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## 2 die in rescue truck accident

By Sompratch Saowakhon

**RASSADA:** Two people died and five were injured when a Kusoldharm Volunteer Rescue Foundation truck rushing four accident victims to hospital and a Toyota sedan collided at high speed at the Tesco-Lotus intersection early on May 6.

The rescue truck was on the way back from responding to an accident in Kathu in which a policeman was killed.

Phuket City Police Inspector for Investigations, Lt Col Adul Nirapai, identified the two dead as Kusoldharm volunteer Apirak Suemuang, 24, and Namfon Niewnaen, 19.

Namfon was one of four accident victims being rushed from Tung Tong in Kathu to Vachira Phuket Hospital in Phuket City at the time of the accident, about 5:10 am.

An officer at Tung Tong Police Station told the *Gazette* that the first accident happened when a car driven by Sgt Weeraphong Charoenwong, 30, based at Tung Tong Police Station, went off the road and overturned.

Sgt Weeraphong died in the vehicle and Jaws of Life had to be used to extract his body from the wreck. His four female passengers were then picked up by the Kusoldharm pickup involved in the second accident.

The pickup, with a covered bed, headed back from Tung Tong along Phra Phuket Kaew Rd with siren sounding as it approached the Tesco Lotus intersection. The traffic light was flashing red as the pickup approached, the lights warning drivers along the bypass road were flashing yellow, Col Adul said.



Two people, including one rescue volunteer, died after this Kusoldharm Foundation rescue truck was hit broadside at the Tesco Intersection May 6.  
Photo: Lars G. Dikander

Traveling northbound toward the intersection along the bypass road at the same time was a Toyota Vios being driven by a man identified as Pinij Aree, age not reported.

The front of his Vios hit the side of the rescue truck, slamming it into a traffic light pole. The force of the impact sheared the bed cover off the rescue truck and all five passengers, the four accident victims and rescue volunteer Apirak, were thrown from the bed.

Both Namfon and Apirak were rushed to Vachira, where they later died.

All seven people involved in the accident suffered injuries, including rescue truck driver Visak Sridaranop, he said.

Col Adul told the *Gazette* that the accident occurred because both drivers failed to exercise caution by driving at high speed, ignoring the traffic lights and failing to slow down and check for crossing traffic.

The drivers of both vehicles suffered non-critical injuries. During treatment they were given blood-alcohol tests, the results of which have not been released.

Mano Jaengchee, Deputy Director of Kusoldharm Foundation's disaster relief section, told the *Gazette* that the vehicle involved in the crash was dispatched from Kusoldharm's Phuket City station.

K. Mano explained that he wanted traffic police to consider changing the system of late night warning signals used at the intersection, as these could cause confusion to those unfamiliar with the system. He also called on motorists to pay more attention and cede the right-of-way to Kusoldharm rescue vehicles when their sirens are sounding.

"It's our duty to get accident victims safely to hospital as soon as possible for treatment. It was an accident that I never want to see repeated," he said.

## OrBorTor to go to the polls

By Sompratch Saowakhon

**PHUKET:** The four-year terms of 11 Tambon Administration Organizations (*OrBorTor*) in Phuket will end on August 29.

Elections for new *OrBorTor* councilors and presidents must be held within 45 days of dissolution.

The 11 tambon are Wichit, Rawai, Chalong, Rassada, Koh Kaew, Kamala, Mai Khao, Srisoonthorn, Cherng Talay, Sakoo and Thepkrasattri.

The Phuket Election Commission (PEC) has announced that the elections are likely to be held before October 12, although a date has yet to be set.

When the date is set, it is expected that all alcohol sales will be banned for one day, beginning at 6 pm the night before the election and extending until midnight after the polls are closed.

The elections will mark the first time constituents in the 11 sub-districts will have voted directly for *OrBorTor* presidents, who will serve four-year terms.

*OrBorTor* elections in Pa Khlok, the island's 12th tambon, were held two years ago under the new rules.

As with the previous round of elections, each voter will be required to cross off the number of his chosen candidates on the ballot before depositing it into the ballot box under the watchful eye of a PEC official.

This election will also find a replacement for the President of Kamala's *OrBorTor* after Jaral Sararak was unseated in late February.

K. Jaral was removed from office after the Kathu District Chief signed an order following allegations of corruption.

*OrBorTor* Kamala is currently under the stewardship of Acting President Karoon Seeden.



## Swiss man found dead in hotel room

KARON: A housekeeper in Karon discovered the body of a 64-year-old Swiss man, the victim of apparent heart failure, on May 3.

The man, identified by police as Beat Fritz Meier, was staying at the Marina Cottage bungalow resort.

In her report to the police, a resort housekeeper said she found him naked under a sheet, with two unused condoms nearby.

Lt Col Chana Sutthimas, Inspector at Chalongs Police Station, told the *Gazette* that at the scene he saw no signs of a struggle or any injuries to Mr Meier, leading him to believe that the man died of heart failure. However, he is waiting on doctors to confirm the cause of death.

Mr Meier's passport shows that he arrived in Phuket April 23 and was scheduled to leave May 22. — *Sompratch Saowakhon*

## PIMEX moves to Royal Phuket Marina

PHUKET: For the first time in its five-year history, the Phuket International Boat Show this year will be held at the Royal Phuket Marina, December 6 to 9.

Gulu Lalvani, developer of Royal Phuket Marina, said he was delighted with the news and welcomed PIMEX as part of his dream to cement the position of Phuket as the first destination of choice for marine leisure.

Two thousand square meters of air-conditioned exhibition space is being made available for exhibitors' booths and up to 50 boats are expected in the water and on the dock.

Coinciding with Phuket King's Cup Regatta, recently voted "Yachting Event of the Year" for the second year at the prestigious Christoffle Asia Boating Awards, the show will continue to be an integral part of Phuket's annual marine showcase.

## Gazette appoints new Managing Director

Oranee 'Ann' Pienprasertkul has been elected Managing Director of the Phuket Gazette Co Ltd, with responsibility for all operating divisions and products of the company.

Now in her eighth year with the *Gazette*, K. Oranee joined as an advertising sales person. She became marketing manager in 2002 and was appointed General Manager in 2005.

The Bangkok native is a graduate of Bangkok University with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration.

Before joining the *Gazette* in 1999, she had held various public relations positions in New Zealand.

She had also worked for five years with UCOM in Bangkok, where she was responsible for procurement of cable and satellite broadcast equipment.



# Small retailers call for more support

By Sompratch Saowakhon

PHUKET CITY: The Phuket Chamber of Commerce (PCC) has called for the central government to help small retailers cope with the on-going expansion of superstores and convenience store chains on the island.

PCC President Eam Thavornwongwongse on May 4 led a small delegation of PCC representatives at a meeting with Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit at Phuket Provincial Hall.

The delegation presented its recommendations to the Governor following an April 19 meeting of small retailers from across the island.

The PCC is urging the Governor to raise the plight of small retailers with Prime Minister Surayud Chulanont during the premier's May 13-14 trip to Krabi to meet with the Governors of the six Andaman Coast provinces.

Chief among the PCC's complaints are that large retailers and convenience store chains are not subject to a variety of lo-

cal taxes because their businesses are registered in Bangkok, not Phuket.

Superstores generate a great deal of garbage and waste in local communities without having to pay local administrative bodies left responsible for its removal, they say.

The PCC requested that Gov Niran raise the following four requests during his meeting with the PM:

1. That all retailers, from large superstores down to small "mom-and-pop" shops, be required to pay all local taxes to their respective local administrative bodies;
2. To slow down the expansion of superstores and convenience store chains on the island until a new Retail Act is ratified;
3. To establish a low-interest loan fund to enable small retailers to re-invest in their businesses to make them more competitive;
4. To help small retailers identify and develop their competitive advantages so that they

can compete better.

Gov Niran said he would try to raise the issue with the PM, along with other pressing problems facing the island.

The Phuket Revenue Office would be asked to report on local taxes paid by large retailers and convenience store chains, which would be asked for cooperation in rectifying local tax payment issues.

However, following a video conference organized by Krabi Governor Siwa Sirisaowaluck on May 8 to prepare for PM Surayud's visit, Gov Niran told reporters that because the PM's time was so limited he would only be able to present Phuket top three priorities – and the small retailers' concerns were not among them.

He listed the top three priorities that would be raised with the PM as follows: 1. Funding for a second trash incinerator at Saphan Hin; 2. Regional coordination for testing of the tsunami warning system with one province to serve as the coordination center; and better warning coverage on outlying islands; and 3. Funding to improve land, sea and air transport infrastructure.

## B600,000 stolen from Norwegian's Patong home

PATONG: A burglar made off with 600,000 baht in cash and valuables stashed in a safe stolen from the home of a Norwegian man living on Soi Maneesri.

The victim, Oystein Karlsen, 38, told the *Gazette* the burglar broke into his hillside home in Soi Maneesri, located off Petchakut Rd, opposite the entrance to Simon Cabaret, between 3 am and 5 am on May 6.

Although five people were asleep in the house at the time, the thief managed to break in through a glass door, remove the safe and other items, and escape completely undetected.

Mr Karlsen put the total value of the heist at about 600,000 baht. Some 160,000 baht had been placed in the safe the night before by a house guest who planned to travel to Pattaya the following day, Karlsen said.

Some of the guest's valuables were insured against theft, he added.

The safe also contained important personal documents, including passports. Other items missing were two video cameras, a mobile phone and a computer.

Mr Karlsen, who has lived in Patong for seven years, praised the Kathu Police. Some 20 officers arrived at the home less than five minutes after the theft was reported.

"The police have been fantastic and they are really trying hard," he said, adding that he thought police had some good leads in the investigation.

## BIS presents *The Inspector General*

KOH KAEW: The British International School's (BIS) Year 7, 8 and 9 drama students will present Nicolai Gogol's *The Inspector General* June 21 and June 22.

The performance will be held at the BIS main building auditorium and will begin at 7 pm on Thursday, June 21 and at 3:15 pm on Friday, June 22. The play will last approximately two hours. Admission is free.

## Phuket wins Asia boating award

BANGKOK: Phuket has been named Asia's Maritime Capital at the prestigious Christoffle Asia Boating Awards at the Peninsula Hotel in Bangkok by popular vote among the 20 judges, who rewarded Phuket for its "first-class boating facilities, which include modern marinas, state-of-the-art boatyards and prime chartering".

The annual King's Cup sailing regatta won Yachting Event of the Year while Phuket-based Asia Marine carried off the Best Asia-Based Charter Company award.

"The Asia's Best Maritime Capital award is a result of our efforts through the past years to build yachting tourism on our small island. One of the key strategic directions for Phuket is to become the new 'Marina Hub of Asia'. This award is our early success in achieving the strategy," said Phuket Governor Niran Kanlayanamit in response to the news.

Olivier Burlot, CEO of Adkom Media Group, organizer of the awards, said Phuket was justly voted Asia's Maritime Capital as the best boating location in Asia and that the award puts the region firmly on the map.

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## Teen killed by friend in 'mistake' shooting

PHUKET CITY: Police have charged a 20-year-old man for the murder of his friend after he allegedly accidentally shot his friend in the back while the pair were riding through Saphan Hin early May 3.

Phuket City Police Inspector for Investigation Lt Col Somkid Boonrat told the *Gazette* that the shooting took place near a stoplight near the Provincial Land Transport Office on Rattanakosin 200 Pi Rd.

Piyapong Thongsin, 20, called police about 2:30 am to report that his friend Akhom Phramthong, 17, had been shot by two assailants riding on another motorcycle.

Piyapong, riding pillion at the time, was thrown from the vehicle in the resulting accident and suffered scrapes and bruises. He was rushed to Vachira Phuket Hospital for treatment.

The body of Akhom, dressed in blue shirt and black jeans, was taken to the morgue at Vachira Hospital.

Police said that Akhom had been shot in the back with a single bullet, identified by police as a .38-caliber "super slug".

During questioning, Piyapong initially said that two assailants had fired a single bullet at them before speeding off.

Police noted, however, that the bullet had entered the victim's back at point-blank range, an impossible shot by assailants while Piyapong was riding pillion.

Cornered by his own statements, Piyapong eventually confessed that it was he who fired the fatal shot, police said.

While riding pillion he pulled out his homemade .38-caliber "pen gun" to reload the weapon, which accidentally discharged into his friend's back, he said.

Col Somkid told the *Gazette* that Akhom was being tried for motorcycle theft through the Juvenile and Family Court at the time of his death.

"We suspect the two were riding around hoping to shoot someone from a rival gang when the shooting occurred," he said.

# Patong Hospital set to become more autonomous

By Natcha Yuttaworawit

PATONG: Patong Hospital on October 2 will become a public organization, though wholly owned by the Ministry of Public Health, so that local community leaders can join the hospital's board of administrators.

A public seminar was held May 7 to inform staff and the public to the changes the hospital will face.

Contrary to reports in the local media the hospital will not become a company and will not be registered on the Thai Stock Exchange.

Under the new arrangement the hospital will continue to be owned by the Ministry of Public Health and will still receive budget support from the central government, but only if the hospital proves a need for special funding.

Hospital Director Thaweek Netwong said the hospital will continue to offer treatment under the 30-baht healthcare card scheme.

"The goal of these changes is to allow local people to be a part of the administrative board.

"All the services will remain the same as they are now. Nothing else will change – not even



LOCAL REMEMDY: From October 12 Patong Hospital will be managed by an administrative board comprising leading local figures.

the prices of medication or treatment and other services – room charges for overnight stays might even decrease," he said.

Among the local figures to join the administrative board will be Kathu District Chief Khantee Silapa as well as representatives from Patong Municipality and the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*).

"This is a big change for the hospital because it will give poor people access to better treatment in a hospital that is not inferior to

the private hospitals," Director Thaweek said.

Under the model they are pursuing, the government would still have a role in supporting the hospital if it is needed or if they run into financial difficulties.

"If we don't have enough income, such as if another tsunami hit or something else greatly affects tourism, the government would still support us by providing funds. That is how we are different from a private organization."

## Kiatnakin Bank to auction 53 repossessed vehicles

PHUKET CITY: Kiatnakin Bank will auction 53 repossessed vehicles on May 19 at the Yee Teng Complex on Bangkok Rd.

This is the second such auction the Phuket branch has held. The first was in December last year.

The vehicles will be made available for the public to view on May 17 and 18 from 9 am to 5 pm at the Yee Teng Complex. A detailed list of the vehicles is also available during regular hours at the Phuket branch of Kiatnakin Bank (Tel: 076-223464).

To join the auction bidders must leave a deposit for 10,000 baht payable by either cash or check. The deposit is valid for multiple purchases.

People who fail to win their bids will be able to retrieve their money in the afternoon of May 19.

## Phuket venues make Conde Nast 'hot list'

PHUKET: Three local hotels and two spas have been listed on *Conde Nast Traveler's* 2007 "Hot List".

The list is compiled by the prestigious international travel magazine to give "an inside look at the latest scene stealing hotels, restaurants, bars and spas".

The spa hot list, rated by undercover reporters, listed Lemongrass House in Cherng Talay as "laid back and funky", and lauded its product line.

The oceanview treatment rooms at Aleenta Spa in Khok Kloi, just north of the Sarasin Bridge in Phang Nga, were key in that spa making the list.

Once on the list, hotels were judged on a scale of hot, hotter and hottest. Bang Tao's Phuket Pavilions earned a rating of "hottest", with special mention of its quiet beaches, "seamless service" and comfortable rooms.

Another hit for Aleenta Resort was its beachside rooms, which received a rating of "hotter", with highlights being the resort's "nearly empty beach" and the food.

The tucked-away ambiance at the Indigo Pearl won it a "hotter" rating on the list.

Landscaping and special touches, such as bamboo water tanks, earned special mentions.

## Boy, 12, drowns at Bang Wad Dam

KATHU: A 12-year-old boy drowned in a canal near Bang Wad Dam after swimming there with five friends on the afternoon of May 7.

Songwut Chanmee went swimming in the five-meter-deep *klong* with five friends, but stayed behind alone after his friends went home.

"Songwut still had not returned home an hour later, so his friends went back to get him... All they found were Songwut's shorts that he had taken off and left on the ground beside the

*klong* before going swimming," explained Sub Lt Pathaphi Srichai of Tung Tong Police.

"The boys said that they then asked people in the area to help find Songwut," Lt Pathaphi said. "About 30 minutes later they found his body."

Lt Pathaphi explained that police learned of the boy's death only after staff at Vachira Phuket Hospital called to report it, and are waiting for autopsy results for leads to reasons why Songwut drowned.

– Supanun Supawong

  
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# Anger, disbelief and

On the afternoon of April 18, Thepkrasattri Rd, the island's main transport artery, was shut for four hours by a thousand-strong group of villagers protesting the fatal shooting of a youth by police the previous evening. Here *Gazette* Senior Reporter Janyaporn Morel and Reporter Sompratch Saowakhon investigate the incident that sparked the protest.

Seventeen-year-old Worawut Samarnmit was shot as he was riding his motorbike along the bypass road with a group of friends on the night April 17, the last day of the official Songkran holidays. He died in Vachira Phuket Hospital about 1 am the following day.

Worawut's 16-year-old girlfriend, who asked for her name to be withheld, told the *Gazette* that she and Worawut did not often go out riding motorbikes at night and that Worawut's motorbike had never been modified to race.

At about 8 pm on April 17, Worawut picked her up from her house to go out riding with three friends. The group went to hang around Saphan Hin. About 10 pm Worawut got a phone call from another friend telling him that there were a group of motorbikes racing on the bypass road and asking him and his group to come watch.

"The racing had just finished when we arrived at the bypass road, but we met a gang of teenagers still riding about 20 motorbikes along the road. I didn't know them, but Worawut knew some of them," she said.

As Worawut's group and the motorbike racing gang were getting ready to leave, they saw

a police car coming the other direction.

"Everyone fled. When Worawut, me and his three friends rode on the bypass road heading [south] toward Tesco-Lotus, we found two policemen hiding in a dark area beside the road. They tried to stop us, but we didn't stop. Instead we turned back in the direction of Koh Kaew.

"When the two policemen saw that we were trying to escape, one of them fired two warning shots into the sky but we continued riding toward Koh Kaew. He then fired two more shots, this time aiming at our group," she said.

One of those bullets hit Worawut's left hip. He carried on riding for a while before slowing down and asked his friend to take over.

"When the motorbike slowed down, Worawut fell off and collapsed to the ground. His friends and I asked for help from a passing car.

"The police followed us however and caught one of Worawut's friends. As they couldn't see his wound in the dark, they didn't believe that Worawut was seriously injured and refused to call for help for him.

"It took a long time for anyone to stop and help. By the time



A protester shows his contempt for the police. The yellow sign reads: Thai police can do two things: 1. Kill people; 2. Extort Burmese.

help did arrive it was too late," she said.

Worawut's girlfriend insisted that Worawut was not a rowdy boy. He just liked riding motorbikes, the same as most teenagers in Phuket, she said.

"He did not deserve to die like this," she said sadly.

The mob that blocked Thepkrasattri Rd on April 18 agreed to disperse only after Worawut's father confirmed that police had accepted their six demands, namely: 1. An officer be named responsible for the case; 2. The officer who shot Worawut be discharged from the police force and all police officers assigned to Koh Kaew be transferred elsewhere; 3. The Crime Suppression Bureau or the Central Investigation Bureau be involved in the investigation; 4. The officer who shot Worawut pay compensation to the victim's family; 5. Protesters be granted immunity from prosecution for staging the protest. 6. All demands be agreed to in writing.

Appointed as representative of the victim's relatives was Koh Kaew Village 4 Chief Adun Thongdee. He said that on that day the protesters just wanted the Governor to acknowledge what had happened and ensure the victim's family received justice.

"After the officer who shot Worawut had been identified by witnesses, villagers, mainly teenagers, wanted that policeman to come and apologize to the dead body. The police said that was impossible.

"Actually I agreed with them, because if the officer had come he could well have been lynched by angry villagers," he said.

K. Adun said that while the victim's family was discussing with police how the investigation into the case would precede, other villagers moved from where they had been protesting outside Phuket City Police Station and blocked Thepkrasattri Rd.

"I didn't know about the

change of tactics beforehand. I couldn't stop the villagers because we were still at the police station when the villagers set up the roadblock. By the time we got there, the situation was already out of control.

"I tried to talk with the crowd, but they wouldn't listen. They wanted to meet the Governor to make him acknowledge this problem because they didn't trust the police," he said.

K. Adun said that by late afternoon, the mob was becoming angrier. To make matters worse, people from outside Koh Kaew were infiltrating the mob and inciting it further.

"As the size of the mob grew, we were afraid that the situation might escalate. Strangers were encouraging people not to accept the what the police were offering.

"We called the victim's father, who had just finished burying his son. We asked him to come and tell the mob to accept the conditions.

"We were worried about the consequences if the crowd could not be controlled; it was becom-

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# grief in Koh Kaew



**TENSE NEGOTIATIONS:** Police representatives (from right) Superintendent of Phuket City Police Station Col Nos Swettalekha and Deputy Commander of Phuket Provincial Police Col Chalit Thinthanee negotiate with protesters from Koh Kaew Village 4 on terms for reopening Thepkasattri Rd.

ing unpredictable and we could smell the alcohol on a lot of the protesters. We also saw that about half of them were not our villagers.

"I think that they came because they wanted to escalate the situation. If we had been unable to disperse the mob before nightfall, I dread to think what might have happened," he said.

A key demand of the villagers was that Sgt Prasarn Chuayman, who was identified as the officer who shot Worawut, be transferred out of the area along with all other Koh Kaew community police officers. K. Adun said that he did not agree with this point as there had been no problems with the officers before this incident.

Many of the villagers, however, thought that the community officers deserved to be transferred as they were close to Sgt Prasarn.

K. Adun said that he regretted that this incident had caused so much inconvenience and tarnished Phuket's image in the eyes of tourists whose trips were disrupted by the mob.

"We don't have a lot of problems with the teenagers in

our village. They sometimes fight with teens from other areas, but nothing too serious. I warn any troublesome youths by talking to their parents. I know them all. As for Worawut and his friends, they were not troublemakers. They did not deserve to be shot at by police," he said.

"Now a new group of community police officers has come to replace the old one. They have developed a good relationship with the villagers here, as officers from the last group did. I don't understand why this incident happened; the case is now under investigation. I don't think there are any other underlying causes for the protest.

"However, if the police shoot any more villagers dead I think there will be more protests because police should not behave like that," he added.

Phuket City Police Superintendent Col Nos Sawetalek confirmed to the *Gazette* that the case is under investigation. Despite initially accepting the villagers' demand that Sgt Prasarn be suspended during the investigation, the officer has now be transferred to Krabi, where he re-

are satisfied with how the investigation is proceeding. We also helped the family with the boy's funeral costs, which is separate to any compensation money they may receive," he said.

"The new community police group that have been given responsibility for the area are getting along well with the villagers there, so I don't think there will be anymore problems," he said.

"I hadn't heard anything about Sgt Prasarn and the last community police group [before the shooting] having any problems with the villagers in Koh Kaew. I think that on that day, the mob was incited by outside influences to call for all police officers to be moved out," he added.

Worawut's 48-year-old father, Yongyuth Samarnmit, told the *Gazette* that his son was a well-behaved boy.

"He was the second of our three sons. He always helped us around the house and had a job fixing ceilings. He shared the money he made with the family.

"Since my son died, I have urged his friends and other Koh

Kaew teenagers not to ride motorcycles at night.

"I still have nightmares from my son's case and don't want it to happen to anyone else," he said.

Worawut's mother, Tewee Samarnmit, said, "There had to have been a better way to make the teenagers stop than shooting at them.

"Also, if my son had been rushed to hospital, he might have survived...I'm still very sad. I sometimes tell myself that he is not dead, he's just gone to work in another province. I think what has happened would be very hard for any parent to accept," she said.

"If my son wasn't a good boy, then why would all the villagers have rallied around us after he was shot? I think the officer who shot him should be thrown out of the police force or transferred to the Deep South to fight with insurgents.

"Anyway, we thank the police association for giving us money to help with the funeral," she added.



"There had to have been a better way to make the teenagers stop than shooting at them,"

-Tewee Samarnmit, Worawut's mother



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### Correction

The recently published article entitled *The Broncel Barrier* [*Gazette* of April 21, pp 4-5] incorrectly identified tsunami barrier advocate Robert Broncel as having an affiliation with the Sales and Marketing Department of the Turtle Cove project in Mai Khao. The *Phuket Gazette* wishes to apologize for any confusion or inconvenience this statement may have caused.



## Queer News

# Useful source of spare parts

PHUKET CITY: A gang of young thieves was collared by Phuket's finest recently as they carried away vehicle parts from a city parking lot.

While wayward teenagers pilfering spare parts from parking lots hardly constitutes news these days, in this case the choice of venue chosen by the young hoods was noteworthy: the vehicle impound lot of the Phuket City Police, located right behind their headquarters on Chumphon Rd.

Officers admitted thieves have had a profitable harvest in the past, attacking the lot dozens of times and costing officers, they asserted, millions of baht.

The incident came to light at 11:30 pm on May 5, when Crime Suppression Squad Leader Sgt Prajuab Wongstong and his men found four youths, their arms loaded with motorcycle parts, headed for motorbikes parked outside the impound.

"They were trying to get away with the parts they had removed from vehicles impounded after

accidents, but we got them before they could escape," said Sgt Prajuab. Captured were four boys, all aged 14 or 15, from Nai Thon.

Seized as evidence were: three shock absorbers; two mufflers; one battery; two chain sprockets and two swingarms.

