* later that morning that the Rawai test was a success.

Yet despite the last-minute cancellation of the regional testing, international press agencies including AFP and AP released reports later that day describing the regional test as "a success."

These were contradicted by the *Gazette's* report of the  
**Continued on Page 2**



## Karon murder suspect still at large; reward nets no leads

By Sompratch Saowakhon

KARON: A 100,000-baht reward on offer for information leading to the arrest of murder suspect Suban Pon-iamsaen, 40, has brought in many reports of sightings but no solid leads, Lt Col Sirisak Wasasiri, Deputy Superintendent of Chalong Police Station told the *Gazette*.

Suban, who owns the Bounty Seafood restaurant, is the prime suspect in the murder of Mala Peng-iam, who was gunned down in her Mala Seafood beachfront restaurant on the evening of March 27.

Bounty Seafood restaurant is next door to Mala Seafood. Police believe the killing was the climax of a long-running feud between the two restaurateurs.

The most promising report of Suban's current whereabouts came from his native Krabi province, Col Sirisak said. Chalong officers co-ordinated with their Krabi colleagues to follow a tip, but discovered it to be a case of mistaken identity.

Maj Peeraphan Meemak, an Inspector at Chalong Police Station, told the *Gazette* that money for the reward was put up by Sanoe Peng-iam, a relative of K. Mala.

"K. Sanoe came to Chalong Police Station April 3 to ask about progress in the case and to offer the reward," Maj Peeraphan said.



From page 1

## Warning tower 'knock' tests cause confusion

cancellation and, later, by reports from the state-run Thai News Agency and other Bangkok-based media outlets.

All the confusion is unlikely to instill public confidence in the system set up by the NDWC, which has faced criticism by some parties for not conducting regular, audible testing of its siren towers.

The first three siren towers installed in Patong have not been audibly tested since they were modified last year to adapt to the satellite technology used by the Thai-American consortium that won the government bid to install 62 towers in the region.

The NDWC also offers a service to hotels to have their own in-house tsunami warning systems using signals sent by the NDWC, but so far only one hotel in the region has invested the 200,000 baht needed to install the technology.

## PPEA announces April Blackouts

PHUKET: The Phuket Provincial Electricity Authority (PPEA) has announced scheduled blackouts in order to maintain high-voltage power lines.

Blackouts, from 9 am to 5 pm, will affect the following locales:

**April 12, Phuket City-Koh Sireh:** Thap Pratan Rd, from Kheha Chumchon Intersection to Pleumsuk Beach, including Wanich Rd, Soi Honsaithong, Baan Laem Nga and Baan Laem Tokkae.

**April 19, Kathu:** Wichit Songkram Rd, from Wat Kathu to Kathu District Office, including Loch Palm Golf Club, Baan Mai Riab, Moo Baan Singtao Thani, Soi Kathu Cooperative and Baan Seekor.

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

# Eight boys caught for 'shotgun' muggings

By Supanun Supawong

PHUKET: Phuket City Police April 4 rounded up eight boys suspected of at least two gunpoint muggings.

Police reported that the boys – all aged 16 or 17 – confessed to two attacks, one at Saphan Hin the day before and one at Khao Rang viewpoint on March 29.

In both cases, the boys used knives and a homemade short shotgun to force victims to hand over money and mobile phones.

Lt Somsak Thongkleing, a Deputy Investigating Inspector at Phuket Police Station, told the *Gazette*, "At 4:30 pm, April 4, we found the boys sitting together under an unnumbered house in Village 6 in Wichit. Some of them were smoking marijuana."

"On searching them, we found a homemade shotgun, some cartridges, a knife and a small packet of marijuana. They admitted that, before we arrested them, they were planning more muggings."

"All eight boys are between 16 and 17

years old, so we cannot release their names. Seven of the boys are from Village 6, Wichit, and the other is from Village 8.

"Eyewitnesses remembered the boys' motorbike license plate numbers. From this we could find out where they were," Lt Somsak said.

"All of the boys have confessed to involvement in the crimes and are being held at Phuket Provincial Juvenile and Family Court. They have been charged with armed robbery and drug possession," he added.

# Dugong dies off Pa Khlok

By Sompratch Saowakhon

PA KHLOK: A 126-kilogram male dugong was found dead in an illegal fish trap in Pa Khlok Bay April 2.

The discovery was reported to the Phuket Marine and Coastal Resources Conservation Office (MCRC) by Juroon Rachaphol, a local conservation activist, at 7:30 pm.

A 20-strong team of MCRC officers and volunteers were led to the site. They found the animal stuck in the bottom of a *po*, a shallow-water fish trap made by stringing a net between stakes stuck in the seabed. *Po* traps were outlawed in 1996.

MCRC Chief Paitoon Panchaiyapoom told the *Gazette*, "The dugong weighed 126kg, and was 1.5 meters in length."

"We found the owner of the fish trap the following day. He has used *po* traps for a long time and we must find alternative fishing methods."

"The traps, however, must be removed."

Although the owner of the trap was ordered to remove all his *po* traps, he was not charged.



Pa Khlok villagers crowd round the dugong carcass, which was scored the cuts and abrasions from the dugong's attempts to free itself from the illegal trap.

"Pa Khlok Bay is a very good grazing area for dugong. Local villagers have seen at least five dugong come to feed on sea grass here," K. Paitoon said.

Kanchana Adulyanukosol,

Thailand's premier expert on dugong, estimates that only about 250 dugong inhabit Thai waters.

The dead specimen was one of only a handful that are known to live in the area.

## Violent crime up in March

PHUKET: Crime statistics for March 1 to March 31 released by Phuket Provincial Police show that reports of violent crime in Phuket rose by 130% compared with the same period last year.

Three murders and nine attempted murders were reported, with two and eight arrests made respectively. There were 27 reports of assault with 16 arrests made and eight reports of rape with six arrests made.

Vice, as usual, figured highly on the list with 289 people arrested for gambling and 117 for prostitution.

Ninety-eight people were arrested in drug-related cases. Thirty-six people were arrested on *ya bah* (methamphetamine)-related charges, with 862 pills seized, and 36 people were arrested for possession of cannabis with 175.95 grams seized.

Eighteen people were arrested for inhalant abuse with 11 bags and three cans seized.

Two people were arrested for heroin possession with 41.09 grams of the drug confiscated, five arrests involved *krathom* with 625 leaves seized, and one person was arrested for ice (crystal methamphetamine).

Eighty-seven cases of theft were reported to the police, including 12 motorcycles and one car being stolen. Arrests were made in 43 of the cases.

Thirteen people were arrested for possession of unlicensed firearms and seven people were arrested for possession or distribution of pornography.

There was one report of arson with one arrest made.

– Sangkhae Leelanaporn

## Free rabies shots

PHUKET: Phuket Provincial Livestock Office (PPLLO) is offering free rabies vaccinations for cats and dogs at Tambon Administration Organization (OrBorTor) offices until April 30.

PPLLO Veterinarian Veeraphap Termkeitpisan told the *Gazette*, "We have already vaccinated about 5,000 dogs and cats in the Phuket City, Rawai, Wichit and Chalong this year."

"The last human death from rabies in Phuket was in 1984," K. Veeraphap added.

## The Key Piece of the Puzzle

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# Dirty dealings delay building of Chalong dam

By Sompratch Saowakhon

PHUKET: The Irrigation Department has almost completed negotiations to acquire all of the land needed to build the Klong Krata Reservoir in Chalong, but the project now faces an unexpected new hurdle because some landowners have been excavating soil and trucking it away from the project site.

Theerachart Sangkaha, the Irrigation Department official in charge of the project, informed Governor Niran Kalayanamit about the soil loss during a meeting held at Phuket Provincial Hall on April 5.

"We have a big problem with the removal of sandy soil from the project site. After we reached agreements with the landowners, we used tape to mark off the project area and keep people out.

"Now we have to ask the Chalong Tambon Administration Organization and Chalong Police to help us patrol the area to make sure that no more soil is removed," he told Gov Niran.

Although unable to estimate the volume of the missing soil, K.

Theerachart told the *Gazette* that amount was considerable.

Project planners had originally intended to use soil from an abandoned tin mine in the area to help build the base of the dam – until they realized it was gone.

Now they will have to truck in more material to replace the soil that has gone missing, he said.

On a more positive note, K. Theerachart said that his office had secured formal agreements to buy the land needed from all but one property owner, with whom he expects to reach an agreement soon.

The total project cost will be 960 million baht; about 300 million for land acquisition and 660 million for construction.

About 95 million baht has already been paid for land purchases under an initial budget. The remainder of the land purchase will be covered under a second budget of 200 million baht.

Some 157 rai of the 430-rai project is national forest land; use of which has already been granted by the Forestry Department, he said.

K. Theerachart said that the 750-million-baht Bang Neaw

Dum reservoir now nearing completion in Thalung will have a greater storage capacity (7.2 million cubic meters) than Klong Krata (5.7 million cubic meters), despite being cheaper to build.

Because of steep hillsides in the area, the Klong Krata dam will need to be larger, he explained. The eight-meter-thick dam will be built of concrete and clay layers stretching 730 meters between two bluffs. The maximum water depth behind the structure will be about 25 meters.

As the soil in the area is sandy, six huge concrete blocks will be put in place beneath the dam to prevent seepage, he said.

To fund construction costs, the Phuket Irrigation Office is now preparing a 660-million-budget request to the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives for fiscal 2008, K. Theerachart said.

The project is scheduled for completion in 2009, after which it will serve as the principal supply source for Chalong and Rawai and help augment supplies in Kata-Karon.

Upon completion, a ring road will encircle the reservoir created by the dam, K. Theerachart said.

## Dead baby found floating off Saphan Hin

PHUKET CITY: A dead baby boy was found floating near the mouth of Bang Yai canal in Saphan Hin April 5.

The grisly find was reported to police at 8:30 am by a tourist.

Doctors estimate the baby was about three months old.

The boy's forehead was badly bruised. Preliminary autopsy reports indicate that he died from being hit on the head with a hard object and had been dead for about two days when his body was found.

Police currently have no leads on the boy's identity and are checking birth records in local hospitals and clinics to try to locate the mother.

## Gang rivalry blamed for park 'execution'

WICHIT: Police believe gang rivalry is the motive behind the killing of a young man whose body was found riddled with bullets early April 7.

Lt Col Sompong Boonrat, a Deputy Superintendent at Phuket City Police Station, identified the victim as Pongsakorn "Kho" Naksuk, 24.

Pongsakorn was shot several times in the upper arms, head and back with a .357-caliber weapon.

His body was found lying face up next to his motorcycle near the Villa Suanluang project construction site, on the new road that runs along the south end of Suan Luang Park.

"The victim originally lived with his family in Thalung District but later moved to Phuket City, where he became involved in a number of unlawful, gang-related activities," Col Sompong said.

"For this reason we suspect that the murder may have been gang related."

Phuket City Police are continuing their investigation in order to track down the murderer, he said.

**Sexy,  
Naughty,  
Bitchy...**

**Now  
open...**



**PATONG:** More than 1,000 people from the Tata Young Fan Club traveled to Phuket to enjoy Tata Young's live concert, held to mark the grand opening of Jungceylon in Patong on April 9.

Tata, a 26-year-old Thai-American, became a superstar in Thailand at the age of 15 and launched a successful international career with the release of her first English-language album *I Believe* in 2004, which included the hit *Sexy, Naughty, Bitchy*.

After the two-hour concert, Tata said she felt honored to perform at Jungceylon on its opening day.

## Kamala OrBorTor elects Acting President

KAMALA: Karoon Seeden has been installed as Acting President of Kamala Tambon Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*) after a vote by the council's 11 other members.

K. Karoon was installed after a vote of seven to four in his favor. Three councilors voted for Prajak Yayee, and one councilor abstained.

He replaces Jaral Sararak, who was removed from office by Kathu District Chief Khantee Silapa in February amid allegations of corruption.

K. Karoon has been a Kamala *OrBorTor* Vice-President since October 2003 and is the representative for Kamala Moo 4.

He will remain Acting President until August 29, when the council will vote for a permanent President.

## Four arrested in pirate DVD sting

PATONG: About 13,000 DVDs were confiscated and four pirate DVD vendors were arrested at Jintana Plaza Market in raids led by officers from Bangkok around 6 pm April 4.

Capt Nikom Tienhao, an Inspector at the Children, Juveniles and Woman Division's Sub-Division 3, led the sting on the vendors.

Of the 13,000 DVDs con-

fiscated, 139 were pornographic.

Sub Lt Naruewat Phuthawiro, Duty Officer at Kathu Police Station, charged the four suspects with selling DVDs without permission and copyright violation.

One suspect was also charged with distributing pornography.

All suspects confessed and are were released on bail.

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# International affairs

David is a 46-year-old American who tells his story after two failed relationships.

"My first Thai girlfriend was a keeper. Introduced to me through a friend, Suparat had grown up in Thailand, but had come to work in the United States – which is where I met and married her.

"One day I tested her with the golden question: Will you still love me if I give up my lucrative job stateside to take up teaching English in Thailand? This Isaan beauty passed with flying colors when she responded by telling me 'Money doesn't matter. I will go wherever you go so I can be with you.' I wish the same could be said for her older

sister, a woman who wasn't blessed with her younger sibling's classic features and small frame. Her sister's life revolved around

her unskilled husband and three kids, all sharing a cramped room adjacent to her parents' home. She sold curry at the market every now and then to make a few baht.

"When life for Suparat and I took us from the US to Thailand – albeit in different provinces – our love remained strong. But the relationship took a turn for the worse when her sister called me one day out of the blue with a request for 10,000 baht to tide her family over. The promise to re-

sister had snagged a *farang* with a steady income; surely enough for the extended family. I never told Suparat about the loan for fear that it would have placed a wedge between the two. Instead I chose to just walk out on the relationship, unwilling to play the role of a walking ATM for her sister.

"I tried again with Chollada. Dating a Bangkok girl was a breath of fresh air: witty conversation, style, and a wild side to boot. Farewell *Baan Nawk*, hello Big Mango! Even though she was 17 years my junior it was love at first sight. I worshiped the ground she walked on. Little did I know that she'd step all over me. I did everything for her. Broken car? Bought her a new one. No tuition funds?

Got it covered. Need to see the folks? Here's your round-trip ticket, my dear. I was saving up for an engagement ring when I received a call from her uncle, with whom she lived, informing me that I was about to get hurt big time. He'd gone through the same scenario in his dating days and didn't want a nice *farang* like me to take a similar fall.

"What he told me came as a shock: my sweetie of two years – the girl whom I could imagine waking up to every day – had another boyfriend on the side, a



Chinese guy. Sure, I should have seen the warning signs: an ex-Thai/Chinese boyfriend she talked about, and a gut reaction from my close Thai friend that this girl was a flirt. But I didn't see the signs because I was blinded by love. I did, however, discover that not all butterflies are males.

## TROUBLE OVERSEAS

Khun Chaba, a Thai lady of 27, lived abroad from the age of nine until three years ago. While overseas she dated a 40-year-old Italian man she described as "romantic". She told *Gazette* that they met each other in a bar. "I know, not the best place to meet somebody, but believe me when I say that I definitely wasn't looking to get involved with anybody and I didn't start out thinking it was going to turn into something serious," she said.

"Our relationship failed because of jealousy. He was a very jealous and possessive person, but also quite flirtatious. Although I have to admit I probably provoked him many times with my flirting. Or, to retaliate for his flirting, I would do the same thing to him, give him a dose of his own medicine. It may not be the healthiest way to be in a relationship.

"Culture did play a part though, as I believe a lot of his

personal beliefs or ideas of how the world should be were influenced by the culture he grew up in. He blamed a lot of his jealousy and possessiveness on his Italian heritage. I personally don't buy that, but hey, if that's how you want to justify it, suit yourself.

"He liked to see himself as a macho kind of guy. He was also of the opinion that men and women can't be just platonic friends and was always suspicious of my guy friends. I, on the other hand, think that it is possible, and even if there were deeper feelings involved, there's nothing wrong with it and it's all really about how you handle yourself. There was a serious lack of trust in that relationship.

"Language was a problem at times, too. His English wasn't bad, but it wasn't his first language and there were many, many times that he would misconstrue what I said and get angry or upset about it. It was also frustrating at times for me, especially when it took so long to explain something to him. This was because apart from not having a very firm grasp of English, he could also be very stubborn and would refuse to listen to reason.

"We didn't have any problems with financial issues, probably because I never depended on him for support. But then again, it wasn't like we were married. We were just boyfriend and girlfriend.

"It was a pretty stormy relationship and I didn't like the person I'd become because of that. Knowing that I couldn't and didn't even want to be with him in the long run, I didn't see any point in continuing the relationship. It would only have been wasting our time and tie us down.

"I was just too tired to go through the whole ordeal any longer. Breaking up seemed like the best thing to do, as we'd both then be free to get on with our lives.

"It wasn't easy breaking up with him, though. There had been a lot of good times during the five

Thai and *farang* relationships – can they really work? Some would say the gender gap alone creates enough problems to put any relationship in peril, but adding in cultural issues may be asking for double trouble.

The *Gazette's* Semacote Suganya takes a look at some successful and not-so-successful cross-cultural relationships on the island, along with some pearls of wisdom by some of the people who took part in them.

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years we were together, but knowing that it was the right thing to do helped a lot."

In summary K. Chaba says, "In a relationship I look for someone with a great sense of humor, maturity, kindness and politeness. I want someone who is clever, generous, diligent and has respect for both of us. He needs to be supportive and not too bad looking too. That's not too much to ask, is it?"

## SUCCESS

Twenty years ago Jan Prasetsak, a Thai woman with two daughters from a previous marriage to a fellow Thai, married Italian widower Nerio Baratta. They are now 46 and 62 years old, respectively.

"I was a waitress at a restaurant in Phuket when we first met. He came to the restaurant everyday and eventually he asked me if I had a boyfriend," K. Jan said.

"When I first met him, I was not impressed at all. He didn't smile at all. But after I knew him for a while I learned that he is a very kind person with a good heart. We dated each other for about one year, then married. He takes very good care of me.

"The only problem we have is understanding each other completely. When we have had different ideas, such as when I wanted to start a business, we haven't always agreed. Then we

might argue about it. And sometimes he can't accept dealing with the problems my family has.

"A Thai husband would accept my family's problems and understand, but a foreigner won't. But it doesn't matter as he is very good at taking care of me. I am impressed by his kindness. Sometimes he is frustrated with me. Sometimes we are happy; sometimes unhappy. But I think that's normal for a married couple. We have lived together nearly twenty years, so it's long enough to know we will live the rest of our lives together.

Nerio says, "I believe that

90% of Thai ladies want to marry a *farang* for the money to support their family. But when I met Jan, even from the very first time I met her, I could see that she had a good heart. I was a widower and decided it would be good to have a new family.

"We help each other with many things. When we fight it's usually because Thais have a mentality to help their extended family. In Europe your family is only you, your wife and children. In Thailand, family is many people: your father, your mother, your sister, your brother. It's not possible for me to support so

many people. But that is the mentality of Thais. I think it is crazy. But it is this difference that creates fights between us and why we don't understand each other sometimes. It is a difference in education and in culture.

"When we have problems we talk to each other and then we solve them. We both have to compromise. Some things I don't like but she does, some things I like she doesn't. Sometimes we both like the same thing. This is normal for a couple and your success depends on if you can compromise.

"When we have a problem we have to talk about it with each other – not with a cousin or sister, because the problems need to be solved between us, not with the family," said Nerio.

"When we first got serious I would worry if her two daughters could accept me as a stepfather. But Jan always told me not to worry, just to do my best as a real father would, then it would all work out – and she was right.

"In a long-term relationship, both people have to be patient. These days, many relationships break up because they are not patient enough; they bail out if they don't get what they want. You can't always get everything you want right now; you have to be patient and wait to see what will come in the future," said Nerio.

## LONG TERM

Richard, from France, met his wife Pan 19 years ago in Hong Kong, where she was working in a Thai restaurant. "I like Thai food, that's why we met. When I first met her I thought she was very beautiful. I think she thought I was quite handsome, as well.

"We lived together for two years before we got married. After two years, we decided we could not live without each other. But I think it's a good idea to live with someone first.

"After two years together, we found we could trust each other and we still enjoyed each other. We laughed a lot and had the same ideas about many things. Maybe it is because we are the same age (44) or because we were born in the same month and have the same star sign.

"I have always been attracted to Asian women, especially Thai ladies. They are very feminine and they make a man feel like a man. They are old-fashioned that way. Modern European and Western women, they want to be like a man. They argue, they don't want to stay at home and look after children or cook. They want to have a career. Many men are not very attracted to that kind of thinking.

"I think Thai women are quite happy to take care of their home, children and husband. My wife has similar ideas about *farang* men; that they are very serious about taking care of their family. They accept more responsibility than Thai men; they are faithful and don't waste money," says Richard.

"Everybody is different. I don't think Asian woman are the best for every man. I think some men prefer Asians, some men prefer blondes, short, tall...every kind of difference. But for me, my type is Asian women with the long black hair. Asian woman are very attractive to me. From the first time I saw my wife I liked her style, the way she talks and moves.

"Culture is not the problem at all for us, it's the opposite instead. It's why we have stayed together so long. Every day we learn something new about each other and our cultures. Being married to Pan makes for a very interesting life. Everyday I learn about Asian culture and everyday she learns something about *farang* culture and we always compare. After 19 years, she has adopted many aspects of my culture and I have adopted much of hers; we take the best parts of both.

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## Queer News

## A serious bout of love

RAYONG: Many Thais are fond of a wager and high stakes betting on muay Thai bouts is certainly nothing unusual.

The organizers of a charity Thai boxing night in Rayong, however, claimed to have a world first when two Assistant Village Chiefs went head to head in the ring to fight – not for a large sum of cash, but for the heart of a local divorcee.

On April 6 more than 1,000 fans packed a temporary boxing stadium in Rayong's Tambon Klairng to see the 11 fights on the card for the night.

However, it was the last fight of the night, an amateur match, that the crowd was waiting for.

Shortly after midnight, Somyot "Child of Village 4" Hiranmas, 39, entered the ring in the red corner and his opponent Somchai "Child of Village 3" Wechsamreut, also 39, took the stage in blue.

Both fighters had supporters numbering in the hundreds from their respective villages cheering them on.

The two men, fighting in the 64-kilogram category, launched into each other with gusto, though rather clumsily. After a couple of rounds, the pugilists began to tire and resorted to taking little mid-round breaks.

The fight went the full four rounds, neither man able to pull off a knock out. A tense few minutes after the final bell had rung, the referee pulled up the hand of Somyot proclaiming him the winner on points.

When the two fighters stepped down from the ring, local journalists rushed to question them over how they had ended up in the ring together.

Both men, however, were struck by acute attacks of shyness. They avoided the questions until a woman marched up to the two, lifted Somyot's hand into the air, and proclaimed that she was the victor's prize.

The woman, Phraoe Nitayalap, 52, said that she had separated from her husband four years ago and had recently gotten to know Somyot and Somchai, both of whom were intent on wooing her. She liked both men, and couldn't choose between them.

The two men would stop at her house in Village 5 after doing their inspections that were part of their responsibilities as Assistant Village Chiefs of Village 3 and Village 4, she explained.

In the end, she decided to agree to settle it with a boxing match, though she admitted that her feelings for the two men were

## Stamp marks HM's 80th

A nine-baht stamp will be launched on May 5 to celebrate HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej's 80th birthday.

Thailand Post Office will produce only three million copies of the 48 by 60 millimeter stamps.

The commemorative stamp pictures HM The King greeting the Thai people from the Ananta Samakhom Throne Hall during celebrations of the 60th anniversary of his

accession to the throne on June 9 last year.

The stamps will be

available at post offices throughout the country, including the 10 in Phuket.



not quite equal – she had been secretly cheering Somyot in her heart.

Somyot said that he and Somchai were on good terms and had frequently worked together, but their relationship had been strained by them falling for the same woman, 13 years their senior.

Not wanting the problem to drag on, Somyot decided to challenge Somchai to settle the issue

in the ring at the charity event. Somyot said that he had never fought muay Thai before and had trained for eight days before the fight.


Somchai claimed that he had been at a disadvantage in the fight as he had had little time to train and, although it was billed at a 64kg bout, his opponent weighed in at 69kg. He did concede that Somyot had been the better fighter on the night and

deserved to given the points decision. He said that he would stand by the result and let Somyot take the girl.

He was happy to have made merit by drawing people to the event, held to finance the building of a new shrine, he added.

There is no possibility of a rematch, he concluded.