Officers seized the boys' three motorbikes and charged the youngsters with breaking and entering, and theft – and took them into custody.

After the arrests, Sgt Prajuab unburdened his soul to reporters, explaining that these youthful thieves were costing hard-working cops money.

"Most [of the thieves] are less than 20 years of age," he said. "The impound lot has been hit dozens of times. As a result police have had to compensate irate vehicle owners from their own pockets for the cost of missing parts, which runs into millions of baht.

"The kids who do it are not only children of ordinary householders, but offspring of police officers themselves."

Source: Siang Tai

## STAMPS



**V**isakha Bucha Day, which this year falls on May 19, is one of the most important days in Buddhism, commemorating the day of the birth, enlightenment and passing away of the Lord Buddha, which all fall on the same month and date; the full moon of the sixth lunar month, Visakha.

On this day each year, Buddhists throughout the world gather to worship and recollect the wisdom, purity and compassion of Buddha.

The Thailand Post Office will launch a Visakha

Bucha Day commemorative stamp on May 31. Only 500,000 copies of the stamp, which will measure 72 by 30 millimeters, will be produced.

The stamps, which will cost three baht each, will feature an image of the place where the Buddha was born, in Kabinlaphat City in India.

The stamps will be available from all Post Offices in Thailand.

## TRASHING Phuket

When the bin is full, please use the ground: Wet and dry garbage lies scattered around bins at the junction of at Soi Muen Phan U-thid and Phang Nieng 3 Rd, Samkong, creating a delightful aroma in the area.

Got a favorite dumping ground? Share it with other readers by emailing a picture and short description to [dump@phuketgazette.net](mailto:dump@phuketgazette.net)



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

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





# Laboring? On Labor Day?

To mark Labor Day, some 200 members of staff from Samui's telephone office and local banks on May 1 took part in a volunteer beach clean-up near the port town of Nathon.

The Samui Municipality Office supported the activity, which involved picking up litter and sweeping the beach clean along a five-kilometer stretch running north to the small coastal village of Ban Makham.

After the event, a large pile of rubbish bags was transported to the island's incinerator for disposal.

Litter on Samui's beaches is an increasing problem as the island grows and attracts more visitors. Local authorities struggle to manage all the waste being generated on the island and local groups are pressing for funding to build a second incinerator.

Projects such as the beach cleaning day are designed to encourage local awareness of the litter problem in order to reduce the inconsiderate disposal of garbage, particularly on island beaches.



LABORING AWAY: Some of the 200 office workers who collected rubbish off beaches near Nathon on May 1 – Labor Day.

## Thai rescues Brit from fry-up:

On the morning of April 23, Pol Capt Thanawat Hinyokhin from the Samui District Police received reports of an accident not far from the island's airport that damaged a concrete pylon and cut a major phone line.

When officers arrived at the scene they found a burnt-out Honda Jazz, which had smashed into the pole, causing it to crack and lean over. The car was a complete write off and there was no sign of either the driver or any passengers.

Subsequent inquiries revealed the man to be one Terry Carter.

Not to be confused with the African-American actor who played Sgt Joe Broadhurst on the 1970's police drama *McCloud*, the Terry Carter who wrapped his Jazz around the power pole is a 65-year-old English resident of Samui.

Word is that Mr Carter left a nearby bar the previous night while intoxicated, then drove straight past the turn to his house, clipping parked cars and swerving across the road. When he tried to turn back, he smashed into the pole, causing the fall of high voltage power wires that may have set the car alight.

Several people saw the crash. Despite bystanders trying to stop him, a brave local man pulled Mr Carter from the vehicle to safety.

Mr Carter was later interviewed by police. He will be liable to pay for a new pylon and other repairs, the cost of which may run as high as 100,000 baht.

## Belgian blowing the curve:

Current female world number



## FROM THE GULF OF THAILAND

By Barry Singleton

one tennis player Justine Henin recently invested in a holiday apartment on Koh Samui.

The international sports-woman bought the property off plan within a new luxury low-rise hillside development called Infinity Samui, located near Mae Nam.

The entire project features a total of 65 apartments, villas and penthouses, some with private pools. The site also benefits from panoramic ocean views. Savills (Thailand) Limited are the sole marketing agents for Infinity Samui. The project was recently launched in Dubai to a very positive response.

"I am delighted to have selected Infinity Samui for my holiday home in Thailand," Ms Henin was quoted as saying. "The design and stunning ocean views provide for a truly tropical but modern environment."

The units start at 9.6 million baht, which probably won't be too much of an expense for Henin,

who has thus far amassed a whopping 470 million baht in prize money during her 9-year pro career – not to mention all the sweet goodies that go along with making endorsements like the one quoted above.

## Woman found dead in coconut grove:

Pol Cap Thorlamud Theurdokmaa on April 27 led his team to a coconut plantation near Samui's administrative capital Nathon, where the body of a woman who had been shot four times was discovered.

Closer examination of the scene suggested she had been dead for several days and that she may also have been gang raped. She was shot thrice in the stomach, once in the hand. Found not far from the woman's body were

three used condoms, three pairs of men's underpants and several empty bottles of beer.

The lack of an ID card or wallet prevented the police from making a positive ID, but officers believe she may have known at least one of her attackers because there was no sign of a struggle.

Her body was taken to Samui Hospital. Police hope DNA tests will help them with their inquiries.

**Thieves target foreigners' houses:** Late last month Pol Lt Col Boonma Kaewla-ead and his team arrested three members of a gang who were known to be targeting foreigners' homes.


Officers apprehended the three suspects based on evidence


from CCTV cameras inside the Tesco Lotus Superstore that showed them attempting to use credit cards stolen from the house of a German couple.

They robbed the house a few days previously, taking a pair of diamond earrings and four credit cards. The total value of the valuables taken during that break-in was 300,000 baht.

The men were arrested and taken to Nathon Police Station.

Professional thieves increasingly target foreign residents' houses on Samui and select items that are easy to sell on, such as Ipods, DVD players and jewellery. The police say they are aware of the problem and will step up their surveillance in and around areas with significant populations of foreigners.





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The chef at an illegally-built resort on Koh Lao Liang in Trang province was killed after a six-ton boulder crashed into his kitchen on May 1.

Officials believe that the rock was dislodged by heavy rain that had fallen almost continuously for three days before the incident.

About 20 tourists and staff were in the restaurant of Excite Resort on Koh Lao Liang, about 30 kilometers from the coast, when resort staff shouted a warning that a large boulder was rolling toward the building.

Guests and workers rushed to safety. Pratheep Chitjaidiow, 32, who was working in the kitchen, however, could not flee the building in time.

People returning to the kitchen to inspect the damage found that the boulder, estimated to weigh about six tons, had broken into three pieces. K. Pratheep's legs could be seen poking out from under the largest piece, estimated to weigh about three tons.

Rescue workers rushed to the scene but were unable to dislodge the rock. A crane had to be shipped from Trang's Sikao District before the body of K. Pratheep could be retrieved.

After the incident, most of the 70-odd tourists – including four or five foreigners – left the island.

Singsiam Mukda, Chief Administrative Officer (*Palad*) of Koh Sukon Tambon Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*), said that the resort had been built without the permission of the National Parks Department.

Excite Resort Co is an offshoot of Jeta Corp, which until recently held the concession to collect swiftlet nests on the island. Under the contract, the company was barred from building permanent structures on the island.

Kij Leekpai, President of Trang Administration Organiza-



Company 447 of the Border Patrol Police announce the arrest of Ru Salam, 34, and Arsim Waemusor, 22, (in white shirt) April 30 following a raid on a rented house in Narathiwat's Sungai Golok District. Ru was found in possession of a .45-caliber sub-machine gun and a .38 revolver, and 9,103 pills of *ya bah* (methamphetamine). Arsim had a .38 revolver and 2,935 *ya bah* pills.

## Six-ton boulder squashes cook at illegal resort

tion (*OrBorJor*), which is responsible for awarding the swiftlet nest concession, has asked provincial authorities to step in to solve the problem of illegal construction on the island.

**Babe in arms:** A nineteen-month-old boy was shot dead by

his 12-year-old relative May 6 after they were left alone in a house in Nakhon Sri Thammarat's Cha-uat District.

Capt Banjop Songnarong, Duty Officer at Cha-uat District Police Station, arrived at the scene to find Aphichai Nunhin, 32, and his wife Amonrat, 31, clutching the body of their baby son.

Police found a shotgun belonging to Aphichai nearby.

Aphichai told police that he had left his son, Kaweewat, with a 12-year-old relative, Boy (not his real name), while he and his wife went to work behind the house.

While they were working, they heard a gunshot and rushed back into the house, where they

found their son covered in blood.

Deputy Superintendent of Cha-uat District Police Station Lt Col Chamnan Chamnankij said that Boy was being cared for by his family and probably was just playing around when he shot Kaweewat and was unaware of the consequences of his actions.

Capt Banjop said that the investigation was still underway, but charges of negligence causing death are likely to be brought against Kaweewat's parents for not keeping their gun out of reach of children.

**Troublesome teens:** Two teenagers, one 16 and the other 17, were arrested for shooting one of

their drinking partners dead in Surat Thani's Chai Buri District May 5.

Maj Weeraphol Bunyang, an Investigating Officer at Chai Buri District Police Station, said that the body of Chawalit Meephrom, 23, was found by the side of the road in Village 5 Tambon Chai Buri. He had been shot in the back of the head with a shotgun.

The teenagers were arrested later the same day and confessed that they had shot K. Chawalit after an argument broke out while they were drinking together, Maj Weeraphol added.

**Protesters prevail:** More than 300 Muslims in Krong Pinang district, mostly women and children, on May 6 ended four days of demonstrations to force the release of 24 suspected militants after authorities agreed to free them and withdraw a unit of rangers from the area within a month.

District Chief Methe Kancha-napuva said militants had forced Muslims in the area to stage the protests.

The demonstrators blocked the Yala-Betong road to put pressure on the authorities. Negotiations with Yala Vice-Governor Nathapol Wichianprert began 9 am that day.

The first round of talks had failed as the demonstrators refused to alter their demands. The second round of talks resumed an hour later with Madaree Yayuree, a member of the local assembly, and Col Rangsam Sirirangsi, Deputy Secretary-General of Yala's Internal Security Operations Command.

The demonstrators agreed to disperse after the authorities promised to release the 24 suspects within a month, return their confiscated motorbikes and withdraw a unit of rangers from Baan Rupae in Tambon Krong Pinang.

About 12:15 pm, the demonstrators slowly drifted away, with some helping to clear the road to allow traffic to resume along the Yala-Betong road, a major artery between Yala's downtown area and the southernmost border district of Betong.

A group of Buddhists who had organized a counter demonstration in Yala's Bannang Sta ended their road blockade after being informed of the Muslim protest ending.

Chamroon Den-udom, Chairman of the Southern Islamic Culture Foundation and a former deputy commander of the Fourth Border Police Region, said the government should make clear the detention procedures under the emergency law, which authorizes officials to detain suspects without charge for 30 days.

Army spokesman Akra Thiproj said the Army had considered issuing a special law to ban demonstrations on main roads to prevent similar incidents in the future.

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

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# Lottery vendors protest new system

The government will proceed with the new two- and three-digit lotteries, fixing any problems with them later on, Prime Minister Surayud Chulanont said.

The PM simply gave a nod when asked by a group of reporters outside Government House whether the new two- and three-digit lotteries would come into operation soon.

He had previously confirmed a recommendation by Finance Minister Chalongsak Sangkarn to give it the go ahead.

K. Chalongsak said ticket numbers would be restricted to 30 million per round so that the ministry would not be blamed for encouraging the public to bet.

With tickets priced at 50 baht each, the ministry will raise 1.5 billion baht each round. With 28% of the proceeds going to the ministry, it will receive 420 million baht for each round.

More than 100 lottery vendors had gathered outside the Finance Ministry compound earlier to protest that the new system, which will not allow punters to select the numbers they want.

They threatened to stage rallies across the country against the new lotteries if people were not allowed to select their own numbers.

Opponents say that by not allowing sellers to write down numbers as the buyers want, the new lottery tickets will look like the six-digit ones.

They argue the change will encourage buyers to stick to underground betting.

**Rape rule reform:** The National Legislative Assembly (NLA) has been praised for moving to protect women from marital rape, but it was urged to stop protecting sexual abusers who are allowed by law to marry child victims.

Nattaya Boonpakdee, of the Women's Health Advocacy Foundation, said her group was pleased with the NLA's efforts to amend Section 276 of the penal code, which would make it possible for a woman to file rape charges against her husband.

However, she is concerned that Section 277 still allows rapists to escape punishment if they marry a child victim.

Section 277 states that if an offender has sexual intercourse with a child over 13 years but not over 15, the court would allow them to marry and the offender would not be punished.

Anjana Suvarnananda, of the Anjaree Group, said children under 15 were not mature enough to marry. The law, which offered an offender a chance to escape punishment, was just a license to rape, she said.

**Quality control tourism:** The Environmental Research Institute of Chulalongkorn University and the European Union have urged tourism bodies to focus on quali-



**MACABRE TRADE:** A policeman holds up an orangutan skull from a collection of more than 100 parts of protected animals, valued at over 10 million baht, seized from a house in Bangkok's Klong Toei district. One man was arrested for possessing the items and trading them on the Internet.

ty tourism, rather than simply increasing numbers, in order to build a more sustainable industry.

Pongsak Vadhanaasindhu, deputy director of the institute, told a forum that the country had been focusing on quantity tourism for many decades. The strategy has caused many problems, including environmental damage, social problems and creating the image of a cheap destination.

Thailand is already famous as a sexual destination, which is against the world trend of quality tourism, he said.

"Eighty percent of European tourists want to visit places where there is concern about the environment and natural preservation.

Tourists also expect a higher level of services," he said, prior to a two-day workshop held in Bangkok to bring Thai tourism industry leaders together with sustainable tourism experts from the EU.

**Strip test for HIV:** A Chiang Mai University researcher has successfully invented the world's first antibody strip test for HIV/Aids patients, possibly saving Thailand from importing 5-million-

baht devices known as "flow cytometers".

National Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (Biotech) Deputy Director Dr Prasit Palittapongarnpim announced the "outstanding research" done by Dr Watchara Kasinrer, of the university's department of clinical immunology.

Dr Watchara discovered the monoclonal CD4 antibody and developed a test kit called CD4 Select that can be applied to blood-analysis devices at general hospitals without using the expensive cytometer, which is used to examine cells in fluid.

Prasit said the strip test was the first of its kind in the world.

Dr Watchara said the 300-baht strip test was as effective as cytometric analysis, but nearly 50% cheaper. It can yield a result in just one hour, compared to four hours for the cytometer.

The test kit should be on sale late this month. Biotech has already obtained a patent in Thailand and is applying for patents in the United States and other countries.

**Current account:** The Provincial Electricity Authority (PEA)

is set to pilot a prepaid electricity-meter service within the next two months.

Customers using the service would buy a prepaid card and insert it into a "prepayment meter". The prepaid meter costs about 3,700 baht.

The PEA sees the service as bill-payment alternative for those owning resort homes or condominium rooms in the provinces who have no time to pay the bills at PEA branches.

The PEA yesterday signed a contract worth 18.5 million baht to procure 3,000 of the meters from Samart Telcoms.

The service will be piloted in four provinces: Rayong, Chon Buri, Phetchaburi and Nakhon Ratchasima. The prepaid cards, with a value depending on the

buyer's request, will be available at convenience stores.

When the consumption of electricity is close to the credit limit on the cards, the meter will buzz to warn users.

**Raw Pork Alert:** Officials of Public Health Region 8 banned the consumption of raw pork and raw pig's blood following the detection of three cases of infection with the swine bacterium *Streptococcus suis* (*S. suis*).

Dr Opas Karkavinpong, Director of the Region 8 Disease Control Center, said there had been 15 cases of *S. suis* infection in the region in the past five months.

Public Health Region 8 covers Nakhon Sawan, Uthai Thani, Kamphaeng Phet and Phichit.

The patients suffering muscle pains, stiffness of the neck and headaches, were among 10 villagers from Tambon Nongkradon in Muang Nakhon Sawan district who were hospitalized after eating raw pork and raw blood at a party last month.

The others have been treated and released.

Separately, three people died of *S. suis* infection after a feast of raw pork and blood in Phayao province on April 25.

The *S. suis* bacterium is found mostly in pigs' internal organs, intestines and blood. The bacterium multiplies when the pigs fall ill. Since many pigs fall ill during seasonal climate changes such as at present, people are more at risk, he said.

People should see a doctor as soon as they developed initial symptoms and to stick to eating cooked pork, he added.

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

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# For fun parties, just add air

By Semacote Suganya

After years of visiting Phuket on business trips Gary Smith, from the UK, saw a need for family party entertainment, and decided to import some inflatable fun. His business has been expanding, literally, since Phuket Inflatable Games launched just a few weeks ago.

Phuket Inflatable Games rents out inflatable party games appropriate for people aged six and up. One of the most popular games is a pair of inflatable sumo wrestler suits, which rent for 4,000 baht a day or 6,000 baht for two days. Party-goers suit up and try to bowl over their opponents.

The sumo suits game has proven suitable for age seven up, says Gary. No rice needed.

"No one was offering these games here and they're very popular in the UK," he says.

Gary decided to move to Phuket from Cambridge a year ago with his two children. He was looking for a different lifestyle and wanted to start a landscaping business with his friend. Renting inflatable games was something he did on the side in the UK, and he saw a need for it here so a few months later he ordered the games from the UK.

"Incredibly, it took six months to get the games here, but since we launched, customers have found them so much fun," he says.

"In Europe, when kids have a birthday party, they rely on special entertainment. Over here we noticed they don't have similar kids' entertainment. These games just make parties a lot more fun rather than just having a bunch of children at your house for soft drinks and music. It's just more entertaining," Gary explains.

The games are hired out for



**SUIT UP:** Sumo wrestling is one of the most popular games. Players try to knock their opponent down. Getting up again is a bit of a challenge.

private parties, as well as for children and adults, as for corporate events, hotels, schools and other social gatherings.

"The favorites at private parties are always the sumo wrestling – people just love wearing the fat suits – and the gladiator game, where you can defeat your friends and colleagues. It's hilarious fun," Gary adds.

The Gladiator game has two platforms rising above an inflatable mat. Players are given inflated "sticks" with which they try

to knock their opponents off their stand. The game rents for 7,000 baht a day or 10,000 baht for two days, and is suitable for ages six to adult.

Gary's corporate clients prefer the Human Bar Football game. This is a six-a-side "life-size" foosball – or "table football" as it is called in the UK – game where players are strapped to a bar and can move only sideways.

Bars can be removed so that smaller teams can be fielded. This game is suitable for


ages six to adult and rents for 10,000 baht a day or 15,000 baht for two days.

At least five square meters of open space are needed to set up the smallest game the larger ones are up to 12 meters in length. Gary also provides staff to set up and dismantle the inflatables, and instruct players on the games.

For more information on Phuket Inflatable Games see [www.phuketinflatablegames.com](http://www.phuketinflatablegames.com)

**COMIC COLOSSEUM:** The Gladiator game sees players having to balance on their podiums while at the same time trying to knock opponents off theirs.






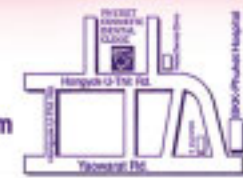
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In the website introduction to the Grove Gardens it claims the restaurant to be at the heart of the estate, yet geographic considerations aside, its functions appears to be more like that of the lungs.

What I mean by that is, it's not the "pounding, beating shout about it from the rooftops" kind of a place that demands to be in the spotlight.

Instead, it goes about its business in an understated fashion, quietly doing what it does very well, but without ever being the center of attention. Until its no longer there, of course, when it would be critically absent.

Grove Gardens can be found by turning east at the Heroines Monument, then right toward Cape Yamu. Follow a well-signed route you'll find yourself there in no time at all.

The restaurant, like the lungs, is also a place that breathes life into a compact yet well-set-out living space as it is tucked away in a neat corner of the estate. I had the feeling that there were lots of little places to discover at Grove Gardens.

As well as a huge 20-square-meter jacuzzi and a large number of pools for swimmers, divers, kids and loungers, there is also a three-hole golf course. So when I say modest, it's not quite accurate, but again the whole complex doesn't jump down your throat to tell you how great it is.

This modest approach became understandable after meeting Rolf Nilsson, who opened the restaurant six months ago. A fairly quiet, unassuming and pleasant host, it took me until the end of the meal to find out that he was a successful restaurateur in his native Sweden, where he ran a popular restaurant called Rolf's K  k and produced a cookbook of the same name.

He told me his establishment in Stockholm aimed to provide "excellent quality food but in an informal setting", and it seems he has set his sights on the same outcome here.

The restaurant is a cozily smallish room and this lends itself well to the friendly, relaxed but professional service. There is a contemporary Asian feel to the place, and the closer one looks, the more one begins to appreciate the thought that has gone into its design. Attention to detail also seems a key attribute of Rolf's creations, and the restaurant is a testament to this.

At first all tables seem to be single tables enough only to seat two, yet on closer inspection it is clear that the stylishly ridged edges enable a centerpiece to be added between two singles, extending the table into a large banquet table for up to eight. As we sat down and were handed a beautiful leather-bound menu, it was clear that this had been afforded the same care as the restaurant.

A good and novel wine list based around Australian wines



ALL THE TRIMMINGS: Tom yam goong, as served at Grove Gardens, on the way to Cape Yamu.

## East Coast edible

carried interesting choices, included options from Spain and Portugal. Despite being tempted by the excellent Escudo Rojo we opted for another Chilean Red with the Gato Negro merlot at 1,450 baht.

As a relatively new restaurant Rolf commented that the menu was still developing its style. At present it offers a mix of mainly Thai and Swedish cuisine. I opted for fried prawns on a

mango and avocado salad with a lime and honey dressing to start with, and the fresh burst of flavors worked well with the juicy prawns. It was a nice, light start to the meal.

My companion headed straight for the beef carpaccio with parmesan as I knew they would, and again it was endowed with a good blend of flavors, with just enough lime to complement the beef and cheese.

This was all accompanied by homemade bread with a delicious eggplant butter or a tasty white cream and garlic spread

that would have seemed a little unusual if I hadn't tried. All starters are 190 baht, again giving a feeling of a simple, uncomplicated approach.

To accompany the hearty bottle of red, I decided to try a Swedish beef dish for my main course. The 590-baht Beef Ryberg consists of fried chunks of tenderloin and deep-fried potato chunks that come with a homemade honey mustard.

Accompanying this was also a raw egg and it seems that the way to tackle this dish is to mix the egg with the mustard and use it as a sauce for the beef.

Alternatively Rolf suggested dispensing with the mixing and just pour over the beef. However you approach it, it certainly adds to the flavor and the richness of the dish and no matter how full I felt there was no way the meal was going to defeat me. It was just too good to leave.

Meatballs are to Sweden as *som tam* is to Thailand, and the way they are served here with creamy mash and cream sauce for 240 baht will definitely make sure you don't leave the table hungry.

After all that food we decided to take a short break before tackling dessert. And this was where the problems started.

In another novel slant the restaurant uses an innovative music system made by Sonos. This allows guests to choose their music from a wireless controller from a library of more than 30,000 songs – you could find anything from Sam Fox to the Scissor Sisters! Perfectly made for the iPod generation, playlists can be created and volume con-

trolled from a control pad no bigger than a small book.

While it would be great for parties, the fact that we got our hands on it late in the evening meant we had a chance to play around with it while not annoying anyone. Other than each other.

Luckily, the controller also allows for different "zones", so rather than argue over the choice of song we found ourselves in an unusual position. My companion sitting outside listening to their choice, while I sat inside chatting to Rolf while listening to what I thought was a much better choice.

This only left dessert (all 170 baht), and while my friend polished off the remnants of the wine with the cheese platter, which is served with an orange and carrot marmalade, I breathed deeply and tried to create a bit of space for the Chocolate Tarte with passion fruit and raspberry sauce. It was pleasantly lighter than it looked and thoroughly enjoyable, and before I realized it, the night had crept up on me and it was time to go.

However, I wasn't finished with the place and returned a few days later as it kept returning to my thoughts. It had a quality that I couldn't quite put my finger on and my curiosity was getting to me. And that's when I realized that I wanted to go back because it was like one of those modest, humble people whom you occasionally meet who doesn't give everything up immediately, but leaves you wanting to meet them again and delve deeper to find what makes them tick.

*Grove Gardens Restaurant at Grove Gardens Apartment, Cape Yamu. Tel: 076-302660, email: bookme@ophuket.com*

### On the menu

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Sakun "Lek" Phankham, 35, a native of Nakorn Sawan in central Thailand, is the only son and sole hope of his parents.

"My mother was a market vendor. My father had no real profession – he operated a cock-pit; that's all he ever did, as far as I know," Lek recalls.

Their boy was bright, however, and they afforded him education through technical college. "I went to Pitsanuloke Techno, learning mechanics."

After finishing school, he married a Nakorn Ratchasima girl: "Her name was Jew," Lek told the *Gazette*.

"I was 22, and found a job as a temporary employee with the Nakorn Ratchasima Land Transport Office, checking vehicle condition prior to registration. I had no money and my parents were deeply in debt, so I had to live with Jew's family." His father's cockfighting operation had led to financial ruin. Lek was expected to help restore the family fortunes.

"Jew's family were all civil servants, and they all had money. I was the only one in the family with such a low-paying job." His wife's relatives were contemptuous of Lek's ability to care for Jew and to get ahead: "They told me, after I'd worked at the Land Transport Office about six months, that I would never go anywhere with a job like that. Other people in the village had found work overseas, and made good money. They said I should do the same."

As Lek wanted money not only to establish a family but to pay off his parents' debts, he bit at the chance when someone in the village said they could place him in a Tel Aviv Chinese restaurant, where their relatives were working.

"So I resigned from the Land Transport Office, and was cleared to work in Israel," he said. "It was hard. I was in the kitchen – washing dishes, vege-

# Israel's Thai

Thais have famously fought in a number of international conflicts during the last century. Thai air power aided allies of the Entente Cordiale over the Western Front in the Great War. Thai regulars fought briefly against the Japanese invaders in World War II; irregular forces later carried on an insurgency as part of the Washington DC-based Seri Thai movement.

They aided anti-Communist troops in Korea and Vietnam; and in Persian Gulf fighting over the past two decades Thailand has stoically supported American policy.

But what has never been recorded till now is the role played by a single Thai, slight of stature and of build, who shed his blood in Israel's fight against Arab terrorists. **Marque A Rome** tells the story

tables, and doing whatever else needed doing all the time. I never worked so hard in my life."

The money, moreover, was not good: "I made about US\$650 (about 23,000 baht now) per month, which is just enough to scrape by in Israel. One day, about three months after going to Israel, I called back to Nakorn Ratchasima. The family told me Jew had married another man. I was thunderstruck. I had no warning at all."

The split affected him permanently. Lek, unusually melancholic for a Thai, has never remarried.

Finding himself stuck in a foreign country, working another dead-end job, he considered what he ought to do. "I wanted to go back home, but I couldn't suffer the disgrace of returning without money." People would laugh at him. "A friend I met in Tel Aviv, Wirachai, was working at another Chinese restaurant."

er Chinese restaurant."

Wirachai had a contact in Elat, a southern resort town on the Gulf of Aqaba. "He was more experienced – a good Chinese cook – and said we could work together at the Club Hotel."

Israel had then a large guest worker program, under the terms of which Lek was contracted to the Chinese restaurant in Tel Aviv. The terms were strict: leaving meant forfeiting his legal status.

"I didn't care. I figured I had nothing left. My wife had left me and I must make some money before going home. So I decided to take the risk." He and Wirachai fled to Elat, where Wirachai worked at the club. They roomed together. "It was a big hotel, and he was making good money." But Lek wasn't hired.

"I couldn't keep living off Wirachai, so I contacted an agent who placed illegal foreign workers, and he set me up at the Hilton – cleaning. After three months the manager saw I was energetic and asked could I cook? I said, 'Yeah.' But I didn't tell him where I'd learned, fearing my old boss would have me arrested."

Lek became the hotel's stir-fry cook: "I worked in the kitchen another eight months. Then I heard Israeli Immigration police were coming on a sweep from



Above, Lek today. Right, Lek in Israel with, from left: Ofri's uncle Yossi; Ofri's father Robert and Ofri's brother Shay, during Passover 2003.

Tel Aviv. The Hilton wouldn't give me an employee's card, so I quit and went to the Royal Beach hotel nearby." There he became an assistant chef in the hot kitchen.

The guest worker program was becoming a political football for Israel's many political parties. The Jewish State covers only 22,000 square kilometers, and while many citizens are happy to profit from the low labor wages given guest workers, neither Right nor Left in Parliament want to shelter them.

"Israel does not want a huge growing population of entrenched, permanent, non-Israeli residents," noted Rightist Israeli pundit Steven Plaut in October of 2004, after an expulsion program had begun in earnest.

"Israel has tried to prevent temporary workers from morphing into permanents by restricting renewals of work permits, restricting entrance by worker families and preferring bachelors...trying to keep guest

workers around as guests only."

Such workers, he noted, are apolitical and "do not engage in terror and rarely are involved in crime".

Many on the Left, however, complain that guest workers are exploited, earning less than minimum wage and living without the health care and other security net benefits of Israeli citizens.

Nevertheless, Plaut wrote, "literally hundreds of thousands," are trying "to get permits to come get exploited. A handful...convert to Judaism to remain in the country as Israeli Jews...others marry locals."

Lek was one of those not unwilling to be "exploited": he had learned Hebrew – unlike most foreigners – and English, and was comfortable.

"I was often hired just for my ability to communicate. A lot of Thais are working in Israel, but few know Hebrew enough to converse, so I acted as interpreter." To this day he has many CDs of Hebrew rock bands, as well as music from The Doors, Led Zeppelin and Peter Gabriel. "My army buddy Ofri – he's an officer now – turned me on to them. I like those bands, but people in Thailand don't know them."

Lek was feeling pretty comfortable. "Life there is good. People take care of each other. Your apartment is nice. Money is okay. Many Israelis are hot-tempered, chintzy and complain, sure, but they are good people. Intelligent. Strong. They maintain an orderly society and love each other – and that makes living nice."

"When you grow accustomed to living like that, you don't

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# Defender



want to come back to be poor in Thailand."

The question was: how to stay? Lek worked for two years in Elat. "I made a lot of good friends, but no one could protect me when the police came." Finally, he found out that the hotel he was working at "had been cheating me of my overtime pay".

So he went to visit a friend in Tel Aviv.

"He had a friend working in a job placement agency, who said there was a shortage of personnel in the army. He asked if I wanted to join up. He said if I joined, the police would never bother me and after five years I'd get a green card. I thought about it and said, 'Why not?'"

"He said, 'Are you sure?' I said, 'Yeah.' I brought my passport, and they prepared all the papers. I was taken to an army base in the north, on the Lebanese border. An officer took my papers and signed me up." That he was undocumented after escaping his first place of work three years before was not a problem. Israel needed soldiers.

Lek entered boot camp. "I had taken militia training during my time in technical school, six

months over a period of three years. But training in the Israeli Defense Force is a lot tougher. Their system is more detailed."

For three years he was a combat soldier. "I carried an Uzi and patrolled in a Humvee. We went wherever needed, wherever attacks happened – Haifa,

Jerusalem, Tiberias, Tel Aviv." Their mission: to keep the peace and protect civilians from terrorists.

By 1999, Lek had been in the military for three years. His unit was a foreign outfit.

"There were about 80 men, all from different countries – of-

ficers included. Australians, Canadians, Nigerians, Moroccans, Yemenis, Argentines, Hungarians – many different countries. They were all Jewish, except me." Overall command was with an Israeli colonel.

Israel at that time was fighting a war in southern Lebanon it would eventually lose against Hezbollah's military arm.

"I remember Ehud Barak was Prime Minister and we were in Lebanon. The land rises on the Lebanese side from where I was stationed, so the enemy was firing down on us. We were given orders to advance. I couldn't see who was shooting, only the smoke and flame from their guns. We were about three kilometers out, taking artillery fire. A shell fragment hit me in the legs."

He collapsed, wounded in the left foot and right leg. "Blood was pouring out. My buddies took me back to camp and from there I was evacuated to a military hospital." His foot, torn completely open, today bears an ugly scar.

After a month in hospital he was able to walk, but not fully recovered. "That's when I found the army didn't want me anymore. They wanted to send me back to Thailand. So I ran away and stayed with a friend in Tiberias," on the Sea of Galilee.

Thereafter he worked wherever he could – fruit orchards, hotels, an Italian restaurant, Chinese restaurants – "all over Israel" for three years. It was a tense time. According to Israeli newspaper *Haaretz*, some 116,000 illegal workers were removed in immigration sweeps.

"More than 40,000 were deported in keeping with court orders...the remainder left for other reasons: fear of being arrested; dismissal due to an employer's fear of being caught and fined...fear of missiles..."

"Planes were taking people back all the time," said Lek. "I was working at a Chinese restaurant outside Tel Aviv on the

road to Jerusalem when police got me. I spent a month in jail at Ramla before being deported. I didn't mind, though, because I'd paid off my parents' debts long ago and had 400,000 baht to myself to set up in business."

In Thailand, he found his parents gone: "They moved I don't know where. I came to see a friend in Phuket, and decided to open a little bar on Koh Phi Phi." It was June of 2004. "Rent was 15,000 baht per month. I operated for six months."

On the morning of December 26, Lek was preparing to open for business: "I saw a lot of people running. Something was wrong, so I ran after them. We scrambled up to the View Point." His business was swept away in the tsunami.

"We stayed on the mountain till morning the next day then were evacuated. I arrived in Phuket with just the clothes on my back."

Since then, he has struggled to regain his economic footing, recently opening a yellow "Breakfast Food" stand at the 99 Telecom mobile phone shop on Chao Fa East Rd in Chalong, across from Chalong Park View.

"All I had earned working abroad, I lost; and I have no family. It's been hard," he commented.

Having survived both the tsunami and being wounded in battle, Lek compared the two, saying, "Both were scary. But the tsunami was more unexpected. I had no time to think what to do."

Lek has steered clear of romance, both in Israel and here, but he keeps in touch with his old Israeli Defense Forces pals, especially the Israeli soldier Ofri.

"We were close – like family. He taught me a lot about Jewish customs, brought me to his home on holy days, and always took care of me."

"If I can't find my relatives in Thailand, I think I'd like to go back to Israel. I'd like to see Ofri."


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# This week



**BIG BAD BIKERS:** *Ride Thailand* Managing Editor and Phuket Rider Club member Wittaya Singkalah (left) joins (from left) K. Jumin, Organizer of Pattaya Burapa Bike Week; Thai rock stars and actors Jeab Pisut and Tom Dundee; and Nicky's Handlebar owner Somneuk "Nicky" Pornkaew in celebrating Phuket Bike Week 2007 at Thainaan restaurant.



**CHECKING IN:** Dusit Laguna Phuket General Manager Jan Verduyn (2nd from left) welcomes the United Kingdom Ambassador to Thailand David Fall during his visit to Phuket to attend the Namesa Regional Conference held by Group 4



**STUDY BUCKS:** Thawat Teowattanakul (center), President of real estate company Phuket Thane, and staffers Patcharaporn Stark (left) and Michael Stark (2nd from left) commemorate the grand opening of their Phuket branch by donating funds for study buildings to Satree Phuket School Deputy Director Yenjit Pongaksorn (2nd from right) and Phuket Wittayalai School teacher Nanthapak Sawasdivaj.



**ROMANEE REVELRY:** Serendipity Designs Co Ltd Marketing Director Lori Ashton (2nd row, fifth from left) puts on a big smile during their grand opening street party celebrating their move into a 120-year-old shophouse on Soi Romanee.



**FAMILY TIES:** Phuket International Airport General Administration Division Director Chartchai Sungnuch (right) and his wife, K. Chanpen (front left), enjoy the recent Phuket Airport Family Party for airport staff and their families.



**SANDS SISTERS:** Anoma Vongyai (3rd from left), Assistant Director of Tourism Authority of Thailand Southern Region 4 Office, enjoys the grand opening of The Sands Boutique Resort & Spa in Nai Harn. Joining her are (from left) Nuttibon "Rose" Laodee, HotelTravel.com CIO Fredy Muenger; Hajo von Keller, Managing Director of the Mangosteen Resort & Spa, which manages The Sands, and his family; and Mangosteen Sales and Marketing Manager Onphilat Oines (2nd from right).



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## In The Stars

by Isla Star

**TAURUS** (April 21 – May 21): If you are becoming a year older this week, the year ahead should be more relaxed and settled than the one just passed. If you have been getting by on nervous energy, start spending time on creative pursuits as the stars will support your efforts to fulfill a secret dream. Where romance is concerned, set your sights more realistically and you will find love where you least expect it.

**GEMINI** (May 22 – June 21): A new project is turning out to be more of an arduous jungle trek rather than the simple walk in the park that you'd anticipated. But even if it's not too late to back out, you will be determined to make things work. A welcome wave of energy comes along this weekend and you will use this to achieve a milestone. The number 8 can bring you luck on Tuesday.

**CANCER** (June 22 – July 23): You have been absent from the social scene recently and you need to change your habits. If you continue playing the hermit crab, your friends will start to believe that this situation is permanent. Put work matters out of your mind and find some enjoyment away from your comfortable hole in the sand this weekend. Where personal relationships are concerned, a change of scene will work wonders toward putting the sparks back.

**LEO** (July 24 – August 22): Taking it easy at home this weekend will help prevent you from reaching meltdown mode. You haven't been able to stop working for long enough to draw breath since the start of

May and are advised to listen to well-meaning friends' advice. If you're single, an encounter with Libra on Saturday will be hard to forget, so make sure you get some contact details. The color royal blue encourages focus on what is really important in life.

**VIRGO** (August 23 – September 23): Love that floundered on the rocks could wash up on your shore again and be better the second time around. If you've become otherwise involved in the meantime, serious decisions will have to be made. Your tendency to be economical with the truth could have negative consequences. Making money remains a difficult challenge until the end of May. The stars will paint a different picture from the beginning of June.

**LIBRA** (September 24 – October 23): You will find it easy to impress this week. The stars are ready to support your attempts to get noticed in the right places by the right people. Business is set to take off, but last minute travel plans cause you some worry midweek. Double-check bookings yourself, rather than relying on others to do so. Confusion reigns in the area of close relationships; don't stir the pot by passing second hand gossip around.

**SCORPIO** (October 24 – November 22): Your intentions are liable to be misunderstood this weekend. You are advised to curb your tendency to speak first and think afterward. An unexpected development regarding finances means you can afford the holiday you've been dreaming of lately. The heat builds up in a new relationship, but it appears that one of you will get cold feet soon. Tuesday is the best day for important business discussions.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 23 – December 21): Don't believe everything you hear this weekend. Cancer is out to make mischief that could get out of hand. Avoid becoming involved in any kind of power struggle until the end of this month. The stars will be more firmly on your side in June. Love becomes more exciting and your flirtatious manner sets the right scene on Sunday.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22 – January 20): You should discover that it was worth holding onto to a particular dream, no matter how many other people don't share your conviction. Many of you will have something to celebrate during the coming days, and this could include the added benefit of a family reunion. While work is the last thing you want to think of, be aware that a

scheming colleague would love to take advantage of your lack of attention.

**AQUARIUS** (January 21 – February 19): Spiritual matters are important to you this week and you could find it difficult to concentrate on material issues. However, a minor financial crisis on Wednesday or Thursday will demand your immediate attention. A Leo friend is about to ask for your help and this could put the relationship to the test. Give yourself space to consider before committing. Wearing a black pearl can encourage deeper wisdom.

**PISCES** (February 20 – March 20): Someone you considered to be a cold fish starts showing a warmer side to their nature. You are entering an interesting social period in which you will develop new friendships. Those who are single can expect to meet their match this week and those already in a relationship will be surprised by their partner's news this weekend. Finances require careful handling on Monday when someone thinks they're more clever than you.

**ARIES** (March 21 – April 20): Love is in the air this weekend. Those of you who believed you could never be swept off your feet have a shock in store. Money stored aside for rainy days will need to be tapped into during the coming days, but investments made this month are well-vested. Be alert when dealing with authorities on Wednesday as it seems that you may have been given the wrong information. The number 4 can bring good fortune on Monday.

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### Tuesday May 22, 2007

- 08.00 a.m. - 09.30 a.m. Religious activity: giving food offerings to Buddhist monks.
- 08.30 a.m. - 04.00 p.m. - "Blood Donation" by the Provincial Red Cross Chapter of Phuket, making merit to Our Beloved King on the auspicious occasion of His Majesty the King's 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday Anniversary.
- "Organ Donation" by Red Cross Organ Donation Center of the Thai Red Cross Society.
- 01.30 p.m. - 03.30 p.m. "Dharma Talk" by 2 famous Buddhist monks: Abbot Rachan Ariyaso and Phra Ajarn Nuttawat Jitrasri (Phra Tui-Nui)
- 07.30 p.m. - 09.00 p.m. "Talk by music show" by Sumo Too (Mr. Jarasphong Suratsawadee)

### Saturday May 26, 2007

- 10.00 a.m. - 11.30 a.m. "Sufficiency Economy" by Ajarn Phamit Kantamara
- 04.00 p.m. - 06.00 p.m. "Global warming: Andaman Crisis and the effects to people health" by the team of environmental expertise, Chulalongkorn University

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With the rainy season refreshing the greenery of the landscape here on the island, it's time to freshen up your makeup drawer with some of the colorful new shades offered this season.

Sky blue, leafy green, ocean turquoise and violet are among the blaze of colors featured in this year's new spring makeup collections.

This spring, fashionable women can feel free to put colorful shadows all around their eyes. Their lips, by comparison, will be more discreet with a coat of lip gloss, providing a touch of elegance.

"For a spring look, the makeup is intense and luxuriant," said Martin Ruppmann of Germany's association of cosmetic producers and distributors in Berlin. Fun loving, feminine, sensuous and seductive are the themes of this season's collections.

"Much is being done with shimmer and brilliance," Ruppmann added.

Until now such effects were the exception in warm months. However, they are meant to be lightly applied, as are intense eye shadow colors that gleam from the new palettes.

"For summer a powerful purple is made into a hint of tender lilac," said Olaf Zieseniss of the Frankfurt-based cosmetic service provider Beauty at Home. Eyes and eyelashes – his main focus – "are being robustly made up".

Eye shadow is the most alluring element of this season's makeup. Companies are using bright colors to address their customers' childish side. Shiseido has come out with exotic green and deep violet, while Christian Dior offers a lush green and metallic blue in its collection.

Grey-blue meets pink bubble gum in the MAC collection, while Estee Lauder has focused on an exotic look with a blaze of tropical colors and a youthful green while orange dominates Clarins' spring palette.

Make-up artist Gucci Westman Neville was inspired by rococo angels in creating eye make-



**Eye shadow is the most alluring element of this season's make-up collections. Companies are using bright colors to address their customers' childish side.** – Photo by Heiko Wolfram

# Looking intense

up with a lot of menthol green and  
glitter for Lancome.

In a sign of the luxurious glamor of its collection, Chanel has named its new look "Sequin" in a nod to the popularity of the shiny discs in today's fashions. Gold, pearl white, beige and chocolate brown aim to achieve a look between fantasy and classical.

Yves Saint Laurent has come out with pastel turquoise and lilac to pair with skin-tone eye shadows, and Bobbi Brown is featuring intense violet tones.

"It takes a bit of courage, but it's completely wearable," said Sabine Zangerle of Bobbi Brown

in Munich, referring to the company's Violet Collection.

Women should get advice on the use of especially luminous tones. Professional make-up artists can demonstrate all that can be done with white tones, which occur in nearly all spring make-up collections. Sparingly applied, they tone down brilliant colors by day and create highlights in the evening.

In any case, women should not dip too deeply into the colors.

"Start by putting on a bit of color. You can always put on more," said Zieseniss. And when the eyes are emphasized, it's best to hold back on the lips. Lip gloss

in skin tones works well during the day, but in the evening the rule of emphasizing either eyes or lips is usually broken. Red lipstick is part of the evening look, said Martina Acht, a hairdresser and make-up expert from Offenbach.

Zieseniss advises women to test new colors not only at the makeup counter, but also in daylight.

"It has to match a woman's personality, her eyes and skin tone," Ruppmann said. And remember that tropical green and violet require a bit of audacity, or else they could end up sitting unused in a drawer.

– *Sandra Cantzler, dpa*

By Natcha Yuttaworawit

**T**hailand has long been renowned for its silk production, but there has never been a qualification standard for higher quality Thai silk. Until now.

Representatives of the Queen Sirikit Office of Sericulture were in Phuket recently to show off designs made of Thai silk in a fashion show highlighted by Thai supermodels Sasikarn “Ae” Aphichartworasin and Puchisa “Big” Thanaphat and promote the new quality branding – the Royal Peacock logo.

To protect and guarantee the quality and value of Thai silk HM Queen Sirikit has given Thai silk a quality guarantee using the Royal Peacock logo to differentiate the qualities of silk and processes by which the cloth is made. The premium silk is Royal Thai Silk, designated by the Gold Peacock logo.

Royal Thai Silk is made by traditional methods using indigenous Thai silk thread drawn by hand and weaving the cloth on handlooms both vertically and horizontally. This silk may be dyed with natural or man-made dyes, but they must not be harmful to the environment.

Classic Thai silk is the next step down and is given the Silver Peacock logo. The difference in this level is that the Thai silk thread that is used in the weaving does not have to come from a silk worm that is native to Thailand – though it must still be produced in Thailand.

The Blue Peacock logo is given to Thai Silk that is made from any pure Thai silk thread and can be harvested in any way and woven in any method. There are also no restrictions on the dyes.

The last category of silk is Thai Silk Blend shown by a Green Peacock logo. In this blend pure Thai silk must be the main component but it can be blended with any other material, again any loom may be used in the weaving and there are no dye restrictions.

All of the four qualities of silk must be made in Thailand and for a silk to receive the Royal Peacock logo the producer must



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# Peacock-proud about Thai silk



apply to the Committee of Thai Silk Standard.

Puchong Petchmon, the director of The Queen Sirikit Office of Sericulture, Southern Thailand office, told the *Gazette*, "We are working on a plan to have dealers in Phuket. All of the Thai silk dresses in the fashion show are guaranteed by the Royal Peacock logo. All of this silk is produced in Thailand with different production methods and the dyes must not affect the environment."

"The Thai silk market in the South is good, but the production and materials are not here; there are two sources at Hua Hin and Surat Thani that produce about 5% of Thai silk. Most of the production is in the Northeast."

K. Puchong added that her office is planning to return for the Patong Carnival in November to promote Thai silk further.

*For more information on the Royal Peacock logo and Thai silk see [www.qthaisilk.com](http://www.qthaisilk.com)*

**SUPER SMOOTH:** Thai supermodel Sasikarn 'Ae' Aphichartworasin swishes along the catwalk in fine Thai silk (right) while Puchisa 'Big' Thanaphat (above) gets ready for bed in silk pajamas. Inset, The logo used to classify Royal Thai Silk. The same design will be used, with different colors, for the various categories.

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# ROCKIN' ON



**T**he current Toyota Hilux, launched in 2005, is the sixth generation of the best-selling pickup. The model sold in Thailand is produced locally, but the Hilux is also produced in South Africa, Argentina, India and, closer to home, Indonesia.

More than 650,000 units are produced annually, making the Hilux Toyota's second best-selling model after the Corolla.

While the Hilux was featured in the *Gazette* in August last year, Toyota says that its 2007

pickup is "further refined". A new range of diesel engines, as well as a number of styling enhancements are included in Thailand's hugely popular pickup.

Last year, Toyota sold more than 140,000 pickups in the Kingdom, giving the Japanese giant a 38.5% market share. Closest rival is Isuzu, with the other pickup manufacturers, Mazda, Ford, Nissan and Chevrolet all trailing a long way behind.

The 2007 Hilux has a more rugged look, with the addition of an air scoop on the hood to in-

crease air flow to the intercooler and standard fog lamps on the SR models and above. The interior has also received a makeover with new Optitron meters on the 3.0-liter D-4D model. These attractive new instruments are derived from Toyota's sport models and it is unusual to find them in a hard-working vehicle such as a pickup.

A new four-speed automatic transmission is now an option on this top-of-the-line version, while a five-speed manual gearbox is standard across the range. Models equipped with automatic transmission have cruise control as standard and a shift position indicator on the dash.

Executive chief engineer for the Hilux, Kaoru Hosokawa, says, "Toyota Hilux stands for quality, durability and reliability. In the latest model we want to build on other attributes which were first introduced in 2005, such as SUV-like driving performance, a



By Jeff Heselwood

new engine line-up, a more rugged look and enhanced interior specifications."

The new engines include the 3.0-liter unit from the Toyota Landcruiser, which produces 170 bhp with a peak torque output of a massive 343 Nm. The power of the 2.5-liter motor has been boosted to develop 120 bhp and 325 Nm, respectively – an increase of 17% in available power over the previous model.

Both engines are fully compliant with the latest Euro IV emissions standards; which is definitely a step in the right di-

rection as Thailand currently demands compliance to Euro I standards only.

Performance is understandably modest for such a large vehicle, with top speeds ranging between 155 kmh and 175 kmh, depending on engine and two- or four-wheel drive.

The Hilux 4x4 system allows the driver to shift out of four-wheel drive with no speed restriction, or into 4WD at speeds up to 80 kmh. For really severe off-road conditions, the shift mechanism permits the driver to shift from H4 to L4 without stopping the vehicle, although the speed limit for this maneuver is 8 kmh.

All models are fitted with a limited-slip differential on the rear axle to provide superior traction off road and minimize wheel spin on the open road. Some models are available with a differential lock for tough driving conditions.

The differential lock is engaged by an electrical impulse that operates a motor in the rear axle. This enables traction to be maintained even if one wheel is completely off the ground.

Although the changes to the 2007 Hilux may be subtle and barely discernible in some areas, one thing is certain: the Toyota pickup will maintain its supremacy both in Thailand and elsewhere in the world.

Prices range between 391,000 baht and 721,000 baht, depending on the engine, two- or four-wheel drive and body style. For more information, visit [www.toyota.co.th](http://www.toyota.co.th).

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

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**G**lam by name and glam by nature, Singapore's latest hottest coolest district takes its name from the Gelam tree that used to grow in the area.

This enclave was also once the seat of royalty, but the Sultan is long gone and his Istana – the former royal palace – has been converted into a heritage center.

However, for an authentic and less formal dose of local culture, all you need to do is take a stroll around the surrounding streets.

A short hop from the city center, the lovely thing about Kampong Glam is that, like Topsy, it just continues to grow. Say what you like about city planning architects who conceive heritage retail mix public spaces, or whatever the buzz term is, but there is nothing to compare with somewhere that seems to be able to re-invent itself.