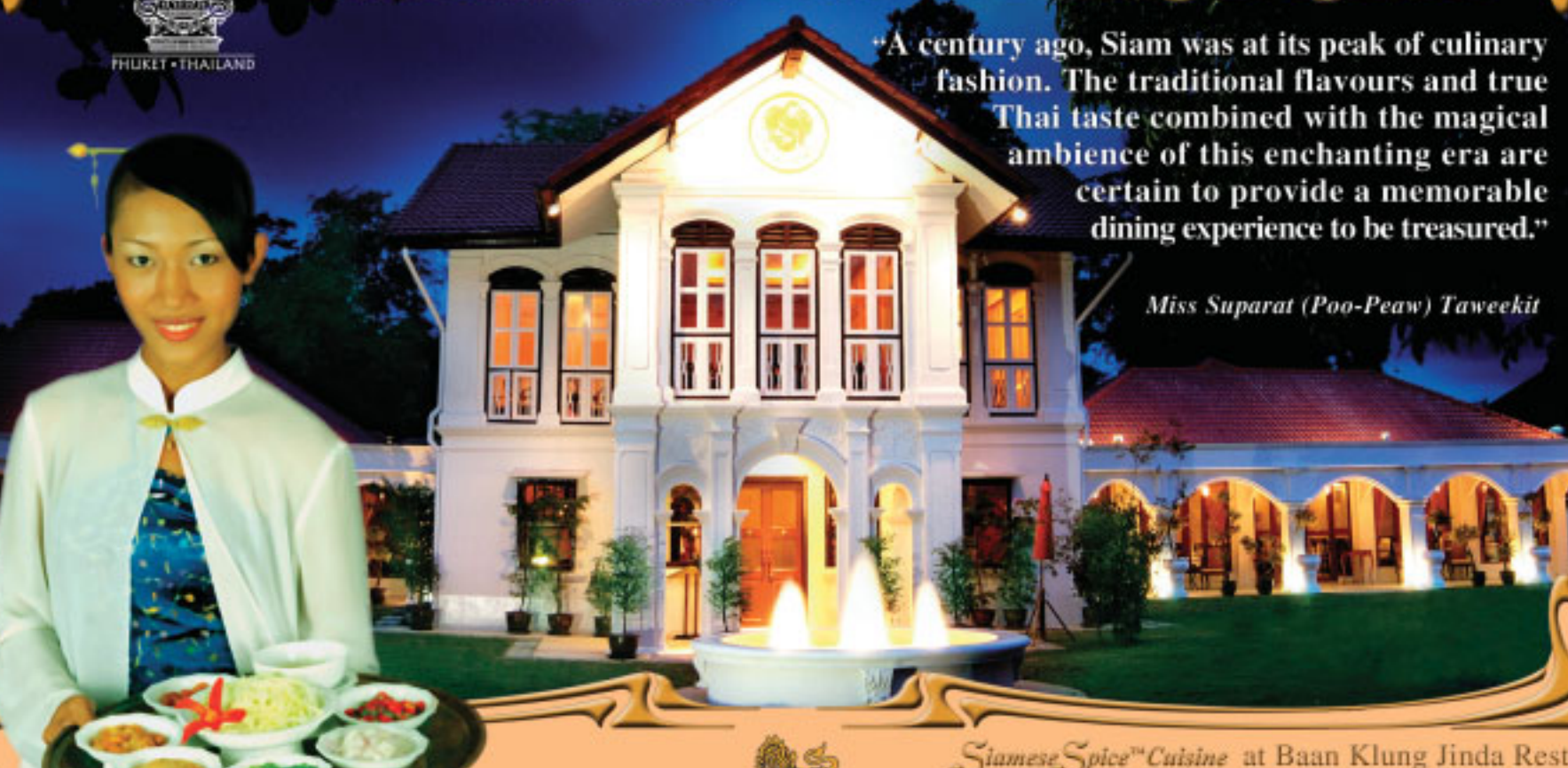
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# Samui Regatta draws top entries from Asia, Australia

**P**reparations for the Sixth Koh Samui Regatta, which begins May 27, are well underway, with several top-class entries already confirmed and a record level of sponsorship, including a number of leading brands.

Image Asia Events of Phuket, who also run Phuket Race week, is handling the event. The company recently announced 18 confirmed and provisional entries. "The word is that we can expect about 30 yachts," said Race Committee Chairman Andy Dowden.

Entries are mainly from Hong Kong, Singapore and Thailand – although Robbo Robertson's new Enigma 34, *Flight of the Gull*, is being shipped from Australia just in time to make its Thailand debut at the Koh Samui Regatta, which will also include the first Firefly 850 one-design class racing in the Gulf of Thailand.

The Koh Samui Regatta is also renowned for its social events – a blueprint that this year's organizers are determined to retain.

**Murder at Full Moon Party:** On April 2 an Israeli man died after being stabbed several times in a fight with a local man at the monthly Full Moon Party on Koh Pha-ngan.

According to witnesses, David Kakigelash became involved in an argument with a Thai man at the Drop In bar and a fight broke out. More men then joined the brawl and Mr Kakigelash was seen staggering out to the beach where he collapsed and died.

Capt Thirasak Bouasawan and a team from the Samui Tourist Police were called to the scene. After questioning local police, they learned that members of a notorious gang were seen leaving the area shortly after the attack.

One of the gang members is known to be the son of a district official. Police officers are now trying to establish the whereabouts of five Thai men.

The day after the murder, Mr Kakigelash's body was collected by the Israeli embassy to be transported back to Israel.

**Illegals nabbed:** Officers from the Samui Immigration Office are cracking down on illegal workers at construction sites around the island.

On March 28, a team of officers raided a site in Phang Ka and arrested 16 illegal workers along with two Thai foremen.

Two days later the same team found illegal Burmese workers at the construction site of a new Koh Samui Municipality building. Twenty of the workers were arrested, some of whom were in possession of expired Thai identification cards and work permits.

The workers' employer, from Ubon Rachathani, was charged with hiring illegal aliens and hiding them from the authorities. All of the workers pleaded guilty and once tried will most likely face deportation.

**Staying focused:** On March 12, the Samui government announced a project to help local people suffering from problems with their eyesight.

Koh Samui Mayor Waragorn Rattanakorn allocated 1.9 million baht to the program, which is aimed at reducing the number of people infected with eye diseases and other serious eye problems.

Opticians will be brought in to assess patients in order to diagnose diseases early and to prevent permanent damage. They will also carry out eye examinations and recommend preventive measures to avoid serious problems.

Statistics suggest that more than 3,000 people on Samui suffer from severe eyesight problems. The project is targeting such people to make sure they receive proper medical attention.

**Woman drowns after fit:** Police and volunteers from the Samui Rescue team were recently called upon to retrieve the body of a woman who drowned after having an epileptic fit.

Kamwong Boonmanan, 41, was out fishing with her husband using a large net, which they spread across the bay in front of Bophut Beach.

While the couple was trawling the net about midnight, K. Kamwong suffered a seizure and fell into the water. Her husband

was unable to find her in the dark and paddled ashore to call the police.

The woman's body was discovered trapped by the fishing net and taken to Samui Hospital, where an autopsy later revealed she had suffered an epileptic fit before drowning.



**SERIOUS STUFF:** The Koh Samui Regatta is gaining a reputation for tough competition on the water and serious oartying afterwards.



## FROM THE GULF OF THAILAND

By Barry Singleton



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Attackers fired grenades into a mosque and a packed Islamic missionary center early in the morning of April 5, wounding at least 20 worshippers.

Police said the attackers arrived in a sedan with an M79 grenade launcher before dawn and fired four rounds into the Dawa Center in Yaha District, where more than 150 people were inside to conduct early morning prayers.

Police suspect that at least five people were involved in the attack, which is a branch of the Tablighi Jamaat missionary movement.

Minutes later, a grenade was fired into the Al-Ismamiyah Mosque in Baan Asin, about a kilometer away. No one was injured, but one of the mosque's pillars was damaged. The same group is believed to have been responsible.

The district was put under a curfew from 8 pm to 4 am shortly after the execution of eight Buddhists traveling in a commuter van in the Yaha area last month. That same day a group of armed men fired into a mosque in the district, injuring seven people.

Army spokesman Col Akara Thiprot claimed attacks on the Dawa Center and the mosque were undertaken by insurgents to intimidate fellow Muslims who co-operate with the state.

"The insurgents want to scare away Muslims who may want to help authorities in quelling the violence," Col Akara insisted. "They want to cause strife between Muslims and Buddhists and make the two communities distrust each other."

Nimu Makajae, a leading Islamic figure in the region, agreed with the Colonel's assessment,



**GREEN RECRUITS:** Civil servants are trained in weapons use and military tactics at Phra Pok Klao artillery base in Pattani to prepare them to lead volunteer village security units in the province.

## Crowded mosque attacked with grenade launcher

but asked, "What I don't understand is where were the authorities? How were these people able to drive around with loaded weapons?"

**Surly sailor:** A Navy sharpshooter based in Phang Nga shot his

young wife dead and seriously injured her father and niece in a jealous rage after he returned home to Lang Suan District, Chumpon, to find that she had moved out to live with her parents.

Police from Lang Suan District Police Station led by Superintendent Col Daoloi Muandech arrived at the scene 12:30 am April 5.

There they found Chief Petty Officer Thaweesak Worakul, 53, grappling with Pol Sen Sgt Maj Suthep Chintham, who, after hearing gunshots, had rushed to the scene and tackled Thaweesak unarmed.

Inside the three-story shop-house police found the body of Nonglak Wongthong, 23, lying near her seriously-injured father, Somneuk Wongthong, 57, and her niece Sulawai Thongthapae, 11.

Sulawai and K. Somneuk were rushed to Lang Suan Hos-

pital. They were later transferred to Chumpon Hospital where they remain in critical condition.

Officers recovered Thaweesak's .38 caliber revolver containing four spent cases and one bullet.

Police reported that Thaweesak said he had bought a house with K. Nonglak in a nearby village. When he returned from his base in Phang Nga, he found K. Nonglak was not at home and many of their possessions were gone. He then set out to his parents-in-law's house to look for her.

On finding her, he could not control his anger and shot her twice in the head. Thaweesak said that he had then intended to shoot himself, but K. Somneuk, thinking he was going to shoot his daughter again, rushed forward to stop him. Thaweesak then shot him twice.

One of the bullets passed through K. Somneuk and hit Su-

walai in the stomach, police quoted Thaweesak as saying.

Thaweesak said the reason he shot his wife was jealousy as K. Nonglak was attractive and had many male friends.

**Red tide:** Large numbers of dead fish washing up along Thailand's Andaman coast have prompted fishermen and tourist operators to ask the government to tackle the problems of unusually cool Andaman Sea currents and a "red tide" of plankton.

Boonthin Changnam, a fisherman from Koh Lanta in Krabi, said that he did not know what the government could do, since there was "no culprit" for the phenomenon that has caused massive fish losses over the past month.

Marine biologist Thorn Thamrongnawasawadi said the fish had died because of two factors – both consequences of the El Niño phenomenon.

The first was the bloom of plankton caused by the sea's high surface temperatures. The second was that cold currents in the depths of the sea had driven deep ocean fish to swim up to the warmer water on the surface. Some fish had died from shock from the change of temperature, while others had died from plankton poisoning.

K. Boonthin said his catch had dropped from 100 kilograms a week to 40kg to 50kg.

However, Harin Lohprasongkij, Secretary of the Krabi Fishing Association, said that commercial boats equipped with high-tech fishing gear had caught more fish.

"We are not happy catching more, since it is too many and we are afraid it will cause long-term negative impacts," he said.

According to K. Harin, since the phenomenon began a month ago, the commercial boats in the province were landing a daily total of about 200,000kg of mackerel. They usually land less than 100,000kg a day, he said.

Vichai Rattamanee, Chairman of Trang's Tourism Business Association, said that many tourists had panicked when they saw dead fish floating, and that he was concerned that the phenomenon would damage tourism.

*Around the South news round-up is sourced from the pages of The Nation and Kom Chad Luek newspapers.*



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In a recently published open letter, historian Charnvit Kasetsiri called for Thailand to revert to being called Siam.

"People who have been part of our country have different ethnic, linguistic and cultural identities. Therefore, to reflect historical fact and the present reality, the name of the country should be Siam, not Thailand," he wrote.

The country's first constitution, promulgated in 1932, used Siam as the country's name. In 1939 Prime Minister Field Marshal Phibul changed this to Thailand "for racist reasons", K. Charnvit said.

The name "Thailand" does not fit with historical or present facts as there are more than 40 ethnic groups in the country, including Chinese, Tai, Hmong, Akha, Karen, Lao, Khmer and Mon, said K. Charnvit, a lecturer in the Southeast Asian Studies Program at Thammasat University.

Constitution drafters discussed the issue of renaming the Kingdom in 1949 and 1968.

"To reflect the reality about races, languages and cultural identities, the 2007 constitution should make Siam the official name of the country in order to promote reconciliation and acceptance of ethnic and cultural diversities, as well as for the benefit of the country and its people," wrote K. Charnvit.

The historian is asking those who agree with his proposal to write to the constitution drafters to lobby for the name change.

**Junket Jinxers:** About 100 people in Buri Ram's Krasang District blocked members of the Muang Phai Tambon Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*) from leaving on a tour of the South - because they allegedly ignored a tap-water crisis.

Locals refused to let 70 *OrBorTor* officials led by Plien Nukijram leave for a field trip to Krabi, saying the officials' neglect had left 400 households in four villages without piped water for more than a week.

Protester Prayoon Man-yuen, 52, said, "They have made us buy water for consumption for longer than a week, but instead, they use the taxes we've paid to go travel."

He said the *OrBorTor* should be investigated. The *OrBorTor* always told people it had

# Revive the name 'Siam' - historian



**AN ICE TREAT:** A white tiger in Dusit Zoo enjoys cooling down with a block of ice as temperatures soared to 38°C in Bangkok.

no budget to fix the water system, but somehow it could spend 200,000 baht for the trip to Krabi, K. Prayoon said.

Villagers had been forced to dish out 150 baht for water from trucks every two days.

The *OrBorTor* officials eventually sneaked out the back gate.

**Forest cover up:** A ambitious national plan to fight climate change would increase by half the country's forested area and build more urban green zones.

The National Environmental Board (NEB) draft of the plan recommends reducing greenhouse gases, public participation in environmental issues and better enforcement of environmental legislation, NEB Director Prasertsuk Chamornmarn said.

The draft needs the support of Natural Resources and Environment Minister Kasem Sanidwong na Ayudhaya, who will receive the document early next month. It must then win approval of the NEB and Cabinet, she said.

"We plan to increase forested area by 50% by 2016 and to add more green areas to urban

zones," said K. Prasertsuk.

The plan, which aims to create almost 11,000 forest villages

using an initiative devised by HM the King, would not hobble economic development, she said.

**Clear and pleasant danger:** A recent survey by the University of the Thai Chamber of Commerce (UTCC) shows Thai drinkers have shrugged off the highly publicized government campaign aimed at persuading them not to drink if they are poor or stressed.

Saowanee Thairungroj, Vice-President of the UTCC Research Department, said statistics revealed that people have actually increased their alcohol purchases: from 5% of their income last year to 14% now.

High pressure from the economic stagnation was increasing stress in people, so they consume more alcohol, which leads to such things as road accidents and domestic violence and thus even more stress.

Based on a survey of 1,206 respondents conducted from March 28 to 31, the poll also showed most people prefer to stay

at home during the Songkran festival because of worries about high costs and personal safety if they go out.

The poll also found that people would turn to domestic travel during the festival, instead of going abroad, because they preferred to save money for the future.

Last year, 28% of respondents said they planned to travel abroad, but that figure fell to 14% this year.

**Lengthy lawsuits:** PM's Office Minister Thirapat Serirangsan said he has suggested the Justice Ministry amend the statute of limitations for corruption cases - increasing it to 30 years. K. Thirapat said a corruption case was part of criminal law and that no matter how old the crime, it should be punished.

Such an amendment would send a severe warning to those considering becoming involved in corruption that the law would catch up with them, he said.

"The corruption problem is a major issue for Thai society, and many have called on the state to resolve it...since the law does not even include a proper statute of limitations, we must amend it," he said.

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

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**GOT IT FIGURED OUT:** Cute stuff (above) is one of the strengths of Daiso, but there's also practical gear for the kitchen (above right). Below, Shinji Ohmukai and staff.



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# Everything from warships to toothpicks

By Semacote Suganya

The popularity of dollar stores, 100 yen stores, pound shops and other local equivalents continues to grow and has reached its way into Phuket with the opening of Daiso, a 65-baht store located in Phuket City.

Shinji Ohmukai, owner of the Daiso shop in Phuket, hopes that these shops prove to be just as popular in Phuket.

Mr Ohmukai opened the first Daiso shop in Phuket the beginning of this year, he was familiar with Phuket from reading about it so he traveled here and decided to set up a branch of Daiso.

The product selection at Daiso offers a little bit of everything – kitchen utensils, gardening tools, stationery, car maintenance necessities, beauty and health items, household goods, pet accessories, tools, gifts... the list goes on. Such shops in Thailand have earned the nickname “shops that sell everything from toothpicks to warships”

At Daiso, however, all the products are imported from Japan.

There are 2,400 Daiso stores around the world, 11 of them in Thailand – one in Chiang Mai, nine in Bangkok and now one in Phuket.

“The target customers are the general public, local people.

Housewives shop here during the day, and we also have many young office workers who shop here,” explained Mr Ohmukai.

Shoppers seem to be pleased with the bargains they find at the shop.

Daiso shopper Anchana Worapongsa said, “I used to shop at one in Bangkok. I think it is very cheap if you compare the items with those of the same quality at other markets. I came here to buy things for gardening and get some stationery for my kids.”

Supansa Hongsakairat said that it was the cheap price that attracted her to shopping at Daiso, but once she got to the store she was impressed by the “cute” shop and the wide variety of products.

“Here you can get anything from garden stuff to kitchen stuff. I bought at least two things,” K. Supansa said.

“In Bangkok the price is 60 baht, but here because of transportation costs it's 65 baht. We have a wide selection of products ranging from miscellaneous daily goods to food, cosmetics, home decor and traditional Japanese arts and crafts,” said Mr Ohmukai.

*Daiso. 47 Tilok Uthit 1 Rd, Phuket City. Tel: 076-256803. Email: [coco\\_factory\\_phuket@yahoo.co.jp](mailto:coco_factory_phuket@yahoo.co.jp) Website: [www.daiso-sangyo.co.jp](http://www.daiso-sangyo.co.jp)*

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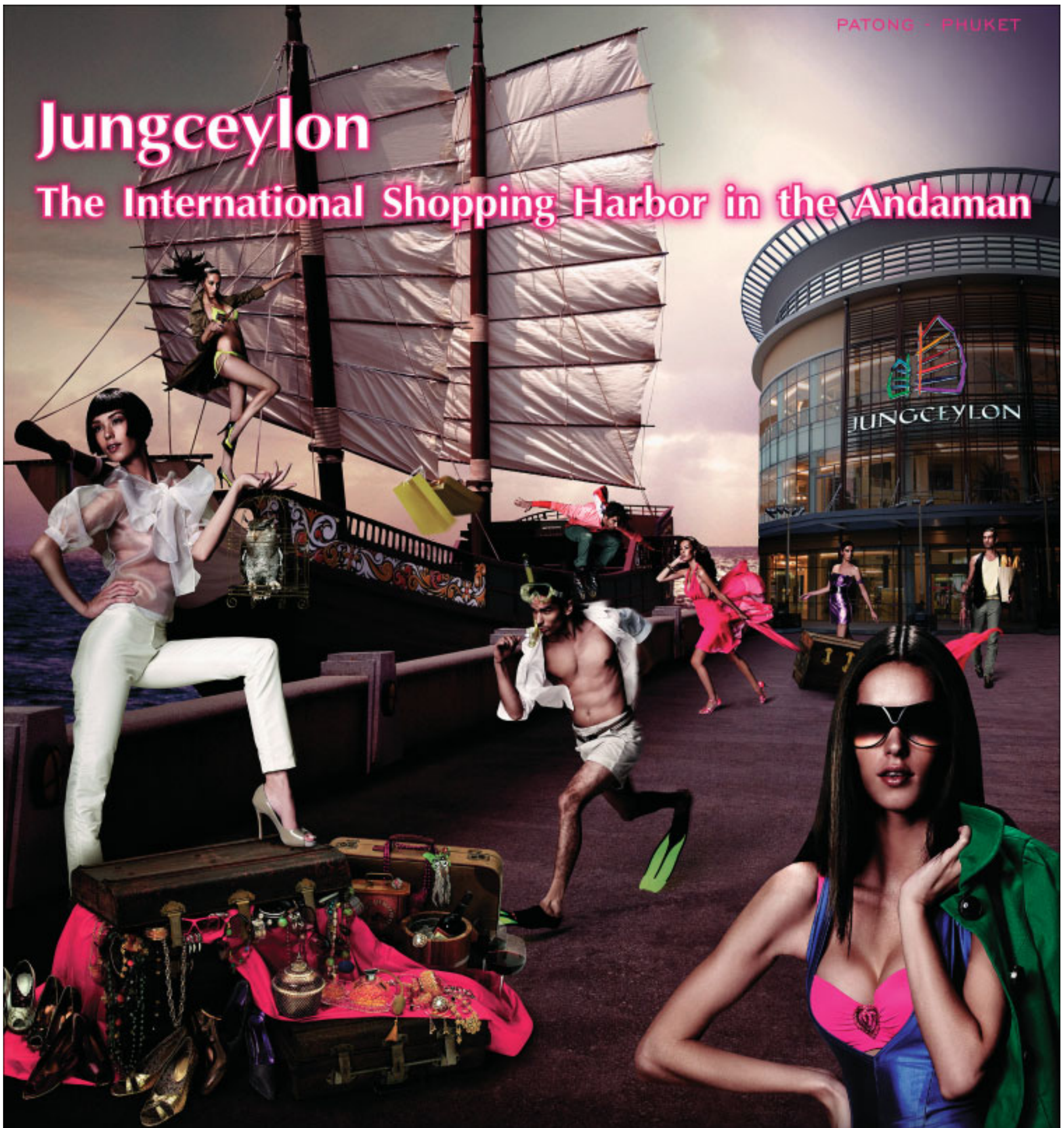
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# Liquifying the locals

By Zach Fridell

**W**hen Norm walked into Cheers, the bar on the old American TV show, everyone at the bar drinking would yell "Norm!" and greet him as he sat down.

That doesn't happen in exactly the same fashion at Liquid Lounge in Surin, but this friendly neighborhood bar – or "local", as Brits and Aussies would call it – gets as close to that welcoming, home-bar feeling as possible.

In place of Cheers' rustic wooden bar and lackluster service by Woody Harrelson, Liquid Lounge is a modern, trendy bar with artwork on the walls, low couches and chairs on the perimeter and a pool table with red felt in the back.

There's good reason for the intimate atmosphere as well: it's a bar for friends, made by friends. The idea began when 10 guys wanted to pitch in some money to have a bar in Surin that they could call their own. When word got out, the idea spread quickly and the number of shareholders jumped to 25 – with five more spaces available.

Twenty of those shareholders live in the area, the other five are based in Hong Kong. On any given night in Surin you're likely to see at least a few of them in the bar.

Owner Stewart Lees bought the shophouse in early 2005 and refitted it to provide two apartments and a penthouse living area at the top, with Liquid Lounge on the ground floor. Now, with manager Matthew Wesley, the club does brisk business, with several shareholders and friends in at a time to supplement the regular customers.

Music at Liquid Lounge is exactly how you would expect it to be given the name: relaxed. Cafe Del Mar and 30,000 more tracks grace the computer in the corner used as a DJ booth.

The drink menu is wide ranging and reasonably priced. Bottles of beer and shots sell for 100 baht each. Pints of Guinness are 250 baht.



There are a few bar signature drinks that are not to be missed, notably the Sambuca shots, served flaming with three coffee beans (traditionally signifying health, wealth and happiness), and the Jäger-bombs served by dropping a shot of Jägermeister and vodka into a glass of Red Bull.

A happy hour from 6 to 7 pm offers "buy one get one free" for all local beers, house wines and cocktails.

Food can also be ordered in from nearby restaurants, giving a

wide variety of choices for bar nosh; Sushi is popular, as is pizza and other Italian food.

The bar is also notable for what it's not. It is not a place with bar girls angling for a drink, nor is it an exclusive club.

It is, however, an excellent place to sit, drink, and if you go a few times, everybody knows your name.

*Liquid Lounge is on the Surin Beach road, next to Lemongrass House. Open daily from 4 pm to 1 am.*



**BEYOND THE NORM:** The Liquid Lounge (left) is run in a laid-back, friendly way by Stewart and Matt (above) and is already a favorite with the ladies (below).





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**R**oger Lextrait, 61, was born in Selestat, Alsace, but calls himself a Parisian. He emigrated from France during the late 1960s and became a naturalized American citizen.

He has sailed some 60,000 nautical miles, crossing the Atlantic four times; visited 36 countries; cooked for the king of Tonga in Pago Pago; and played bass with a member of Santana in Portland.

Roger is a raconteur of endless variety, but his tales mostly center on his experience on a desert island in the Pacific, Palmyra, where he lived for eight years.

Northernmost of the Line Islands, which include Christmas, Fanning and Washington Islands, Palmyra lies 980 nautical miles southwest of Oahu, 352 miles north of the equator. It is virtually in the ocean's center. Until 1959, Palmyra, though distant 16 degrees of latitude, was officially part of the City of Honolulu.

It is now owned by The Nature Conservancy and managed as a nature reserve. Its offshore waters form the Palmyra Atoll National Wildlife Refuge.

Roger visited the island on a trip to Polynesia and found it attractively desolate. World War II military relics abound – old gun emplacements; bunkers; rusting vehicles; ammunition and fuel dumps; abandoned equipment; underground tunnels and buildings; a 2,200-foot landing strip – lending to the island what more than one visitor has described as “a ghostly feeling”.

The feeling of lurking danger is reinforced because – owing to unexploded ordnance – some of Palmyra's 50 islets are unnavigable. The beaches are littered with debris, including plastic mooring buoys and bottles, and the wrecks of luckless voyagers. Palmyra's lagoon is treacherous to enter. The island's first known inhabitants were the shipwrecked crew of the *Palmyra*, which broke up on the reef in 1802.

# Noble Savage

French-born Roger Lextrait, 61, has been described as ‘a mix of Robinson Crusoe, comedian and gourmet chef’.

Roger, however, paints himself as ‘Mr Nature’. The former chef at the Moulin Rouge in Paris scuba dives, paints, makes silkscreen art... and once modeled swimsuits.

Roger now lives on Phuket after spending eight years on Palmyra, one of the most isolated islands in the Pacific and home to such an extensive range of wildlife that it is now a US nature reserve.

Here he relates his experiences on the remote island to **Marque Rome**, and explains what he learned from them.