A couple of pioneers move in, a trendy boutique or café follows, and *presto* – it's urban regeneration without anybody having to pore over a blueprint.

Centered on Arab Street, Glam's traders and artisans – Indian, Iranian, Malaysian, Chinese and more – are an eclectic mix who suit the vaguely ramshackle, hotchpotch Technicolor layout of the area.

A typical example is provided by Salad, on Haji Lane, a collective of local designers producing their own line of trendy, largely monochrome house wares.

However, generally credited with starting the whole thing off back in 2004, Straits Records, also on Haji Lane, goes far beyond what you might see labeled as world music in more mainstream establishments.

Just a few steps away, Allazraq is an Egyptian restaurant whose lounging, easeful hubble-bubble customers might have been teleported from Bahrain or Muscat. The Blu Jaz Cafe on Bali Lane trumpets that "music is the food for the soul" and its laid-back ambiance only seems to reinforce its motto.

A few doors away – and Glam might well be called the Zone of Surprise – Benji Low's Anglers' Outfitter provides everything for the fisherman (and woman), one of a number of specialty stores here.

Nearby, Pitch Black combines the roles of art house cinema, gallery and café, while its near neighbor Skyroom specializes in the sort of apparel teenagers buy to really annoy their parents.

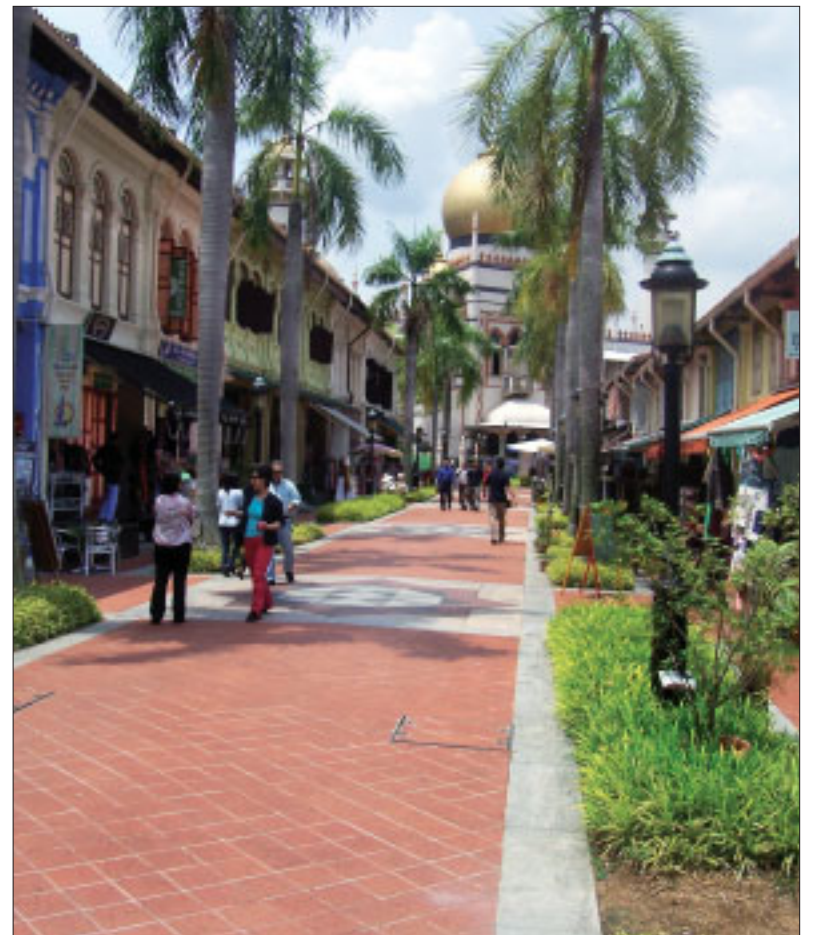
Of course, there are several spas in the area – did anyone mention "lifestyle destination"? – foremost of which is Sauvignon, whose scrubs are wine-inspired and mixed with Thai herbs and flowers.

You don't actually need to buy anything here, simply browse the streets and soak up the ambiance. The sales staff are incredibly chummy, happy to shoot the breeze and expound on their liking for spending much of the day in an area that's pleasantly at



Singapore's Kampong Glam district offers a diverse environment for shopping and entertainment.

# Glam is not glum



odds with the rest of squeaky clean Singapore.

Closer to the former palace, Glam gets marginally more mainstream, with a number of hostels, Internet cafés and shops whose signs very often include the word "souvenir".

No matter, it's still fun, with the broad pedestrian walkway of Bussorah Street flanked by the likes of Little Shophouse, which does Peranakan beaded shoes and jade.

You can even take lessons in how to make the shoes your-

## TALES OF A TRAVELER

By Ed Peters

self, though potential cobblers will need to set aside quite a few hours just to get past the toes.

Singapore's many tailor-made shopping malls provide food and retail in a single space. So does Glam, but rather more, well, glamorously.



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The seminar, in Thai with a *simultaneous* English translation, will be held on Friday, May 25, at 1:00pm in the Grand Ballroom of The Metropole hotel. Entry is free!

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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?



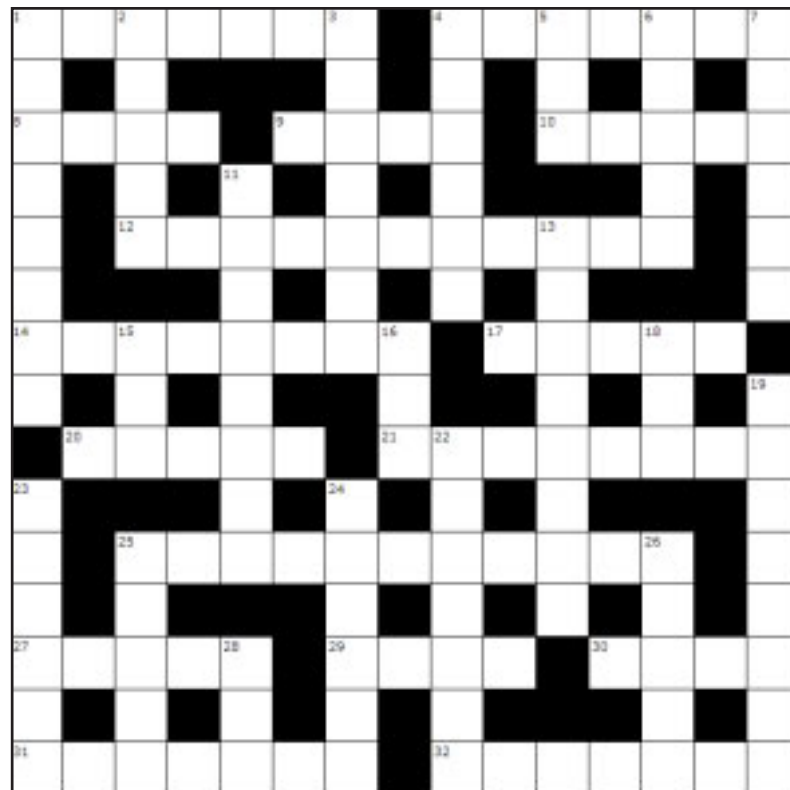
## The Cryptic Crossword

### ACROSS

1. Dromedary swallows sun god. Sweet! (7)
4. Colored, hurt Edward. (7)
8. To the northeast, a couple of learners and a girl. (4)
9. Pots overturned! Desist! (4)
10. Intimidated firm and married. (5)
12. Insect earthmover. (11)
14. Squid part takes net and cat back to the French. (8)
17. Vile cardinal shaken up - bad things. (5)
20. Slow beast takes money receiver to hotel. (5)
21. Encourage promises? Fake! (8)
25. Circe's hens can rest badly. (11)
27. Imitating an Asdic sound. (5)
29. Strong man loses shirt. Woe is me! (4)
30. Close-fitting guns revolved. (4)
31. Tom ran south in back end of boat. (7)
32. In her, it may receive from ancestor. (7)

### Down

1. Prisoner hackneyed and penitent. (8)
2. Left-over about 51 and 100. (5)
3. Exactly as stated: "Set on fire... er... Al." (7)
4. Apple seed and sharp instrument. (6)
5. Writing fluid, we hear, for company. (3)
6. Structure that pulls? (5)
7. Take away and reverse Ted about French blueblood. (6)
11. Network in garret ocean. (8)
13. Lived in anger, returned in uniform. (8)



Compiled by Tortuus. © 2007

15. Lin's back for nothing. (3)
16. Cardinals take nothing from Dawn. (3)
18. Beer sign. (3)
19. Points to vehicle; got snail. (8)
22. Patricia and I got brown skin down south. (7)
23. Inclined to take victory sign to eastern Mediterranean. (6)
24. Sala and morning greeting. (6)
25. Heather mixed a rice. (5)
26. Thus, ran back to boat equipment. (5)
27. Sag back and chatter. (3)

Solution on next page

**su | do | ku**  
© Puzzles by Pappocom

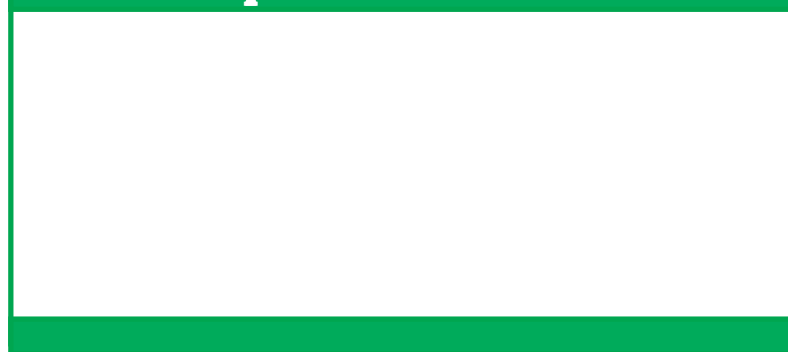
Solution, tips and computer program at [www.sudoku.com](http://www.sudoku.com)

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

## Scribble Space



## EZ Trivia Quiz

1. Who makes Windows software?
2. In which year was the 9/11 attack on the US?
3. Which color appears on 74% of all the national flags of the world?
4. When I am filled, I can point the way. When I am empty, nothing moves me. What am I?
5. Who painted the *Mona Lisa*?
6. Which cartoon strip was created by Bill Watterson?
7. Roughly how many insects will a toad eat in a year?
8. For how many million years were there dinosaurs on earth?
9. When did the first coin-operated phones come into service?
10. Selenologists study what?

Answers on next page

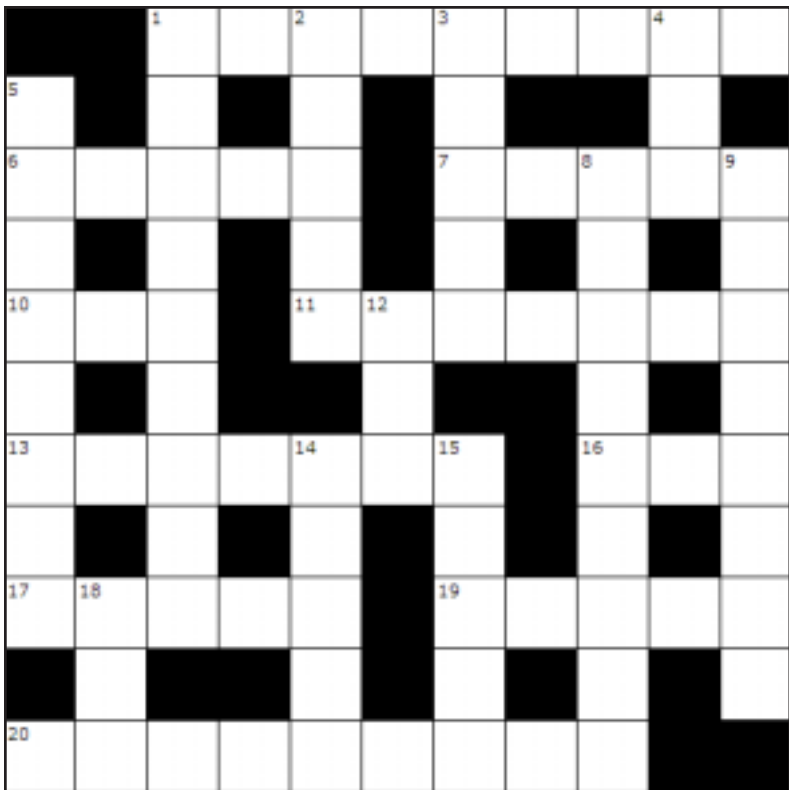
## Rhyme Time

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

1. 1953 Alan Ladd movie.
2. Pretend.
3. Willingly.
4. Area of control.
5. Find out.
6. Amuse.
7. Iberian country.
8. Rather ordinary stretch of land.
9. Compos mentis.
10. Sam Clemens double.

Answers on next page





## Quick Crossword

### ACROSS

1. Told in advance what would happen.
6. Movie award.
7. Very angry.
10. Little Pamela.
11. Ways in.
13. Not known.
16. "I found it!"
17. Ms Day, singer.
19. Source of oil.
20. Economic decline.

### DOWN

1. Heart aid.
2. Spooky.
3. Fool.
4. Consume.
5. Mix of chemicals.
8. Moving cartoon.
9. Deprived of liberty.
12. Not old.
14. Desert waterhole.
15. \*\*\*\*\* Campbell, model.
18. Type of poem.

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. If *Pan troglodytes* is the chimpanzee, then what is *Pan paniscus*?
2. What sets gorillas and humans apart from the other apes?
3. How many species of gibbon are there?
4. If "Homo" refers to people, what does "Pongo" refer to?
5. How did ape expert Jane Morris-Goodall die?
6. In the 1997 Disney movie *George of the Jungle*, what is the name of the talking ape?
7. Who provided the ape's voice?
8. Nafovanny is the world's largest captive-breeding primate facility. In which country is it?
9. How many monkeys can it hold?
10. Hoolock and Nomascus are genera of which family of apes?
11. What, roughly, is the top speed of a gibbon traveling through the trees?
12. Which is the biggest gibbon?
13. If Goodall is the expert on chimpanzees and Diane Fossey was the expert on gorillas, who is the recognized expert on orangutans?
14. Name the chimpanzee featured in the *Tarzan* movies of the '30s and '40s.
15. What is the name of Michael Jackson's current chimpanzee?
16. The most valuable sculpture by a living artist was created in 1988 by Jeff Koons. What does it depict?
17. What was unique about the gorilla in the Barcelona Zoo called Floquet de Neu?
18. What kind of animal is Curious George?
19. What did chimpanzees Ham and Enos do in 1961 and 1962 respectively?
20. Who wrote the novel, *Planet of the Apes*?

Answers below, left.

# Puzzle Solutions

## Monster Quiz Answers

1. The bonobo; 2. They are not good at climbing trees; 3. 13; 4. Orangutans; 5. She didn't - not yet, anyway; 6. Ape; 7. John Cleese; 8. Vietnam; 9. 30,000; 10. Gibbons; 11. 55 kmh; 12. The Siamang; 13. Dr Biruté Marija Filomena Galdikas; 14. Cheetah; 15. Max; 16. Michael Jackson and Bubbles the chimp; 17. He was albino; 18. A chimpanzee; 19. They went into space; 20. Pierre Boulle.

## Solution to Cartoon Puzzle



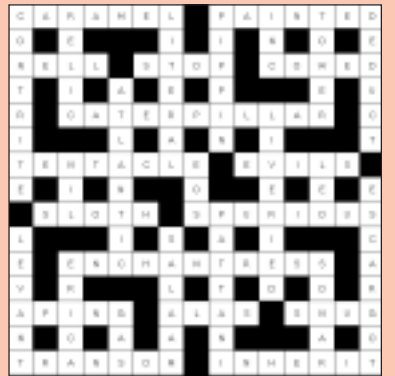
### EZ Trivia Answers:

1. Microsoft; 2. 2001; 3. Red; 4. A glove; 5. Leonardo da Vinci; 6. *Calvin and Hobbes*; 7. 10,000; 8. 165; 9. 1899; 10. The Moon.

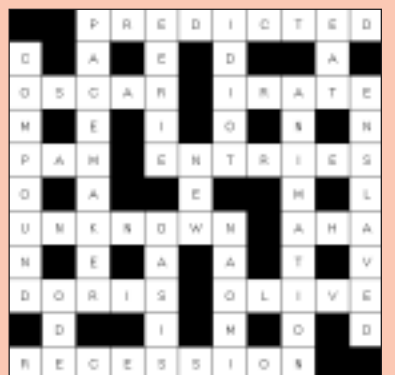
### Rhyme Time Answers:

1. Shane; 2. Feign; 3. Fain; 4. Domain; 5. Ascertain; 6. Entertain; 7. Spain; 8. Plain; 9. Sane; 10. Twain.

## Cryptic Crossword Solution



## Quick Crossword Solution



## Sudoku solution

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



# Henry Morgan, Prince of Pirates

The pirates of the Caribbean, during their brief heyday in the latter half of the 17th century, constructed among themselves a unique democratic and egalitarian society in defiance of the rigidly hierarchical Spanish Empire that surrounded them.

Known as the Brethren of the Coast, they were made up mostly of English and French outlaws but also Spanish renegades, Portuguese, Dutch, mulattoes, mestizos and escaped African slaves.

They democratically elected their captains and followed an elaborate code in divvying up their loot, with compensation for wounds and rewards for exceptional bravery. Once safely back in their home ports of Tortuga and Jamaica's Port Royal, they were party animals.

Stephan Talty tells the story of Henry Morgan, the prince of pirates, in his colorful and entertaining *Empire of Blue Water* (Simon & Schuster, New York, 2007, 332 pp).

Ironically, the great pirate sin city of Port Royal was inadvertently founded by Thomas Gates, a former Dominican friar turned Protestant crusader, author of an attack on the Spanish Empire called "A New Survey of the West Indies".

Oliver Cromwell dispatched him with an army of 2,500 to capture the Spanish island of Hispaniola. Failing that, his army decamped on Jamaica. Among them was a 20-year-old minor noble named Henry Morgan. He next turns up as a 27-year-old pirate captain in the fleet of Christopher Mings during his successful attack on the Cuban city of Santiago.

Two years later, Morgan was "admiral" of his own fleet on a two-year piracy spree along the coasts of Mexico, Honduras and Nicaragua, culminating in the sack of Granada.

Over the next five years he would launch three more daring raids on the Spanish Empire: Portobelo in Panama, Maracaibo in Venezuela and finally the city of Panama itself after an epic trek across the isthmus.

"The differences were striking," Talty writes of the

Spanish Empire and the Empire of Blue Water. "The pirates were radical democrats; the Spanish, monarchists; the pirates prized daring and risk taking, while the Spanish prized conformity and those who improvised often found themselves rotting in a squalid Madrid prison.

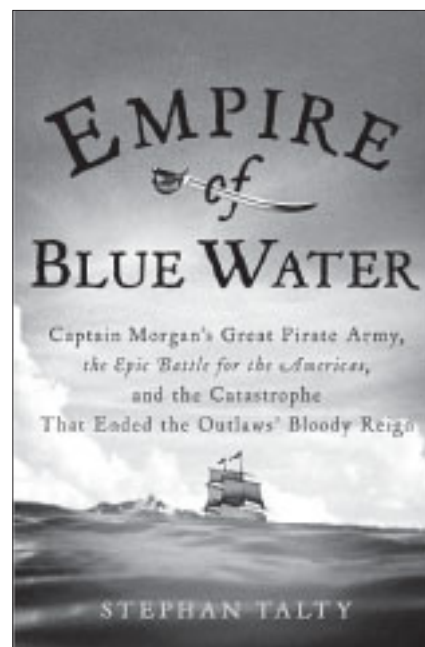
"The pirates were possessed by 'an insatiable desire for riches'; the Spanish

wanted power and honor. The pirates were often castoffs and godless heathens; the Spanish believed themselves to be God's chosen ones.

"The pirates were individualists; the Spanish represented a fantastically complex system. The pirate's world was closer to our own; the Spanish lingered in a medieval drama."

Fear of Morgan went before him and eased his triumphs as soldiers deserted their forts and civilians their cities. Other times his own bold cunning saved the day. Trapped in the mouth of Maracaibo Lake by a mighty Spanish fleet, Morgan sent his own small, under-gunned ships, crewed by wooden cutouts and stuffed with kindling and explosives. The Spanish were routed.

Morgan capped his career with a sack of Panama and then skipped off back home to Jamaica before his men could mutiny over a paltry payout of only \$4,000 each. He was elevated to Vice-Governor of Jamaica and, as geopolitics tilted toward



an alliance with Spain, he cheerfully hung his former comrades.

He invited one newly arrived and highly suspicious crew to a feast of "red snapper, lobster, beef, fruit pie and goblets of the best local rum. As the alcohol worked through their veins, the men dropped their pretenses and admitted that they were indeed pirates.

"Morgan roared with laughter and the party continued; for the younger men, it was like being feted by their boyhood hero, the

greatest buccaneer who had ever lived. After a long night of storytelling and carousing, Morgan sent the boys to their beds."

The next morning he arrested them, clapped them in chains, and sentenced them to hang.

Morgan passed his last years as a gentleman plantation owner and died of dropsy in 1688, aged 53. Four years later, Port Royal was destroyed in an earthquake and tsunami. Morgan's body was washed to sea and never seen again.

## PHUKET DIARY

### Until May 31. Live Blues at Joe Kool's.

Every Monday night is "Live Blues" night at Joe Kool's based in the Ramada Hotel at the north end of Karon Beach!

Come out and join the Groove Doctors for a night of Live Music with Blues/R&B/Funk tunes and Mr Joe Kool himself: Tony "Chainsaw" Wilson. The Groove Doctors are the local talent that performed at the Phuket Blues Festival in February. We can heal ya! Music starts at 8 pm.

### May 13. BIS 5k Fun Run.

The British International School (BIS) will hold a five-kilometer fun run Sunday May 13 to raise funds for the school, including money to cover the basketball court and provide shade for the tennis courts.

A warm-up will begin at 3:45 pm and the run at 4 pm at BIS.

Registration is 200 baht for adults and includes an event shirt. After the run there will be a swim at the BIS pool, sausage sizzle and entertainment.

### May 19. Visakha Bucha Day - Public Holiday.

Known in English as Royal Ploughing Ceremony Day, this auspicious occasion, which predates even the birth of the Lord Buddha, marks the beginning of the rice-planting season.

The Ploughing Lord - appointed by HM the King - performs ancient rites and attempts to forecast the rainfall for the coming months, to predict whether the rice seedlings about to be

planted will provide a bountiful crop this year.

Banks, government offices and many businesses close on this day. Most bars and restaurants will also be closed for 24 hours.

### May 19. Wine Tasting at Wine Connection Bang Tao.

Saturday night wine tasting at Wine Connection Bang Tao from 6:30 to 9:30 pm. Wine, live band and tapas buffet: 350 baht.

A casual meeting place with a selection of delicious snacks and tapas. For more information call 087-8896074 or send email to FB.Phuket@wineconnection.co.th

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

Due to a scheduling conflict, the Fifteen 7 Sharks from the UK will not be back in Phuket to defend their title as Phuket In-

ternational 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 Aussie Armed Services, which will comprise players from the Australian Army, Navy and Air Force squads, and Devon RFC.

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@gmail.com or visit 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.

Proceeds from the event will go to HOPE Worldwide (Thailand), which is dedicated to helping needy children and underprivileged girls in Thailand.

For more information visit www.phuketmarathon.com

### June 21 and 22. BIS presents The Inspector General.

The British International School's (BIS) Year 7, 8 and

9 drama students will present Nicolai Gogol's *The Inspector General* June 21 and June 22.

The play is a comedy of errors set in Russia and follows the tale of Khlestakov, a young man traveling to his parents' estate.

Through a misunderstanding, the townspeople come to believe that he is an important government official and treat him as a dignitary. How long can he continue the charade?

The performance will be held at the BIS main building auditorium and will begin at 7 pm on Thursday, June 21 and at 3:15 pm on Friday, June 22.

The play will last approximately two hours. Admission is free.

## Upcoming events on the island

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## Thailand's need for greater gun controls

When South Korean Seung-Hui Cho killed 32 people and wounded many more at Virginia Tech on April 16, newspapers around the globe ran the shocking story as front-page news for days.

Soon after, editorial pages were full of opinion pieces correctly pointing out how notoriously lax gun control laws in the US played the critical role of enabling the mentally-ill Cho to buy the weapons and ammunition used to carry out the massacre, the deadliest in US campus history.

Half a world away here in Phuket, one might be inclined to think we are relatively safe from well-armed lunatics. However, despite a comprehensive and long-standing provincial ban on the issuance of new gun licenses, the incidence of shootings in Phuket has continued to rise at an alarming rate.

A decade ago, murders in Phuket were few and far between; shooting murders were rarer still – and almost always made front-page news. Nowadays, hardly a week passes without a shooting murder or firearm-related accidental death reported.

Recently released figures by nationmaster.com list Thailand as third on the list for “murders with firearms (per capita) by country”, with 0.312 deaths annually per 1,000 people. The rate in the US, which ranked eighth on the list, was 0.028 per 1,000 people, less than one-tenth of the Thai figure.

In the UK, where gun control laws are not only strict but strictly enforced, the incidence was listed at 0.001 deaths per 1,000, which is less than the Thai figure by a factor of more than 300.

The statistics are sourced to a Seventh United Nations Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems, covering the period 1998 to 2000.

While the accuracy and applicability of these figures is open to debate, one fact is obvious: regardless of the provincial ban, firearms remain cheap and easy to obtain in Thailand and Phuket – despite that as an island Phuket has natural advantages to help in the suppression of smuggled firearms not enjoyed by Thailand's other provinces.

One might have thought that the military-installed government would have taken strong measures to disarm civilians of illegally-possessioned guns, if not to serve national security interests then at least to serve its own.

That has not been the case and the situation remains much as it has always been: for every unlicensed weapon seized by our men in uniform another finds its way into the general population by the same route.

– The Editor

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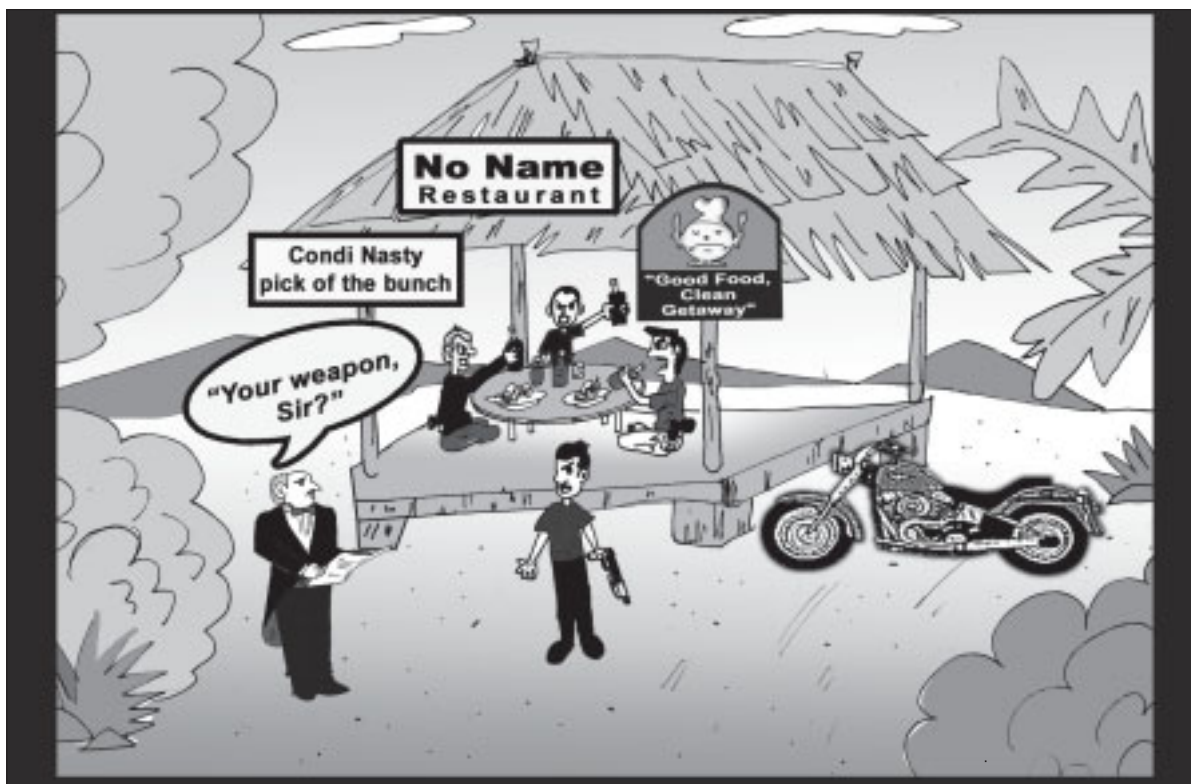
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## Letters

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.

### Finding that Cheap Eats are real treats

I just want to let you know how much I enjoy the Cheap Eats column in the *Gazette*. I always look forward to reading about where I can find bargain meals at small local establishments and then striking out to find them. Many of the columns have led us to restaurants where we are now regulars.

I do have one suggestion that would be helpful to readers such as myself who can't read Thai: let us know if the menu is in English as well.

Keep up the good work and keep those food finds coming!

Hungry adventurer  
Nai Harn

### The boys bite back

With reference to the last letter from Christy Sweet [*One Sweet reply*, Letters to the Editor, *Gazette* May 5-12.]

First of all I would like to congratulate Ms Sweet on her slender figure and large bust as it seems so important to her that *Gazette* readers are made aware of this.

If Ms Sweet can contemplate an opinion that differs from her own I'd like to express one.

In the 17 years that I've been coming to Phuket I've seen very few, if any, Thai women truly "exploited" by Western men, but have seen so many Western men exploited by Thai ladies.

The general consensus seems to be, if I'm going to be exploited by a woman it might as well be by a young, pretty one with an attitude oh so different from Ms Sweet's.

It seems strange that she chooses to live in Phuket. If she truly "cringes every time she sees

a lovely young Thai woman with a Western cretin twice her age" then this must be one of the few places on earth that she will spend all day cringing.

Stuart Hooper  
Patong

### Barrier for a barrier

I write regarding Dutchman Robert Broncel's proposal to build a tsunami barrier off the coast of Patong to protect that city from any future tsunami devastations (See The Broncel Barrier, Issue of April 21).

First of all, despite the continuing deterioration of water quality in the bay there are still extensive coral beds at both the northern and southern ends that were classified as coral conservation areas by the Pollution Control Department's Environmental Committee on Water in 1992.

While it is difficult to believe that any of these could still be alive after years of exposure to untreated sewage, these coral beds nevertheless remain protected under the law. This will pose just one of what one would expect to be many regulatory and legal impediments to such a barrier.

Tristus Simpson  
Patong

### Please be fair to foreigners

I'm writing this letter as a Thai who wants to see foreigners come to Phuket, whether for travel or to live here, and think of Phuket in a good way – without any prejudice and with the impression that they want to stay or visit again.

I hope foreigners tell their friends how good Phuket is, but what I have heard from my foreign friends makes me think I must

do something. I believe bad things happen not only to my friends, but to other foreigners.

One example is a problem with the house owner my friends rent from. My friends signed a contract that they must rent the house for one year. They understand this.

The problem is with just three months left on the contract, construction work has started up nearby greatly annoying my friends. They checked with the owners before signing the contract whether there would be any construction work in the area while they were living there.

When my friends asked the house owners about the noise they replied, "You can move out, but I cannot return your money because you signed a contract."

Moreover the house owners sent the gardener to the house without informing my friends before. Sometimes the owner will come into the house without permission, and when my friends asked the owner about it, they got an unsatisfactory answer again; "Nothing has been taken, I just checked to make sure the house was in order."

When my friends asked the house owner to ask permission before coming in their house, the house owner was angry. There are many things the owner is doing to try to make my friends move out before the end of the contract.

I hope this information will be published for the benefit of tourism. I do not want tourists who come here to tell their friends that we Thais do not have any smiles for them, we desire only money.

As a Thai, I urge all other Thais not to upset foreigners. Problems like this do affect tourism.

Pamanee Pholkhantod  
Phuket

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.



# Reality bites Khun Woody in sleep mode

I was deep asleep on Tuesday, May 1, when a burglar broke into my home in Andaman Hills, located at the north end of Patong, at about 5 am.

The burglar first tried to come into my townhouse through the sliding glass door to the top floor bedroom. Apparently he saw my 82-year-old father sleeping there, so he came down to the second floor.

He ransacked all three floors of my apartment, taking cameras, jewelry, watches, passports, an iPod, cash and more.

Finally, he woke me about 5:15 am when he opened a squeaky door to one of the guest rooms next to my bedroom on the bottom floor.

I got up and saw clothes tossed about on the floor in the hallway. Suspecting the burglar was still in the guest room, I ran upstairs and grabbed a butcher knife.

The thief heard me come out of my bedroom and hid in the ground-floor guest room, apparently looking for a way out the back. There is none.

I used the intercom to call my fiancée, K. Add, and have her lock our bedroom door then call the police. I waited at the top of the stairs with my knife in hand.

A few minutes later the thief tried to make a quiet escape up the stairs. I yelled at him and waved the knife. He beat a hasty retreat to the guest room and tore

## FIRST PERSON

An early morning home invasion in Patong forces *Gazette* columnist **Woody Le-onhard** to unhesitatingly make the switch from resident computer brainiac to knife-wielding pursuer of a thief. Woody, pictured here collecting his belongings from the Patong Police, recounts the ordeal and offers utmost praise for the exceptional work done by Patong's police in catching the burglar.



the room apart looking for a back exit.

He was cornered, so he ran out of the guest room and tried to break down the door to our bedroom. K. Add was terrified as he pounded at the door, but the lock held.

He walked up the stairs, signaling to me that he was going to go up one floor and leave. I waved the butcher knife and yelled, "I'll kill you". He then reached for his waist and, naturally, I thought he was going for a knife or a gun.

Then, very quickly, he slipped out the side of the stairs and scrambled up the stairwell. I ran after him but he beat me to the sliding glass door, ran out onto the deck and leaped from our balcony to our neighbors' balcony.

I threw the butcher knife at

him. No luck. In the blink of an eye, he broke into house next door from the second-story balcony and escaped.

Moments later the police arrived. K. Add and I ran out of the house and told them the story. They blocked off the bottom of Andaman Hills, and caught the thief as he ran down the small path that snakes through the grounds of an adjoining guest-house.

I accompanied the police to the Kathu station where they assisted me in filing the necessary forms and returned my lost goods to me.

To make a long story short, the police did a great job. They responded to our call in four minutes, caught the burglar, retrieved all of the loot from our place, plus loot from one other victim whom he apparently burglarized just before he hit us.

The thief turned out not to be a drugged-out teenager or an indigent Burmese laborer. He's a middle-aged, balding Thai man from Phang Nga.

I think he's an experienced burglar because he carried an official-looking but fake international police card that identified him as a member of the Swiss police, based in Basel, along with his Thai identification card.

He was arraigned on the following day and was charged with breaking and entering and theft.

## Who can I get to repair a large broken window?

Can you please tell me who I can call to get a large window replaced in my home? I'd like to get a few quotes from a few companies.

### The *Phuket Gazette* replies:

The following are two companies who can help you:

- **Phuket Home Maintenance**, 33/16 Wichit Songkram Rd, Kathu, Phuket 83120. Tel: 084-1935124. Email: phukethome maintenance@yahoo.com

- **House Doctor Management Co Ltd** has two offices: one is at 70/105 Soi 8/3 Phuket Villa 3, Chao Fa Rd, Muang, Phuket. Tel: 076-244450. The other office is at 66 Luang Por Rd, Talad Yai, Phuket City 83000. Tel: 076-218345.

Contact Satopon Sritong. Mobile: 081-9787847, 081-970-1137. Pager: 162 then 271-579. Email: info@phukethousedoctor.com. Website: www.phukethouse doctor.com.

## Where can I upgrade a single-entry O visa?

I am the holder of a single-entry, non-immigrant type-O visa issued in Penang.

I have been told by several people that for 3,900 baht I can upgrade this visa to a multiple-entry, non-immigrant O visa at the Immigration Office in Phuket City.

However, at the Immigration office I was told that this was not possible in Phuket, and that it could be done only at a Royal Thai Embassy outside the country.

I would be very thankful for an answer whether it's possible or not, or if it was just a misun-

## Issues & ANSWERS

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derstanding at the Immigration office.

Stefan Breit  
Rawai

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

It is not possible to upgrade a single-entry, non-immigrant O visa to a multiple-entry, non-im-

migrant O visa at Phuket Immigration Office or any other Immigration Office in Thailand.

This can be done only at a Thai embassy outside Thailand.

However, you can use your single-entry non-immigrant O visa to apply for one of the 29 different types of "permits to stay", which allow you to stay in the country for up to 12 months.

## How can I get my septic tank cleaned out?

The septic tank at my house is full. Who can pump it out?

Rolf-Peter Baumann  
Phuket City

**Athit Chasaghuan, an officer from the Public Health Department of Wichit Tambon Administration Organization (OrBorTor) replies:**

Every area has a septic tank emptying service. You must first fill out a request form and pay for the service at your local *OrBorTor* or municipality office. The wait for the service is usually not long, about a day or two.

**Sudawan Thanomklom, owner of a private septic tank**

### emptying service replies:

You can call me at 081-8941583 for septic tank emptying anywhere in Phuket except Patong. To empty a septic tank will cost from 1,000 to 1,200 baht and the service will be completed within a day of calling. My office is in Moo Baan Chao Fa, on Chao Fah East Rd.

## Sedatives can kill pets in planes

I was surprised to read in the *Making Tracks* column entitled in "Taking pets overseas" (*Gazette* issue of May 5) that changes in cabin pressure can cause a pet to die during flight.

Is this true? For some reason it just doesn't sound right.

Confused  
Chalong

### *Gazette Making Tracks* columnist John Dalley replies:

Normally there is little or no danger of death owing to changes in cabin pressure when sending a dog or cat by air.

However, there is a real danger of death due to pressure changes if the animal is tranquilized.

The American Veterinary Medical Association stresses this in all its literature, as it is the most common cause of death of pets traveling by air.

Other than herbal remedies for stress relief added to their water, pets should never be tranquilized before flying



# Fending off mosquitoes

Following on from the dengue article, many people have asked a number of questions about how they can avoid being infected with dengue – at all costs. So in this feature, I thought I'd try to tackle this issue.

The trick to avoiding any insect-borne disease is not to get bitten in the first place. *Aedes aegypti*, the vector in the case of dengue fever and its varieties, likes to ensure its larvae have nice clean water and light shade in which to develop.

So anything brackish or containing sewage is unlikely to attract them. However, rainwater left in that pot, bucket or old tire, will be a breeding ground before you know it.

If you check around your place every five days or so and empty the water out, then no problems will occur. However, your neighbors may not be quite so diligent and *Aedes aegypti* will happily fly 200 meters from their point of birth to find something to feed on which will likely be you.

It is still certainly worth checking your own property to keep the concentration of mosquitoes down, but you can't rely solely on that.

The other way to avoid bites, of course, is by spraying huge areas with pretty nasty chemicals to kill the mosquitoes and, consequently, nearly everything in sight (we do need insects, as a whole).

I also don't particularly want to be contaminating my groundwater, so let's scratch that idea. This leaves the methods of physically trapping the mosquitoes or using repellents.

I have to admit, I don't know very much about how effective the carbon dioxide trap is. You plug it into the wall and it releases carbon dioxide.

The simple idea is that you exhale higher concentrations of

**Dengue carrier *Aedes aegypti* gets a good blood meal – and maybe passes on the dengue virus serotype.**

– Photo by James Gathany / US Department of Health and Human Services



CO<sub>2</sub> than you inhale and mosquitoes target in on you by flying toward the concentration gradient. So they fly into the CO<sub>2</sub> trap, can't get out and presto – fish food!

The nice thing about this system is that it appears to be quite specific to mosquitoes as opposed to the UV bug zappers, which will attract most flying insects and kill indiscriminately. Some flying insects do perform tasks other than making us sick, itchy or terribly annoyed.

Another highly entertaining method of catching them is to use those electrified tennis rackets, although the danger with these is that you might be under the influence of alcohol and consider

sticking your tongue in it just to see what it feels like. I have it on good authority that a numb tongue results.

Finally, we discuss repellents. The worries that people have here are varied but consistent. It needs to be pointed out that most things, misused or given in high enough concentrations, are toxic.

Potatoes contain glycoalkaloids and if I ate enough in one sitting I'd go into a coma. DEET is no different. The point about insect repellents is one of accept-

## Examples of protection times of insect repellents containing various concentrations of DEET

Concentration of DEET	Approximate protection time (hours)
30%	6
15%	5
10%	3
5%	2

able risk and sensible use.

"Natural" repellents such as citronella and eucalyptus do work, but generally have to be applied more regularly – as in perhaps six times in one hour rather than once in five hours.

In my opinion – and research backs me up here – DEET is the best insect repellent currently available but I don't think you should be slapping on 75% concentrations on a regular basis.

The table above suggests concentrations of DEET and the approximate protection time, as taken from Dr Koren's article in the *Canadian Medical Association Journal*.

The way I see it, that makes 15% concentrations a clear winner and since discovering an aerosol version, that is what I have been using for two months without getting bitten once. My fur-

ther comments are based on use of 15%.

If you are going to be outside during the morning or late afternoon, simply spray onto exposed areas except for the face. For the face and neck, apply to hands and then dab. Don't inhale more than you have to and certainly don't drink the stuff. It has been shown to be safe when used on children, but, as a precaution, children aged six months to two years of age should be limited to two applications a day, and two to 12 years of age to three applications a day. DEET is often not recommended in children under six months of age, but the jury is out on that one.

DEET does not bioaccumulate systemically through the skin, but what does get through is metabolized and passed through the urine within four hours. It has been shown to be safe to use both during pregnancy and breast feeding and won't give you cancer.

One interesting thing, however, is that the use of sunscreen does increase how much DEET permeates through the skin and into the body by 3.4 times. It might be worth considering an "either/or" approach in this instance if you wish to be extra safe.

*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. You can email him at homescience@gmail.com*

## HEALTH MATTERS

By George Robbie

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A month ago, the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change made it plain that if humankind doesn't change its habits in the very near future that global warming will become irreversible. Already, there is nothing we can do to stop the degradation for the next two or three decades.

Ironically, the bad news comes as medical science doubles in knowledge every five years. Live right and live a century – nothing unusual for today's healthy people.

Once we get rid of "Dubbya" and his ridiculous stem-cell research ban, longevity will take us into the era of stem cell organ repairs, genetically controlled life spans and longevity with quality of life measured in centuries, not decades.

You might be here long enough to confront the question, "Grandpa (or -ma), why did you kill the environment before I was born?" That may be only 50 years away, if that.

Like so many diseases, global warming is preventable. Refusing to take immediate action demonstrates a close-minded disrespect for the sea, the atmosphere and our own children.

We can't blame boat crews and tourists alone. Greater responsibility lies at the feet of incompetent owners and managers for not training staff and educating guests.

Humans may be clever enough to create toys that assault the marine environment – styrofoam and plastic that kills our favorite marine animals and exhaust that pollutes the air we breathe – but our lack of concern for the UN Climate Change wake-up call questions our ability to survive as a species.

Even worse, as we self-destruct, we take our environment down with us. In fact, 30% of all species worldwide are in imminent threat of extinction thanks to human impact.

After 19 years living on one of the world's great land bridges, I finally saw a frog two months ago. When was the last time you saw a frog? Who cares? Turn up the aircon, honey.

At least one Phuket hotel cares. I've asked for examples of environmental innovation in this column, at trade association and service club meetings, and with personal calls, but no hotel has forwarded their environmental practices except the Evason Phuket.

The Evason claims a commitment "to developing a sustainable environment by using the indicators set out by Green Globe".

The Evason's on-property

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# EXAMPLE FOR US ALL

"Eco-park", goes a long way toward that goal by: "Reducing water consumption through management of freshwater resources, preserving our ecosystem within our resort as well as nearby surrounding areas, utilizing and managing our land to preserve the environment and provide a natural habitat for wildlife and vegetation, treat wastewater to avoid polluting discharges, and minimize waste production through reduction, reuse and recycling of products."

The Evason Phuket certainly has enough to talk about, and so remains the only focus of the "Gray Area" travel industry environmental series – sad for a destination with more than 300 guest lodgings in an industry growing so fast the Tourism Authority of Thailand can't even keep a tally of them.

This month we explore Evason Phuket's trash and composting cycle, a classic example of turning rubbish into gold – from separation to composting, gray water and gardening. In the process, the typical rubbish dump is transformed into a picturesque "Eco-park" that would make any property proud.

The Evason gives environmentally concerned guests free tours of this unique system, including the picturesque pond, gardens and Thai cooking classes using herbs and vegetables grown from the scraps off the dining room table.

Most hotels simply sell their garbage to pig farms. (I have high regard for pigs, smarter than dogs and majestic animals in the wild. It's only when we force them into the farm that they lose their dignity – allowing us to justify eating such an intelligent animal.)

Instead of making quick baht on garbage, Evason Phuket collects everything and separates it nine different ways – I saw glass, metal, plastic, vegetable matter, cooking oils, paper and cardboard cartons, ceramic, and toxic and wet garbage.

Evason Phuket's written policy is to create environmental awareness in their guests and staff. Low-key environmental messages are everywhere. "Hosts" receive entry-level and



USE IT: The Evason's environmental czar, Arnfinn Oines, with his impressive compost pile.

ongoing environmental training, and the hotel "Walks the Talk", always to the benefit and enjoyment of Evason Phuket guests.

Twice I have taken their on-property nature walk that's free to guests every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon.

I highly recommend all travel industry managers, community leaders and anybody interested in your children's future call Evason Phuket Environment Coordinator Arnfinn Oines at 076-381010 to join a tour. It's a "must do" for all resort planners and developers, hotel GMs and anybody with even a small backyard.

Start and finish at the front desk, walk past the water lilies and down to the wood shredding shed. Close by is the rubbish facility, divided eight ways and complete with wood chipper. The compost piles are next to the rubbish bin, with the tropical nursery appropriately between the compost and the "gray water" pond filled with hyacinth doing their bit to clean the water.

Gazette columnist and fellow kayaker Dave Williams estimates up to 150 bird species pass by the pond on an annual basis. I saw about a dozen on my two April trips.

Tropical plants grow every-

## THE GRAY AREA



By John 'Caveman' Gray

where in the richest black dirt I have seen since coming to Thailand, all oozing with the fertility of compost. On a stifling hot Songkhran day I sat under a thick shade tree packed with plants, in one of the most tranquil and picturesque off-the-beach spots in Phuket – in the middle of a five-star resort. And the entire picture

was painted with the scraps of food left on the dining table by the hotel's guests.

So what is composting, and why is it so good? You don't need a large hotel to compost. Anybody with a reasonable back-yard can compost, diverting organic garbage away from the land-fill and back into the salad bowl.

Composting is simple. It recreates the decaying of plant materials on the jungle floor, called humus. This is the efficient and natural process that keeps jungle soil nutritious, a closed and highly efficient system for recycling nutrients and soil conditioners that keeps the ecosystem balanced and fertile for eons.

If it rots, it works in compost. Collect your cuttings, gather your garbage, let it rot, and grow the next round of organic veggies. The only cost for this power-packed mulch is gathering it in the first place. Compost increases soil texture, adds nutrients, increases aeration, and increases water-holding ability. Beach resorts take note – com-

posting is noted for making sandy soils fertile.

Various microorganisms keep the soil balanced and actually produce hydrogen, potassium and phosphorus naturally. Rubbish is a big problem everywhere in Thailand, especially on over-developed tourist islands like Koh Samui and the Phi Phi islands, and composting diverts all organic matter from public rubbish dumps, or in Phuket's case, a high-energy-consuming high-heat incinerator. Too bad that compost doesn't eat plastic bags, another chronic problem.

Technology now quantifies compost for the optimum heat, moisture, air, organisms and materials to speed up compost processing, allowing less space to accomplish the process – important for hotels and small yards.

Composting and organic gray water treatment isn't for everybody. The entire system including the pond, plant nursery, vegetable garden, mushroom shed, garbage separation system and composting station takes up about three rai, including the one-rai pond. Properly landscaped, as Evason Phuket is, the "Recycling Garden" is a relaxing venue, value-added amenity and marketing tool – and plenty of Phuket hotels have space to do this.

For me, the efficient layout and beautiful landscaping of what is normally the ugly "back of the house" rubbish dump was most impressive. Evason Phuket's "Eco-park" not only manages rubbish with dignity and efficiency, it places the highest-quality organic veggies on the dining room table and offers a bonanza of tropical plants that inhabit the entire resort, it also doubles as a resort asset for quiet reverie. With the cost of land in Phuket and surroundings, what hotel or resort isn't interested in turning negative eyesore space into a tropical garden?

For composting at home check out [www.gardenorganic.org.uk/organicgardening/gh\\_comp.php](http://www.gardenorganic.org.uk/organicgardening/gh_comp.php) and [www.compostguide.com](http://www.compostguide.com)

Send your responsible practices, comments and suggestions to [info@johngray-seacano.com](mailto:info@johngray-seacano.com).

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# Q&A: TV on PCs, evil rootkits

**Q** When I was in Singapore, LCD monitors were literally falling off the trees. Everywhere you went you were greeted by this amazing selection of the latest viewing technology. Phuket, by comparison, seems completely starved, and even in Bangkok at Samsung major display venues they couldn't show me the latest monitors, as you mentioned last week.

Is Thailand moving forward, standing still or going backward in comparison with the rest of Asia? I would honestly have to say at this point I feel it's being left behind... I would be interested in a Samsung monitor that you can also watch TV on, as well as use it for your computer display.

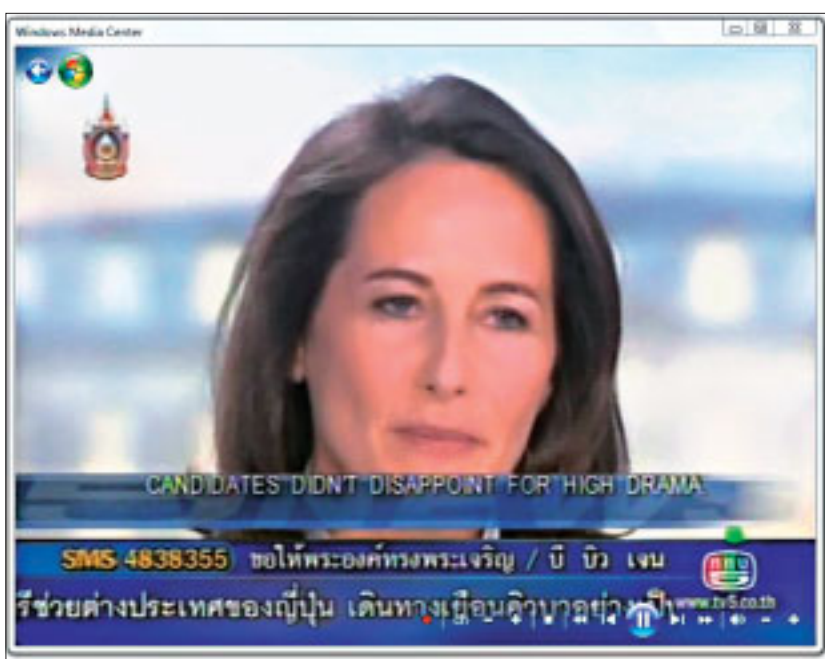
DK, Kathu

**A** You can watch TV on any computer monitor, if your PC is set up right. If you have Windows Media Center Edition, Windows Vista Home Premium or Vista Ultimate, you only need a TV card that works with Media Center. Slap any MC-savvy TV card in your PC, run

a regular coax cable from the output on your UBC box to the card and start Windows Media Center. It only takes a few minutes to get good quality (but not HDTV quality) TV running on your PC. The only trick: tell Media Center that the signal is coming in from an antenna; don't choose cable or satellite.