The island's discoverer, Connecticut Yankee Edward Fanning, in 1798 believed it was only divine intervention – a vision in a dream – that caused him to awaken and change course in the night. The maneuver saved his vessel from the later fate of *Palmyra*.

In 1974, a San Diego couple visiting the atoll mysteriously disappeared, dismembered by another couple apparently for their boat, the ketch *Sea Wind*. Details of the grisly crime were finally revealed in Vincent Bugliosi's 1981 book *And the Sea Will Tell*. No wonder some say the place is cursed.

In 1992, while working as executive chef at Waikiki Sheraton, Roger was invited to take over the 12-square-kilometer atoll as “island manager”. He bit at the chance and set sail on the eight-day journey on *Couscous 3*.

Despite Palmyra's lonely aspect, he eagerly ensconced himself among the native population of insects, rats, crabs, birds and sharks. “It's the most beautiful island you'll ever see,” a visitor recalls him saying.

Asked why an “island manager” was needed, Roger replied ingenuously, “Americans, when anything happens, always go to law. Someone might fall in a hole and sue. So it was decided to employ a caretaker.”

The island's history, however, suggests there's more to the tale. Annexed by Hawaiian King Kamehameha IV in 1862, Palmyra immediately fell into private hands. In 1922 it was bought by Leslie and Ellen Fullard-Leo for US\$15,000.

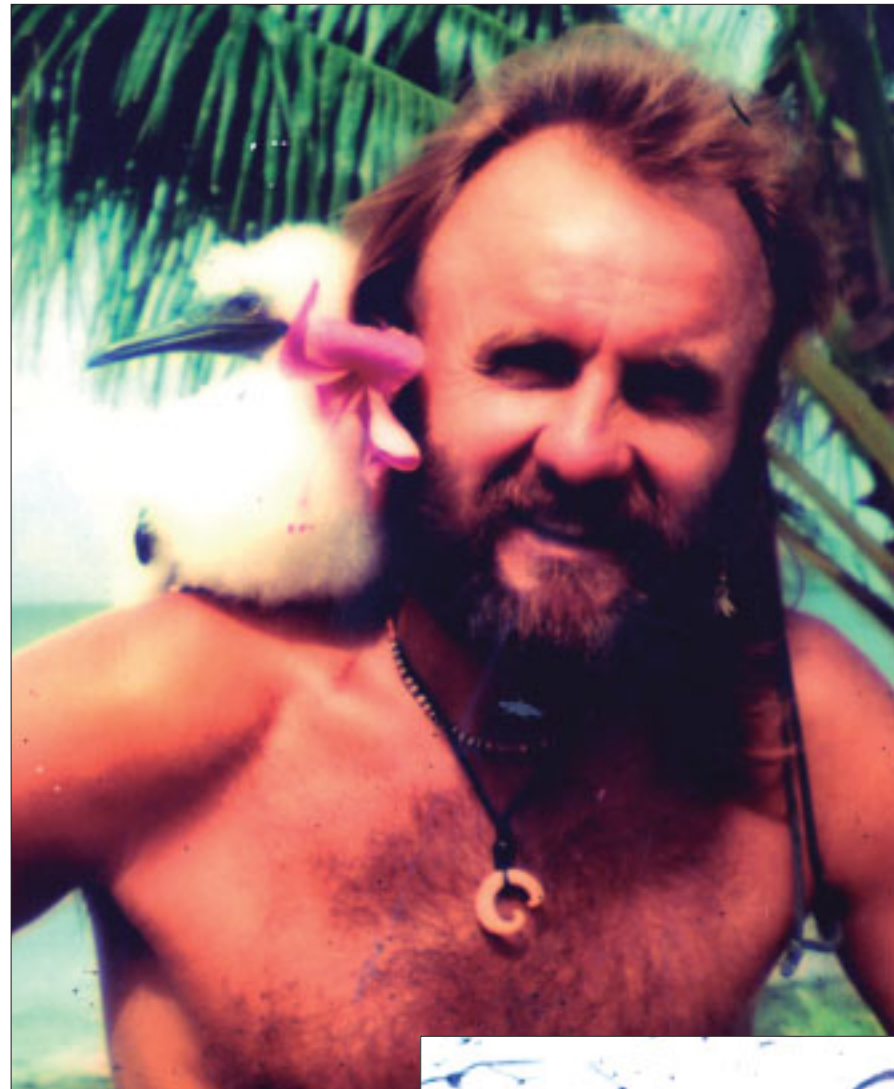
They formed the Palmyra Copra Company, perhaps to develop coconut plantations, but the enterprise – if that it was – flopped, and the US Navy, ignoring their claim, seized the island.

The heirs sued in 1939. Meanwhile, the US Navy spent US\$1.1 million (about US\$1 billion today) building the aircraft, ship and submarine facilities that were manned during World War II by up to 6,000 troops. The island was attacked only once: a Japanese submarine shelled the beach with its deck gun, sinking a dredge. The wreck is still there.

In 1947, the eight-year lawsuit was decided in favor of the Fullard-Leo heirs by the Supreme Court. Significantly, three justices dissented, holding that the island had been rarely occupied or improved by those who claimed it, and that no transfer of ownership from King Kamehameha to another party was recorded.

Nevertheless, title was returned to the heirs.

In 1962, Palmyra was used to monitor high-altitude atomic



**BIRDMAN:** Roger Lextrait with a downy booby chick (above) and (right) ducking some of the millions of seabirds on Palmyra.



weapon tests. It later served as a base for public sector and university researchers, with a floating population of about 40. Curious sailors also visited frequently. The Fullard-Leo heirs continued their policy of benign neglect until 1990, when Honolulu property developer Peter Savio obtained a 75-year lease of the island.

Under US law, private property may revert to public domain if abandoned by its owners, and Palmyra lay abandoned. “No one ever lived on the island as long as I did,” Roger observed. It had no permanent dwellings or facilities for human life.

Conservationists, impressed by the millions of boobies, frigate-

birds and terns annually nesting on the old runway, were eying it. Roger's presence, therefore, manifested the owners' claim in real terms. He signed boats in; collected fees; aided, he asserts, some 52 vessels that foundered on the reefs; co-ordinated visits by environmental, geological and wildlife researchers; and, reportedly armed with an assault rifle, drove the unwelcome away.

He was effectively lord of all he surveyed, and by all accounts threw wonderful dinner parties, featuring seafood, the odd fowl, fine wines and Palmyra Punch – his own mix of rum, wine and Tang.

He fished, swam daily with manta rays, fed his pet three-meter-long Moray eel, Isabelle, and spearfished on the reefs: “It was the best diving in the world,” he recalled. “Paradise. People can't believe it but I was paid to do this; I made US\$100,000 in eight years.”

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# of Palmyra



kitchens; a silkscreen press; and numerous furnishings.

"People ask, 'Weren't you bored?' But I was busy all the time," he said. Roger could choose from some 20 beaches and 14.5 kilometers of coastline when he wanted to jog – which he did often, as much for exercise as to dispel ennui for, as he admits, living on a desert island can be sometimes depressing and there is strong temptation to drown one's sorrows in Palmyra Punch.

So he kept busy. His architecture was rough-and-ready. For example, having uncovered a bathtub, he set it next to a concrete room left over from Navy days that created a perfect basin for rainwater. After sealing the room, he inserted pipe and spigot over the tub. Voila! 120,000 gallons of fresh water on tap – a rare luxury in the Pacific and much appreciated by visiting seafarers.

No walls marred the view while bathing: Roger is a confirmed naturist, spending most of his time naked. The crabs and birds didn't seem to mind.

Aside from work, his amusements included ham radio – he was well-known on the Pacific network – and letting himself "run with the dogs" he acquired.

Describing the fauna, Roger said, "There are millions of birds, as many as on the Galapagos Islands." He had a knack for bird calls, and raised two giant boobies – an odd couple called Oscar and Felix – from chicks.

Crabs presented a special dilemma. "There were millions – billions – of hermit crabs, and they ate everything, even clothing. Whatever I wanted to keep had to be suspended." On the other hand, their voracity made for handy kitchen help: "I never cleaned a pot – the crabs cleaned everything." They handled latrine duty, too, he said.

Coconut crabs were less annoying but more dangerous: "They are huge – two feet across – with powerful claws. They peel coconuts and eat them. Imagine!"

But coconut crabs are also edible. "Roger showed us we needn't kill a crab to get some of its delicious meat," noted visitor Mark Smaalders in an account of his visit. "[Just] pin down the crab and break off the larger of its claws; they can function with one, and will in time grow another."

Roger learned which fish he could eat. "Sturgeons, jacks, mullet and milkfish are safe," he told Smaalders, "but certain types [fish] should be avoided," as they are infested with toxic algae.

He planted zucchini and other vegetables; and for salads, heart of palm. He had eggs from a flock of 100 chickens; baked bread using a home-built oven; and the occasional fowl. "Sometimes I'd find injured birds. I thought it better to kill them than let the hermit crabs eat them alive. That's got to be horrible," he said.

Roger stocked a tide-pool with lobsters, where they procreated, affording ample supply at all times. "Anything else I can still

eat, but lobster... let's say I can still eat it but have no more craving," he said.

And of companionship? "Well, when the chickens saw me they'd hit the bushes," he joked.

A two-month trip to the island of Fanning resulted in a native Gilbertese girl named Tebaibure accompanying him back: "I threw a party on my boat. She came. We got on – and I asked her if she wanted to go.

"Island culture is tight – women serve the men. A girl has no more value than a pig – no joking – so it was all right with her because she could escape all that."

Tebaibure stayed six months: "We were going to marry but her family expected too much; it was impossible." So Tebaibure returned and Roger was alone again.

But he was never alone long because visiting boats were many – sometimes five in a week; Roger allowed them one week's stay. To facilitate passage through the reef, he cut a V-notch in the vegetation.

"Using binoculars, it is possible to see a white marker... and, beyond that, a brown pole in the center of the V. When the marker lines up with the pole, you are perfectly aligned with the center of the channel." If not aligned, prepare to hit bottom.

Always enterprising, Roger

built a silkscreen press, designed a logo featuring boobies and coconut crabs, and screened T-shirts that he sold for US\$20 each to tourists.

"When the Coast Guard or a cruise ship came through – you can imagine, they bought them all," he said, adding that he sold hundreds.

In 2000, German woman Ange Blanes joined Roger. This afforded opportunity to record their peculiar daily lives in "reality" style videos.

That was lucky, because, thanks probably at least in part to Roger's control-exerting presence, Palmyra was sold in 2001 to The Nature Conservancy. Its ever-absentee landlords garnered a cool US\$37 million.

Roger sailed back to Honolulu, where return to civilization rattled him: "It took more than a year to return to normal."

Since then he has written a book of his experiences called *Noble Savage* (as yet unpublished), married, and moved to Thailand. Today, he lives in Chalong with wife Jayne.

"I take life like a hobby," he explained. "You know, the Africans say, 'Tomorrow doesn't exist today.' I think that's a good philosophy."

Roger Lextrait may be contacted at: [rogerjayne@yahoo.com](mailto:rogerjayne@yahoo.com)

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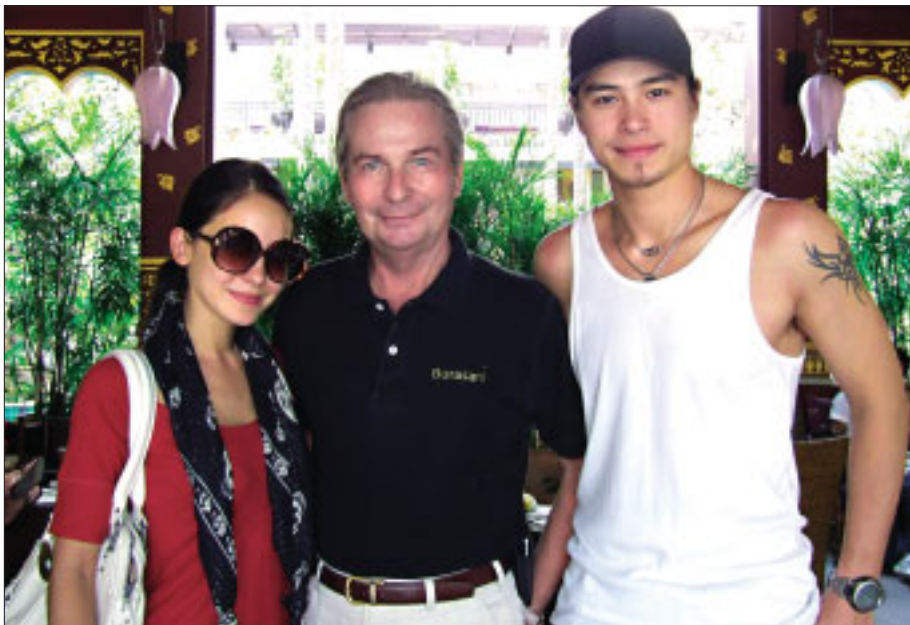
## This week



**OPEN FOR LEARNING:** Phuket Vice-Governor Smith Palawatvichai (4<sup>th</sup> from right) presides over the opening ceremony of the Laguna Phuket Community English Language Center with Laguna Phuket Managing Director Michael Ayling (center) and local dignitaries and resort representatives. The courses offered at the center are free and open to the public.



**SUMO STYLE:** 'Sumo wrestling' was one of many activities held during the International Day festivities at the British International School Phuket on March 30. The event was organized to celebrate the many nationalities represented in the school's student body.



**STAR STOPOVER:** General Manager of Burasari Resort Chris Green (center) welcomes Thai singing star and model Peter Corp Dyrendal (right) and international model Ase Wang to the Burasari for a *FAME* magazine fashion shoot for the summer 2007 issue.



**MAKING SENSE:** Dr Supaluck Kanjanamethakul (3<sup>rd</sup> from left), Chairperson of Child Watch Phuket, receives a check for 50,000 baht raised by The SenSes Charity Event, led by SenSes Health & Beauty Clinique Director Naranporn 'Kathy' Namchoo (2<sup>nd</sup> from right).



**BUILD ME UP:** Prithep Sosothikul (2<sup>nd</sup> from left), Managing Director of Tri House Builder Co Ltd, celebrates the grand opening of the company's Jungceylon branch with General Manager Werapong Kaigate (3<sup>rd</sup> from left), Executive Secretary Mantana Nuntarak (4<sup>th</sup> from left) and hosts.



**TIME TO HELP:** Asia Center Foundation Phuket Director Roelien Muller (center) receives a wall clock from Ingon Diloktharadol (2<sup>nd</sup> from right), Managing Director of Innovation Time Co, and her staff during her recent visit to Phuket. The Asia Center Foundation provides services for homeless children and tsunami victims.

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Spotted one on the airport road and while there is always a great variety of cars on the highway, the BMW 335i is a little unusual for Phuket.

Why? Because it's expensive – even by Thai standards – and the speedy two-door coupé is hardly a suitable motor to trundle around the island in.

The 335i Coupé is a stylish car, one based on the more conventional 3-series sedan. While a two-door coupé may not be to everyone's liking, BMW has been producing such cars for almost 70 years.

In the 1890s through to the 1920s, most motorized vehicles were open-topped, but in the '30s production techniques improved rapidly, allowing more curvaceous body styling.

It was this technology that ushered in the first coupé models and BMW was one of the first to identify this new trend. Its 327 model featured two wide doors and four seats. The car shared mechanical components with the more cramped BMW 328, the top sports model of the day.

In 1954 BMW introduced its 502 coupé and in 1955 this was superseded by the 503. The first BMW compact coupé arrived in 1959 and in 1962 the better-known 3200CS was introduced. Moving on to later models, the celebrated 6-series of the 1980s was successful on the track, winning the European Touring Car Championship three times.

Less successful was the sleek 850i with a V12 engine. Although more than 30,000 of the 850s were sold, BMW quietly dropped it just over a year ago.

The first 3-series coupé came in 1991 with the latest model being released September last year. There are five engines to choose from in the new range: three gasoline- and two diesel-powered models, with more to be added later this year.

Top of the range is the three-liter, twin-turbo, direct-injection gas engine producing 306bhp (225kW) and 400Nm of torque



At 4.3 million baht, the BMW 335i Coupé is pricey but if you want to stand out from the crowd, there's always a price to pay.

# Beamer screamer

over a wide engine speed range of between 1,300rpm and 5,000rpm.

Top speed is an electronically-limited 250kmh while the 100kmh sprint takes less than six seconds.

Carbon dioxide is the current buzz word in European motoring circles, with the

EU commissioners proposing to introduce legislation that requires manufacturers to comply with an average of 130 grams per kilometer (g/km) by 2012. For the record, the three-liter

engine in the 335i produces 228 g/km.

Of the other engines, the entry-level diesel motor in the 330d BMW offers 231bhp and a useful 500Nm of torque. Even this delivers above-average performance, completing the 0-100kmh in just 6.6 seconds.

Both diesel engines have particulate filters and pre-catalysts close to the engine that absorb even the tiniest soot deposits and reduce nitrous oxide emissions.

All versions of the new coupé are available with either a six-speed manual or an advanced six-speed automatic gearbox. The new automatic

features upgraded hydraulics, an innovative torque converter and quicker gear changes than its predecessors.

The torque converter remains engaged for most driving conditions, considerably improving fuel consumption.

The interior is in classic BMW style, with a mixture of functionality and sporting lines. An automatic arm extends from the B-pillar that feeds the seat belts to the driver and front passenger when the wireless ignition key is inserted and the doors are closed. The arm then retracts back into the pillar.

A handily-placed release handle on top of the front seats

allows easy access to the two individually-sculpted seats in the rear. The front seats move forward and return automatically to make it even easier. The rear seat passengers are separated by a center console and are seated low to provide plenty of headroom.

Both rear seats come with ISOFIX safety child seat fixings as standard.

It may be unusual for Phuket, but the 335i coupé is an attractive motor car with many fine attributes. Priced from around 4.3 million baht.

Jeff Heselwood can be reached by email to [jhc@netvigator.com](mailto:jhc@netvigator.com)



By Jeff Heselwood



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# AND BOB'S YOUR UNCLE

**T**he new darling among women is Bob. Former Spice Girl Victoria Beckham has fallen for him and a lot of fashion-conscious women will most certainly follow suit.

Bob in this case is not a man, but the classic bob haircut, which is making a comeback and could be seen trotting the streets of Phuket soon as the bob is easy to style, making it perfect for Phuket's heat and humidity – and it even fits under a motorbike helmet nicely.

Accurate cuts and styles that have a geometric look – inspired by haircuts popular in the 1920s and 1960s – also are trendy. Men's hairstyles, meanwhile, are reminiscent of the 1980s.

The new look is flat and glossy, said Stefanie Koehn of

the association of German hairstylists and barbers. Compact cuts are displacing soft, fringed cuts. "Exact cuts are coming at the expense of playful elements," according to Germany's central association of barbers in Cologne.

The new interpretations of the bob are not as strict as they initially appear. Precision is always combined with a soft structure, the association says.

"The contours are in fact often very geometric," said hair fashion journalist Simone Frieb of Cologne. "The cut itself is, however, flexible and very, very versatile."

Frieb said hairstyles currently are shifting between two poles.

"On one side are the classic feminine looks that are long and lustrous. On the other side are androgynous looks," she said, adding that such



Hair styles this season will revolve around clear lines making the bob the perfect cut.

"Bobs are the height of current style. Victoria Beckham is the best example of that," said Acht. Smooth, round and chin-length, a traditional bob curves around the side of the head. There are new versions in which the front is cut in a mushroom shape and the back remains long.

Koehn said current variations employ vastly asymmetric and undercut sections of hair. Bangs, or fringes, are also in the mix, although Frieb said they are not per se the fashion statement.

Bangs are, however, an indispensable part of men's current hairstyles. Men who want to be stylish are having their hair done like the musicians of the '80s band Duran Duran.

"Provocative and very masculine" is how the central association of barbers characterizes the new looks.

"Longer hair is clearly in style for men," said hairdresser Jens Dagne.

The new rock star style uses long layers and asymmetrically cut bangs. The hair is then twirled, worked over with a straightening iron and kneaded. Occasionally, it's then slickened with a gel.

Restraint is the trend in men's hair color, as in women's.

"A lot of dark browns in interesting shades" are the favorites, said Koehn. Aside from that a lot of time is being invested in grooming and styling.

"People again value having nice hair," said Frieb.

Koehn added that hairstyles have become "precious and luxurious". And hair must be well groomed because that's the only way to make it shine.

– Sandra Cantzler, dpa

extreme short hairstyles are ideal in combination with classically cut pantsuits.

Martina Acht, a world champion hairstylist from Offenbach, also sees hairstyles

moving in two directions. A natural look with long layers contrasts with geometric cuts in which "hair color greatly comes into play".

The favorite is the bob.

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By Supanun Supawong

A fashionable dress, nice shoes and stylish hair-do are the basic elements that make a woman look more attractive, but adding decoration and length to her nails can make her feel even more attractive and more feminine.

"Using acrylics to make nails longer and decorating them with 3D decorations is popular, especially for women who have short nails," says Patcharee Vatcharawipakorn, Sales and Public Relations Manager of SenSes Health & Beauty Clinique.

"Acrylics are more popular than using fake nails that are glued onto real nails.

"Fake nails last for only a week. Acrylics last longer, around a month, and make nails stronger," adds K. Patcharee, who has worked closely with the nail painting and beauty salon at the SenSes for two years.

"Most of our customers are foreigners, but French acrylic nails, using acrylic to make nails longer with white acrylic tips, are popular among both Thai and foreign customers. This nail style matches any dress color or any occasion," she explains.

"Foreign teenagers prefer using acrylics to make nails longer and to decorate them with crystals, jewelry or fancy decorations.

"This popular style comes at quite a high price, around 2,800 baht and up, but sometimes we offer promotions"

K. Patcharee adds that you don't need a special occasion to have beautiful looking nails.

First the nail is cleaned to remove all natural oils from it, then a mold is attached to the finger and acrylic painted over the nail to build it up to the length chosen - short, medium or long.

Acrylic powder is then sprinkled on the nails and the hand is then rested in a nail oven to speed up the drying process.

The nails are then filed, painted and decorated.

Prices at the clinic are 1,700 baht for acrylic nails; 2,000 baht

This picture: Lengthy nails with 3D decorations and lots of sparkle are popular among customers at SenSes Health & Beauty Clinique.


Below, Glitter, gems and jewels all help to lend your hand some style.

# Got it nailed down

for French acrylic nails; 50 baht to 200 baht per finger for 3D nail decoration; and 30 baht a finger for jewel nail decorations.

SenSes Health & Beauty Clinique is opposite the Red Room in Cherng Talay, Thalang. Tel: 076-271373-4.





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**N**ikorn Banjerdlert is having a busy morning. One of his spa appointments was canceled when the guest hobbled in explaining that she had just been bitten by a dog and was on her way to the clinic. K. Nikorn washed the wounds on her leg then insisted on driving her to the clinic himself.

The guest couldn't believe that someone who barely knew her, much less a business owner, would take time out of his day to help her. All K. Nikorn had asked in return was that she pass it on and help someone, too.

K. Nikorn tells me this story as I settle into a chair in the reception lounge of his newly-opened Roseberry Spa in Surin. "If you work from the heart, money will come," he explains.

The Roseberry Spa is the dream child – in addition to their four children – of K. Nikorn and his wife, Dorinda. It's Dorinda's middle name "Rose" with her family name "Berry" that gave the spa its name, K. Nikorn explains. Combined the couple has more than 30 years of spa experience and knowledge from around the world.

"It was our dream to have our own spa. A place where people could come for tea and a chat, or a spa treatment if they wanted," K. Nikorn says. He explains that the spa is more like a temple to him as it is intended to treat the spiritual self as well as the physical body.

While I sit in the white, softly lit room, sipping ginger tea and surrounded by books with enlightening titles as the scent of incense wafted through the air, the spa indeed has a sacred feel.

K. Nikorn hands me a menu explaining the purpose of the list's simplicity. He eventually wants their therapists to be able to talk with guests to learn their needs and to prescribe a treatment. The menu describes Thai massages and deep tissue massages, and included alternative treatments,



**WARM WELCOME:** Roseberry Spa therapists Rungrudee Udta (left) and Nittiay Posee offer a hospitable reception and an even more enticing treatment at this special place in Surin.

# DREAM CHILD

such as reiki and Raindrop Therapy, a therapy using essential oils and spinal massage. Body wraps, scrubs and facials are also on the menu.

The products used in all their treatments are natural and made by Roseberry Spa.

I decide to have the signature treatment, the 90-minute Roseberry Massage at 2,500 baht. My therapist leads me to the

spa area, comprising two small-yet-homey rooms each with a massage table, hand basin and an outdoor shower adorned with hanging plants.

I undress and climb under a large towel on the massage table. My therapist stands at the end of the table and lowers her head in meditation.

She then begins the deep tissue massage, which concentrates on pressure point areas. She begins by massaging my feet from heel to toe and gently applies pressure to the arches. She slowly moves her way up my legs and to my stomach. The room is dark, silent and the temperature perfect. I can feel myself drifting off slowly.

I then roll over and she massages my legs and back. I asked her to work a little more on my

upper shoulders. I feel her apply stronger pressure to areas along

**Spa  
MAGIC**



**By Laura Schafer  
Roseberry Spa,  
Surin Beach**

the middle of my back and shoulders. The extra pressure melts my tension away. I roll onto my back for a complete head-and-shoulder massage.

Then I hear a gong lightly struck. The sound is enough to wake me out of my dreamy state, but doesn't startle me. My back feels amazing and my entire body feels almost weightless.

K. Nikorn rejoins me and continues our conversation, explaining about his involvement in spas and how it has improved his life.

The idea behind Roseberry Spa is to help others find the peace of mind and happiness that K. Nikorn radiates. "Helping others shows how healthy our state of mind is," he says.

K. Nikorn says he and his wife work to create meaningful spa experiences for their guests, and all of his staff are encouraged to take the best care of themselves so they are better able to take care of their clients.