Running TV this way has all sorts of benefits. For example, you can record shows with a couple of clicks. You can even set up the Media Center timer to record shows while you're away, or sleeping.

As long as your UBC box is tuned to the correct channel when the Media Center recorder kicks in, you can record and play back TV shows to your heart's



**Windows Media Center (shown here running under Vista Ultimate) does an excellent job of playing and recording TV shows broadcast over UBC. All you need is a TV tuner card and a good monitor and you can record your favorite shows to watch later.**

content.

TV in Thailand isn't as neat as TV in many other Asian countries because UBC doesn't yet publish a Media Center-compatible program guide. In many parts of the world, Media Center handles all of the "TV Guide" functions: you can see program schedules, synopses and the like; you can use a Media Center

remote just like an integrated TV/DVD/satellite remote; you can even take advantage of Media Center's smarts to automatically record, say, "every episode of *House*". Some day UBC will become Media Center friendly. In the interim, Media Center in Thailand is hobbled by the local broadcaster.

Of course, you can watch DVDs on your PC. Windows Media Player 11 does a very good job of playing any DVD you stick in your machine, and the picture quality on an LCD monitor rivals that on a very expensive TV.

You may not realize that you can download TV shows – some of them legally – and see the latest episodes of all of your favor-

ite shows "on demand", at the time you want, pausing whenever you wish.

Just as more and more DVDs are coming out in high definition TV (HDTV) format, more and more TV shows in North America and Europe are broadcast in HDTV. (HDTV is very high quality television made for a wide screen.) As a result, many recorded TV shows you see available on the Internet are in HDTV format.

**Q** I'm worried that I have a rootkit on my computer. My Internet connection flutters on and off at unpredictable times, tying up all of my online access. When I press Ctrl+Alt+Del and look at the Task Manager's list of services, all I see are well-known entries such as svchost.exe. How can I tell if I have a rootkit?

TD, Patong

**A** Rootkits, as most of you probably know, use stealthy techniques to fly under your operating system's radar. Not all rootkits are malicious, but the ones you're most concerned about can subvert your PC and turn it into a pretty little hate machine. Rootkits have become the vehicle of choice for cretins who

turn legions of unsuspecting PCs into zombies. Wikipedia has a good synopsis at <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rootkit>.

I've tested and run the new, free anti-rootkit package from AVG on all of my computers. It's at <http://free.grisoft.com/doc/5390#avg-anti-rootkit-free>

AVG is the same company that makes the free-for-personal-use antivirus software that I recommend in all of my books. It's called AVG Anti-Rootkit Free – not exactly a barn-burner of a name, but it gets the point across.

AVG Anti-Rootkit Free goes in slick on both Windows XP SP2 and Vista machines, and performs either a fast scan or an in-depth search, at your option. Rootkit detection is still in its infancy, so you can't expect AVG-ARF to catch everything, but it's a whole lot better than putting your head in the sand. Highly recommended.

Thanks to Mark Edwards at Windows Secrets Newsletter ([www.windowsssecrets.com](http://www.windowsssecrets.com)) for pointing me to a critical review of AVG Anti-Rootkit Free at [www.antirootkit.com](http://www.antirootkit.com)

The folks there recommend Rootkit Unhooker or Icesword for a more thorough scan.

**Q** After installing Microsoft's April "Patch Tuesday" patches, my computer red lines whenever I try to run Microsoft Update or Windows Update. When I press Ctrl+Alt+Del and look at the Task Manager's list

of services, I see a program called svchost.exe that's taking up 100% of the CPU time. It red lines at 100% and stays there for 15 minutes or more, making it impossible to do anything at all on my computer. What gives?

BG, Redmond

**A** It's a known problem with Microsoft Update and Windows Update, running under Windows XP. Not many people hit it, but installing the April set of patches clobbered more PCs than any other month's patches. The gobbledygook coming out of Microsoft at this point is enough to drown a water buffalo. Suffice it to say that a semi-official posting on Microsoft's Windows Server Update Services blog ([blogs.technet.com/wsus/archive/2007/04/28/update-on.aspx](http://blogs.technet.com/wsus/archive/2007/04/28/update-on.aspx)) seems to promise that a fix is coming, some day, somehow, employing methods that I don't even begin to understand.

## RESTOCKED

Just as I was about to give up hope, a friend sighted a copy of *Windows Vista All-In-One Desk Reference For Dummies* at the SE-ED bookstore in the basement of Big C. I don't know if that means SE-ED has replenished its supply at all of its outlets, but...

I haven't yet seen a copy of my second Vista book, *Windows Vista Timesaving Techniques For Dummies*, in Thailand. The major bookstores in Singapore and Hong Kong have it, though, as do all the usual bookstores and computer shops in North America and Europe.

As always, if you snag a copy of one of my books (of whatever vintage), drop it off at the Sandwich Shoppe and I'll gladly sign it for you.

*When he isn't writing computer books and magazine and newsletter articles, knocking Microsoft around on his website, or swinging a butcher knife, 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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# Pawn shop users looking for bigger loans this year

By Sangkhae Leelanapaporn & Natcha Yuttaworawit

PHUKET: Nearly 30 million baht was budgeted for the three pawnshops in Phuket, ready to be distributed as the school year begins.

But despite the money in reserve, the shops have seen only a slight increase in the number of customers this year. The amount customers are pawning, however, has increased significantly.

The pawnshop operators suspect the smaller-than-average increase in customers is due to the strong economy on the island.

The three pawnshops – in Phuket City on Komarapat Rd, in Patong near the Patong Fire Department, and in Cherno Talay near the Tambon Administration Organization (OrBorTor) office – all adhere to the same interest rates.

For pawns valued up to 5,000 baht the interest is 0.75% monthly, while pawns over 5,000 baht have a 1% simple monthly rate.

Pichaiyot Lensin, Manager of Phuket City's pawnshop told the *Gazette* that his pawnshop has given out nearly 15 million baht in cash for the new school term.

"I don't think all the 15 million baht will stay out as cash," he said, explaining that because of the strong economy this year he expects more people to recover their goods than in previous years.

"Between January and April this year, compared to the same time last year, the number of people pawning has increased only 1.7%, but the total amount being pawned has increased

about 16%."

About 90% of the goods being pawned are gold. The remainder is largely made up of electronics and construction equipment.

For one bahtweight of gold, the pawnshops offer 8,500 baht.

"We have about 4,000 to 4,500 people per month who come in to borrow money. About 2 million baht is rotated through the shop every day," K. Pichaiyot said.

The Phuket City pawnshop pulled in a 9-million baht profit in 2004, 12 million baht in 2005 and 12.8 million in 2006.

"I expect that this year we could see more profits than last year, but I'm not sure if it will get to 15 million baht or not," he said.

The shop's log books show that about 70% of their customers have houses registered in Phuket, and only 1% of the goods were not redeemed.

Of government pawnshops throughout the country, Phuket's shops are the fourth most profitable, following Suphanburi, Surin and Chiang Mai provinces.

Adul Lamrassamee, Manager of Cherno Talay's pawnshop, said that they expect to pay out 5 million baht in pawn loans this year, and have already given out more than 2 million baht.

"Most of our customers are parents and 90% of what they pawn is gold. The second most popular is engineering equipment, followed by electronics such as televisions and amplifiers."

The Cherno Talay shop has been open for four years now, and K. Adul said that they also accept mobile phones, but they must be in like-new condition.

"I don't accept old televisions or computers, but laptops are OK."

"We have fewer customers this year compared to last year at the same time," he said. "This year they don't take long to retrieve their items, usually between three to five days, sometimes a week. That's also a shorter time than last year."

He added that the most popular time for people to pawn is just as their children go back to school, but many of the parents are turning to gold shops to pawn their jewelry, even though the non-government shops charge a higher interest.

"I try to explain to the customers that we do pawn gold, because many of them don't know about that. Many of them go to the gold shops instead because they offer more money. For example, we pay 8,500 baht for each bahtweight of gold, but the gold shops pay 9,000 to 9,500 baht."

"That also shows they don't have many things to pawn, because no one would want to pay the extra interest unless they had to."

K. Adul also said that he is responsible for everything in his shop and if he is unable to sell an item, he must repay the government that cost by auctioning it at a sale on the first Saturday of every month.

Cherno Talay sees a lower rate of redemption than Phuket City, he said, with less than half the items pawned being retrieved.

At the Patong pawnshop, Chalerm Kumpaniad said his shop is experiencing a decrease in pawns this year due to a strong economy.

"We were prepared to loan out 10 million baht as students go back to school, but so far we've only given out 2 million. I think parents have more money than last year, maybe due to the strong economy."

Every day more than 100 people visit the Patong pawnshop and 40,000 to 50,000 baht of interest is accrued.

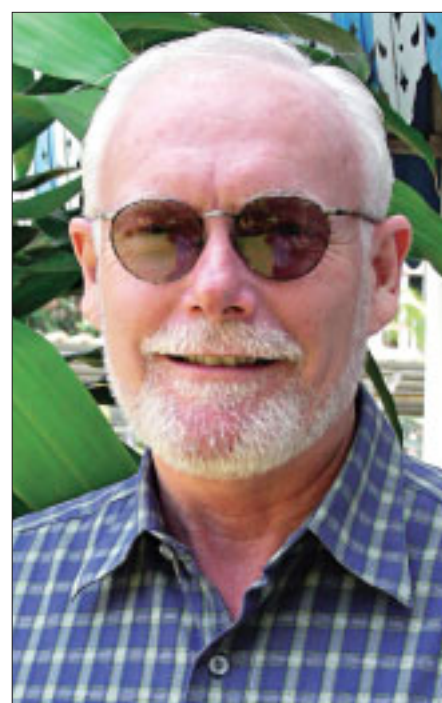
## ON THE MOVE

Arnaud Girodon, from France, has been promoted to General Manager of the Indigo Pearl Hotel. Mr Girodon holds a degree in hotel and catering management and has worked in the hotel industry since 1995. He has worked in Dubai, where he was based in a number of properties in senior management positions, including Executive Assistant Manager for the pre-opening and opening of the five-star Al Murooj Rotana Hotel and Suites. Before being promoted to General Manager of Indigo Pearl, Mr Girodon served as Executive Assistant Manager, a position he took up in September 2006.



Chris Legaspi from the Philippines has been appointed Director of Sales of Le Meridien Phuket Beach Resort. Mr Legaspi brings more than 10 years of hospitality experience with him, having worked for hotel chains such as the Mandarin Oriental and Hyatt International, where he was Director of Sales for its Manila property. He has also worked for Hilton International, as Director of Sales for Conrad Bangkok. Mr Legaspi will be responsible in managing the resort's MICE business by leading the resort's group sales department in promoting its meeting facilities, dining venues, rooms and suites, and other facilities.

Teddy Tucker, from Arizona, USA, has been appointed Desk Editor at the *Phuket Gazette*. He holds a Masters in Education from the University of Arizona and an MBA from the University of Phoenix. Mr Tucker has worked in social work and personnel, financial and operations management in Arizona, where he was also involved in real-estate investment. Since moving abroad, he has also been involved in the Peace Corps in Botswana and taught English and business courses at universities and colleges in Korea, Taiwan, Saudi Arabia and Thailand. He is also an experienced TEFL teacher trainer.



## VITAL STATISTICS: COMPANY REGISTRATIONS STILL IN THE DOLDRUMS

Type	Mar 05	Mar 06	Mar 07
Limited company registrations	117	194	97
Limited partnership registrations	23	29	27
Limited companies changed	250	328	389
Limited partnerships changed	31	43	31
Companies deregistered	16	7	12
Partnerships deregistered	9	1	10

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# The Wealth of Nations

The release of US Gross Domestic Product (GDP) figures reflecting annualized growth in the first quarter of 2007 of only 1.3% was lower than anticipated. These are known as the "flash" estimates and will be subject to future revision.

Bob Parker, the deputy chairman of Credit Suisse Asset Management, stated their belief that this was the low point of US economic growth, and matters will improve later in 2007.

US corporate profits were higher than expected in the first quarter by a significant margin but it must be stated that Wall Street analysts had reduced their expectations to very low levels.

The stock market took it in stride. Good earnings news from many companies including Microsoft, Amazon and Exxon sent the Dow Jones Index to a new record high. This record high is still a small increase in percentage terms from previous highs and that takes us back to March 2000.

Across the "pond" in Germany a totally different situation exists. Good news at last; the German economy is gaining traction, exports are strong and, for once, imports are rising rapidly.

This is a symptom of increased domestic demand, falling unemployment, growing service and industrial sectors and rising retail sales. Many Germans are talking about the change in atmosphere in the country and a feeling of confidence is apparent.

Many German companies had to lay off staff in recent years and restructure their businesses, and the benefits are now being felt. A strong German



## MONEY TALKS

By Richard G Watson

economy is not just important to Germany, it is important to neighbors such as the Netherlands, which is so closely linked economically to the German economy that it basically mirror its position.

The European Union also benefits from a strong German



**JUAN AND EVITA PERON:** Damage done by his protectionist policies still echoes through the Argentinian economy today, 50 years later.

economy as it is the largest in Europe and accounts for around one third of all Euro-zone economic output. Germany is still the third largest economy in the world and it is very good news that it is now well into recovery mode.

Another interesting factor is that when Germany was feeling economic woes its population was adding to their savings and property prices, which for a long time were stagnant to negative.

Investors who had faith in a German recovery have been amply rewarded from its lows of early 2003 as the main DAX stock market index has tripled in value. The whole corporate restructuring process has left German companies much more competitive and they have been able to overcome the effects of a strong Euro.

Much has been written and broadcasted about weakness in the US residential housing market. However, other countries are moving into the same situation. Spain is the first and most obvious candidate for inclusion, and their residential property market has suddenly dropped in an alarming manner.

The value of the shares of Spain's largest residential construction company dropped by 70% in a single day in late April. Even Ireland has recorded its first drop in residential property in five years.

Investors in many countries have invested in multiple properties. The route often taken was to place a deposit on a house or apartment, install a tenant and continue this process.

Some nimble investors sold their properties, took the profits

and moved on.

However, too many investors ignore the reality that residential property is just another asset class, there is absolutely no investment law that says it must continue to gain in value.

Britain is a very interesting situation. Residential property prices have risen dramatically since the depths of the last recession in 1992. While many people have made big profits out of buying multiple properties and even more are holding single properties with large mortgages, the reality is that the whole situation is perched on a mountain of debt.

Virtually everyone believes that this party will continue ad infinitum. But around 92% of UK mortgages are adjustable, as opposed to fixed-rate mortgages, and the UK's central bank, the Bank of England, has raised base lending rates (mortgages are at higher rates) to 5.25%.

Inflationary pressures are building in the UK economy and the Bank of England will almost definitely raise interest rates by 0.25% or even 0.5% in May. This is likely to be continued with further increases later this year.

There is a very real risk of the UK residential housing market running into trouble. Just as when you see a child inflating a balloon at a party with unlimited enthusiasm, you know that it is going to pop, you just don't know exactly when.

Fortunately, the commercial property market normally does not suffer from such "irrational exuberance". However, I am increasingly concerned about commercial property funds that are highly leveraged, as the cost of servicing this debt is going to increase.

One UK-based commercial

property fund that I favor has moved 15% of its assets into Continental Europe, not because they are concerned about a crash but they are expecting lower returns in the UK and higher returns in parts of Europe. The outlook for ground rents remains excellent.

In Thailand, property prices are under pressure as the interim government shows strong signs of xenophobia, such as with the proposed changes in the Foreign Business Act and other financial controls. One of the main factors is simply old-fashioned "protectionism" with Thai companies simply wanting to limit competition.

Argentina, under General Juan Peron, decided decades ago to try a new economic model they termed "inward industrialization". That policy, and a succession of other blunders, meant that Argentina has never recovered from where it was over 50 years ago when compared to its peers.

A recent survey of corporate investment attitudes in Australia undertaken by a Thai research group found that, of a choice of four countries in Asia, Thailand was bottom of the list.

Thailand's present economic policy of only encouraging foreign investment that leads to exports is seriously damaging the economy. Exports are strong, but imports are falling, a sure sign of weakness in the domestic economy. Foreign businesses in Thailand will "vote with their feet".

*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 and email: imm@loxinfo.co.th*



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# Weight-drained Singwancha edges out Por Chokchai

By Scott Mallon

**NONTHABURI:** Sirimongkol Singwancha, 30, displayed the heart and determination that made him a two-time world champion, gutting out a hard-fought, 12-round, unanimous decision over Thong Por Chokchai to win the Asian Boxing Council (ABCO) lightweight title on May 1.

A raucous crowd of close to a thousand braved the pouring rain to make it to the indoor venue at Panthip Plaza in Nonthaburi and was amply rewarded with a fine display of dramatic boxing.

Singwancha's career has had its share of twists and turns. In May last year he traveled to Los Angeles to face Chikashi Inada for the WBC interim lightweight championship, only to have the bout canceled when he tested positive for hepatitis.

He then fought two stay-busy bouts in Thailand before changing gears and winning a fight in Korea in the K-1 Kickboxing League. Supposedly hepatitis-free, he was scheduled to travel on to South Africa to face IBO welterweight champ Isaac Hlatshwayo on May 12, but withdrew from the bout when he once again tested positive for the virus.



Sirimongkol Singwancha (right) lands a straight right to the face Thong Por Chokchai enroute to victory.

Seldom has Singwancha (56-2, 32 KOs) been the underdog in any of his 58 professional prizefights, but going into his bout with Por Chokchai (13-5-1, 8 KOs), he was behind the eight-ball.

In the past, Singwancha's fine boxing skills would have been more than enough to cope with the straight-ahead style of Por Chokchai, but Father Time shows mercy to no one and it's become

harder and harder for him to shed the pounds.

In order to secure a shot at Por Chokchai's ABCO lightweight title, Singwancha was forced to drop from light welterweight (140 pounds) to lightweight (130lbs), and lose 27lbs in just 4 weeks to make the 130lb limit. Singwancha ate one small meal per day and sucked on ice throughout the day; all the while training for hours to prepare for the bout. Most boxing experts therefore favored the ABCO champion to ward off his challenger.

Singwancha started the bout quickly, using his superior hand and foot speed to keep the advancing Por Chokchai from landing anything meaningful. Instead of sitting down on his punches, Singwancha moved side to side, darting in and out with quick combinations.

Por Chokchai, a southpaw, was relentless though, confident his pressure would eventually wear down his opponent.

By the fourth round,

Singwancha began to show the effects of his weight loss and was tiring. Por Chokchai, sensing his opportunity, picked up the pace and launched a vicious assault to the body in an effort to break down Singwancha. The strategy worked and Singwancha was soon gasping for air.

At the bell sounding the end of round five, an exhausted Singwancha dropped to his knees and had to be helped back to his stool by his corner men. There was serious doubt as to whether Singwancha would be able to finish the bout and Por Chokchai looked to be headed for victory.

The talent and will of Singwancha are not to be underestimated, however, and in round nine, he seemed to find his second wind. He went on the offensive, using his jab to score points and backing up Por Chokchai for the first time in the fight. Por Chokchai's pace slowed and he abandoned his body attack. Singwancha, understanding the importance of the bout, refused to be denied and closed strongly.

At the bell, a weary but jubilant Singwancha threw his arms up for a split second before doing a wide pirouette and collapsing to the canvas. He would lay there for a full minute before finding the strength to rise. All three judges scored the fight the same; 116-112 for the winner and new ABCO champion, Singwancha.

On hearing the decision, he quickly thanked Por Chokchai and promoter Suchart Pissitwuttinun and relinquished the title, informing all in attendance that while he greatly appreciated the belt, it was simply too difficult to make the 130lb mark.

On the undercard, Napapol Kittisakchokchai totally out-classed Japanese foe Rysuei Yoshida, battering him for five rounds before stopping the Japanese fighter in the sixth round of their scheduled eight-round bout.

Kittisakchokchai had been scheduled to square off against Saenghiran Lookbanyai to see who would be next in line for Rafael Marquez's WBC belt; however Lookbanyai came down with appendicitis and the bout was scrapped. No news yet if the fight is canceled or postponed until later this year, but Lookbanyai will be out of action for at least three months.

Former world bantamweight champion Veeraphol Sahaprom (56-3-2, 40 KOs) also had a successful night, scoring a unanimous decision over Satoshi Niwa (6-7-3, 2 KOs) of Japan to stay in the hunt for a world title.

The 38-year-old from Nakhon Ratchasima has been staying busy while hoping for another shot at the WBC world title held by Hozumi Hasegawa.

Sahaprom lost the title to Hasegawa back in April 2005 and was knocked out in a rematch a year later.

## Karate kickers set for Phuket

**PHUKET CITY:** More than 300 athletes will convene in Phuket for the Phuket Thailand Open Karate-Do Championship 2007 on May 26 and 27.

The competition, which will be held at the Saphan Hin Gymnasium, is being held to prepare the competitors for the 24<sup>th</sup> Southeast Asian Games, to be held in Nakhon Ratchasima in December.

The tournament is expected to draw more than 180 competitors from Thailand, including 21 from Phuket, as well as additional contingents from Vietnam, Korea, Singapore, Laos, Iran and the Philippines.

Competitors will be divided into two age categories: 6 to 18 years old and over 18.

The competition will be held from 8:30 am to 5 pm each day. Entrance for spectators will be free of charge.

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## IN BRIEF

## Scavenger hunt raises funds to promote road tourism

PHUKET: A scavenger hunt from Phuket to Khao Lak attracted 47 cars during a charity run on May 5 and 6. Organized by Thungka Rotary Club, the Ninth Family Rally encouraged families to search for hidden signs and clues during their day-long trip to Phang Nga.

Families paid a 3,800 baht entrance fee to take part in the race, and the top five winners all received a free meal from the Lemon Grass or Shintaro restaurant, along with another prize:

The winners were: 1. Chavalit Fongsrirachan and family (who received a 21-inch Sony televi-

sion); 2. Jamroon Saetan and family (refrigerator); 3. Thanasak Groisomboon and family (Oakley sunglasses); 4. Thanyakorn Tanthipiriyakit and family (microwave); 5. Sonthaya Thongpinyochai and family (free one-night stay at the Ban Thai Beach Resort in Patong).

For finishing in last place, the team from the Operation Room at Patong Hospital also received a restaurant coupon.

Organizers were still tallying how much was raised for charity during the event. They said funds will be used to promote road tourism in Southern Phuket.

## 84 teams sign up for futsal

PHUKET CITY: The Khon Noom (Young Turks) political party has organized its first Futsal Club Competition, to be held May 19 to June 10 at the Youth Center in Saphan Hin.

Eighty-four teams of 10 people each have registered for the tournament, all from Phuket. Fifteen teams are listed in the under-16 division, 15 in the over-35 division and 54 in the general competition.

The competition was created with the objective of promot-

ing co-operation, love and harmony.

The winning team will receive 8,000 baht and a trophy in the under-16 division; 15,000 baht and a trophy for the 35-over division; and 20,000 and trophy for the general competition.

Prizes will also be given for second through fourth place, with a total of 85,000 baht in prize money up for grabs.

The Khon Noom Party has controlled the Phuket City Municipality for more than a decade.

## PATONG DARTS LEAGUE

## Offshore stay on top

PATONG: Offshore continue to hold on to first place with another three-point win, this time at home against Valhalla.

However they failed to gain any distance from Dogs Bollocks and Shakers, who each took all three points from Coyote and Simply Red, respectively. Hans from Shakers threw a 180 to help in their victory.

Send match info to: [darts@phuketgazette.net](mailto:darts@phuketgazette.net)

**May 1 results:** Piccadilly 7 Beach House\* 2; Offshore\* 7 Valhalla 2; Shakers\* 7 Simply Red 2; Dogs Bollocks\* 6 Coyote Bar 3 (\* = winner of beer leg).

**Standings:** 1. Offshore (11 points); 2.= Dogs Bollocks, Shakers (9); 4. Coyote Bar (5); 5. Queen Mary (4); 6.= Beach House, Piccadilly (3); 8.= Valhalla, Simply Red (2).

**May 15 matchups:** Valhalla v Piccadilly; Offshore v Coyote Bar; Shakers v Queen Mary; Simply Red v Dogs Bollocks; Beach House = bye (home teams first).

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# TriBallistic's longshot

By Semacote Suganya

MAI KHAO: The fifth SILK Tri-Ballistic Triathlon Series held on May 6 at the JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa featured longer distances, with the senior division covering 37 kilometers during the event.