As I leave the spa, a quiet haven from the hustle of daily life, I feel lighter. There's even a bounce in my step. K. Nikorn pokes his head out the door, "Drive safely," he warns. "And be happy!"

*Roseberry Spa, Surin Beach. On the main road, 200 meters from The Plaza Surin. Tel: 076-279293, 081-8940316. Email: info@roseberrythailand.com Website: www.roseberrythailand.com*

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**CATCH ME IF YOU CAN:** Ideal for a painless visa run, if you can afford it, *Althea* powers through Phang Nga Bay at a quick 26 knots.

For most people yachting, and chartering in particular, includes a heavy dose of socializing with friends, networking for business and even romantic getaways. So, when looking for a power cruiser to buy or charter, comfort, power, safety and style tend to top the list – and for all these *Althea*, a Cumberland 44 catamaran, just might fit the bill.

*Althea* is designed for comfortable living on board. Minimum heeling, greater privacy and huge living space – the usual advantages of a catamaran over a monohull – are all features of this power cat.

Sure, she has all the power and performance you can probably handle, and we will get to that shortly.

At 44 feet the *Althea* has 120 square meters of floorspace over three decks, about that of a small house. Below deck are two cabins with en-suite lavatories and a large master suite set into

the hulls to create quiet havens away from the main salon.

Plenty of headroom and wide windows create airy and welcoming quarters that are well-insulated from the engines, and separate quarters and facilities for the captain and chef are accessed from the foredeck to afford the passengers more privacy.

The main salon is where it all happens on the *Althea*. The large open area has 360° views and encompasses a roomy galley, a living and dining area with seating for eight, and the main helm.

The centrally located galley is right across from the living-dining area and next to large glass doors that open to the aft-cockpit, which makes serving drinks and food to the socializing areas in the salon, the helm area or the aft-cockpit easy and convenient. None of that up-and-down nuisance of below-deck galleys.

Even the stairs to the large bimini-covered fly bridge are only

a meter away, and the fly bridge itself has room to maneuver in and features roomy benches, a wood side table and additional seating near the helming station.

The captain doesn't need to feel isolated from his guests when out on the sea as the main helm in the salon is designed for socializing, with comfortable sofa seating to the left and front of the captain's two-seater bench.

To the center and right of the main helm is all business, though, with enough electronics to confuse a computer geek and a large chart table. GPS, radar, depth sounder, fish finder, VHF and all the standard goodies are within arm's reach, and a remote auto-helm allows the captain to steer the cat while away from either helming station.

But socializing isn't everything, and everyone enjoys the thrill of a powerful boat on the water. *Althea's* twin Volvo D6 engines deliver serious performance: 310hp from each engine.

Quick enough for a day tour of Phang Nga Bay or a run to Krabi and back, she cruises at 22 knots with a maximum speed of 26. Fuel consumption at those

speeds are 50 and 60 liters per hour, respectively.

The *Althea* is only 10 months old. She was built in France and shipped to Port Klang on the coastline near Kuala Lumpur. There she was commissioned by Olivier Payen of Asia Marine and her maiden voyage was the 20-hour cruise to Langkawi. The final leg of her shake-down was a seven-hour jaunt to Yacht Haven where she is presently berthed.

What does all this pleasure cost? The *Althea* charters for 1,440 euros (63,000 baht) a day including a captain, chef/steward, food and soft drinks for six, and a five-hour ration of fuel for cruising. More people and additional cruising time cost a little more.

For chartering or more information about the *Althea* contact Asia Marine. Tel: 076-239111. Email: charter@asia-marine.net

## All at SEA



By Teddy Tucker



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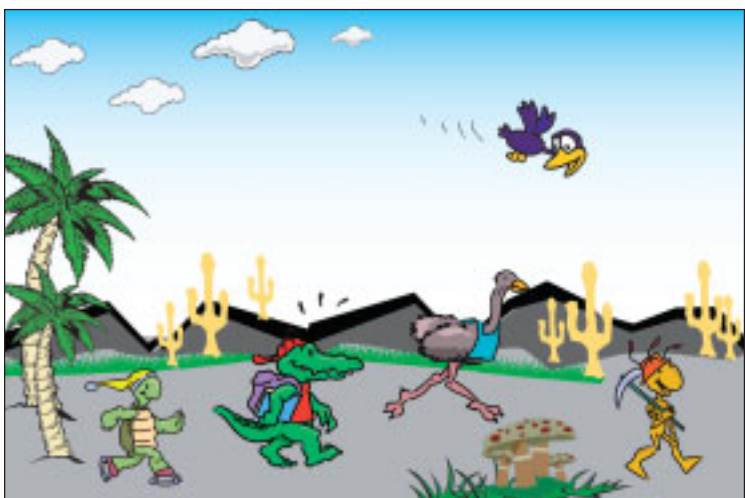
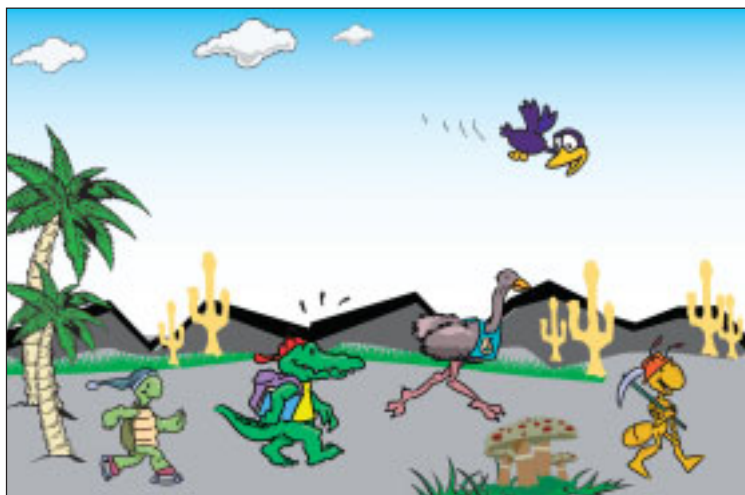


# PUZZLES

## Spot the Difference



Can you find the seven differences between the two cartoons below? And can you find them faster than the rest of the family?



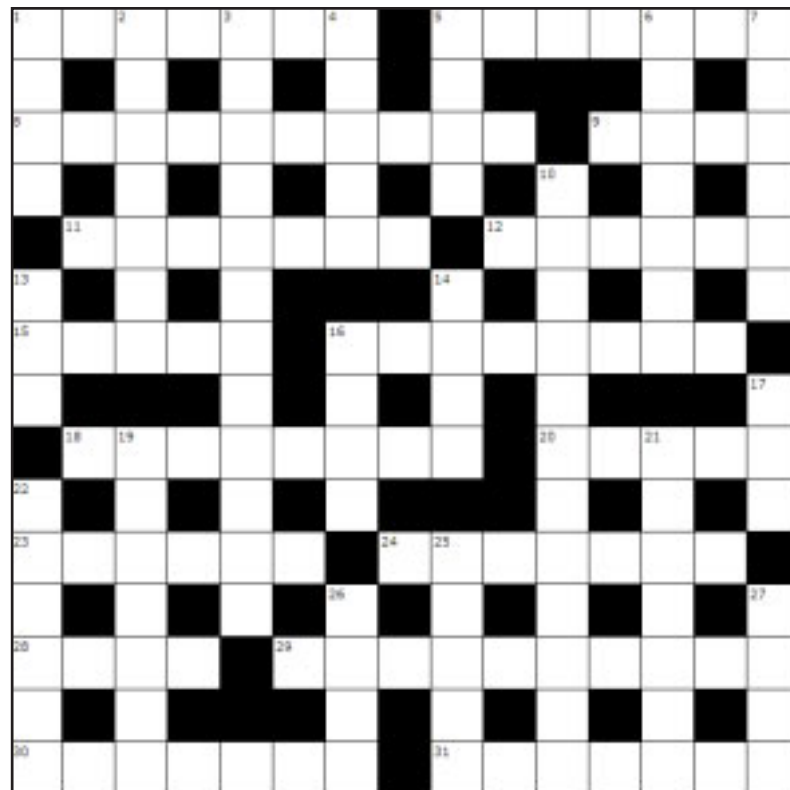
# The Cryptic Crossword

### ACROSS

- Offer prayer about scrap. Picture it. (7)
- Report back about love for cavalryman. (7)
- Nor congenial, destroyed Inca blouse. (10)
- Beat a trial version, say. (4)
- Bold, takes left love. (7)
- Cut in half, swings both ways to religious group. (6)
- Sue? She may make Japanese food. (5)
- Vera and big town truth. (8)
- Coming out of print measure, queen and gentleman. (8)
- Put Evian back? That's gullible. (5)
- Rang in no province. (6)
- Distributes facing pages in newspaper. (7)
- Small pond. (4)
- Lesser judge: "Wise men on the street get appropriate money." (10)
- Honors instrument in elite corps. (7)
- Emit little radical I ate. (7)

### DOWN

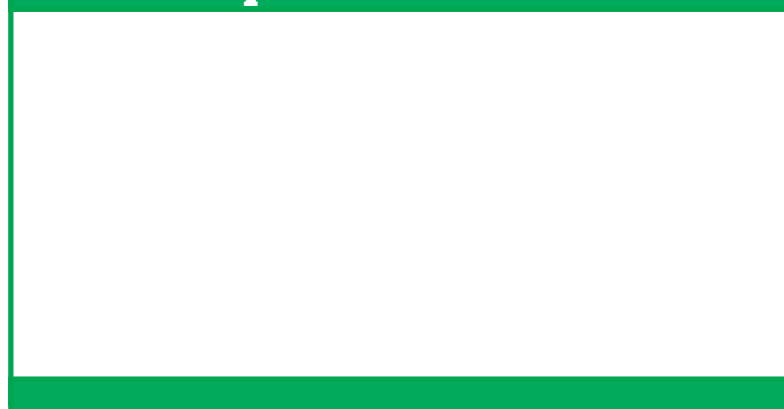
- Put out about nothing but show displeasure. (4)



Compiled by Tortuus. © 2007

- Naughty boys damage car, lass. (7)
- Stubborn claret cart in trouble. (12)
- Long time period? No, in short. (5)
- Price for ringing bell? (4)
- Student officer is almost perfect. (7)
- Reciprocates and does play again, maybe. (6)
- Di's got powerful friends but no power. (12)
- Drug money. (3)
- Worry about guitar part. (4)
- Five ever change direction. (4)
- Said was aware of novel. (3)
- Rock 1,000 in real mess. (7)
- The state of Mr Jones! (7)
- Falsely incriminates glass holders. (6)
- Abbot's assistant, earlier. (5)
- Boat parts have no Latin art. (4)
- Give up seed, they say. (4)

## Scribble Space



Solution on next page

## su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

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

MEDIUM

The principle of 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. Guess if you will, but each Sudoku puzzle can be solved using logic alone. Beware: this puzzle has only one solution, which is on the next page.

## EZ Trivia Quiz

- How many men did the Grand Old Duke of York have?
- Which is Thailand's most northerly province?
- The Golden Triangle is where Thailand and Myanmar meet with which other country?
- Meg is a short form of which name?
- Which animal is also known as Orca?
- How many legs does a spider have?
- What is the capital of the United States?
- Which country has the *Marseillaise* as its national anthem?
- In cameras, what does SLR stand for?
- Death Valley, the Gobi and the Sahara are all examples of what?

Answers on next page

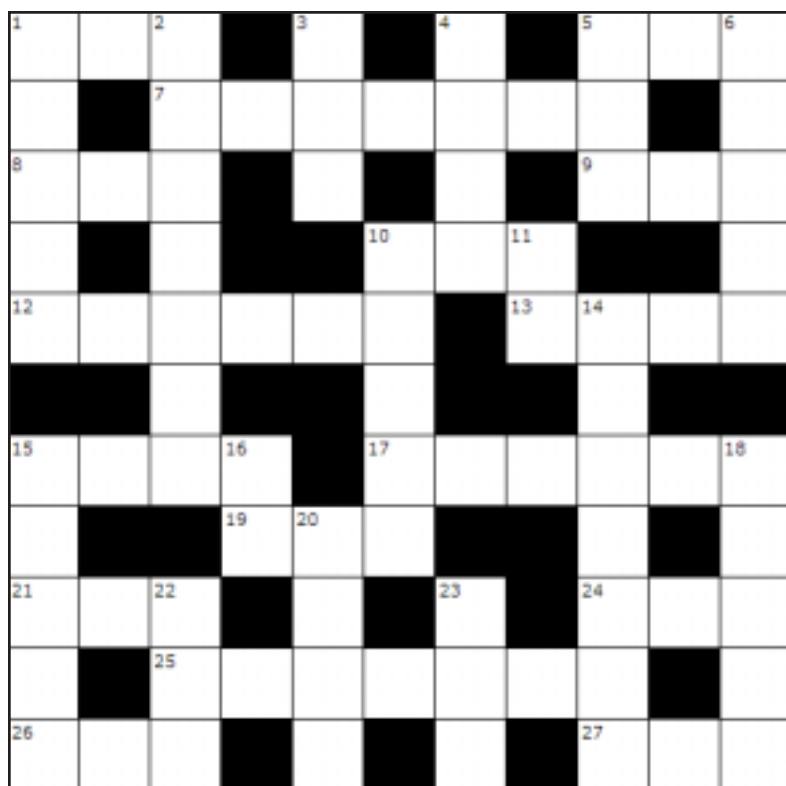
## Rhyme Time

The words or phrases described below all rhyme with "boy". What are they?

- Irritate.
- Genuine article.
- Ancient beauty.
- Famed ballet company.
- Playfully shy.
- Stratagem.
- Northern mountain.
- Chicago state.
- Feeling of delight.
- Demolish

Answers on next page





## Quick Crossword

### ACROSS

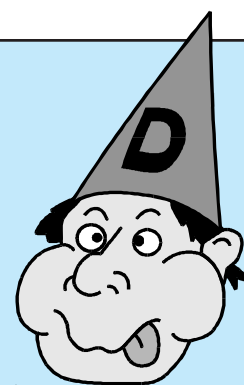
1. Pen component.
5. Night flier.
7. Freedom.
8. Pastry-encased food.
9. Illuminated.
12. Hang around.
13. Top of triangle.
15. Bouncing noise.
17. Spice.
19. Zig's partner.
21. Take a small drink.
24. Organ of vision.
25. Not professional.
26. Not high.
27. Use 24 across.

### DOWN

1. Himalayan country.
2. Flaw.
3. Computer manufacturer.
4. Constellation \*\*\*\* Major.
6. Rubber fluid.
10. Take something with you.
11. Egyptian sun god.
14. Treats with excessive indulgence.
15. Artist's prop.
16. The Wizard of \*\*.
18. Water bird.
20. Middle Easterner.
22. Dog's foot.
23. Wager.

*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. Where was the world's first civic public park opened, and when?   | 8. Baron Roman Ungern von Sternberg was dictator of which country?                         | 15. Which Italian soccer teams were relegated last year because of involvement in match fixing? |
| 2. Which suspension bridge has the longest span in the world?  | 9. In which year was Microsoft publicly listed?  | 16. Which Italian province was independent until 1954?  |
| 3. Who was the first person to represent India as Test Cricket player, captain, coach/manager and Chairman of Selectors? | 10. Which economist is featured on the new British £20 note?                               | 17. In which year was smallpox eradicated?  |
| 4. Who led the victorious forces in the Battle of the Ice in 1242?   | 11. What natural disaster struck the eastern US in 1993?                                   | 18. In which year did Norway gain independence from Sweden?                                     |
| 5. Who lost?   | 12. In which year did Arab nationalists overthrow the monarchy in Iraq?                    | 19. Name the dog aboard Sputnik 2.  |
| 6. In which year was the planet Uranus discovered, and by whom?  | 13. In 1969, the US stopped using four large-denomination banknotes. What was the largest? | 20. Pirate Edward Teach was killed in 1718. By what nickname was he better known?               |
| 7. How did Tsar Alexander II of Russia die in 1881?  | 14. Why were they withdrawn from use?  |   |

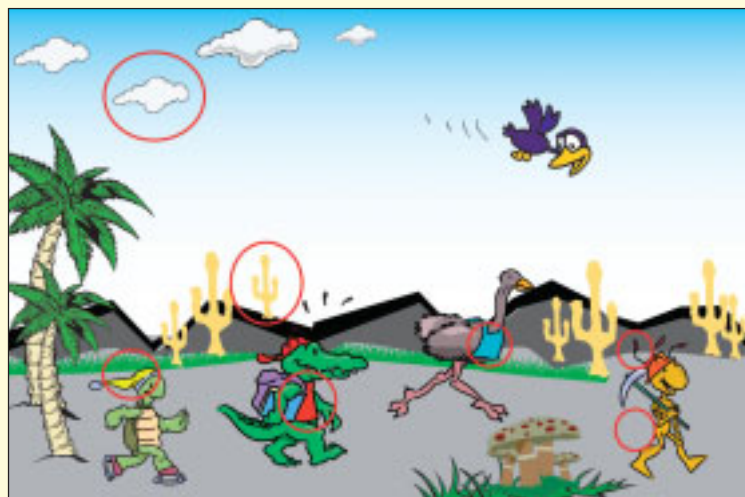
*Answers below, left.*

# Puzzle Solutions

## Monster Quiz Answers

1. Birkenhead, England, 1847; 2. Akashi-Kaikyo Bridge, Japan; 3. Ajit Wadekar; 4. Alexander Nevsky; 5. The Teutonic Knights; 6. 1781, by William Herschel; 7. A bomb was thrown at him; 8. Mongolia; 9. 1986; 10. Adam Smith; 11. The Great Blizzard; 12. 1958; 13. The 10,000-dollar note; 14. "Lack of use"; 15. Juventus, Lazio and Fiorentina; 16. Trieste; 17. 1977; 18. 1905; 19. Laika; 20. Blackbeard.

## Solution to Cartoon Puzzle



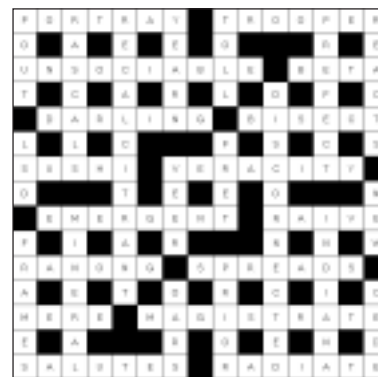
### EZ Trivia Answers:

1. 10,000; 2. Washington DC; 3. France; 4. Single-lens reflex; 5. Deserts; 6. Chiang Rai; 7. Laos; 8. Margaret; 9. Killer whale; 10. Eight.

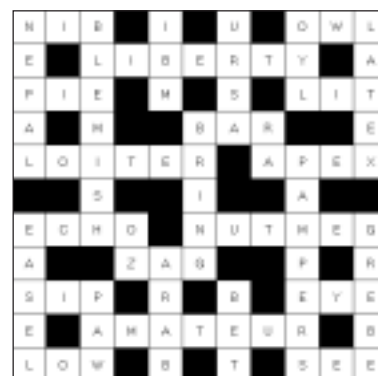
### Rhyme Time Answers:

1. Annoy; 2. Real McCoy; 3. Helen of Troy; 4. Bolshoi; 5. Coy; 6. Ploy; 7. Doi; 8. Illinois; 9. Joy; 10. Destroy.

## Cryptic Crossword Solution



## Quick Crossword Solution



## Sudoku solution

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



# Asian ways of making whoopie

If Jerry Hopkins broke out in hives, he could probably write an entertaining and instructive book about it: causes, effects, folklore, history and literature. He's an old pro like John McPhee, the New Yorker writer who can write about anything and who once penned a book called *Oranges* about, yup, oranges.

Give Jerry Hopkins a juicy topic like Asian aphrodisiacs and he's off and running. His 32<sup>nd</sup> book, *Asian Aphrodisiacs* (Periplus Books, Singapore, 2006, 254pp) is subtitled *From Bangkok to Beijing - The Search for the Ultimate Turn-On*.

He takes a broad view of the subject with chapters on Ayurvedic and traditional Chinese medicine, Indonesian jamu potions, many types of spices, marijuana, massage therapies, oils, lotions, snake blood, scents, ragas, Tao and Tantra, pornography, sex toys and surgery.

The subject is a scaffolding for him to travel around, having a good time and indulging his curiosity.

First of all, he is on the far side from credulous. "Tiger penis soup? Rhino horn on the oyster half shell? Give me a break!" he writes.

Still, why is rhino horn regarded by so many Asians as an aphrodisiac? Well, for one obvious reason, the resemblance.

"The reason cited most often had to do with the 'law of similarity'; the horn sort of looked like a penis, therefore (the belief went) its consumption, ground into a powder, would make a man 'strong'."

But Hopkins probes further: "Another reason for the animal's popularity was the rhino's sexual stamina. My friend at the London Zoo told me that for the black rhino, copulation lasts for 20 minutes at a time and continues for three days.

"The female is unable to support the weight of the (usually bigger) male for too long," he said, "and will moan when she's had enough. And when he ejaculates, there are buckets of it."

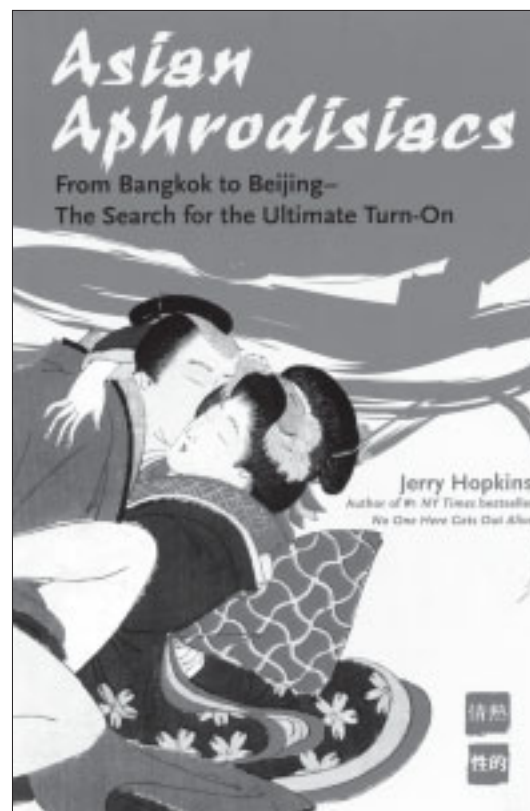
This book is chock full of such vital information. A mention of garlic as a sexual stimulant has Hopkins spinning off on another tangent.

As his Khmer-Thai wife fries up a wok full of

garlic and pepper, "it's like the breath is being sucked out of my lungs and I cough, I weep. The same thing happens on the street when vendors cook their most popular condiments for seasoning the day's stir-fries. I walk by and it's as if I've entered an asthma-like Twilight Zone.

"I love it."

Seal's penis is another wonderful aphrodisiac, much esteemed by the Chinese. This occasioned much joy among



30,000 ex-fishermen in Newfoundland after the seal at their famous cod banks had gone extinct.

"And while it was proven that the scarcity of fish was due to foreign over-fishing in what traditionally had been Canadian grounds, the seal was also a prodigious consumer of cod. Unable to kill European fishermen, that left the seal as a

handy target or opportunity, as well as a new revenue source."

In the chapter Garden Snakes and Trouser Snakes, Hopkins manfully tastes cobra blood and gall bladders in Jakarta, Guangzhou and Pailin.

A Thai newspaper story about a truckload of cobras confiscated on its way to China is so routine that it's relegated to the back pages. "Imagine how the media in the U.S. would cover a story about seven thousand rattlesnakes being found in a truck on its way from Texas to Canada."

And then there's all that sexy stuff from the sea: shark's fin, sea cucumber, seahorse and fugu, "a blow-fish popular in Japan that will, if you get so much as a taste of its poisonous parts, make you stiff all over."

In a chapter called The Sweet Smell of Success, he is brutally dismissive of aromatherapy: "It sounded like a sweet-smelling scam to me. And an expensive one at that.

"Still, when upmarket spas started popping up across Asia, many of them connected to five-star resorts and offering aromatherapy, I thought I should check it out... The more I got into it, the more sources I checked, human as well as on the Net, the more the practice of using volatile plant oils for sexual benefit sounded like fragrant crap."

So what does work? Good old fashioned marijuana.

## Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt

## PHUKET DIARY

### Until April 15. Phuket Bike Week.

This year's Phuket Bike Week is based at the Port Arena, Jungceylon. Activities include an exhibition of motorbikes from all throughout Asia, the Best Bike Contest and the Miss Phuket Bike Week Pageant.

### April 21. BBQ and Live Band at Wine Connection Chalong.

All you can imagine for a great Saturday night. All-you-can-eat barbecue buffet and live band for 349 baht, from 7 pm until midnight. Tel: 076-282411-2, 087-8896074. Email: FB.Phuket@wineconnection.co.th

### Until April 30. BIS IB Visual Art Exhibition

British International School (BIS) IB Visual Art Exhibition at Royal Phuket Marina.

The exhibition of about 100 artworks by seven BIS International Baccalaureate (IB) art major students includes sculptures, photographs, paintings and fashion visual artworks.

Open daily, 9 am to 5 pm.

For more information call BIS at 076-238711-20 ext 0 or Jeanette Skelton at Royal Phuket Marina at 081-7971420.

### April 22. ACYC sailing.

The third race day of the Ao Chalong Yacht Club (ACYC) Keelboat and Multihull Race Series 2007. As the ACYC race series is intended to be a family fun day on Chalong Bay, all are welcome to join regardless of sailing experience. Skipper's briefing at 9 am at the ACYC clubhouse. For more information call Tony Knight at 081-7470074 or visit [www.acycphuket.com](http://www.acycphuket.com).

### May 6. Triballistic Triathlon.

Event 5 of the SILK TriBallistic Triathlon Series at the JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa.

Although the six-race series is designed for junior triathletes and their parents, with age divisions from 6 to over 60, Event 5 will include a Senior Competition comprising a one-kilometer swim, a 30km bike race and an 8km run.

The Iron Kids Team Chal-

lenge, comprising a 300-meter swim, 10km bike race and 2km run, will have two age classes: under 18 and under 12. Each team must include one first-time triathlete.

Registration will begin 7 am race day, followed by race start at 8 am.

For more information call Hugo Jones at 081-0782024; email: [hugodeb@hadyai.loxinfo.co.th](mailto:hugodeb@hadyai.loxinfo.co.th) or visit [www.triballisticclub.com](http://www.triballisticclub.com)

### May 26 and 27. Phuket International Rugby 10s

The Fifteen 7 Sharks from the UK will be back in Phuket to

defend their title as Phuket International Rugby 10s champions at this year's event, at Karon Municipal Stadium May 26 and 27.

Two teams to watch out for this year, said tourney organizer Patrick Cotter, are Devon RFC and Aussie Armed Services, which will consist of players from the Australian Army, Navy and Air Force squads.

The coffin dodgers old boys' 10s competition will also be held during the weekend, as well as a welcome party, Tour Virgin Beauty Pageant and a fund-raising dinner.

For more information email Patrick Cotter at [phuketrugby@](mailto:phuketrugby@)

[gmail.com](mailto:gmail.com) or visit [www.phuketvagabondsrfc.com](http://www.phuketvagabondsrfc.com)

### June 17. Laguna Phuket International Marathon 2007.

The Laguna Phuket International Marathon 2007 looks set to build substantially upon the success of last year's inaugural event. Organizers Go Adventure Asia are expecting 1,500 international runners from 40 different countries.

A half-marathon and a 10km fun run will be held so that people of all ages and athleticism can take part.

For more information visit [www.phuketmarathon.com](http://www.phuketmarathon.com)

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## Tsunami warning towers need sounding off

Vague and conflicting media reports regarding the April 7 testing of the National Disaster Warning Center (NDWC) tsunami warning system clearly demonstrated the need for better planning, co-ordination and public relations by the NDWC and other government agencies involved.

Announcements that an “audible” test of the system was to be held arrived far too late, as evidenced by the testing having to be suspended “after causing surprise and panic among both locals and foreign tourists,” according to state-run Thai News Agency.

Yet it is difficult to know where all this alleged panic occurred. According to a report in one local Thai-language newspaper, residents in Phang Nga’s Tai Muang District gathered around a warning tower in anticipation of the microphone “knocking” noises the sirens were expected to emit. Instead, they were disappointed when the tower there remained as silent as ever.

Aroon Kerdson, head of the Phuket Provincial Office for Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (ODPM), told the *Gazette* that he and other officials had manually tested one of the three tsunami towers in Rawai using a microphone “knock” test.

To the *Gazette*’s knowledge, this was the only audible test on that day. Soon after, NDWC Chief Dr Smith Dharmasaroja admitted to the *Gazette* that the test had been “called off” at the last minute due to an inadequate public relations campaign.

What is peculiar is that later that day several international press agencies, including Associated Press and Deutsche Presse-Agentur, reported across the globe that the tests “were a success” in Phuket. How could this be if only one of the province’s 19 towers was audibly tested as planned – and not remotely?

The NDWC continues to report that the warning system is operational and that audible testing is likely to resume after the Songkran holidays, again using the “knocking” test.

What is needed is full-scale, remotely-triggered testing of the entire system, putting all the sirens through their paces. Who would have ever considered using “silent” tests to check whether an audible alarm system is working or not?

Confidence in the NDWC system is low – only one hotel in the region has been willing to invest the 200,000 baht necessary to connect to it. Last week’s fiasco will erode public confidence even further. The warning system will be effective only if the public has confidence in it; this is why successful full-scale testing is needed as soon as possible.

– The Editor

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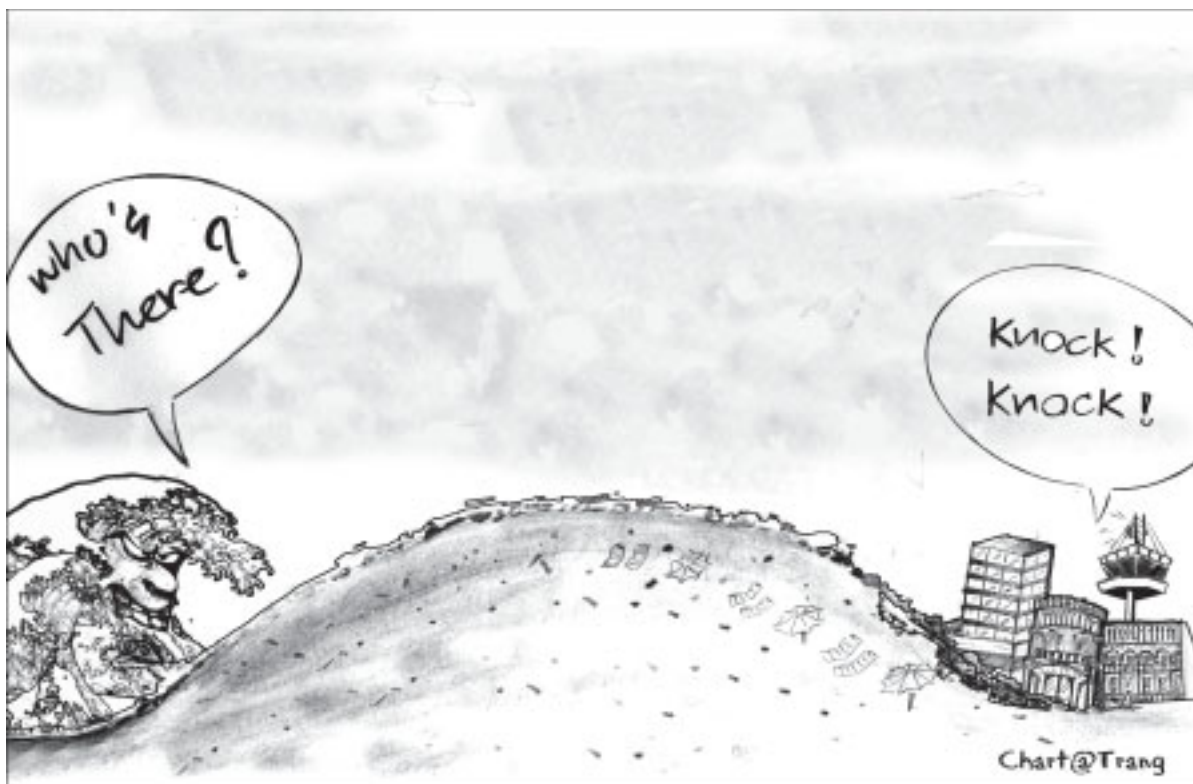
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## Letters

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

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

### It's not too late to save Layan Beach

The formerly deserted beach at Layan, between the National Park and the Banyan Tree, is undergoing an interesting transformation. Along the entire length the mostly broken and dilapidated umbrellas have been placed at approximately five-meter intervals, and several refreshment shacks have also appeared in recent weeks.

Although now mainly deserted, one can only assume that local entrepreneurs are already staking their claims for when the new Shangri La Resort opens for business in a couple of years.

At the same time the land that fronts the beach has just been fenced off, preventing local people from accessing the beach as they have done for years.

Here again one can only assume that the landowner, realizing that the hotel will want beach access for its guests, is preparing to charge a hefty fee for the privilege.

With all the problems associated with removing and resiting illegal vendors from other developed beaches, surely now is a good time to ensure that this formerly empty stretch of beach does not turn into yet another eyesore by clearing the area before the businesses can claim for loss of livelihood.

John Dalley  
Phuket

### All jet-skis need is a little common sense

I am writing in regards to the response of Simon Sheldrick to the letter by “We Love Speed” regarding jet-ski use in the prov-

ince. I would suggest that before replying to letters in the *Gazette*, Mr Sheldrick first carefully read and understand what was written.

Had Sheldrick read carefully, he would have noted what “We Love Speed” was actually complaining about: irresponsible and/or drunk operators, the need for age restrictions on jet-ski use, and the possible introduction of a licensing system with rules and regulations put down in stone, to which all riders would have to abide.

Yet his only argument in favor of a total ban is the death of a 13-year-old boy, who clearly should never have been allowed on a jet-ski in the first place without, as “We Love Speed” argued, a responsible adult in charge.

Mr Sheldrick really ought to get back in his shell and crawl back under whatever stone he crawled out of. Millions of people die each year in road, rail and airplane accidents. Should we ban them all too and destroy “the global village” that we have become? I think not, as a return to The Dark Ages is not what humanity strives for...

Please grow up and give us all a break by thinking a little before putting forward such an idiotic argument.

Cedric Smythe  
Phuket

### Attack the issue – not the perspective

I love reading your letters page, as it is always a pleasure to hear different points of view, but I really was disgusted by a letter from a Mr Sheldrick in a recent edition [April 7].

People are, and should be, entitled to their own opinions, but

the asinine, banal attempt at blaspheming someone else’s view on the use of jet-skis, wherein he cited one very inappropriate story, was nothing short of a highly personal attack on another person’s point of view.

If I say right here and now that Mr Sheldrick ought to be “hung, drawn and quartered” I would be very wrong – just as he was wrong to write such garbage.

As it is, you at the *Gazette* thought it fitting to print such rubbish.

Both yourselves and the writer of that inappropriate piece of horse manure really ought to stop and think for a while before putting pen to paper or finger to keyboard. Absolutely pathetic.

I am disgusted that he opted to cite one very inappropriate incident of manslaughter through neglect, and to go even further by suggesting that all people who love speed would career at high speed through shopping malls on high-speed motorbikes.

I think Hollywood is to blame for allowing feeble-minded people to confuse reality with fiction.

As sorry as I feel for such victims of idiocy, one has to ask oneself, who – if anyone – is culpable?

Earnest Hemingway  
Phuket

### I like it one-way...

In my experience, the one-way traffic in Patong has been a real improvement, especially for foreigners and pedestrians.

However, zebra stripes and flashing lights would give walkers a better chance to cross the street.

Robert Broncel  
The Netherlands

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



# Is the system cracking up?

**O**ur agency might seem like it does very little for the mentally ill, but part of the problem is that we must deal with a wide variety social problems in Phuket.

We have only 10 social workers and we must find solutions for the homeless, people with serious physical and mental handicaps, people in the hospital who are very ill but have no family to assist them, children whose parents are in jail, poverty cases and even beggars on the streets.

One of the primary problems we have in serving the mentally ill is that we have no hospital for them here. Any person with a serious problem must be sent to Suan Saranrom Hospital in Surat Thani for diagnosis and care.

Families bring their relatives to us saying that they can't manage them. The only solution we have for treatment is to send them to Surat Thani. This, however, requires staff time and if a person is dangerous or violent we have to be very careful that the person doesn't endanger the driver or the passengers in the car on the way there.

Going all the way to Surat Thani is time consuming, but I can't say that we need a hospital here as the number of mentally ill people on the island isn't that great and wouldn't justify the expense. However, it would certainly make co-ordination of their care easier.

The population of mentally ill individuals seems to go up and down with the time of year. We

## FIRST PERSON

**T**he setting on fire of Saijai Phromdaen in Patong in February by a man alleged to have serious mental health problems highlighted the difficulties Phuket's health and social services agencies face in dealing with the mentally ill.

Chief of the Phuket Provincial Office for Social Development and Human Security **Phannee Sithikan** explains their predicament and what can be done to improve the situation.



often have no idea where these people are originally from; many of them are transient, living in public areas. It is hard to keep track of them. Even when people call with a complaint, the subject of the complaint often isn't there when we arrive.

We can't always act as quickly as we would like because we must ask the police to pick people up. It is their legal responsibility to deal with dangerous or difficult people.

We know, of course, that the police are overburdened too and may have an emergency they are dealing with at the same time we need their help.

Once someone is in custody we can't leave them with the police as it is not their role to care for the mentally ill, so we begin the process of moving them to Surat Thani. All of this takes time, co-ordination and manpower. It is difficult to do these things quickly – we don't have enough

people.

As tourism is the principal industry on the island, and the public has little tolerance for having mentally ill people out in public. But we do need to have some understanding and patience with them.

A good example is in the Samkong area. There is a Phuket native with mental health problems who walks around the streets in a red sarong. His family lives here and we already have his back-

ground information. He never harms anyone and never walks far from his home. His family accepts his ways and there is no need to hospitalize him. We have to respect his human rights. We can't just go and get anyone, but if they really need help then it is our duty to provide it.

Sometimes a person has quite a serious problem, but families don't like the idea of hospitalizing them. This can be a problem for us too. If they manage the person well and keep them away from public areas sometimes it works out okay.

There is a process for people once they enter the system. If we are dealing with someone who is homeless and has no family, we need to have a local doctor certify that they are mentally ill before we can take them to Suan Saranrom Hospital. If their family admits them there is no need for a doctor to certify them beforehand.

Once they are in treatment many people get better and can return to their home. People with no family and who can't remember or don't know their hometown are transferred to a center for homeless people in Nakhon Sri Thammarat.

We can't stop the problem of mental illness but we do our best to take care of people afflicted with it. If members of the public let us know about people who they believe may have mental health problems we will go and try to help.

– *Compiled by Sangkhae Leelanapaporn*

## Sorting out the stench and fair fares in Patong

The tuk-tuks and motorbike taxis are using the new one-way system in Patong as an excuse for huge increases in fares. I recently paid 80 baht for the same motorbike taxi fare that was a flat 20 baht in September.

It was great when the prices were standard. What happened to those standard fares?

Then there's the open sewers. The stench can be so bad it puts you off eating and it can last for blocks – and it is undeniably human waste.

This is a major health hazard and *not* something Thailand wants tourists returning home and telling their friends.

I love Phuket even if I do have to walk around holding my nose, but is anything being done about this?

Tim Devlin  
Patong

**Patong Deputy Mayor Chairat Sukkaban replies:**

The stench in Patong is from restaurants and hotels not having

septic tanks, which help break down wastewater before it enters the main sewers.

Also the sewers are made from cement, and sometimes waste is trapped where segments of the cement pipes join.

Patong Municipality is not ignoring this problem. We have the sewers cleared out two days a week, using bacteria to break down waste caught in the pipes.

We have also issued a letter asking owners of hotels and restaurants to install septic tanks.

We have also asked for Phuket Provincial Prison to provide well-behaved prisoners to help us clean out the sewers. Once we have confirmed that we have prisoners to help us we will increase the number of days we clean out the sewers.

**Surapol Tonrungreanetawee, Chief of Phuket Provincial Land Transportation Office, replies:**

In 2002 the Transportation Department set standard fares which were agreed to by the tuk-tuk drivers on Phuket. However this schedule was just an agreement, not a regulation.

Last month I asked the Phuket Governor to revise the set fares. He has already set up a committee, which has yet to propose a new schedule of fares.

The new fares will be sent to the Ministry of Transport in Bangkok for consideration.

Only after the new fares have been made into regulations can we take action against tuk-tuk drivers who charge more than the set fares.

## Problematic prawn farm?

My neighbors have built a construction next to their house that suspiciously resembles a building for a prawn farm.

I have heard that prawn farms use chemicals that can leach into the ground and contaminate the water supply for those living close by.

My well is only about 30 meters from this place. Could this be a problem for me? I use the water for washing only.

Joanne LaSalle  
Rawai

**Pairo Suttaporn, Chief of the Phuket Provincial Fisheries Office, replies:**

The Fisheries Department is very strict in controlling prawn farms. They must be registered at the Provincial Fisheries Office, and we check them often.

Prawn farm owners must follow many regulations, otherwise they are not allowed to export their prawns or sell their products locally. They must adhere to the Good Aquaculture Practice, or GAP, all the way from the hatchery stage through to harvesting.

Prawn farms no longer affect their neighbors because prawn farm owners must now use biodegradable products, unlike many years ago when many farmers used chemicals that were harmful to humans and the environment.

The Department of Fisheries has removed all those hazardous chemicals from sale at chemical supply shops, so you can be sure that there will not be any hazard to you or contamination of your water supply.

## Repairing broken windscreens

Is there a company in Phuket that replaces car or truck windscreens? Or are windscreens available from main dealers only?

Nathan Gale  
Phuket

**The Phuket Gazette replies:**

Klung Krajok Rodyon at 31/18 Thepkasattri Rd in Koh Kaew (Tel: 076-377655) and Anajak Krajok Kong at 24/147 Thepkasattri Rd in Rassada (Tel: 076-239116) are just two businesses in Phuket that repair and replace windscreens.



Dengue fever is a specter hanging over any one who lives in a tropical environment. Carried by mosquitoes and nicknamed the "break-bone fever" for its excruciating pain, it's one ailment that is worth knowing the symptoms.

Dengue is a flavivirus carried by tiger mosquitoes, so-named because of their striped legs. *Aedes aegypti* is the rather passive female vector that likes feeding off humans in urban environments, while *Aedes albopictus* is the rather aggressive species that will feed off anything it can find in jungle environments.

Both bloodsuckers prefer daytime meals, but man is usually the carrier for the virus they transmit. Although not new, dengue fever (DF) is referred to as an "emerging" disease because it is only in recent decades that it became a serious problem due to its evolution into a haemorrhagic fever.

There are four different serotypes (groupings) of dengue, each capable of giving you DF – including severe headache, pain behind the eyes, sometimes a nasty rash and awful pain in the joints.

Lasting for one to two weeks, it can leave the patient feeling lethargic and often quite

# The dangers of dengue fever

depressed for months after, but lifelong immunity to that serotype is conferred.

Before World War II, many tropical and sub-tropical areas around the world were endemic with only one serotype of dengue. However, the mass troop movements and refugee migrations of that time enabled dengue serotypes to cross borders with the help of tiger mosquitoes.

Manila set the scene in 1954 when it was hit by what was later named dengue haemorrhagic fever, or DHF. Patients were found to have contracted dengue-2. In 1958, it was Bangkok's turn when 2,297 people, mainly children, fell ill with DHF and 240 (10.4%), died. Unfortunately for the residents of Bangkok, this epidemic continued for

five years, eventually causing 10,367 recorded cases and 694 (6.7%) deaths, primarily in children. Before WW II, Bangkok had not been exposed to dengue-2, but it appeared to be the culprit in this outbreak.

In 1981, Havana experienced 344,000 cases of DHF, with 116,000 hospitalizations and 158 deaths (0.05%). It cost the Cuban government \$103 million to control. Once again, dengue-2 was found.

It transpired that this population had previously been infected with dengue-1, causing mild disease or no symptoms at all.

For every patient with DF symptoms there may have been five infected people who don't show any symptoms but still produced antibodies against the virus.

When infected with dengue-2, previously-produced antibodies reacted with this new serotype, causing, if you will, a deranged, hyper-efficient immune response.

Massive amounts of chemicals called cytokines are released by the white blood cells of those infected, causing the symptoms of DHF – leaking blood vessels on the skin's surface (resulting in bruising), enlarged liver, very high fever and internal bleeding. This can develop into convulsions, a drop in blood pressure and dengue shock syndrome (DSS).

It is now accepted that sequential infection with different serotypes of dengue increases your chances of DHF and DSS. About 90% of DHF/DSS patients are under 15 years old, and there is no vaccine or antiviral medication.

The World Health Organization estimates that 40% of the world's population is at risk from dengue.

Without appropriate treatment and fluid replacement, fatality rates in DHF/DSS can be more than 20%, but with modern medical care this rate falls to less than 1%.

Thailand has attacked the problem admirably, educating communities about prevention and control and improving the medical services. Even during the cyclical explosive outbreaks, the case fatality rates are kept very low. For example, of 139,327 cases of DF/DHF in 2001, the fatality rate was 0.18%. Of 45,893 cases in 2005, it was 0.15%.

It is likely another outbreak will occur in the next year or two, so it is important to keep open containers empty of water to remove mosquito breeding ground, and to apply DEET mosquito repellent. It may not be as lethal as you thought, but dengue is still a very unpleasant experience.

*George Robbie holds a master's degree and diploma from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. A UK-qualified teacher, he provides science home schooling in Phuket. He can be reached by email to homescience@gmail.com*

## HEALTH MATTERS

By George Robbie

### In The Stars

**ARIES** (March 21-April 20): Someone is out to burst your bubble of contentment this week. If you know you caused an upset recently you are advised to lay low during the coming days. If water play isn't your idea of fun, you will probably be happier to stay at home anyway. Thursday is the luckiest financial day – the number four could help to put a smile on your face.

**TAURUS** (April 21-May 21): An arid romantic landscape won't depress you this week. Other matters will take precedence and you should be delighted with one particular financial outcome. An exciting love affair is forecast to rock your world next month and

you will be in a better position to devote energy to it. In the meantime, there are pressing demands on your time and you are advised to keep careful note of all appointments and commitments.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21): Beating about the bush could frustrate you this week. People you thought you could rely on are likely to disappoint and heat exhaustion is no acceptable excuse. If you are too easy going you may need to sharpen your business-related expectations. Take time out to enjoy the social scene this weekend; your love of water sports will be an advantage. The color snow white enhances your cool.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 23): Friends are likely to be draining this weekend. A Capricorn who has a lot on their plate asks to offload some responsibilities onto your shoulders. Your main goal for the rest of the month should be to practice saying the magical word "no". Developing this skill will enable you to streamline commitments and get ahead much faster. A transport delay of some kind mid-week turns out to be a blessing in disguise.

**LEO** (July 24-August 22): Past relationships come back to haunt you. If closure was an unfinished issue, it's high time to face the facts. Work turns out to be more fulfilling than you anticipate; a

new project should give scope for dreams to come true. On Tuesday you need to walk a fine line between being too assertive and making your point clearly. Wear the color aquamarine to enhance your charisma this weekend.

**VIRGO** (August 23-September 23): Taking the bull by the horns is not usually your favorite move. You will need to assert yourself early next week, however, if you don't want to stay in the same rut for much longer. The stars are ready to support your attempts to move on. Avoid socializing with a Cancerian friend this weekend as they will put a damper on the atmosphere. The number 7 can bring luck on Monday.

**LIBRA** (September 24-October 23): You could be saddled with too much responsibility this week. Work colleagues and friends appear to regard you as a never-

ending source of help and advice. The best thing to do this weekend is to leave your phone at home and join in the holiday atmosphere. After Thursday, life should ease into a slower gear. If you are single, you are likely to impress an attractive Sagittarian on Sunday.

**SCORPIO** (October 24-November 22): After a recent surge of hot romance in your life you may feel like a deflated balloon this weekend. Try to avoid being the wet blanket in the midst of everyone else's fun. The reason for this temporary lack of passion will become clear next week and a new relationship grows stronger through total honesty. Capricorn comes clean at work on Wednesday and business relationships are generally well starred.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 23-December 21): You will find easy ways to have fun without splashing out too much cash this weekend. For most of you the simple life starts to gain appeal and relocation to a more remote place is on the cards. Take care of per-

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# Tiger Temple: the jury's still out

**K**anchanaburi town is no stranger to foreign visitors and tourists, drawn principally by the Bridge on the River Kwai and Hellfire Pass, both sites on the notorious Burma railway of World War II.

In recent years however, a new attraction has been bringing in hundreds of visitors every day; the so called Tiger Temple situated at Wat Pha Luang Ta Bua, a few miles outside of town which I mentioned in my last column on tiger conservation.

I had read mixed reports about this temple and decided to see for myself whether it is a genuine effort at tiger conservation or merely a glorified zoo.

The temple itself was built in 1994 as a forest temple and refuge for wild animals. If you are expecting to see traditional temple buildings, you will be disappointed. At the entrance is a small souvenir shop, office and local radio station. Having paid the 300 baht admission fee you enter an area of several acres of scrub

and small trees, interspersed with concrete buildings that house the staff and of course the tigers. Deer, pigs and horses also roam around the area freely.

The first tiger reportedly arrived here in 1999, a young cub that was found by local villagers and later died.

Several other cubs were later given to the temple, supposedly after their mothers had been killed by poachers. Further cubs have been born at the temple, and on my visit there were a total of 19 tigers there.

The best time to go is just after lunch, shortly after the adult tigers are led out of their cages by the Thai staff. That is when the two latest tiger cubs, which

you are allowed to pet, are brought out to play. If you are expecting to see tigers roaming around freely you will be dis-

appointed. The tigers are led out one by one and are on very strong leads. They are then chained to stakes in a roped-off area.

The tigers are fed a mixture of dry pet food and crushed-up



The Temple Abbot watches over a tourist getting close to two of the tigers.

chicken. There is no blood in the diet, which is why, we are told, they are not interested in eating you or me.

Visitors stand behind the ropes and are offered the opportunity to have a special photo taken for a fee of 1,000 baht. If you have paid for the special photo – and most people do – you sit down and a tiger's head is placed in your lap.

The tigers slept the entire time I was there.

According to my guide, an average of between 400 and 600 visitors come here every day, more on weekends and holidays. There have long been plans to build an island where the tigers can roam free and not spend 20 hours a day caged up, and there is some indication that work is underway to build this.

A foreign volunteer there told me that there are plans to catch a wild female, and mate her with one of the males, and then

release the cubs back into the wild, with the intention of trying to repopulate areas where tigers have disappeared.

While the temple does give visitors the opportunity to get as close to a real tiger as is possible and this will undoubtedly continue to attract tourists, I left here with an uneasy feeling and more questions than answers.

While I have no doubt that the project started with the best of intentions, and that the tigers are breeding here naturally, which would indicate that they are happy, I felt very uneasy at a lot of what I saw.

There have been accusations that the tigers are drugged to allow visitors to touch them safely. This is denied by the staff but the animals certainly give the impression of having been sedated. Spending 20 hours a day caged, you would expect them to actively enjoy the four hours of "freedom" they get.