The series of six races is designed for junior triathletes and their parents, with age divisions from 6 to over 50. Age classes are broken into under-12, -13 to -17, an open category for ages 18 to 50 and a Master's division for those over 50.

The under-12 and under-18 divisions compete in teams, with one person completing each stage of the race.

Individual participants may also compete in categories for under-16, adults 16 to 50, over-50 and professional racers – and they must complete all three stages of the race.

Jungceylon sponsored gift vouchers as prizes for each category. First place finishers received a 1,500 baht gift voucher, second place 1,000 baht and third place 500 baht.

At the end of the season, series awards will be granted by totaling points won during each of the six events. The top three males and females in each age category will receive their awards at the TriBallistic dinner in June.

**Results for the Junior Team Challenge (under-13):** 1. The Barbie Dolls: Emilie Kirstein, Alysa Bebbington, Ryan Herbart; 2. Ballistic Trieis: Teisha Jones, Mellissa Keagans, Oskar Keding; 3. Team with no name: Luke Philips, Tomas Breschi, Harry Yoland.

**Junior Team Challenge (ages 13 to 17):** 1. Sweeda Pines: Emma Breschi, Julie-Ann Or-



**SURGING:** Matt Porter, 14, a member of the TriDogs team, runs out of the water May 6 during the long-distance triathlon, the fifth in the SILK TriBallistic Triathlon Series.

chard, Oscar Larsson; 2. TriDogs: Taj Jones, Vincent Botting, Matt Porter; 3. The Milans: Milan Svoboda, Milan Harnischseger.

**Individual competitors:** Masters (over 50): 1. John Duoma, 2. Klaus Hebben, 3. Ted Pulaski; **Open Women's:** 1. Brigitte Niederberger, 2. Lizelle Van den Berg, 3. Sue Bolter; **Open Men's:** 1. Priwan Amkaow, 2. Jaray Jearanai, 3. Tony Henthorne; **Under-16:** 1. Timana Hossack, 2. Victor Kirstein, 3. Mitch Brundle; **Professionals:** 1. Justin Granger, 2. Sam

Renouls, 3. Belinda Granger, 4. Lizzie Hessing.

The final race will be held June 9, when competition will take the form of a reverse triathlon.

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

For more information about the series check [www.triballisticclub.com](http://www.triballisticclub.com) or contact organizer Hugo Jones at Tel: 081-078-2024 or by email at: [hugodeb@hadyai.loxinco.co.th](mailto:hugodeb@hadyai.loxinco.co.th)

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## Gardening

by Bloomin' Bert

# A pterodactyl's pied à terre

I like dinosaurs. I'm not sure why. When I was a little Bert – dinosaurs were already extinct, before you say anything – I was fascinated by them. Most of us know that they died out hundreds of million years before man came along; after all, most of us have seen *Jurassic Park*.

Creationists, however, believe that dinosaurs are much more recent. The website [www.projectcreation.org](http://www.projectcreation.org) shows ancient pictures of dinosaurs that are "clearly from the post-Flood period".

They also talk about "hundreds of dinosaur pictures that have been found around the world. When added to the stories about dinosaurs (dragons) from cultures around the world. This all clearly shows that dinosaurs and people lived together until approximately 1,500 years ago." An interesting theory, and sorry about the grammar there – not mine.

I thought modern kids would grow up feeling as I did; perhaps just a bit excited about the dinosaur world. Then an ingratiatingly irritating purple dinosaur started to appear on television. Barney. I didn't realize that I could hate something on TV quite that much.

A grown man in a giant furry purple dinosaur outfit singing songs that make you want to vomit, surrounded by kids who are just so... well, gee... nice. Yeech. They're all telling each other how it's good to be "nice" – this stuff is so sickly it raises the question of whether there may be a place for weapons of mass destruction in society after all.

Dinosaurs should be a dull prehistoric gray, not purple, they shouldn't be able to speak, and certainly not tell everyone how much they love them. Dinosaurs are big and ugly, and have names that kind of fit them. There's nothing cute or cuddly about a tyrannosaurus rex or a velocirap-



**Empty nest:** The bird's nest fern is an epiphyte, but can tolerate being potted if the soil isn't too dense.

tor – they just want to kill other animals and eat them.

Even the vegetarians of the Jurassic era – monsters such as the stegosaurus, diplodocus and the brontosaurus – were huge. Apparently, all they all they really did was breed, eat leaves and shrubs and hang around waiting to be eaten. What do you expect from an animal with a brain the size of a pea. I liked them, anyway.

Imagine the biggest bird you've ever seen. And then imagine it's actually a lot bigger; maybe dinosaur-sized. Then picture its nest. The bird's nest fern is probably a little similar to that. It's one of the most aptly-named plants around; whoever first came up with this must have been thinking of some kind of bird out of *Jurassic Park* – the child in me thinks it would probably be a pterodactyl.

As the name suggests, the bird's nest fern is a fern that looks like, well, a bird's nest. There isn't

a great deal to it really. It consists only of a number of long, shiny, leathery leaves and not much else. The large leaves grow in a rosette sort of shape, around a central, densely hairy crown, and like most ferns, they slowly unwrap themselves from the middle, with the lower leaves dying off at a similar rate.

This unusual plant sometimes grows on the ground, but appears more often in nature as an epiphyte, on the trunks of trees like the ones in the picture. In case you care about this kind of thing, an epiphyte is a plant that grows on another, without being a parasite, obtaining nutrients from decaying leaves and other debris, and moisture from the air without rooting into the soil.

The bird's nest fern, or *asplenium nidus*, traps falling leaves and other debris amongst its fronds. Roots grow out from its stems into the decaying plant matter to absorb nutrients. Look below one of these plants, and

you'll see a forest of fine roots, reaching out for whatever they can find to feed on.

The ancestral home of the birds nest fern was Madagascar. Why is it that so many of the plants we find in this part of the world today originally come from this seemingly insignificant island off the coast of Africa?

Bird's nest ferns look impressive in any tropical garden, and give it a sort of jungle feel. It's also perfectly suited to life in Phuket. It needs watering fairly often, but it's fairly laid back about the idea. It is quite possible to neglect it, it doesn't seem to mind.

But it is quite particular about where it lives. It's used to the shade and usually colonizes trees, rock faces and boulders in humid, tropical rainforests, so it isn't much of a sun-worshiper. In fact, put it in direct sunlight and it will quickly scream at you in protest by turning its leaves a rather depressing shade of brown.

Eventually reaching about 150 centimeters tall and wide, the bird's nest fern looks striking next to doors and entrances, or in containers in any spot where it will attract attention – it's impressive.

Although in the wild it prefers to attach itself to other trees, it will happily survive in a pot. You can even grow it in the ground, but the soil should be very well-drained.

The plants should be kept moist generally, but if it's in a pot, and the soil becomes heavy or waterlogged you should find it a new home. Put a few woodchips in the soil and plenty of broken pot pieces around the drainage holes in the base, and that should help. The plant doesn't like heavy soil very much and will commit ritual *hari kari* if left unchecked.

The large, apple-green leaves have a black, prominent midrib which appears as the fronds age. Spores appear often on the underside of leaves, which is how it reproduces.

If you're feeling adventurous, you can do this yourself by collecting the ripe spores on a piece of paper placed under spore bearing leaves. Sow the spores on damp peat moss. Do this somewhere that's not too warm, although the idea is certainly easier than the reality in Phuket.

The growing medium should be kept constantly moist and covered with glass or plastic. Once new plants are large enough to handle they can be transplanted into individual containers.

The bird's nest fern is certainly weird. With one of these in your back garden, just live in the hope that an unknown giant Madagascan bird doesn't try to reclaim it as its home. Start shooting skyward immediately if it's purple and telling you he loves you. Please.

Want to know more  
about a plant  
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## Decor

by Natcha Yuttaworawit



Hanging lamps in various colors can spice up any ceiling. Lamps pictured cost from 570 to 5,500 baht. Inset, maillechort furniture fits with just about any style of decor.

# MOROCCAN MAGIC

Morocco's distinctive arts are alive in Phuket City. Sharms on Yaowarat Rd offers an eclectic mix of furniture, ceramics, lamps, candles and other indoor treasures, all with a touch of Casablanca.

But Sharms doesn't draw the borders at Morocco, there are also a few choice items from other areas of the globe as well, including carved wooden chairs from Africa and large ceramic jars from Vietnam.

All of the products are hand-made, making this a haven suitable for those who want to decorate their home with a touch of creative flair.

The materials used include a great variety from camel skin

to silver and maillechort, a metal made from copper, nickel and zinc.

Sasipa Khankaew, Managing Director of Sharms, says that as her items have a style unto their own they can be blended into any style of decor as long as the decorator keeps in mind the color scheme, atmosphere and function of the room.

One of the store's most popular items are its hanging lamps, made of metal and colored glass, priced between 570 baht and 120,000 baht.

There are also table lamps

with detailed bases and adorned shades that can make any corner a cozy nook.

K. Sasipa explained that she fell in love with the styles and designs she discovered while visiting her brother-in-law in Morocco.

She returned to Phuket inspired to open a shop to share the beauty of Morocco with others.

*Sharms is on Yaowarat Rd, about 100 meters from the Thalang Rd intersection, in Phuket City. Open daily from 10 am to 7 pm. Tel: 076-218515.*

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**Construction Update**

by Janyaporn Morel

Work on phase two of the 50-unit Ocean Breeze Resort and Apartments development, on eight rai of land north of Bang Tao, is 90% complete and is expected to be finished by August.

After completing East Coast Ocean Villas at Ao Por, Bill Barnett, Managing Director of Ocean Breeze Estate Limited, started this project in November 2004.

The first phase of the project, which is now complete, comprises four apartment blocks with a total of 26 units, clubhouse, swimming pool and service area.

Phase two has 24 apartments in three buildings.

There are three types of apartments: studio suites each with an area of 57 square meters, one-bedroom units with an area of 76sqm, and two-bedroom units of 117sqm.

"Most buildings are two stories and have six units; the buildings with three stories have nine units.

"Prices range from 3.8 million baht for the studio suites up to 7.8 million baht for a two-bedroom unit. We had some units that sold for 3.5 million baht, but the price increased by about 10% after they went on sale," said Mr Barnett.

Of the four units still available, the three second-story, two-bedroom units are selling for 7.5 million baht each and the one-bedroom unit apartment is selling for 5.2 million baht.

Mr Barnett said that the success of the development is due to its location, as the Layan



**OUTDOOR LIVING:** Large verandas running around the buildings create a feeling of spaciousness at Ocean Breeze.

## Ocean Breeze nears completion

area is going upmarket, and due to Ocean Breeze's design.

"The architectural design is Colonial – a plantation style that can be seen in the Caribbean or the southern states of America. With this design you have large verandas; we realized that many people want to have a lot of outdoor living space.

"We thought about tropical living, and certainly most of time in Phuket we have nice weather and people want to stay outside, so for the two-bedroom units, for

example, there is a 30sqm veranda," he said.

"We also spent a lot of money on landscaping. We used Kumara from New Zealand to design and landscape our grounds, and the swimming pool is great feature too. The key to living here is that it is like living in a resort but for the price of an apartment.

"Facilities on the grounds include a security system, clubhouse, mini-mart, fitness center and a big swimming pool. CBRE are the estate agents and they

offer rental management for buyers who want to rent out their apartments. CBRE has a management person who works here full time," said Mr Barnett.

"About a third of our customers live in Phuket, another third bought apartments for long-term investment and rent them out, the remaining third live in their apartments some of the time and rent them out short-term.

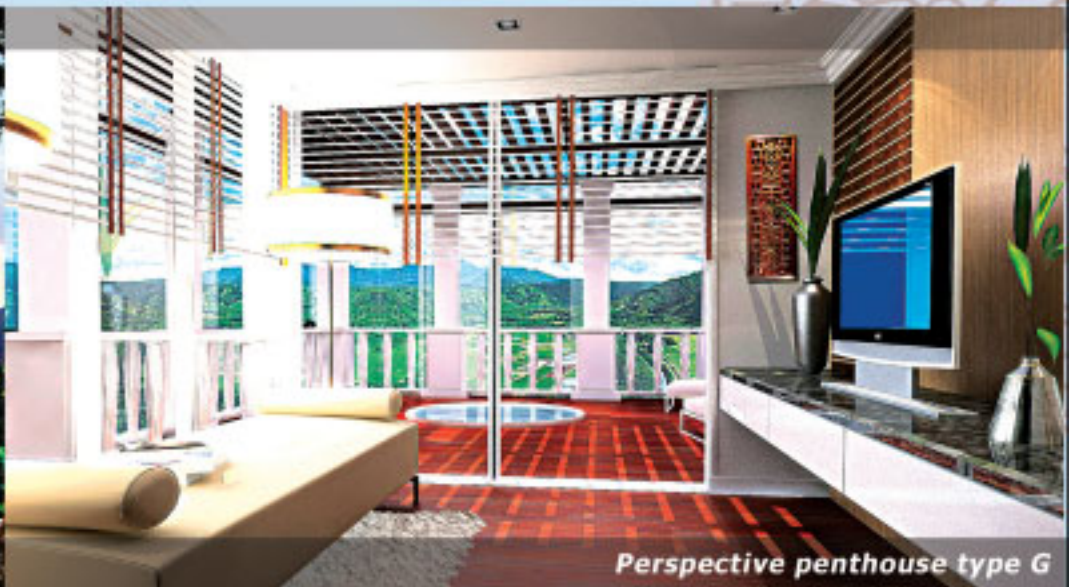
"Our market is regional expatriates from Hong Kong and Singapore and people who live

and work here, mostly expatriates from Europe or Australia. We also have some buyers from the Middle East who buy for investment and people from Europe and the UK who spend their winters here," he added.

*For more information contact Ocean Breeze Estate, 382/77 Moo 1, Srisoonthorn Rd, Cherng Talay, Thalang, Phuket 83110. Tel: 076-271535. Fax: 076-271536. Website: [www.oceanbreezephuket.com](http://www.oceanbreezephuket.com)*

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## Home of the Week

## Chalong

# European standards in Chalong



A rooftop sala and surrounding pool area are perfect for entertaining at this large villa in Chalong.

It can sometimes be difficult to find a property that will suit a large family or those who are looking for a piece of luxury with some surrounding space. This brand new luxury, European-standard villa set on 1,000 square meters of land looking toward Chalong bay offers plenty of space, both inside and out.

The 260sqm villa is built to the highest standards from the ground up. Quality starts from the huge foundation in place, and continues throughout up to the double brick walls and insulated roofs.

The building consists of four large bedrooms with high ceilings, en-suite bathrooms and walk-in wardrobes. A large, modern Western kitchen equipped with imported appliances from Europe, and living and dining space all surround a 70sqm swimming pool.

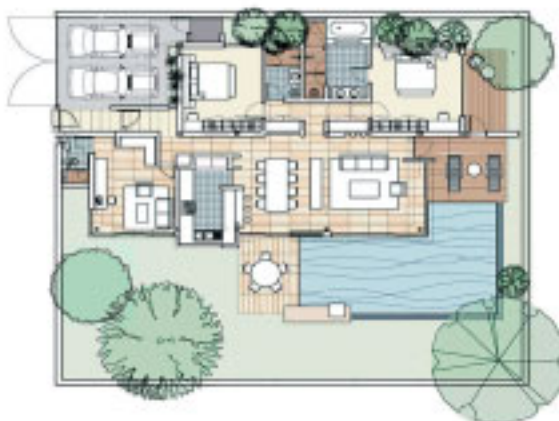
Entertain around the pool or from the rooftop sala with a top-

of-the-range barbecue grill to cook up a feast for friends and family. The property has everything included, nothing is missing. It is sold furnished, but if the furniture is not suited to you, a price without it can be negotiated. Other utilities include cable TV/ Astro TV, telephone line, WiFi ADSL Internet and three-phase electricity.

Situated in the Chalong area and only minutes drive from all the major beaches, you are not stuck in a compound but is still in a secure cul-da-sac. The major shopping centers and nightlife are also not far by car.

This property is priced at 24 million baht with freehold title.

For more details contact Richard Lusted at Siam Real Estate at Tel: 076-288908, or visit the website at [www.siamrealestate.com](http://www.siamrealestate.com) or email: [info@siamrealestate.com](mailto:info@siamrealestate.com)



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# Property Gazette

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### BANG TAO BEACH GARDENS

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### HOUSE FOR SALE

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### KRABI LAND

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### RAWAI BEACH

condo. Sea view, foreign freehold. 450,000 baht. Tel: 086-9408914. For more info email: freeholdprop@yahoo.com

### 6.9 MILLION BAHT



New house 4km from Laguna and Bang Tao Beach. Tel: 089-8131447. Email: kwanphuket@hotmail.com, kwan6a@yahoo.com

### RAWAI 2-STORY

house. New, 160sqm. Price: 1.5 million baht. Close to beach. For more information call Tel: 086-9408914. Or contact for details via email at: freeholdprop@yahoo.com

### NEW HOUSE FOR SALE

in Thantong Villa 7. Townhouse with 2 floors, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms on Chao Fa East Rd opposite California Villa. Price: 1.9 million baht. Contact Khun Jeab. Tel: 084-6890760. Email: a\_manasanan@hotmail.com

### WATERFRONT

condo at central Karon Beach, corner unit with sea view. 9th floor, 167sqm, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, Unit#9D. 12.6 million baht. Contact Tel: 081-4084991.

### HOUSE IN PATONG

4.7 million. 23sq wah, 3 bedrooms with aircons, bathtub (hot/cold water), living room, kitchen, 2 cable TVs, 2 fridges, washing machine, fully-furnished. 1km from Patong Beach. Tel: 076-341724, 081-5690664. Email: sunsetap@ji-net.com

### POOL VILLA IN NAI HARN

New, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, european kitchen. 5.5 million baht. Please call Tel: 076-288047, 081-8941660. Email: cottrell@loxinfo.co.th

### KOH YAO YAI

2 rai, 1 million per rai, Chanote. Water, electricity, close to the beach. Tel: 081-8928208.

### PATONG VIEWPOINT BLUE POINT



Viewpoint for sale. One of the hot spots on the island. Blue Point is located just outside Patong. Blue Point overlooks the complete bay of Patong and has breathtaking views. Visited daily by many people to enjoy the view over Patong bay and the sunset. Located on the hillside, next to Baan Suan Kamnan, just outside Patong on the south end. Areas connected. Total area for sale is 2 rai. Perfect for exclusive residential usage. Also interesting for small/low resort or hotel. Nor Sor 3 Gor. (Upgrade and transfer with Chanote title possible.) Only serious inquires. Call Edwin for more information and details at Tel: 086-7866350. Email: buurmanb@hotmail.com

### CHEAPEST BEACHFRONT LAND!

1.6 million baht per rai. Will sell from 5 to 22 rai. Contact for additional details at email: admin@thaisunshine-developments.com

### PATONG BEACH CONDO

Part foreign freehold. Price: 1 million baht. Tel: 086-9408914. Email: freeholdprop@yahoo.com

### HOUSE FOR SALE OR

rent. House on Chao Fa Rd near Khao Khat viewpoint, 76 square meters, 2 bedrooms. Master bedroom is fully-furnished with aircon. Restroom with hot water. For rent: 5,500 baht/month. For sale: 1.2 million baht. Contact K. Jeab at Tel: 084-6890760 or email: a\_manasanan@hotmail.com

### SEAVIEW LANDS

Patong 1, 2, 2, 6, 3, 3 and 15 rai. Tel: 089-4696839. Email: mahe@thaicard.net

### GARDEN VILLA LOCH PALM GOLF

course, lake view, 150sqm, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, pool and sala, membership included. 12.7 million baht. Call Tel: 089-4729739. Or via email: savedaplanet@hotmail.com

### BUILDING FOR SALE

5.2 million baht. On Kata Beach tourist street, 260sqm floors with 2 bathrooms, 1 kitchen. Tel: 081-6936386. Email: kata\_shophouse@yahoo.com

### OCEAN VIEW NORTH

Patong. Top-floor, freehold, 2-bedroom apartment with swimming pools. 9.7 million. Contact for photos and details. Tel: 086-2765117. Email: jihshand@yahoo.co.uk

### 4 RAI FLAT LAND

Chanote title, square land, access from 2 roads. 2km from Heriones Monument. 500m from mainroad. 6.8 million baht. Tel: 084-0577505.

### 200 METERS TO THE BEACH

New! Worth 5 million baht. Quick sale to best offer over 4 million baht. Please contact Tel: 089-7830494, 081-0837354. Or via email: jimcox007@msn.com

### TOWNHOUSE 4 FLOORS

4 aircon units, nice furniture, large kitchen. Also with mini-pool. Price: 3.9 million baht. Please contact for more information via email: samwithness@yahoo.com

### SELL HOUSE, 3 APARTMENTS

1st floor: 3 rooms, 50sqm. 2nd floor: 5 rooms, 80sqm. Jacuzzi, 3x40sqm garden. 3 million baht. Live in one, rent other two. Urgent! Nai Ham. Contact Tel: 084-4454614.

### 885SQM PLOT IN

Bang Tao, 1.79 million baht. 3-phase electricity, road. Nor Sor 3 Gor. Ready to build. Contact me for further details. Tel: 089-5903665, 086-2670157. Email: bannuaton@yahoo.com

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Within 100 metres of the beach, 80 sqm. of living space.  
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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



# Property Gazette

## SEAVIEW LAND IN CHALONG



3 rai for sale, stunning sea view over Chalong bay and surrounding islands. 8.5 million baht per rai. Can subdivide. Please contact Tel: 087-1057320. Or via email: stefan@phuketit.co.th

## HOUSE FOR SALE



Patanatongthin Rd. 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 1 living room, kitchen, garden. Tel: 081-0916680.

## 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

## IMMACULATE VILLA



Very private location. Lush tropical garden, pool, 4 quality bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, large living room, top kitchen, huge patio. Fully-furnished with 450sqm of living area, 1,500sqm of land. Chanote. Thalang area near Heroines Monument. Please contact for info at Tel: 084-6907057.

## 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 or email: nong.phuket@yahoo.de

## DREAM HOUSE FOR SALE



Dreamhouse 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. Please call Tel: 081-8926251. Or email: mrsouza@hotmail.com More photos and details can be found at our website: www.phuketdreamhome.com

## LUXURY VILLAS



Close to Laguna. Best negotiable price. Brand new 1,100sqm land, 4 bedrooms, pool, lotus pond & garden. Contact K. Gai. Tel: 081-7344324. For more information please see our website at www.phuketgreenlandvillas.com

## ATTRACTIVE HOUSE FOR SALE

in secure and desirable development. 3 bedrooms (2 en-suite), 3 bathrooms, 2 floors, living room, verandas, kitchen, garden, laundry room, study, garage, ADSL, UBC. 6.9 million baht. Call for more info at Tel: 084-8439579. Email: somlerdee@yahoo.com

## PATONG TOWER

for sale/rent. 1-bedroom, modern apartment, best location, beach road. Tel: 084-8473304. Info and photos at www.selectphuket.com

## POOL HOUSE IN

Rawai. New house, furnished. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, living room, kitchen, 4 aircon units, alarm system, sala, 8m x 4m pool. Terrace in 2 levels, walled garden and parking. Includes company papers and Chanote title. 5.8 million baht. Tel: +45-24419447. Email: bo@motto.dk

## PATONG LAND FOR

sale. Chanote seaview land near Merlin beach hotel. 13 rai. 8 million baht per rai. More info at Kalim seaview restaurant. Tel: 081-6766214.

## LAND IN TRANG

4.5 rai in Trang. Perfect location for future business. In front of main road, opposite university. Please contact K. Tan for more info. Tel: 076-296658, 089-6513479. Email: tannynanny@hotmail.com

## 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 additional details. Tel: 076-383193, 089-7245655. For photos, visit our website at: www.phukethouse4sale.com

## CONDOS FOR FOREIGN

ownership. Nai Harn Beach condos, high-quality, up-market, safe, secure. Large 2-bedroom units completely furnished and equipped, great location, views, close to the beach. Only 8 million baht. Must see! Please call for more information at Tel: 081-7974068.

## BEST HONEST DEAL

in Rawai. 2 plots of land with hill view. Flat, ready to be built on. Chanote titles. 3,576sqm (2 rai 96sq wah). 35m deep x 107m wide. Asking 7 million baht. 1,252sqm (3 ngan 13sq wah). 27m deep x 50m wide. Asking 3.2 million baht. Contact me for more information. Call Tel: 089-9728544. Email: av58phuket@yahoo.com

## RAWAI LAND

for sale. 432sqm in Rawai near Mangosteen Resort. Call Tel: 086-2733288.

## NEW 95SQM

bungalow. 2.8 million baht. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, living room, kitchen, carport, 210sqm land. Please contact Tel: 086-9518140, 081-5383821. Email: info@1nj.de

## LAND FOR SALE

Chanote. 62 talang wah Srisutad Rd, soi Kobkorn Anuson. 620,000 baht. Please contact for additional information. Tel: 081-5378648.

## WE BUILD YOUR HOUSE

90sqm bungalow for 990,000 baht. 145sqm two-story house for 1.39 million baht. We build you any style of private home or commercial buildings in any location on Phuket. Contact JN-Tech Co Ltd - German Construction. Please contact for info at Tel: 076-322015, 084-8528234. Or via email: info@1nj.de Visit website: www.1nj.de/e-index.html

## 50% DISCOUNT

No joke! Moving Oct 07 to Germany & want to sell quickly. 2-story, Western-style marble villa with all extras on 3.5 rai Chanote land. Ready to build your own residence in quiet area in Thalang. Now 7.5 million baht or best offer. For more info call Tel: 087-3898139, 089-2911112.