It is also clear that a tremendous amount of money is being spent here by tourists, and as my tour operator pointed out, more than enough to have built the tiger island several times over.

For me, the jury is still out.



By Top Dog

by Isla Star

sonal possessions on Monday as absent-mindedness is indicated. Leo is ready to lead you up the jungle path regarding romance, but you should spot this one coming. Number 6 could be lucky midweek.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22-January 20): Keep your expectations on an even keel as it will not be possible to achieve all that needs to be done this weekend. The holiday atmosphere is contagious and you won't be able to make anyone concentrate on business. Profits are highlighted toward the end of next week. If you have forgotten about a minor investment made last year, you will be pleasantly surprised. The color sapphire blue enhances your ability to attract.

**AQUARIUS** (January 21-February 19): Silence is golden next Wednesday when a meeting with

an ex-flame takes you unawares. Stirring up old grievances is not a good way forward and you need to cultivate some positive energy. Going with the flow is the best way to have fun this weekend – if you try to organize others, it's likely they'll leave you stranded. Another Aquarius has started to wonder what makes you tick and a romantic date will be on the agenda.

**PISCES** (February 20-March 20): You should be in your element this weekend. Your talent for swimming in the right direction socially ensures that interesting new friends are made. If you've started to wonder whether a recently-begun romance is really going to work out, it's best to take some time to be alone. The answer to a work-related problem could be revealed in a dream you have early next week.



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# Crashed HD? Stay cool...

**Q** My hard drive just died. I can't get Windows to boot. I tried sticking the drive in another PC and it didn't appear anywhere, not even in the BIOS when the computer started up. I think the head crashed.

The drive is loaded with important data. I know there are (expensive!) "clean room" repair shops in Europe and North America, but I can't afford the time, or the possibility of further damaging the drive in shipping. Are there any good alternatives?

PN, Phuket City

**A** The Web abounds with folk remedies for dead drives. Windows Secrets Newsletter recently ran an article called "Hundreds of Hard-Drive Repair Tips" ([www.windowssecrets.com/comp/070322](http://www.windowssecrets.com/comp/070322)).

The only repair tip I've ever had work in Phuket involves sticking a dead hard drive in the freezer for an hour or so, then plugging it back in quickly, trying to copy any valuable data off the drive before it, invariably, crashes again.

I've pulled data off two dead drives that way in the past six years. Not an impressive batting record.

The last time my main hard drive died, I was in deep *kee kwai*. The drive held two full days of un-backed-up work on one of my books, and there was no way I could re-create the missing chapters without painfully writing everything again from scratch. With deadlines looming (aren't they always?), I was desperate.

A friend of mine once told me about a man here in Phuket who could raise hard drives from the dead. A couple of phone calls



**HEADACHE REMEDY:** Putting a crashed hard drive in the freezer may allow you to extract essential data. Or it may not. But it's worth a try as a last resort.

later, and I had the extremely good fortune to meet Grigory Morozov (email: [ne-grusti@narod.ru](mailto:ne-grusti@narod.ru), Tel: 086-6827277) at Phuket Data Wizards, [www.phuket-data-wizards.com](http://www.phuket-data-wizards.com). In less

than 24 hours, Greg had all the data pulled off the dead drive – every bit of it, as far as I could tell – and “ghosted” onto a new

drive. Bringing my old data back to life was as easy as re-installing the hard drive, flipping the “On” button, and waiting for Windows to appear. Magic.

Phuket serves as home to many extraordinary computer people. Greg's one of our great national resources.

**Q** I just got this product from Apple that had a confusing statement. “Important Notice to QuickTime Pro Users – QuickTime 7 will disable the QuickTime Pro functionality in

prior versions of QuickTime, such as QuickTime 5 or QuickTime 6. If you proceed with this installation, you must purchase a new QuickTime 7 Pro key to regain QuickTime Pro functionality. After installation, visit [www.apple.com/quicktime](http://www.apple.com/quicktime) to purchase a QuickTime 7 Pro key.”

I bought an iPod and loaded the software. Does this notice mean I need to purchase something else?

FN, Patong

**A** Nope. You're fine with plain old everyday QuickTime (which gets installed when you install iTunes). The Wikipedia article on the topic ([en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quicktime](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quicktime)) says:

“QuickTime is distributed free of charge, and includes the QuickTime Player application. Any application can be written to access features provided by the QuickTime framework, but the included QuickTime Player is limited to only the most basic playback operations unless the user

purchases a QuickTime Pro license key, which Apple sells for \$29.95. Pro keys are specific to the major version of QuickTime for which they are purchased. The Pro key unlocks additional features of the QuickTime Player application on Mac OS X or Windows.”

I don't know of anything that most people need in Pro. Take a look at the Wikipedia article for a list of “Pro” features, if you think there's a chance you'll want to pay for them.

**Q** I just brought a new HP Workstation and had 16GB of RAM installed (8 x 2GB modules). Windows XP Professional reports that I have 2GB! Is this normal? The guys from the shop told me that HP said that the memory will be used but not reported correctly by Windows.

When I first got the workstation it had Vista on it and it also reported only the 2GB of RAM! I since sent the computer back to get XP Professional on it as I

could not take Vista Business. Really hated it.

Anyway, I have never hit this problem before as I have never put more than 2GB in a computer, I would appreciate anything you could tell me about this.

II, Patong

**A** 16 GB? Wow! I've never heard of anybody running 16GB. Extraordinary. It must be a hell of a computer....

The max memory in Windows XP is 4GB, but applications can only get at 2GB (see [www.microsoft.com/whdc/system/platform/server/PAE/PAEmem.msp](http://www.microsoft.com/whdc/system/platform/server/PAE/PAEmem.msp)).

You had a 32-bit version of Vista before you went back to XP Pro. (I don't recommend the 64-bit versions of Vista; the drivers are still too flakey.)

Apparently 32-bit versions of Vista can't even “see” more than 4GB – and your programs can't actually use much more than 3 to 3.5GB. Details here: [www.vistaclues.com/reader-question-maximum-memory-in-32-bit-windows-vista/](http://www.vistaclues.com/reader-question-maximum-memory-in-32-bit-windows-vista/)

So to put it bluntly, you got taken. Unless you're willing to suffer the slings and arrows of (unstable!) 64-bit Vista or (only slightly more stable) Windows Server 2003, any memory beyond 2GB is only marginally useful, and anything beyond 4GB goes completely untouched.

As for Vista Business... yeah, Vista Business sucks. Vista Home Premium is pretty cool, though. In general I wouldn't pay to upgrade an XP computer to Vista, but anybody who buys a new computer should get Vista Home Premium (or Ultimate, if you really want to spend a lot of money for a little bit more).

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

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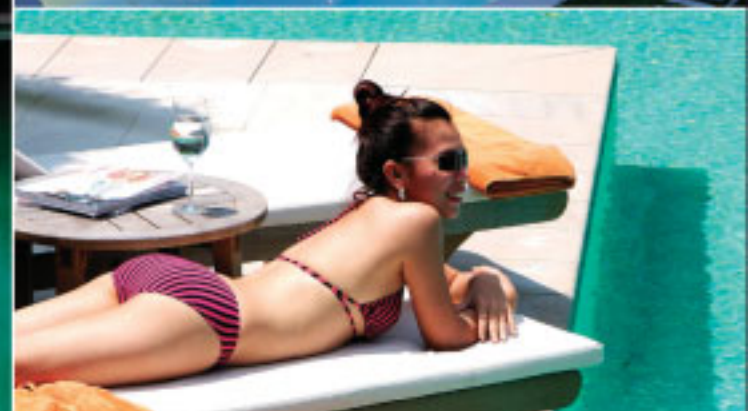
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## ON THE MOVE

**Kesaya Sa-ard-oat**, from Ratchaburi, has been appointed Spa Manager of Quan Spa at Renaissance Koh Samui Resort & Spa. She has a degree in education from Chiang Mai University and has been involved in the spa business for more than four years. She has worked with several leading spas in Thailand, including: Central Spa at Sofitel Central Hua Hin Resort; Ananda Spa in Bangkok; Baan Thai Wellness Retreat in Bangkok and Anantara Spa, Kempinski Hotel Kilimanjaro in Tanzania.



**Claudio Mendini**, originally from Trento, Italy, has been appointed chef at the La Trattoria of Dusit Laguna Resort. He has 25 years' experience in Italian cuisine plus a passion for making fresh pasta. Prior to joining Dusit Laguna, he was Executive Sous Chef at Sedona Hotel Yangon and Executive Chef at Marco Polo restaurant in Chiang Rai. Before that he owned a hotel in Trento for 10 years.



**Montha Thongngam**, from Bangkok, has been appointed Executive Housekeeper of Dusit Laguna Resort. She has more than 20 years of experience working in hotels in Phuket and Bangkok, including: Amari Coral Beach Resort in Phuket, as Assistant Executive Housekeeper; and Executive Housekeeper at Katathani Phuket Beach Resort. Prior to joining the Dusit Laguna Resort, she was the Executive Housekeeper of Amari Watgate in Bangkok.



# Phuket duo launch Internet bus booking service

By Sangkhae Leelanapaporn

THAILAND: Software programmers and Phuket residents American Eric Kenly and Australian John Lindsay have teamed up with entrepreneur Chaiyot Kotchapan to launch the website ThaiRoute.com, through which people can book long-haul bus tickets.

Although the portal has been online since the beginning of March, the service was launched at a press conference in Bangkok on March 30.

In an exclusive interview with the *Phuket Gazette*, Thai Route.com Executive Director Mr Kenly explained that the website is currently in Thai only and that the online booking service has yet to be activated. People will be able to book tickets directly online as soon as the website has been uploaded to server.

In the meantime, travelers can check the website for bus services available and call the 24-hour reservations hotline at 02-2696999, which has English-speaking operators.

Payments can be made at any branch or ATM of Krung Thai Bank, Siam Commercial Bank and Kasikorn Bank, and at any TOT customer service counter, Mr Kenly said.

From May 15 payments can be made at any 7-Eleven store offering Counter Service, he added.

Mr Kenly said that the immediate response by the public has been excellent. "After pro-

moting the service in Bangkok the number of calls made to the 24-hour call center were double the number we expected," he said.

The number of people using the service is expected to boom as the service is still in its infancy and ThaiRoute has yet to launch a nationwide promotional campaign, he added.

ThaiRoute currently accepts bookings for long-haul services from Bangkok to destinations including Chiang Mai, Lampang, Khon Kaen, Loei, Roi-Et and Mukdahan.

For journeys to and from Phuket, ThaiRoute accepts bookings for buses to Haad Yai, including stops at Trang and Phattalung, (though not Krabi) and to Sungai Kolok, including stops at Pattani and Narathiwat.

Bookings for buses between Phuket and Bangkok are not yet available as Central Tour and Phuket Travel Tour, which together run all the private scheduled bus services between Phuket and Bangkok, have yet to join the service. The country's most wide-reaching bus operator, the publicly-owned Transport Co Ltd, has also yet to join the service.

"We currently have a very good solution for long-haul bus travel, but many people are asking for the same solution for short-haul journeys, such as be-



ThaiRoute.com Executive Director Eric Kenly (left) and Marketing Officer John Lindsay forecast that the company will snag 30-50% of the six million bus tickets sold in Thailand each month.

tween Phuket and Khao Lak. Currently you cannot reserve tickets for such journeys. We are working on adding those services," Mr Kenly explained.

ThaiRoute.com is the brainchild of K. Chaiyot, Mr Kenly explained. "John and I come from a very significant software background. We were approached by Chaiyot Kotchapan, the MD of ThaiRoute, who has more experience in software programming. It was his idea. He approached us with the idea and then we created the blueprint and started putting the software team together and started developing the plans," he said.

Mr Kenly and Mr Lindsay are no strangers to Thailand. Mr Kenly has spent 15 years in Asia, and been living on Phuket for the past three years, while Marketing Officer Mr Lindsay has been living on Phuket for six years.

The trio undertook market research before drawing up detailed plans for the service. "We surveyed more than 200 Thai people at bus stations and asked passengers exactly what they wanted," Mr Kenly explained.

"The most common complaint was that it was very inconvenient to get tickets. Travelers found it frustrating and even though they had to travel to the

bus station to book a seat there was no guarantee that any seats would still be available.

"Some respondents said they were prepared to pay extra to be able to book online," he said.

Mr Kenly added that bus companies were also asked what their requirements for an online booking system were. "They gave excellent feedback. We were very surprised that their requirements were very sophisticated; we didn't anticipate that," he said.

"So we went back to the development phase. Once these requirements were addressed it became an extremely easy assignment," he added.

Mr Kenly said that he expected long-distance buses to compete well against low-cost airlines in the coming years. "We do not see the number of people traveling on buses in Thailand decreasing for several years. Feedback from our surveys indicates that at least the current volume of passengers will continue to use buses for long-haul domestic travel," he said.

ThaiRoute is already looking at expanding its range of services. "We have already been invited by Adm Bannavit Kengri-an, Chairman of the National Transportation Legislative Assembly's Committee, to create a similar solution for trains.

"We anticipate being not just a bus ticket booking service; that is simply our first step. We will add most other transportation services," said Mr Kenly.

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Economic growth in Asia is moving forward at a pace that is changing the balance of wealth on our planet.

This has many benefits for the global economy as increased demand for products and services provides increasingly large markets for the goods, resources and services produced in developed and developing countries.

Progress always has negative consequences, such as pollution, but overall such rapid growth results in increased opportunities and standards of living for enormous numbers of people.

People often fear change, but change is one of the few certainties of life. The 1997 Asian financial crisis was, basically, a speed bump on the road of progress caused by current account imbalances – not speculators, as many would have us believe. The speculators only sought to profit from the situation; they were not its cause.

Hard lessons have been learned from 1997 and this time around most of the Asian countries participating in this massive boom have positive current account balances and substantial foreign exchange reserves.

Growth on this scale requires massive investment and this creates opportunities for investors.

At a recent investment seminar in Asia, one presenter who spoke on real estate opportunities in the region was besieged by the audience at the end of all the presentations. He was not just another developer with an individual project with sandy beaches, his subject was much broader: Asian REITs (Real Estate Investment Trusts).

REITs have been established for decades in some countries, such as the US. Other countries are just entering this market. REITs were not allowed in the UK until recently. When the British government realized their benefits, not only were REITs legalized, but investors were offered tax incentives to encourage investment in them.

REITs are simply a grouping of real estate holdings quoted

# Asian REITs boom leads the curve



**REAL ESTATE BOOM:** A Chinese schoolboy rides his bicycle past large buildings under construction in Beijing. – Photo by EPA/Michael Reynolds

on a stock market with their price dependent on the supply and demand for the underlying assets. Naturally, property has the ability to rise and fall in value and earn an income from rental.

They give investors the ability to invest in a wide variety of properties, from residential, such as condos, to commercial, such as office buildings and shopping centers, to industrial facilities such as factories and warehouses – or a mixture of them all.

Commercial property investment in all its forms requires huge capital investment and expertise. REITs allow people to invest in that sector by holding one or more REITs with only a

modest amount of capital required to join.

In Asia, the situation is more complex. Property may not be legally accessible to foreign nationals and legal systems may bear little resemblance to anything investors are familiar with. Even for highly experienced real estate investors, the capital investment can become enormous and holding physical properties can be a very illiquid investment.

A REIT allows investors to access part of a large “pie” but also allows them to exit the investment quickly. Investing in Asian REITs is an overwhelming task for the individual; the amount of research required will

deter all but the most determined or foolhardy.

This is where REIT funds come in. One example is Australian-based Absolute Asset Management’s Asian REIT Property Fund, which is currently using the slogan, “Be part of the Asian Property Boom.” This fund undertakes all the research on investors’ behalf by selecting REITs from throughout Asia and packages them into one fund.

Absolute Asset Management is an established group; in addition to its head office in Melbourne it has a regional office in Kuala Lumpur.

From January 2003 to January 2007, Asian REITs produced

an annualized return of more than 27% per year, well in excess of the MSCI Asia (Morgan Stanley Capital Index) of shares, which returned just under 20%.

From January 2002 to January 2007, the value of REITs listed in Asia rose from around US\$12 billion to well over US\$160 billion.

Current country allocation in the Absolute – Asian REIT Property Fund is: Australia 20%, Japan 25%, Malaysia 5%, Korea 5%, Singapore 15%, China and Hong Kong 15%, Taiwan 5%, with the balance in cash or other markets.

In February Standard and Poor’s said, “Expectations for the Asia REIT market remain high for 2007. Estimates say that this region is undercapitalized, with only 4% of assets under REITs versus 60% in Australia.”

Singapore’s *Business Times* reported on December 23, “The outlook remains positive for Asian REITs over the coming years. The growth and diversification visible in 2006 is likely to hasten in the period ahead.”

The fund is available in pounds sterling, US dollars and euros, and is domiciled in the Cayman Islands, rendering it tax-free. The administrator of the fund is Trinity Fund Administrators, Dublin, Ireland. KPMG (CI) is the auditor and the Royal Bank of Scotland International is the custodial banker.

Richard G Watson runs Global Portfolios Co Ltd, a Phuket-based personal financial-planning service. He can be reached at Tel: 076-381997, Fax: 076-383185, Mobile: 081-0814611. Email: [imm@loxinfo.co.th](mailto:imm@loxinfo.co.th)



## MONEY TALKS

By Richard G Watson

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# TriBallistic set to go long-distance

By Laura Schafer

MAI KHAO: The SILK TriBallistic Triathlon Series will be breaking into longer distances during the fifth event of the season on May 6, with the senior divisions traveling 39 kilometers during the race.

The SILK Triathlon Series of six races is specifically designed for junior triathletes and their parents, with age divisions ranging from 6 to over 60.

The long-distance race, to be held at the JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa, will include a Senior Competition with a one-kilometer swim, a 30km bike race and an 8km run, as well as an Iron Kids Team Challenge.

There will be two age classes for the kids team challenge: under 18 and under 12.

Each team must include one first-time triathlete. This competition will consist of a 300-meter

swim, 10km bike race and 2km run.

Registration will begin at 7 am on race day, with an official start time of 8 am. Each competitor will receive a kit bag including a race series shirt, race number and swim cap for the season.

The athletes' accumulated points from their best four results in the series will be totaled to determine the series award winners.

The top three males and females in each age category will receive awards at the TriBallistic annual dinner at the end of the series 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*.

For more information, visit [www.triballisticclub.com](http://www.triballisticclub.com); call organizer Hugo Jones at 081-0782024; or email: [hugodeb@hadyai.loxinfo.co.th](mailto:hugodeb@hadyai.loxinfo.co.th)

## Rotary sets date for TB charity tournament

PHUKET: The Rotary Club of Phuket will hold their "Phuket Rotary Golf Club" tournament on April 28 at Phuket Country Club in Kathu. The top foursome will receive a crystal trophy, while proceeds from the event will be used to help rid the island of tuberculosis.

Registration will be from

9:30 to 10:30 am on the day of play, followed by a shotgun start.

Individual prizes will also be awarded based on handicap basis, with other fun competitions including "closest to the hole" on each hole.

Interested golfers can contact Phuket Country Club before April 25 at Tel: 076-321038-9.



FROGGERS: Chris Jongerius (red shirt) trims the jib while Matt McGrath helms *The Frog* to victory.

CHALONG: Dutchman Chris Jongerius on his new Firefly 850 catamaran *The Frog* whizzed round the course to take line honors by a long lead in Race 3 of the Ao Chalong Yacht Club Keelboat and Multihull Race Series on April 8.

*The Frog*, launched just in time to sail south and compete in this year's Royal Langkawi International Regatta, got off to a good start, which is critical in the Multihull class as there are no handicaps applied among the Fireflies.

After giving Tony Knight on *Fidgi* cause to keep an eye on his stern while sailing down the line waiting for the start siren, Jongerius, Matt McGrath, Chris "Chuck" Husted, Managing Editor of the *Gazette*, and the rest of the crew sped off on the upwind leg, right behind Ben Copley's *Asia Spirit*, with Muzza Norstrand at the helm.

With winds gusting up to about 12 knots, *Asia Spirit* led the fleet to the outer marker and was first to hoist its spinnaker for the

## Hop it, Frog tells rivals

long downwind run past Koh Bon and round Koh Hei.

*The Frog* passed *Asia Spirit* as they approached Koh Bon, though Bill Phelps's *Twin Sharks*, with Firefly designer and builder Mark Pescott on board, made up enough ground lost on the first leg to have *The Frog*'s crew keep an eye on her position.

*The Frog*, however, had the lead and the luck of the wind on the Koh Hei leg, managing to sail out of a windless "hole" and continue round the island and up Chalong Bay to finish line.

Mark Horwood on *Charro* sailed well to secure third place in the class.

*Asia Spirit* won the Racing class, with Mia Gillow on *Minx*

claiming second place. *Fidgi* ran into trouble early in the race and was forced to retire.

*Cinders* ran out of luck – and out of wind – and failed to finish within the allotted two hours after the first boat completed the course.

In the Cruising class Harry Usher and Lady Pie on *Eos* sailed well to win the class ahead of *Sanook*.

Jay Ujjin of Day Sponsor Ratri Jazztaurant awarded prizes to the winners of each class, and an all-cheer salute was given to Steve Hatchett for suffering alone in the heat in the start boat while waiting for the fleet to complete the course.

Jongerius also won the Encouragement Award from race series sponsor Image Asia. Grenville Fordham of Image Asia said, "I should have brought three prizes today, but today's prize goes to... well, you all know him. He's the guy who's always out there, always smiling, always joking, never whines... Well done, Chris."

The next ACYC race day is on April 22. All are invited to join, regardless of sailing experience. Cost is 100 baht per ACYC member, 200 baht per non-member – Thais can join free. For more information call Tony Knight at 081-7470074 or visit [www.acycphuket.com](http://www.acycphuket.com)

– Chris Husted

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# 300-plus athletes compete in PSU mini-marathon

WICHIT: More than 300 runners held on for the distance at Phuket Rajabhat University's 11-kilometer mini-marathon on April 8 to raise funds for their student scholarships.

The early-morning race began at 5 am at Baan Laemchun Public Park on Pattana Thongthin Rd, near the Wichit Health Office.

The top five athletes in each age class received a trophy and a medal.

## RESULTS

**11km Open Women:** 1. Lina Divis; 2. Mayuret Kong-in; 3. Sirima Mosika.

**4km Open Men:** 1. Sompong Panshoo; 2. Wichet Puttirat; 3. Anucha A-nuisong.

**4km Open Women:** 1. Doung-rutai Somrak; 2. Kanika Lek-kam; 3. Chantraporn Pidkoon.

**4km Boys under 12:** 1. Pitaya Boonsanong; 2. Kiatisak

Klabkan; 3. Songklod Klabkan.

**4km Girls under 12:** 1. Tanachaya Upatising; 2. Julawan Malakan; 3. Janjira Maiyim.

**11km Boys under 15:** 1. Dusit Thongyam; 2. Boonnam Kanlek; 3. Kraingkrai Mosik.

**11km Girls under 15:** 1. Siriyakorn Kamlai; 2. Thitiworada Plainpeangtham; 3. Nalinda Divis.

**11km Men 40-49:** 1. Sudjai Intanai; 2. Chamroon Sae-Tan; 3. Narong Poncharoen.

**11km Women 40-49:** 1. Rarerng Pasapatkul; 2. Trithip Thahin; 3. Sudjai Intara.

**11km Men 16-20:** 1. Olarn Leelasilapasart; 2. Komsan Thongyaem; 3. Sittichai Yukhonthorn.

**11km Men 30-39:** 1. Suchon Patchana; 2. Jai Putchuay; 3. Dithiwat Nopnab.

**11km Women 30-39:** 1. Chamaiphak Klinprakhon; 2. Wandee Chamroenrak; 3. Saowalak Janthong.



**SIREN SONG:** Top runners received a police escort as they neared the finish line.

**11km Male 50-59:** 1. Supot Luaboonthoo; 2. Suriya Na Bangchang; 3. Praphan Jindamaneesri.

**11km Women 50 and**

**over:** 1. Kessaraporn Boonkao; 2. Yulong Ratcharoenkit; 3. Sang Apaitharn.

**11km Men 60 and older:** 1. Phairat Leelasilapasat; 2.

Tienseng Boonyapinihan; 3. Boriboon Pilai.

Due to a scorekeeper miscommunication, 11km men's open results were not available.



## KEEP ON SWINGIN'

Tony Meechai, TV personality and natty hat wearer, visited the Bangkok Hospital Phuket on March 31 to encourage golf as a healthy activity.

Meechai, who was born in the US, began working in the golf industry when he was

15 and later became a member of the Professional Golfers' Association of America.

He currently runs the Heartland Golf Schools, hosts the *Heineken Golf Clinic Plus* TV program and tours the country extolling the social and health benefits of golf.

## Canoe racing at Ao Por Pier

THALANG: Rajabhat Phuket University will hold a canoe and fishing boat race April 22 at Baan Ao Por Pier. Proceeds from the competition, which will include races of two-person canoes and 10-person *hua thong* fishing boats, will go toward scholarships for bright students from the Ao Por mosque.

For canoe racing, registration is 500 baht in the open class and 1,000 baht in the professional class (primarily canoe operators)

per team. For *hua thong* boats the registration is also 1,000 baht per team.

The top three teams in each category will receive trophies and cash prizes; 7,000 baht for first, 5,000 for second and 3,000 for third.

Teams can register on the day of the race before the official start time of 8 am or by contacting Khun Ning at Tel: 081-0803414 or email: ning\_lilly@hotmail.com

## Patong Darts: Matchups for Week 2

PATONG: The new season of the Patong Darts League continues on April 17 with the following matchups for Week 2: Piccadilly v Dog's Bollocks; Queen Mary v Beach House; Shakers v Offshore; Valhalla v Didi's; Simply Red vs Coyote Bar (home teams listed first).

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## Construction Update

by Janyaporn Morel

# Work begins on Palms project

Developer Island Oasis Resorts' new apartment project The Palms is to be built on two rai on the Kamala Beach road. Site clearance began in mid-March and construction is expected to begin by the end of April. The project is expected to be completed by June 2008.

John Hayward, Marketing Director of Island Oasis Resorts Co Ltd, told the *Gazette* that this project has been very popular and about 60% of the units have been sold.

The 230-million-baht project will have two four-story apartment buildings housing 30 two-bedroom units and six duplex three-bedroom penthouses. The units are being sold with 30-year leases and a contracted agreement for two 30-year extensions.

Stretching across the front of the buildings, with direct access for ground-level units, will be two huge swimming pools. The first pool will be 40 meters by eight meters, the second will be a free-form design of 380 square meters.

"The main concept is to provide family-style accommodation with easy access to Kamala Beach, which is only meters away, just across the beach road.

"There are very few places in Phuket that have a quiet beach road like this one, especially in the popular resort areas such as Kata, Karon or Patong. So our location will really attract people.

"Kamala also has its own



Left: The pool will come right up to the apartments. Above: Penthouse interior.

markets, banks, restaurants, shops and bars to attract people, too," Mr Hayward said.

The 30 two-bedroom units will be on the first three floors of the buildings. Each unit will have

a total area of 98 square meters and each bedroom will have an ensuite bathroom. The three-bedroom penthouses will sit on the fourth floor of the buildings and have 162 square meters of living area plus a roof deck.

There are two view choices: Sea View or Mountain View. The prices for the two-bedroom apartments start at 8.995 million baht and penthouses start at 18.995 million baht.

"There are so many developments in Phuket now and some prices on the island are very high, but The Palms has very good value at affordable prices. It's in

the perfect location so the apartments will give a good rental return as an investment.

"The penthouses will be fully furnished at this price, and the two-bedroom apartments will have a standard furnishings package as an option for about 300,000 baht," he said.

Of the 36 units, 13 apartments and 2 penthouses have yet to be sold.

"Our obvious market is the UK and expatriates living in Singapore or Hong Kong. There are a lot of UK people interested in moving to the Orient because of the climate. They can escape

the winter and come here for high season with their families for relaxation.

"Another interesting channel for us is the Asian market. We have sold a couple of apartments to Chinese individuals and Phuket is not very far away for them; flying from Shanghai is only four hours.

"Our location on the island is an important point of our project. Kamala Beach is well known as a beautiful beach as well as being a very safe beach because of its shallow grade, unlike Surin and other beaches that have steep drop offs," Mr Hayward said.

The architect and designer for The Palms is Axil Architect Co Ltd and the construction contractor is Haad Yai Nantakorn Co Ltd.

For more information contact Island Oasis Resorts Co Ltd office and showroom at 88/6 Moo 3, on the Kamala beach road, Kamala, Kathu, Phuket 83150. Tel: 076-385305, 076-386143. Fax: 076-385482. Website: [www.island-oasis-resorts.com](http://www.island-oasis-resorts.com)

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## Design

by Natcha Yuttaworawit

# SHAPED BY DREAMS



**BORED WITH YOUR LIVING ROOM?** Rescue is at hand in the form of a white Chesterfield, (above) with Red Cross cushions, or bright, quirky occasional chairs (right) from Classic Barn.



Since February 2005, Kumpee Charoenchai, owner of Classic Barn on Yaowarat Rd in Phuket City, has been selling furniture built to designs that passers-by cannot help but notice.

"The inspiration for my designs comes from customers' basic ideas of what they want coupled with what they want their 'dream' furniture to look like. That's different from other designers in Phuket," K. Kumpee says.

"Dreams and demand are different. I was working for a design company that designed mass-produced furniture, but customers sometimes don't like the furniture in stock; they want their dream furniture," he adds.

K. Kumpee has been involved in furniture design since he was a student at Silpakorn University. After graduating, K. Kumpee worked at a big design company until he opened Classic Barn.

Now he uses ideas from customers to design his products, but he also takes into consideration functionality and quality.

"Customers like this, and buy it. That makes me feel much more confident in my designs," he says.

However, K. Kumpee points out that many homes in

Phuket are second homes for owners.

"So many of the homes are intended for a more relaxed style of living than that of primary homes. So the owners have no limitations to decorating their houses, they do not need to worry too much about function," he says.

Most of the furniture at Classic Barn is in modern rather than antique styles, though K.

Kumpee says that many items have been designed to integrate with the style of decor already used in some owners' homes.

"The first time I visited Phuket I noticed many designs of houses, boats, restaurants and resorts, but there wasn't a style like the ones I use now," he says.

Classic Barn is near Suriyadet Circle on Yaowarat Rd, Phuket City. Tel: 076-256021.

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## Gardening

with Bloomin' Bert

# Set your garden on fire

I always knew what I wanted to be when I grew up. A fireman. I'm not sure if it was a helmet fixation (I have to be careful how I say that) or sliding down that big shiny pole (I think I'm digging myself deeper here) but I really wanted to be a fireman. That would be "firefighter" to those offended by such an obviously sexist term.

Then I changed my mind when I discovered that sprinting into burning buildings and extinguishing raging infernos was not exactly the safest profession in the world. It was then that I looked around and decided that being an astronaut was my destiny. After all, they get to walk on the moon and everything.

My dad was the one that ended that plan. "You're from Yorkshire, lad, not America", he informed me dramatically one day. "Those Americans don't let us go up with them." At that time they didn't and yet another door closed on one of my planned professions.

He decided that my future was with the Yorkshire cricket team. I certainly qualified in one respect, having been born in the county (a requirement at the time), but unfortunately my wistful father had overlooked one fairly significant factor: I was a terrible cricket player. He seemed to ignore the fact that I couldn't throw a ball, hit one with a bat or catch. I still can't. Shame really.

It wasn't until I got a lot older that I realized that this "growing up" thing simply doesn't happen. Not for me, anyway – I'm just as infantile as I was in my teenage years. I still find farts funny. I still chuckle at pathetic double entendres. My schoolboy humor seems to be lingering somewhat; maybe I'll grow up some day.

And what happens? I end up living in Phuket writing about gardening. Hardly what I had in mind as a dreaming youth. Here I sit, staring at the keyboard, with rain pouring down outside. The temperature has dropped from the oven-like norm, to a much more gentle heat. I haven't been outside recently, but I'll bet that the majority of Thai people are walking around wearing coats and complaining about the cold. Is this the start of the rainy season already? It can't be.

It's actually kind of cold I suppose, in a twisted, tropical sort of way. If this was England, we'd be huddled around inside trying to keep warm around a crackling fire, watching the stream rise from our sodden clothes. No surprise how tenuous the link between crackling European fires and gardening in Phuket is, but



**A STURDY BUSH:** The firebush may not be the most spectacular of plants, but is a hardy grower unfazed by the harshest tropical heat.

here we go – I got thinking about the firebush, or *prathat thong* as it's known by the coat-wearing Thais. Proper gardeners call it the *Hamelia patens*.

Some plants are spectacular in one or many ways. Some have incredible eye-catching blooms. Some have an amazing aroma that is caught on the wind from fifty paces, or leaves that look so spectacular that you'd swear they were created as a work of art by an artist with a particularly warped mind.

The firebush is different though. It has absolutely none of the above. In fact it should really be known as the "none of the

above" plant. About the only thing in its favor is its name, which conceivably might cause a few immature schoolboy sniggers.

It's certainly a bloomer, and does so year-round – it's just that the "blooms" in themselves are a little bit disappointing. They don't even look like flowers – more like tiny reddish-orange tube-like things about a centimeter long, with deep red throats. It gets its name purely because there are a lot of them, so from a distance all you see is splashes of fiery orange in the bush. Snigger.

These tiny tubular flowers are great attractors of hummingbirds, which would be great if we

actually had them in Phuket. Have you ever seen a humming bird, by the way? Tiny things, they are – just a couple of inches long.

Anyway, back to the firebush. Its original home is Mexico, and it grows as a large evergreen shrub there. Elsewhere it's also known as the firecracker plant, for obvious reasons. Stunning it may not be, but it's a rugged bush that will grow just about anywhere it can get some sun. At those times of the year when everything else in the garden starts to look a bit frazzled and tired, the firebush will still be sitting there happily, just steadily getting on with the business of growing. You have to admire a rugged bush.

It will put up with poor soils, and is even tolerant of salt, so it's ideally suited to the island life here. If you're feeling energetic, you can encourage the growth of more flowers by putting it in rich organic soil, which will also help it to grow more quickly. It is great as a patio plant, bedding plant or by the pool. My apologies if I start to sound like one of those sad little men on the Discovery Channel.

If you leave it alone, it will grow up to about a couple of meters, but by that time, it will look a bit straggly. If you're intending to put a few of them together, it's better to have more of them, closer together (20 to 40 centimeters apart is about right). This way, you can allow them to expand a bit then trim them back until you have a full-blown hedge. The short term downside of the hedge idea is that pruning slows down the production of flowers, as they always grow right at the ends of the stalks.

In terms of propagation, this one is a member of the "cut-it-and-stick-it" club. Just cut off a reasonably thick, healthy-looking branch and push it unceremoniously into some damp compost or, if you don't have any, even plain soil will do. It'll probably take root anyway – just wait for it to start growing.

If you like a fiery bush, the firebush is perfect. What's more, with its name it brings out the immature sniggering youth in all of us. At least I hope it's not just me that hasn't quite grown up yet. Personally, I hope I never will.

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Home of the Week

Chalong

# TALL THAI



**IMPOSING:** The three-bedroom home stands out from the crowd (right). The view from the balcony (above) says 'countryside'.

**T**his large Thai-style three-bedroom house stands on 800 square meters of land and has 300sqm of indoor living space.

The entrance is either via the main front door or the side door. On the ground floor there is a large living/dining room with a Western-style kitchen off to the side in a separate room.

The downstairs has large picture windows which allow in plenty of light, giving it an airy, spacious feel.

A hardwood staircase leads upstairs to the master bedroom and two guest bedrooms. All bedrooms have en-suite bathrooms and air conditioners.

The bedrooms' large windows give great views across the unspoilt landscape of the valley where the house is situated. There is a landing area which could be used as an office.

Go down a few steps and you come to a large terrace balcony perfect for kicking back and enjoying the weather.

The main bathroom has a

large one-way picture window allowing you to look out over the countryside as you bathe.

The house has a considerable walled-in garden with lawn and tropical plants perfect for children or pets. There is also a tiled terrace and 32sqm pool.

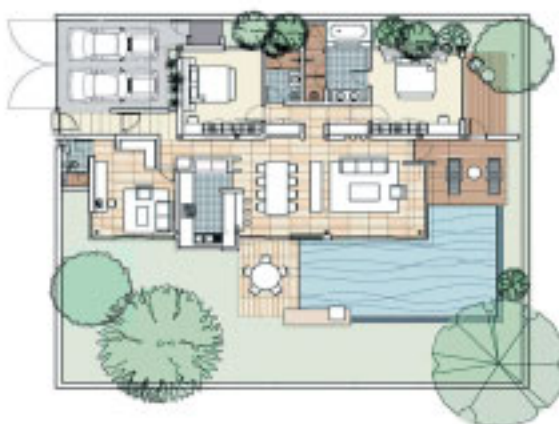
In front of the house is a two-car parking area and in the grounds there is a laundry room as well as a maid's room with attached bathroom.

The house is tucked away with two others in a quiet cul-de-sac in a naturally beautiful area of Chalong. The location is peaceful and unspoilt, but still convenient for shopping and leisure amenities.

Utilities include well water, three-phase electricity, septic tank, telephone line and ADSL connection.

The house is for sale at 13.5 million baht.

For more information, contact K. Pongsaton at Tel: 086-7432011, email: phuketghouses@hotmail.com



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not yet complete. City house, 9 rooms, 170sqm, garden 100sqm. Sell for 2.3 million baht. Rent for 13,000 baht per month. Near Nai Harn. Tel: 084-4454614.

### PATONG SEAVIEW

villa with outstanding sea view & swimming pool. 22 million baht. Contact at Tel: 087-389-8139, 089-5896144, 089-2911112.

### TOWNHOUSE

in Patong. 150 meters to beach. New, 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, aircon open-plan kitchen, lounge, cable TV, phone line, good size accommodation. Fully furnished. Price: 4.2 million baht. Tel: 084-8144090, or 081-0263029.

### 2.3 MILLION BAHT

house. Kamala, 132sqm. Furnished, 2 bedrooms, bathroom, laundry, kitchen, garden, 2 aircons, cable TV, phone and ADSL. More information at Tel: 081-5377137. Email: sunisadia@hotmail.com

### MUST SELL HOME!

Now! 4 million baht. New, near beach, Free LCD TV, chopper or furniture! Call Tel: 081-0837254, 089-7830494. Email: jimcox007@msn.com

### PLOT OF LAND IN BANG TAO

1.5 rai, 300m from the beach, Chanote. Tel: 081-7371687, 086-6869821.

### SEA VIEW, LUXURY FOREIGN FREEHOLD CONDOMINIUM



2 bedrooms, 167sqm, high-floor condo with panoramic sea views of Karon beach from all rooms. 14.5 million baht. Contact Jeremy at Phuket Land Search. Call Tel: 081-8916174.

### MODERN STYLISH HOUSE IN KATHU

for sale. 3 bedrooms, ensuite bathrooms, large living room. Kitchen, dining, laundry room. Set around spacious veranda with walled garden, private parking, semi-rural yet close to shops, international school, golf courses. 9 minutes to Patong. Price: 4.6 million baht. Tel: 084-8439579. Email: somsrij@aol.com

### 1.5 RAI LAND

Laguna area. 1.5 rai in a very popular development area next to Laguna Phuket. Chanote title. 5 million baht per rai. Tel: 076-325411, 081-9793369. Fax: 076-325413. Contact via email: phudtheera@phuketrealty.net

### NEW HOUSE

for sale. 4 bedrooms, 3 living rooms, big kitchen, open plan, great value. Sale by owner/builder. Tel: 076-280440, 086-6831964. Contact email: franklee200@hotmail.com For further details and info, please see our website at: www.chalonghouse.4t.com

### ELEGANT HOME

Exclusive hillside, big pool, garden with trees. Tastefully furnished. Nice! Please call Tel: 076-388236, 089-7275407. Or email: bob@cosmicmindreach.com For further details, please see our website at http://villa-sale-phuket.com

### LAND FOR SALE

8 minutes to Laguna, Baan Jo Thalang, 153sq wah (600sqm). Chanote title, water and electricity. Price: 1.325 million baht. Call Tel: 081-041-5646. Email: Khunraf@hotmail.com

### DREAM HOUSE FOR SALE



Dream house in Chalong on 715sqm of land with private pool. 4 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, Western kitchen, 7 aircons, dual carport and much more. Perfect for families. A must see. 16 million baht ono. Tel: 081-8926251. Email: mrsouza@hotmail.com For further details, please see our website at: www.phuketdreamhome.com

### ANUPHAS GOLF VILLA

Detached house on 320sqm land. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, living room, fully-fitted kitchen/dining area. Solar power. Freehold, Chanote title. Price includes all teak furniture, beds, table, TV, sofa for 6.9 million baht. Please contact for more details. Call Tel: 081-0874201. Email: glenys\_horne@hotmail.com

### OCEANVIEW CONDO

A "must-see" apartment resale, located in Kata. Stunning ocean view and walking distance to the beach. Unique opportunity. Leasehold. Call Tel: 076-292265, 084-0535780. Email: info@ayudhya.net

### LAYAN SEA VIEW

The land is 30 rai overlooking Layan and the Andaman Sea. Selling at 7 million baht per rai (on the right hand side of the road). For sale by owner. Tel: 086-4706648. Email: thanuwat.p@gmail.com

### HOUSE IN NAI HARN

for sale. 85sqm, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, living room, 3 aircons, carport, cable TV, 2 telephones and furniture. 2.7 million baht. Call Tel: 084-0513731.

### BEACH CONDOS

in Karon. Last units left, 12 bedrooms, starting from 69 million baht. Easy walking distance to the beach. Guaranteed rental return. Tel: 076-292265, 086-0043008. Email: info@ayudhya.net For further details, please see our website at www.ayudhya.net/english/condos/index.php

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### NEW PATONG VILLA WITH POOL



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.phuketbesthomes.com

### HOUSE AND LAND PACKAGE

TWO- AND THREE-BEDROOM HOUSES  
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ENGLISH: 0812704291 .....THAI: 0897072520  
Email: thailandmls@gmail.com



# Property Gazette

## TROPICAL VILLA FOR SALE



Living area 600sqm. Garden area 6,400sqm (4 rai). Large 250sqm terrace. 3 bedrooms & 1 master bedroom with en-suite. Open-plan kitchen, living room, Jacuzzi, swimming pool, 100sqm of artificial river & charming island, 3-car garage & exterior parking. Completely furnished, football table and snooker. Price: 49 million baht. Located at Pa Khlok, 5 min from Ao Por, marina, golf, etc. No sea view. Company formed since 2002. Chanote title. Project by international architects. Contact Tel: 081-8935270. Email: mrdupouy@yahoo.fr See website: www.tropical-house.net

## NEW MODERN BALINESE VILLA IN KATHU



Near Loch Palm Golf Course for sale. 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, office, large living room, Western-style kitchen. Sala, water pond, maid's bungalow, 58sqm pool, massage shower heads in all bathrooms, solar hot water, aircons throughout. 330sqm living area, 800sqm land. Well priced at 14.5 million baht. For more information and details: Tel: 089-7241140. Email: nong.phuket@yahoo.de

## URGENT, HOUSE FOR SALE



Big area. 87 Thalang wah. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Chong Talay. 2.8 million baht. Tel: 081-0912102.

## FAMILY HOME ON CHAO FAH RD



4 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, a modern kitchen and a lovely garden. For long-term rent at 35,000 baht a month. For sale at 7.5 million baht. More info email: phuket8@hotmail.com

## CHALONG



Nice luxury house with 3 big bedrooms, 2 very spacious bathrooms. Big kitchen, dining and sitting room, 3 verandas. Fully furnished, 2 carparks. House 1 year old, very quiet and safe location. Living area: 230sqm. Land: 520sqm. Price: 7.6 million baht. For info call Tel: 081-8937068.

## PATONG BAY; GREAT SEAVIEW



A stunning beauty. Art deco house in Baan Suan Kamnan. One of the best, most quiet, green, clean and safe neighborhoods on the island. Located on a hillside at the south end of Patong. A large and tall house on a top location. Overlooks the bay of Patong in the daytime and you can enjoy the lively Patong scenery in the night time. Enjoy the looks from a distance and have a look at our webcam. Tel: 086-786-6350. Fax: 076-345273. Email: buurmanb@hotmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.patongbluepoint.com

## HOUSE FOR SALE



Includes furniture, 2 aircons and hot water. For sale at 5.9 million baht (land and house). 80sq wah (320 sqm), 2-story house with 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, big storeroom and large garden in a nice tranquil area. 10 minutes to Nai Harn and Rawai beaches and 15 minutes to Phuket City. Please call owner for viewing. Tel: 084-9916654.

## PATONG HOMES FOR SALE

Buy properties direct from owners (no middle man). Tel: 087-2650118. Email: ant\_p\_clark@yahoo.co.uk For further details, please see our website at http://housesforsalephuket.blogspot.com

## 28 RAI ON KOH LONE

Located on Koh Lone island. Has 120m of beachfront, opposite Phuket Aquarium. Call K. Tum. Tel: 084-0002083.

## KATHU POOL HOUSE

near Loch Palm Golf Course for sale. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, fully furnished, 3 aircons, 3 water heaters, 15sqm pool. 200sqm land, ready to move in! Only 4.9 million baht. For further details: Tel: 089-7241140. Email: nong.phuket@yahoo.de

## LAND IN NAI YANG

Chanote near beach for sale. 2 Rai for 7 million baht, 1 Rai for 3.5 million baht, 6 Plots (each 440sqm) for 1.5 million baht per plot. For more info Tel: 089-7241140. Email: nong.phuket@yahoo.de

## SEAVIEW HOUSE

2-bedroom house with large swimming pool and European kitchen in the best area in Patong "Baan Suan Kamnan". 17.5 million baht. Tel: 086-2706454, +44-778-999 5522, 089-4727588. Email: djudges@hotmail.com

## SURIN SPRINGS

Stunning, luxury lakeside house. 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, private pool. 5-minute walk to beach. Aircon, Sat TV, ADSL, nicely furnished. 25 million baht. Please contact for further information. Tel: 076-270655, 089-9084861. Email: kingsrqw@lds.co.uk

## KATHU NEAR GOLF

course. 2-story house, 1 year old. 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms. House is 220sqm. Land is 488sqm. Fully furnished. Price: 7.5 million baht. Call Tel: 083-3953976. Email: kawthai@hotmail.com

## STUNNING VIEW

Chalong land. 5 rai at 5 million baht per rai. Chanote title. Access from 2 roads, electricity. No agents. Please contact for further information. Call Tel: 084-9256568. Or email: gloriabcl@yahoo.com

## COLLEGE TOWN

apartments. 30 apartments, 4 shophouses, city center, 95% occupied. 14 million baht obo. For further information, please contact Martin at Tel: 087-2676300.

## CHALONG LUXURY

house. 2 stories, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, secure, quiet location, 2 kitchens, laundry room, full aircon, double garage, etc. Area: 292sqm. Curved teak 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.phuket house4sale.com

## HIGH-TECH OFFICE

High-tech office building in central location close to Chalong circle. 2 stories with a total of 408sqm with sea view in quiet residential area. Central aircon system, complete security system, contactless 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. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-282211, 081-958-0815. Fax: 076-283251. Email: moo@phuketgajden.se

## EXOTIC KATA OCEANFRONT

5-star luxury, 1-bedroom apartment. Spa, pool, quiet area, ADSL, sea view. 38,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-9726017, 089-9171161. Contact via email: asiasail@yahoo.com For further details, please see our website: www.koumbele.com/kata1

## CHALONG HOUSE

for sale. 2 stories, 4 bedrooms in Chalong. Western kitchen. Discounted price: 3.8 million baht. Tel: 081-9795755.



## Surin Beach - Modern Seaview Apartments for sale

Within 100 metres of the beach. 80 sqm. of living space. One bedroom, living room, European-style kitchen, fully furnished, air conditioning, hot water system, home security system, internet connection, television and satellite TV. The price starts from 6.5 million baht for the first-floor apartment. Please contact Ann 66 81 868 7676

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# Property Gazette

## PATONG TOWER SEA VIEW



Furnished 1-bedroom, 1-bathroom condo with 2 separate balconies and foreign freehold ownership. Quiet, in the heart of town and shops. Unobstructed panoramic view. 100 meters from Patong beach. Pool, indoor parking, 24-hour security and reception. A rare chance to secure a one of a kind location! Offered at 7.5 million baht. Tel: 087-2761225, 081-6927397. Info via email: patong15@gmail.com

## PATONG SEA VIEW

New apartment with swimming pool. 30+30 year lease. Price: 2.5 million baht. Chanote land plots with electricity and water from 450,000 baht. Tel: 081-6917241, 089-5896144.

## 4-BEDROOM VILLA

with pool. 1km from Laguna, 5 aircons, ADSL, Sat TV, living room, garden. Contact at Tel: 084-8516121.

## KATA BEACH

apartment. New one-bedroom apartment with pool, gym and services. 3 million baht. Tel: 089-4735080.

## LUXURY KATA

beach. Seafront, Aspasia, 5-star, 1-bedroom apartment with pool. Spa, leasehold, furnished. Priced to sell at 8.4 million baht. Tel: 089-9726017, 089-9171161. Email: asiasail@yahoo.com For further details, please see our website at www.koumbele.com/kata1

## FREEHOLD CONDOMINIUM

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

## CHALONG SHOPHOUSE

with ocean view. 3 stories, perfect for small business. Very close to Chalong pier. 2.5 million baht. For more info please call K. Supachai. Tel: 081-554-4140.

## NEW HOME NEAR BEACH



Chalong, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 car spaces. New furniture. Quick sale at 4.5 million baht. Please contact for more details. Call Tel: 089-7830494, 081-0837354. Or send email: jimcox007@msn.com

## MISSION HEIGHTS LAND FOR SALE

Fully-serviced land plots of various sizes. Please ring for price. Tel: 089-2262612. Email: jim@jimmarsh.net

## NAI YANG HOUSE 3 MILLION BAHT



Must sell, discounted price. 2 bedrooms, includes all furniture and appliances. Quiet, gated community, pool, sauna, gym. 1 minute from Nai Yang Beach. Custom floors, cabinets, tiles, lighting. Euro/US standards. Contact for more details. Tel: 089-8742607. Email: jintananong@yahoo.com, loverofasia72@yahoo.com

## BANGTAO SEAVIEW

land plots. 3.9 million baht. Land plots with infrastructure. First class sea view. Tel: 086-2670157. Contact via email: bannuaton@yahoo.com

## IMMACULATE VILLA

Very private location. Lush tropical garden, pool, 4 quality bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, large living room, top kitchen, huge patio. Fully furnished, 450sqm of living area, 1,500sqm of land. Chanote. Thalang area near Heroines Monument. Contact Tel: 084-6907057.

## CHALONG HOUSE

for sale. 2-story house in Chalong. 376sqm, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, maid's room, kitchen, living room, 2 aircons, good area. 4.2 million baht. Tel: 081-0790688.

## TWO SHOPHOUSES

84 wah. Near Robinsons and Sapan Hin. 24 million baht. Please contact me for further details. Call Tel: 081-3707795, 089-4708519. Email: navalak@yahoo.com

## MODERN HOME IN SAIYUAN



Rock-style home, 4 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, a huge kitchen and a big garden. For long-term rent at 35,000 baht a month. For sale at 8.5 million baht. Tel: 081-7872201. Email: phuket8@hotmail.com

## FREEHOLD CONDO

for sale. Double bed, TV, fridge, balcony, parking. 1.3 million baht. Tel: 085-7977786. Email: tj\_biggie@hotmail.com

## APARTMENT

building for sale in Phuket City. 18 rooms, 4 floors with Chanote. Call for more information. Tel: 084-0541447.

## 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

## KATA BEACH

bargain. 2 minutes to beach. Quick sale due to moving. Price: 2.9 million baht. Call Tel: 084-8405834.

## RESORT ON PHI PHI

18 rooms for sale on 5 rai of leased land. 14 years remaining on contract, can be extended. Plenty of room for expansion. Contact for details. Tel: 081-7193375. Email: resortonphiphi@hotmail.com

## VILLA BUNGALOWS

3-bedroom villa and 5 bungalows, all with aircon. Very cheap as owner is leaving. Call Tel: 081-6064649.

## PATONG CONDO

Panoramic sea view, 36sqm, best location. Newly remodeled. Furnished, pool, kitchen. Freehold. 2.2 million baht. For info call 085-7823231. Email: guntmit@aol.com

## ATRIUM HOUSE IN AO NANG

A 4-bedroom, 4-bathroom house with internal swimming pool, on 1,200 sqm. 3.5kms from the beach. 10 million baht. Please contact for more information. Call Tel: 081-6213432. Email: will@hoefsmid26.nl

## BANG TAO, 5.3 MILLION BAHT



New house, 2 minutes to beach or market. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, with hot water. Contact K. Shanya. Tel: 087-3863388. For more information email: shanya.arman@gmail.com

## LAND FOR SALE SAMUI



Land for sale on Samui. Meanum soi 5. Nice location, just 2km to beach, 750sqm. 1.5 million baht. Call Tel: 076-288860, 086-9474494.

## 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: 076-271544, 087-2095174. Email: info@phuketmarbella.com

## SEAVIEW LAND

in Nai Harn. 640sqm with Chanote and views to Phi Phi. 2.9 million baht. Tel: 076-288047, 081-8941660. Email: cottrell@loxinfo.co.th

## 1 RAI RAWAI LAND

High quality. 1 rai Chanote land covered in palm trees, very beautiful, road, electric, top area, private. 4.5 million baht per rai. 2 one-rai lots available. Call Tel: 086-5950188. Email: nsupin@yahoo.com

## CHEAP LAND

for sale. 2 million baht per rai. Wife's illness forces urgent sale of 3.5 rai of NorSor 3 Gor land on the government road between Ban Saku and Nai Yang Beach. Permission for 8 houses already granted, deep water borehole & electricity is adjacent. 2 million baht per rai, with quick sale from a Thai owner. Tel: 076-328451, 083-1728052. Fax 076-328451. Email: phuketairport hotel@yahoo.com

## VILLAS IN RAWAI

2-story luxurious villas. 325 to 500sqm living space on 700sqm plot land. Starting from 15 million baht. Call Tel: 089-6525664.

## Properties For Rent

### CHALONG, NEW HOME

for rent. 2-bedroom, furnished with telephone, UBC, aircon. For more information call Tel: 089-6521473.

### KATHU TOWNHOUSE

Townhouse in Kathu for rent. 2 Bedrooms. Fully furnished, air conditioned. 9,000/month. Tel: 081-8953661.

### 2-ROOM APARTMENT

for rent in Kamala, 3 minutes to the beach. Furnished, fridge, ADSL, Wireless Lan. 10,000 baht per month. Call Tel: 081-7193962. Email: bbq@loxinfo.co.th

### 1-ROOM APARTMENT

for rent in Kamala, 3 min to the beach. Furnished, ADSL, Wireless Lan. 7,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-7193962. Email: bbq@loxinfo.co.th

### HOUSE FOR RENT

Sea view, fully furnished, 2 bedrooms, Chalong bay. 22,000 baht per month. Call Tel: 081-6064279.

### SEAVIEW COTTAGE



3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, swimming pool, large gardens, sun decks providing amazing sea views. Furnished with Sat TV, Internet. 10 mins to BICS/ Marina Cape Yamu. 45,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-2796283.

### PATONG 2-BEDROOM APARTMENT

UBC, ADSL, swimming pool. Great location. 20,000 baht. Tel: 086-2790837.

### APARTMENT KATHU

A quiet furnished apartment, 3 bedrooms, living room, kitchen, 1 bathroom, terrace, aircon, fans, swimming pool, telephone. Near Loch Palm Golf Club. Available for long-term rent at 15,000 baht. Tel: 076-202725, 081-8916632.

### KATHU HOUSE FOR RENT

Fully furnished, 3 bedrooms, fully fitted kitchen, 2 bathrooms, living room, driveway. Quiet soi close to Phuket Country Club golf course and Central Festival. Call K. Pom for details at Tel: 081-4998719. Email: marshall\_hugh@yahoo.co.uk

### PATONG BAY VIEW HOME



2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, pool, ADSL, UBC, kitchen, dining room, great location, long term only, must see. 60,000 baht per month. Available May 1, 2007. Tel: 08-78821963. Email: benlee53@hotmail.com

### GOLF VILLA FOR RENT

New 4-bedroom, 4-bathroom villa at Phuket Country Club. Pool, aircon, maids' rooms. Long-term: 65,000 baht a month. For more information call Tel: 086-2772691. Email: davidinasia@hotmail.com

### KATA LUXURY APT

Furnished, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, aircon, Western teak kitchen, huge terrace. Long-or short-term. Starting at 20,000 baht per month for long term. Tel: 089-5926890. Email: north&west98@yahoo.com

### RAWAI RESIDENCE

studios. Rental per month: 6,000 to 12,000 baht. Aircon, safe, ADSL, UBC, close to beach. Tel: 086-9408914.

### PALAI, GREEN HOUSE BIG GARDEN

Fully furnished, 2 aircon bedrooms, hot shower, living room, kitchen, garage. 11,000 baht a month. Palai area. Tel: 081-8924311.

### BIG HOUSE FOR RENT

3 big aircons, bedrooms fully furnished, but no fence. Beautiful garden, near Chalong Bay. Price: 30,000 baht per month includes electric and water. Tel: 081-8924311.

### KAMALA BEACH

New apts and houses for rent or sale, fully furnished. Rent: 15,000 to 30,000 baht. Call Tel: 084-3059606.

### BUNGALOW RAWAI

1 and 2 bedrooms with kitchen, air con, baht, cable, ADSL. Quiet location. Nice terrace. From 8,000 baht. Tel: 086-2790837.

### RAWAI HOUSE

for rent in Rawai resort. 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, kitchen, terrace, fully furnished, 2 safes, 5 aircons, ADSL Internet, communal pool, tropical gardens, car park. Long lease. Price: 50,000 baht per month. For more information email: hans\_lange@hotmail.com



# Property Gazette

## BIG HOUSE FOR RENT



Located at Anuphas Manorom village, attached to Suan Luang public park, 1.5km from Central Festival, 300sq wah, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, swimming pool, fully furnished. Please contact for details. Mr. Mongkon. Tel: 084-0628040.

**2 HOUSES FOR RENT** in Kata. 1 to 2 bedrooms, garden, UBC, ADSL. 17,000 baht per month. 2 bedrooms, AC, TV. 11,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-7371687, 086-5869821

**CHALONG, 4 BEDROOMS** with aircon, 3 bathrooms, large open area living/dining room. European kitchen. Fully furnished, swimming pool, ADSL, UBC, nice garden. 50,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-9566745.

**1-BEDROOM CONDO** in Patong Tower. Newly renovated in a beautiful modern style. Best location in Patong. Long-term only. 18,000 baht per month. Call Tel: 087-1238320. Email: deherder@hotmail.com

**3-BEDROOM HOUSE** for rent in Chaofa Thani. 9,500 baht a month. Nice garden. Tel: 076-280440, 086-6831964. Fax: 076-280440. Email: franklee200@hotmail.com

**BEACHFRONT CONDO** Kalim area, Patong. High standard. Fully furnished, 2 bedrooms, kitchen, pool, many facilities. Call Tel: 081-8920038.

## HOUSE IN TRANG

for rent. New beautiful house, Pak Meang beach front, 1 bedroom, kitchen, bathroom, one big living room and carpark. 10 minutes to Chao Mai National Park. Long term (minimum 1 year): 8,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-3840864.

**2 CONDOS FOR RENT** or sale. Melville House or Phuket Palace, completely new, fully furnished, lots of extras. 20,000 baht per month each. 3.9 million baht or 3.2 million to buy freehold. Tel: 084-1861858. Email: coltat1962@yahoo.com

## VILLA FOR RENT

Beautiful, new 2-bedroom villa with private pool close to Rawai and Nai Harn beaches. Fully furnished, aircon. 35,000 baht per month. Pool and garden maintenance included. Minimum 6 months. Call Tel: 081-9701716.

**QUIET HOUSE & CAR** for rent. Fully furnished, 3 bedrooms with aircon, cable UBC, ADSL, maid & gardener. Toyota Yaris, black, automatic. Rent from May to July 07. 49,000 a month, 20,000 baht a week. Tel: 081-9703136. Email: agogniat@loxinfo.co.th

## LONG-TERM RENT



Tenant seeks long-term rental of a beautiful house, condo or apartment in Phuket. Please contact for more details. Tel: 076-245-966. Email: info@phuketandamanrealestate.com

**SEAVIEW APARTMENTS** for rent in Karon & Patong beach. Tel: 089-4912496. Email: bluewaterphuket@gmail.com

## BIG HOUSE FOR RENT

3 big aircons, bedrooms fully furnished, but no fence. Beautiful garden, near Chalong Bay. Price: 30,000 baht per month includes electric and water. Tel: 081-8924311.

## RAT-U-THIT ROAD SHOP

Detached building, large shop with offices above, prime location. For more info call Tel: 081-8935200. Email: gsf@seal-asia.com

## RAWAI HOUSE FOR RENT



Set on a totally secluded 900sqm plot, with a 40sqm swimming pool. Guest cottage with own bathroom. House has 2 bedrooms, large bathroom, huge living room with balcony and views, indoor and outdoor kitchens. Furnished, ADSL, UBC, weekly maid service, gardener. Available from March 24 for 6-month let. 45,000 baht/month. Call Tel: 081-0806560.

## SURIN BAY AREA

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for rent. 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, living room, kitchen, office, 4 aircons, indoor waterfall. Chalong. Tel: 084-8444228. More info via email: [saisorn1971@hotmail.com](mailto:saisorn1971@hotmail.com)

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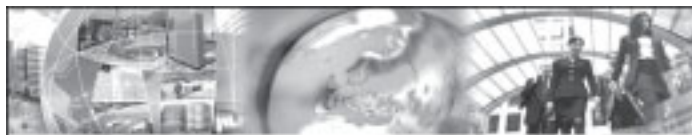
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#### 1. Sales Manager: (2 positions)

- Male or Female, age over 28 years
- BA in Sales & Marketing or related fields
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- Knowledge of Land Development Act, Thailand Taxation structure, excellent PR skill
- Possess own vehicle
- Proficiency in both written and spoken English

#### 2. Sales Executive: (4 positions)

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#### 3. Estate Manager/Assistant Estate Manager (6 positions)

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- Knowledge in Juristic Person Acts is an advantage
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- Able to work under pressure

#### 4. Administrative Manager (2 positions)

- Female, age over 28 years
- BA in Business Administration or related fields
- Proficiency in both written and spoken English
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- At least 3 years experience or related fields
- Able to work under pressure

#### 5. Accountant (2 positions)

- Male or Female, age over 25 years
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- At least 2 years experience in related fields
- Familiar with accounting software and knowledge of MS-office especially Ms-Excel and taxation systems
- Proficiency in both written and spoken English

#### 6. Administrator (2 positions)

- Male or Female, age over 22 years
- Vocational or higher in Business Administration or related fields
- Computer literacy and familiar with office automation
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- Knowledge on gardening and landscaping maintenance would be an advantage
- At least 1 year experience

#### 7. Technician Supervisor (2 positions)

- Male, age over 25 years
- BA in Mechanical/Electrical or related field
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- Able to work independently

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Interested candidates are invited to write in with full resume, stating present and expected salaries, and enclosing a recent photo mail to:

Knight Frank Phuket Co., Ltd.

1 Plaza Del Mar Building Room no.109-111 & 201-202, Pasak-Koktanod Road, T.Cherngtalay, A.Thalang,Phuket 83110

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Email: [rob.hewison@holidayclubpacific.com](mailto:rob.hewison@holidayclubpacific.com)

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- Coordinate with ESL Teachers
- 5 years' teaching experience
- TESOL or TEFL certificate desirable
- Understanding student centered teaching practices
- Commit at least 2 years

Please send a copy of your resume in Thai by April 30, 2007, to Fax: 076-487124.

**CHIEF ACCOUNTANT**  
CPD license is a must. Knowledge of QuickBooks is a plus. Must be good on reporting cash flow, budget, etc. Call Tel: 076-239111. Fax: 076-238974. Email: [hr@asia-marine.net](mailto:hr@asia-marine.net)

## Phuket Gazette

**The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following positions:**

### Advertising Sales

- Thai national with an outgoing personality
- Experience in sales and marketing
- Good command of written and spoken English
- Must have drivers license

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV to Wipa Putkeaw, Human Resources, by email, fax or post to:

### The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

367/2 Yaowarat Rd, T. Taladyai, A. Muang, Phuket 83000  
Fax: 076-213971 Email: [fon@phuketgazette.net](mailto:fon@phuketgazette.net)

## SALES PERSON

Internet advertising for marine and seafood industry. Thai national who can speak, read and write English. Computer literate, good negotiation skills, must have own transportation. Call K. Kevin Tel: 087-2820867. Email: [kevin@sea-ex.com](mailto:kevin@sea-ex.com)

## UK RECRUITMENT

Consultants. Young, articulate and sales-minded British recruitment consultants wanted for busy office in Phuket. Excellent salary. For more information email: [lan@evocation.net](mailto:lan@evocation.net) For further details of our company, please visit our website at [www.evocation.net](http://www.evocation.net)

## OFFICE MANAGER

wanted by estate agent. The position requires basic accounting skills, good command of English, computer literacy. Please send CV by email or for more information Tel: 086-686 5998. Email: [info@tropical-homes.net](mailto:info@tropical-homes.net)

## Employment Wanted

### PROFESSIONAL HOTEL MANAGER

Have been in Thailand for 10 years as GM, RDM, Front Office Manager and Sales Marketing Manager. Hotel graduate from Cambridge International College. Looking for new position. Contact Tel: 081-0801004. Email: [hotelgm@gmail.com](mailto:hotelgm@gmail.com)

### LOOKING FOR EMPLOYMENT

Young, energetic Filipino girl looking for immediate employment in Phuket. Fluent in English and perfect computer skills. Please contact at Tel: 089-017-5706. Email: [marcellep@mail.com](mailto:marcellep@mail.com)

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# Tout, Trader & Trumpet

## Articles for Sale

### FINE CONTEMPORARY FURNITURE



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### FOR SALE

Siemens dishwasher. Auto 3 in 1 model. Stainless steel. Three months old. Never used. 40,000 baht new. Best offer will sell. Tel: 087-933-4097.

### TEAK WOOD

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### UMBRELLAS CURVER

and courtyard, 3m diameter, various colors and styles. Starting at 2,300 baht. Please contact Tel: 081-7193962. Email: bbq@loxinfo.co.th

### LODESTAR DINGHY

w/ engine. Inflatable Hypalon rubber boat with 9.8hp Tohatsu engine. Includes travel bag, Water Sky and 2 person Banana. All items only 3 months old. Tel: 076-289691, 085-798 8231. Email: c9000@gmx.de

### LOW INPUT, HIGH

output, automatic carwash machines for sale. Starting from 3.9 million baht. For more details please email: carwash\_phuket@hotmail.com

## Bulletins

### ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

**Mission Hospital Phuket City**  
Wed and Sun 7 pm  
**Bangkok Phuket Hospital Phuket City**  
Fri 7 pm  
**Patong Hospital Patong**  
Mon, Tue, Wed, Sat, Sun at 7 pm and Fri at 8 pm  
**Chalong Health Clinic-near Chalong Circle**  
Tues 1 pm  
For Phuket info (English) call 081-9564031, 081-8912895  
**Scandinavian speaking Group Wat Karon School-Karon**  
Tue and Sat 7 pm  
Tel 081-2732053 (Nor) 087-2795636 (Nor) 086-7458910 (Swe)

For info on other Thailand AA meetings inquire at Tel: 02-2318300 (for Thai language press 3) www.aathailand.org or email info@aathailand.org

## Business Opportunities

### BAR & RESTAURANT IN PHUKET CITY



Lounge/bar/pool near Royal Phuket City Hotel. 80sqm, 2 floors, fully equipped, aircon, sound system, plasma TV, nice decoration. 4-year lease, 5 years or more possible. 1.9 million baht + rent. Contact Tel: 081-7288087.

### INVESTORS WANTED

Profitable franchise looking to expand in southern Thailand. Minimum investment: 1.5 million baht. Please contact for additional details. Tel: 084-8412830. Email: islandmuscle@gmail.com

### KATA BEACH

New guesthouse for sale or rent. Call for info and appointment. Tel: 081-8948446.

### KAMALA REST/BAR

New place for rent. Main road. Famous pizza. Fully fitted and ready to open. Lease: 5 years, 6,000 baht per month. Key: money 400,000 baht. Please call for more information and details. Tel: 086-2878966.

### GUESTHOUSE

Kamala, small guesthouse, bar, restaurant. 4 rooms and small apartment, beautiful terrace, very clean. 1 minute to beach. WIFI. 5-year lease for 900,000 baht. K. Bob. Tel: 087-2661851.

### FITNESS CENTER FOR SALE

Gym established for 7 years in Phuket. Owner retiring. Contact Tel: 081-8111067.

### RESTAURANT/BAR

on Nanai Rd. Best location on this street. Fully equipped, pool table and big screen TV. Only 500,000 baht. If interested I can send some pictures. Please contact for more details. Tel: 087-1133043. Email: barneywest@hotmail.com

### STUDIOS IN PATONG

Studios with small kitchenette for rent in Soi Nanai 2. Low season offer of 12,500 baht per month, all included. Call Tel: 081-5362954. Email for info: petro@phuket.ksc.co.th

### Special Offer

Lips Bar - Rawai Beach for rent/sale due to serious illness of owner.



Lips Bar with the best turnover in Rawai is a designed sports and cocktail bar, fully equipped as well with two bars, one brand new dancing floor, music computer, beamer for big display, where you give the guests a fun place with a special touch. No wonder that this venue became an In-Meeting point by many repeating customers. No waiting time, no further investment necessary. Bids are welcome 1.5 million baht Remaining rental contract for property four high seasons.

Please contact  
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### NANAI BEAUTY SHOP

for sale. Only 120,000 baht. Suitable for other uses. New aircon, glass frontage, etc. Please call K. Orn Tel: 081-3974957.

### RESTAURANT/BAR

for sale in Rawai area. Fully equipped, good location. Call for details. Tel: 081-0520160.

### BOOK SHOP SALE

Patong OTOP book shop for sale. Price: 690,000 baht. Tel: 084-1705552.

### SOLID INVESTMENT

Multi business. Car care, 100sqm cafe/restaurant, 50sqm aircon office, separate toilet house, big parking area, billboard rental, 6 staff rooms. 3 minutes to Lotus. 1 location, 3-year lease. Call PVB, Bertrand. Tel: 081-2715292.

### BEAUTIFUL

massage shop. Busy location Nanai Rd, no key money, 6-year lease. 80,000/100,000 baht net high season profit. Includes all fixtures. 1.2 million baht. Call Tel: 086-2625321.

### CAFE/BAR

Chalong. Wholesale & retail pies, fish and chips, etc. Cheap rent includes accom. 2 + 2 years. Royal street, all training & recipes. 995,000 baht. A must inspect. For more information call Tel: 087-024-5036.

### BEER BARS

For advice on buying a beer bar in Phuket call Kevin at TSBA. Tel: 084-7300190.

### GUESTHOUSE

for sale with restaurant/bar. Located opposite main entrance to Royal Paradise Hotel. 6 guestrooms with shower, aircon, TV. Luxurious, beautiful restaurant with kitchen, high standard. 14 million baht. Call Tel: 081-8956587, 081-8949060, 086-2697093.

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Email: kevin@tsba.info  
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### KATA CENTER

Rawai. Shophouse for rent and land for sale. Tel: 081-2730080. Please visit our website at http://landandshopforsale.phuket.net

### RESTAURANT (PIZZA)

Nanai Rd, 2 units, all equipment. 190,000 baht. Tel: 089-4696839, 084-8506380.

### CONSTRUCTION

company needs partner. We need a partner to expand our company. Required capital is 6 million baht for 50% of the shares. For more information please contact us via email in English, German or Thai. Email: fliege37@hotmail.com

### RESTAURANT

for rent. New restaurant for rent at 25,000 baht per month. 1 million baht to buy all the equipment. 4 floors:

- restaurant on 1st and 2nd floor
- apartment on 3rd floor
- staff room on 4th floor

Ready to open now! Please call or email for additional details. Tel: 081-8915602. Email: andrea.capucci@gmail.com

### GUESTHOUSE FOR SALE

Near Sheraton Krabi. By owner. Contact Tel: 081-3703109, 086-7431586.

### 2 UNITS FOR SALE



Tailor shop located beside the absolute Sea Pearl Hotel. Tel: 081-8269390.

### GUESTHOUSE FOR LEASE



Long-established hotel with 12 rooms. All rooms have aircon, cable TV, minibar, window and hot & cold water. 40-seat restaurant, great location. For quick sale: 14 million baht or nearest offer. Tel: 086-2727939. Email: eb-naiham@web.de

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Karon	Siam City Bank	22.00	06.00
Patong	Bangkok Bank	22.15	06.15
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### 20 INCH APPLE

cinema screen. Only used for five months. New price was 24,500 baht. Will sell for 15,000 (not negotiable). Tel: 076-378255, 087-8822597. Email: [euro-art-gallery@planet.nl](mailto:euro-art-gallery@planet.nl)

### DEAL FOR FAST SALE

Computer, compact with many accessories and table, still 3-year guarantee. 8,500 baht. Tel: 081-2945441.

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computer program. Good condition. Cost: 26,000 baht. Sell for 8,500 baht. HD sit-up bench like new. Cost: 8,000 baht. Sell for 3,500 baht. Please call for more information and details. Tel: 081-9583513.

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## Personals

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	Jun.'07 3,10,17,24	
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to Khon Kaen. Two first class sleeper cabin tickets to Khon Kaen on April 9, departing Bangkok 8:45pm. 2,200 baht for the pair. All trains for Khon Kaen are fully booked so be quick. Call and ask for John. Tel: 081-0815952. Email: [messagejohn@hotmail.com](mailto:messagejohn@hotmail.com)

### POINT OF SALE

hardware. Includes 3M touch screen, automatic till, receipt printer, price-display monitor, bar-code scanner, QuickBooks and point-of-sale software (as used in McDonald's). New: 120,000 baht, will accept 60,000 baht. For more information Tel: 081-0801170. Email: [billylawrence1955@yahoo.com](mailto:billylawrence1955@yahoo.com)

## Cameras & Equipment

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camera. Sony 5.1 megapixel camera with underwater housing. Includes two 256 MB memory sticks. 11,000 baht ono. Email: [danhogfelt@hotmail.com](mailto:danhogfelt@hotmail.com)

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✓ Fire	199
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✓ Marine Police	076-211883
✓ Hyperbaric recompression chambers	076-342518, 089-8712335
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## NISSAN NV CAP

For sale by a farang woman. 2 years old, 63,000km. Serviced at Nissan. 290,000 baht. Excellent condition. Manual transmission. Call for details. Tel: 081-9785058.

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## FORD RANGER 2006

Open cab, silver, 28,000km. 355,000 baht. Call for more details. Tel: 084-4413633.

## SMALL MAZDA TRUCK

1993, sporty version of Familia. Clean engine and body. 90,000 baht. Please call Tel: 089-8682563.

## NISSAN FRONTIER

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## 4 x 4s

## ISUZU PICK UP

3.0 i-TEQ, 5-speed, 4x4, navy, 2005, 4 door, ABS, airbags, wheels, 75,000km black, MP3. Price: 270,000 Baht. Finance at 13,541 baht for 24 months. Tel: 081-9797473. Contact email: privated@loxinfo.co.th

## TOYOTA FORTUNER

2.7 VVTi, silver, top of range model, auto., full service history, leather, like new. 840,000 Baht. Please contact Tel: 086-2796283.

## TOYOTA TIGER 4WD

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## JEEP 4 SALE

100% legal but far from new! Cheap fun transport. A bargain at 130,000 baht. Tel: 081-8922824. Email: makocraft@hotmail.com

## ISUZU CAB 4, 4WD



2001, 56,000km, manual gears, 3.0L, good condition. Price: 470,000 baht. Tel: 087-2709093. Email: s.anut@hotmail.com

## JEEP FOR SALE



Same as original Renegade reconditioned for 85,000 baht (receipts available). New vital parts, body work and paint. 130,000 baht obo. Contact Tel: 086-2666350.

## TOYOTA FORTUNER DIESEL

Beautiful, black, 3.0L, manual, 2005. Full service history. Warranty. All extras including cream leather interior. 25,000km. Bargain at 845,000 baht. Tel: 084-8438932. Contact email: paul\_phuket@hotmail.com

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## FORD ESCAPE

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## FORD ESCAPE

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## TOYOTA FORTUNER

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## Motorbikes

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## HONDA VARADERO

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