## HOUSE FOR SALE

Beautiful Sino-Portuguese house in the center of Phuket City for sale. Already restored, ideal for restaurant, guesthouse or business. Tel: 081-9700121. Email: tikky2@mac.com

## POOL VILLA FOR SALE

New 4 bedrooms, 5 air conditioners, living room, kitchen, garden, fully-furnished. Contact Tel: 084-8516121.

## SEAVIEW LAND PLOTS

Bang Tao. 3-phase electricity, road, top sea view. Starting at 3.9 million baht. Contact us for further details. Tel: 086-267-0157, 089-5903665. Email: bannuaton@yahoo.com

## NEW MODERN HOUSE

for sale in Kathu. 3 bedrooms, en-suite bathrooms, living room, kitchen/dining, laundry room, set around large patio/veranda. Walled garden. Private parking. Close to golf courses, British International School. 9 minutes to Patong. Price: 4.5 million baht neg. Tel: 084-8439579. More info at email: somsrij@aol.com

## KATHU HOUSE

for sale. 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, lounge, dining room, big kitchen, furnished. 1.6 million baht. Tel: 087-2705514.

## HOUSES FROM WELLTA

My name is Wellta. I was born in Phuket. I have many houses for sale and for rent here in Phuket. Tel: 081-9680309. Email: info@houseinphuket.com Please visit our website at www.houseinphuket.com

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# Property Gazette

## BEACHFRONT LAND FOR SALE



1,125sq wah, 30x130 meter with NorSor 3 Kor, Sukorn Island, Trang. Price: 1.6 million baht. Please contact via Tel: 084-8516845. Or email: odo\_jp@hotmail.com

## DESIGNED BY YOU

New project by a Phuket local. Good location for privacy. Design your dream home. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-5372655. Fax: 076-525063. Email: kwan\_1905@hotmail.com

## URGENT SALE!

2 million baht. Furnished, 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom home with kitchen and 2 aircons. Ready to move in. Please contact us for more details. Tel: 086-7003376. Or email: contactmalisa@yahoo.com

## RAWAI BEACH VILLA

for sale. 2 new houses. Price: 3.5 million baht with 240sqm of land. Price: 5 million baht with 400sqm. 100 meters from the beach. Please contact for additional information at Tel: 086-9408914. Email: freeholdprop@yahoo.com

## 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. Please call for more information and details at Tel: 084-8144090, or 081-0263029.

## CHALONG HOUSE



for sale in Land & Houses Chalong. New house with furniture, never occupied, very nice design, saloon, reception, office, kitchen, maid's room, 4 rooms (one with furniture and aircon + dressing room + bathroom with Jacuzzi). Price: 6.9 million baht. Please call for details. Tel: 081-5693890.

## FURNISHED HOUSE

5 minutes to Laguna Phuket. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, UBC, ADSL, solar water heating, 3 aircons, living room, large hall area, 5m x 10m pool. Usable area: 310sqm. Land: 1,200sqm. Price: 13 million baht. Contact Tel: 089-8738295. Email: tomasflet@hotmail.com

## LAND FOR SALE

9 rai for sale at Pasak Soi 8, Chong Talay. 2.7 million baht per rai. Please contact for more information and details. Tel: 076-282808, 086-9519198. Fax: 076-282346. Email: heypiassy@hotmail.com

## CONDOMINIUMS

Coming soon: 18 luxury condominiums in Pasak, Chong Talay. Please email for more information and details. Email: info@skylinephuket.com

## 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. For more information please contact Tel: 086-4706648. Email: thanuwat.p@gmail.com

## HOUSE WITH POOL



Huge house located near Boat Lagoon and British Int'l School. 7 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, 8 aircons, swimming pool, Jacuzzi, fitness equipment, cable TV, ADSL. Tel: 081-5301276. Email: svanunge@hotmail.com

## PATONG STUDIO

with sea view. Top studio apartment. Fully-furnished with Western kitchen, in best location with swimming pool & carpark. 2.7 million baht. Please call for information at Tel: 089-2911112.

## APARTMENT

building for sale located in Phuket City. 18 rooms, 4 floors with Chanote. Call for more information. Tel: 084-0541447.

## 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 information, please visit our website at: www.chalonghouse.4t.com

## 12 RAI IN PALAI

12 rai of flat land for sale between Chalong and Phuket City. Road access, water, electricity, Chanote title. Ready to build. Willing to subdivide. Price: 3 million baht per rai. Please call for additional details and specifications at Tel: 087-1057320 or contact via email: stefan@phuketit.co.th

## SHADY RETREAT



3-bedroom house for sale. Chanote title, 1.75 rai. Newly renovated, 25 mins north of Phuket airport, 5 mins to beach and local town, room to build 2 more houses. 4.2 million baht. Options to develop. Please contact Tel: 087-8067145.

## 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

## BEACH CONDOS

in Karon. Last units left, 12 bedrooms, starting from 69 million baht. Easy walking distance to the beach. Guaranteed rental return. Contact Tel: 076-292265, 086-0043008. Email: info@ayudhya.net For further details, please see our website at: www.ayudhya.net/english/condos/index.php

## PATONG HOMES FOR SALE

Buy properties direct from owners (no middle man). Call Tel: 087-2650118. Email: ant\_p\_clark@yahoo.co.uk For further details, please see our website at: http://housesforsalephuket.blogspot.com

## COMMERCIAL BUILDING KATA

Brand new! 240sqm, 3 floors. Large shop space + 5 apartments. Contact Tel: 084-0657218. Email: suzannesource@hotmail.com

## HOUSE + GARDEN

in Kamala: 3.2 million baht. House and 1.5 rai: 7.9 million baht. Land plot, 340sqm: 950,000 baht. Call Tel: 076-292596, 086-2678477. Email: tourniechristian@hotmail.com

## LAND FOR SALE

in Kamala. Spectacular mountain-top view. 3 ngan 43 wah (almost 1 rai). Electricity & water supplies. Price: 5.8 million baht ono. For more info, contact Tel: 076-386038, 086-6870379. Email: anthonym@rks1.freeserve.co.uk

## Properties For Rent

### KAMALA LARGE VILLA

4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, quality teak furnishings, large teak kitchen, side-by-side fridge, full-size snooker table, 50" plasma TV, broadband, large garage. Set in 3/4 rai beautiful tropical garden secure private estate. Garden maintenance, house cleaning, cable TV all included. Long term: 60,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-8111067.

### BEACHFRONT CONDO

Kalim area, Patong. High standard. Fully-furnished, 2 bedrooms, kitchen, pool, many facilities. Call Tel: 081-8920038.

### HOUSE FOR RENT

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, big living room, big kitchen, 2 sets of furniture, telephone. Near Surin and Bang Tao beaches, contract for 1 year or more. Tel: 089-2883047.

### HOUSE FOR RENT

Near Central, 4 rooms, kitchen, bathroom, Sat TV, 2 aircon units, ADSL 9,000 baht. Please contact for information and details. Tel: 081-8916036. Or via email: phuketgazette@siaminfo.com

### HOUSE RENTALS

Wide selection of house rentals long and short term. Rawai/Nai Harn land and house for sale from 700,000 baht. Tel: 084-8486139. Email: justin@lastparadisephuket.com

### 3-BEDROOM SEAVIEW

house with pool, large gardens. Only 10 mins to the British school. Furnished: 40,000 baht per month. Please contact Tel: 086-2796283.

### 184SQ WAH HOUSE

located on Mae Luan Rd, near Rang Hill for rent as office, spa, restaurant or house. Please contact for more info via email: romeplace@hotmail.com

### NEW HOUSE

in Kamala. Small, 2 bedrooms. 8,000 baht per month. Close to the beach. Please contact Tel: 081-8928208.

### GOLF VILLA FOR RENT

New 4-bedroom, 4-bathroom villa at Phuket Country Club. Pool, aircon, maids' rooms. Long term: 65,000 baht per month. For more information call Tel: 086-2772691. Email: davidinasia@hotmail.com

### RAWAI BUNGALOW

1 to 2 bedrooms with kitchen, aircon, bathroom, cable, ADSL, quiet location, nice terrace. From 8,000 baht per month. Please contact for more information. Tel: 086-2790837.

### NICE & MODERN HOUSES FOR RENT



Furnished & excellent locations. 5 mins to Rawai & Nai Harn beaches. 162sqm. 2 bedrooms with private bathrooms. 1 guest toilet. 3 aircons. Large living/dining room. Telephone line with ADSL. Free water supply and garbage service. 20,000 baht per month. Call Khun Nui at Tel: 087-3830936.

### LUXURY VILLA

3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, villa for rent. Infinity swimming pool, fully-furnished, LCD TV, European kitchen. On Baan Bua exclusive estate, Nai Harn/Rawai. 90,000 baht per month. Tel: 084-8486139. Email: justin@lastparadisephuket.com

### KATA 5-STAR

oceanfront luxury 2-bedroom apartment. Spa, pools, ADSL, sea view, quiet. Price: 60,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-9726017. Email: asiasail@yahoo.com For additional information, please visit our website at http://koumbele.com/kata2/

### NAI HARN, RAWAI, CHALONG

house. Maximum 150,000 baht per year. Please email: bengtjansson@hotmail.com

### RAWAI/NAI HARN

Only 5,000 baht per month if taken good care of until September 15. New house and nice sea view. Contact for info at Tel: 085-7955383.

### RUSTIC HOUSE FOR

rent in Rawai. Available in May. Rent: 7,000 baht per month, minimum 1 year. 2 bedrooms, living room, office, kitchen, bathroom, cable, ADSL. Please contact for additional info. Tel: 081-9560257.

### KAMALA BEACH

New apts and houses for rent or sale, fully-furnished. Rent: 15,000 to 30,000 per month. For additional details, please contact Tel: 084-3059606.

### CHALONG NEW HOME

Furnished, 2-bedroom home for rent with telephone, UBC, and aircon. Please contact for details and pricing information. Tel: 089-6521473.

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# Property Gazette

## HOUSE WITH BEAUTIFUL VIEW

House with big terrace and view over fields with elephants. Modern-style 2 bedroom + en-suite bathroom. Full aircon, modern kitchen, alarm system, garage and 100sqm basement. Must see. 28,000 baht per month. Long term only. Please contact for more information. Tel: 089-8744050. Email: happyjo@procom.in.th

## RAWAI BEACH VILLA

Furnished, 2 bedrooms, 4 aircons, ADSL, UBC. 20,000 baht per month. Please Tel: 086-9408914. Or email: freeholdprop@yahoo.com

## KATA LUXURY APT

Oceanfront, 5-star, 1-bedroom apartment. Pools, gym, ADSL, quiet area, beach view. 30,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-9726017. Email: asiasail@yahoo.com For further details, please see our website at http://koumbele.com/kata1/

## BANG TAO BEACH GARDENS

2-bedroom, 2-bathroom luxury apartment for long term let. 150m to beach. Gym and lap pool on site. Wireless Internet, cable TV. Ground floor corner unit. 39,000 baht per month, excluding utilities. Tel: 084-6304068. Email: devbattles@yahoo.co.uk

## KATHU HOUSE

Large 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom house w/ 3 aircons, European style kitchen, telephone line, garden, etc. Close to international school & golf course. Secluded, private road. Long-term rental. 25,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-323663, 089-875 2532. Fax: 076-323663. Email: paulstrong23@hotmail.com

## KATA TOWNHOUSE

170sqm living space, 70sqm roof terrace, small garden, near beach, unfurnished, only 10,000 baht per month! Tel: 076-381-826, 083-3901680. Email: berndkellner@t-online.de

## KATHU TOWNHOUSE

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, new furnishings, parking, executive desk, chair, computer, ADSL, balcony, plants, close to everything. 15,000 baht obo. Call for more info. Tel: 089-9733276. Email: wes@1stchoicecommerce.com

## HOUSE AT CHALONG

Near Palai Beach, quiet, 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, aircon, carpark, fully-furnished. Please contact for more info. Call Tel: 089-7288311.

## PATONG BAY VIEW HOME



2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, pool, ADSL, UBC, kitchen, dining room, great location. Long term only, must see. Tel: 087-8821963. Email: benlee53@hotmail.com

## SEAVIEW HOUSE

Fully-furnished, 2 bedrooms, nice, quiet & secure in Chalong Bay. 22,000 per month. Tel: 081-6064279.

## KATHU HOUSE

for rent. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, large living room, kitchen, walled garden, private parking. 20,000 baht per month. Please contact for more information. Tel: 084-8439579. Email: kittisakdj@yahoo.com

## HOUSES FROM WELLTA

My name is Wellta. I was born in Phuket. I have many houses for sale and for rent here in Phuket. Tel: 081-9680309. Email: info@houseinphuket.com For further details, please see our website at: www.houseinphuket.com

## HOUSE IN PATONG

for rent. Modern, two-story house. The home has a Western-style kitchen, dining area, large living area, 3 aircons, 3 bedrooms and 3 toilets. 35,000 baht per month. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-641911, 084-8442134. Email: denelson3395@yahoo.com

## FREEDOM APT

Near Wat Patong (2/56 Soi Khuan Yang). Fully-furnished, European-style, small kitchen, fridge, aircon, fan, cable TV, safe, hot water, bathroom. 9,000 baht per month. Please contact for further details and information. Call Tel: 084-8450541, 081-8914561.

## 3-STORY SEA VIEW

house. Includes 6 rooms, 4 bathrooms and 2 big balconies. Great sea view, located between Rawai and Nai Harn. Contact for more info. Tel: 085-7955383.

## PALAI, GREEN HOUSE BIG GARDEN

Fully-furnished, 2 aircons, 2 bedrooms, hot shower, living room, kitchen, garage. 11,000 baht per month. Palai area. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-8924311.

## DRAMATIC SEA VIEWS

A secluded villa comprising 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 reception rooms, extensive outdoor entertaining area with swimming pool, sala and private gardens. 10 mins to BIS, marina and Laguna. 40,000 baht per month. Call Tel: 086-2796283.

## RENT SEAVIEW HOUSES IN RAWAI

Private street off Rawai Beach Rd. 4 single townhouses in a row just 40m from the beach. Each 2-bedroom, 2-bathroom, carport, ADSL, Int'l direct dial, aircon, fully-furnished. Rent: 15,000 each, negotiable. Available end of May. Call Tel: 089-9662994. Email: nengrich@gmail.com

## YA NUI BUNGALOW

Close to beach in small resort, bungalow with 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, utility room, kitchen, dining area and lounge. 2 aircons, 4 fans, hot water, 25m shared pool, fully-furnished. Telephone line, ADSL, cable TV, daily cleaning. Electric included. Rent: 30,000 baht. Sell: 3.8 million baht. Contact for more info. Tel: 081-9586723.

## CHALONG HOUSE

Nearly new house for rent. 2 aircon bedrooms, fully-furnished. Quiet street close to everything. Please contact for more information. Call Tel: 084-8485517.

## PALM GARDEN

New 2-bedroom, 2-bathroom in Thalang gated community. 24-hr security, swimming pool, furnished. 17,000 per month. Tel: 081-8928208.

## KATA LUXURY APT

Furnished, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, aircon, Western teak kitchen, huge terrace. Long or short term. Starts at 20,000 baht per month for long term. Tel: 089-5926890. Email: north&west98@yahoo.com

## KATHU APARTMENT

A quiet, furnished apartment, 3 bedrooms, living room, kitchen, 1 bathroom, terrace, aircon, fans, swimming pool, telephone. Near Loch Palm Golf Club. Long-term rent at 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-202725, 081-8916632.

## HOUSE IN TRANG

for rent. Beautiful new house, Pak Meang beach front, 1 bedroom, kitchen, bathroom, one big living room and car park. 10 minutes to Chao Mai National Park. Long-term (minimum 1 year) rent: 8,000 baht per month. Please contact for more information. Call Tel: 087-3840864.

## BYPASS TOWNHOUSE FOR RENT

4-story unfurnished townhouse, opposite Lotus on bypass road. 37,500 baht per month. Please call for a visit. Please contact for more information and details. Tel: 081-9707951. Email: pattawat@holidaysiam.com

## LUXURY VILLA FOR RENT

Resort villa. Fully-furnished, private pool, car parking, 2 or 3 bedrooms available for long- or short-term rental. Special low season rates. Tel: 076-292265, 084-0535780. info@ayudhya.net For further details, please see our website: www.ayudhya.net

## SHOPHOUSE BLOCK

5 terraced houses for rent on the bypass road. 32,000 baht per month. Please call K.Chanthra for more information. Tel: 081-6932167.

## 4 BEDROOMS + POOL

New 4-bedroom home with pool. Directly on the 9th fairway. Partially-furnished. Great environment, quiet and with security. Contact Tel: 081-9390176, 081-9390176. Email: beaver@tsf.net

## CHALONG HOUSE

Close to beach. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, carpark, European kitchen, 4 aircons, private pool, fully-furnished, ADSL, LCD TV, home security. Rent: 30,000 baht per month. Sell: 6.25 million baht. Contact Tel: 081-9586723.

## CHALONG HOUSE

Near Palai beach, quiet, 2 bedrooms, aircon, 1 bathroom, fully-furnished, carpark. Tel: 089-7288311.

## 2 KATA HOUSES

for rent. 1 to 2 bedrooms, garden, UBC, ADSL. Rent: 17,000 baht per month. 2 bedrooms, aircon, TV. Rent: 11,000 baht per month. Call Tel: 081-7371687, 086-5869821.

## PANORAMIC SEA VIEWS

with complete seclusion. This extraordinary villa comprises 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 3 reception rooms, study, snooker room, maids' quarters. Beautiful walled gardens with swimming pool and sauna. 10 mins to BIS. 65,000 per month. Tel: 086-2796283.

## RAT-U-THIT ROAD SHOPHOUSE

Detached building, large shop with offices above, prime location. For more info call Tel: 081-8935200. Email: gsf@seal-asia.com

## RAWAI RESIDENCE

studios. Rent: 6,000 to 12,000 baht per month. Aircon, safe, ADSL, UBC, close to beach. Tel: 086-9408914.

## 3-BEDROOM HOUSE

for rent. In Chaofa Thani. 9,500 baht per month. Nice garden. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-280440, 086-6831964. Fax: 076-280440. Email: franklee200@hotmail.com

## NAI HARN HOUSE

1 minute to the beach. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, aircon. 20,000 baht per month, minimum 1 year. Call Tel: 081-3971835.

## SEAVIEW APARTMENTS

for rent in Karon & Patong beaches. Please contact for more information. Tel: 089-4912496. For more info Email: bluewaterphuket@gmail.com

## 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. Rent: 50,000 baht per month. For more information email: hans\_lange@hotmail.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. Please contact Tel: 081-9701716.

## 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. Please contact for more information. Tel: 084-1861858. Email: coltat1962@yahoo.com

## KATHU TOWNHOUSE

Townhouse in Kathu for rent. 2 bedrooms, fully-furnished, air conditioned. 9,000 baht per month. Please contact for more info. Tel: 081-8953661.

## CHALONG HOUSE

for rent. Sea view, fully-furnished, 2 bedrooms, Chalong bay. 22,000 baht per month. Call Tel: 081-6064279.

## 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

## EXCLUSIVE RESIDENCE

3-bedroom villa offering breathtaking sea views. 3 bathrooms, maid's room, snooker room, study, lounge, dining, kitchen, spacious terrace. Tropical gardens, private pool. Secluded and secure location. Internet and satellite TV. 70,000 baht per month. Please call Tel: 086-2796283.

## 1-BEDROOM CONDO

in Patong Tower. Newly renovated in a beautiful modern style. Best location in Patong. Only long term. 18,000 baht per month. Please contact for more information. Tel: 087-1238320. Email: deherder@hotmail.com

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## BRUCE ROBERTS SPRAY 35'

sailboat. Steel, good condition. Fully-equipped. Please contact for more details. Tel: 084-1121419. Email: [g22lander@yahoo.ca](mailto:g22lander@yahoo.ca)

## FISHING BOAT



New wood epoxy fiberglass. 1.5 meter by 6.5 meter. 120,000 baht. Please contact K. Eat for more information. Tel: 081-4775637.

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This exceptional custom-designed and built vessel is now offered for sale. Powered by a 160hp Yanmar shaft drive diesel. 180L fuel tank, 100L water, Clarion/Bose stereo system, fresh water shower, S/S boarding ladder, 25kg F-bow thruster and many more extras. Inspection a must! Please contact email: [sc@orientglobal.com](mailto:sc@orientglobal.com)

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The sailing yacht Big A can take some paying crew July 19-22. Package includes bungalow, race, car. Please contact Tel: 076-383080, 086-9401860. Fax: 076-381934. Email: [bigasail@samart.co.th](mailto:bigasail@samart.co.th)

## SAILBOAT 1968 ISLANDER

for sale. 44ft world cruiser, laying Haven Marina, US\$50,000. Please contact for more details. Email: [temptation44@hotmail.com](mailto:temptation44@hotmail.com)

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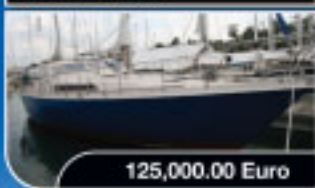
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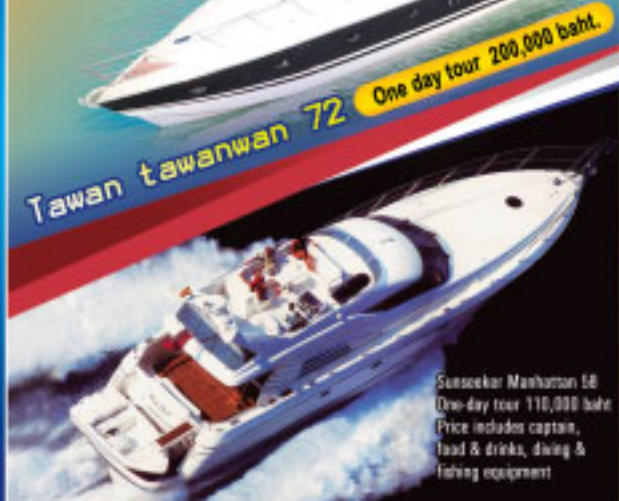
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# Island Job Mart

## STAFF REQUIRED

Owners and guests living in luxurious villas are world travelers who value convenience & service. To ensure their utmost satisfaction and experience, Phuket Villas & Homes is currently seeking Thai nationals to occupy the following positions:



### 1. Villa Managers - 4 positions

- Male or Female age 25+
- BA in Hotel or Hospitality Management preferred
- Excellent communication skills including knowledge of MS Office, e-mail and internet
- 2 years minimum experience in managing people
- Strong leadership and problem solving skills

### 2. Technician Supervisor / Estate Supervisor

- Male age 25+
- BA in Mechanical / Electrical or related field
- At least 2-3 years experience in system maintenance
- Strong leadership and self motivated
- Able to supervise other staff

### 3. Administrative Assistant / Estate Secretary

- Male or Female age 22+
- Vocational or higher in Business Admin or related field
- Computer literacy and familiar with MS Office e-mail and internet
- Good communication skills, service minded and well organized
- Knowledge of gardening and landscaping maintenance an advantage

### 4. Thai Chef - 4 positions

- Male or Female age 25+
- Hotel or restaurant experience essential
- Some English required
- Creative and very competent in the preparation and cooking of Thai cuisine
- Good organizational skills and costing experience required
- Ability to conduct cooking classes for guests an advantage

### 5. Technician - 4 positions

- Male age over 22 years
- Vocational or higher in Mechanical / Electrical
- At least 1 years experience in systems maintenance

### 6. Maids - 8 positions

- Female age over 22 years

### 7. Gardeners - 4 positions

- Male or Female age over 22 years

### 8. Accountant / Bookkeeper

- Male or Female age over 22 years
- Good command of English
- Experience with Quickbooks and payroll systems

All positions offer an attractive salary and benefits including service charge. Applicants are invited to apply in writing with full CV stating present and expected salaries, enclosed with a recent photo to: [contact@phuketvillasandhomes.com](mailto:contact@phuketvillasandhomes.com) or call **mob: 089 152 5139**

Thai Nationals only. Positions 1 - 4 & 8 require a good command of English and computer skills are essential. Male applicants must have completed or exempt from military service. Private villa or hotel experience an advantage.



A six-star resort style development along the shores of Bang Tao Beach is currently seeking for a candidate of

### Chief Engineer

The successful candidate should be in possession of these qualifications:

- Thai national.
- Bachelor's degree in Electrical or Mechanical Engineer.
- At least 10 years experience in hotel business.
- Ability to establish and implement project plans
- Strong knowledge of system maintenance management.
- Management ability
- Well organized & problem-solving skills
- Able to achieve high-level quality control.
- Proficiency in English communication.

### Asst. Chief Engineer

- Thai national.
- Bachelor's degree in Electrical or Mechanical Engineer.
- At least 5 years experience in hotel business.
- Knowledge of system maintenance management.
- Well organized & problem-solving skills
- Proficiency in English communication

Interested candidates are invited to write in with full resume, present and expected salaries and a recent photo to [info@thepalmbeachclub.com](mailto:info@thepalmbeachclub.com)

**GST International Co., Ltd.**  
326 Prabaramee Road, Patong, Kathu, Phuket 83150  
Tel. (076) 310 402-4 Fax. (076) 310 405

### TIGER MUAY THAI

Positions are for Thai Nationals only please. Busy and fun sports-orientated business in Chalong is looking for a receptionist/office staff and a cook/waitress for our Thai + foreign restaurant.

**Receptionist:** English skills and computer skills, working with foreigners. (8 am - 5 pm)

**Cook:** Thai + foreign food. (2 pm - 9 pm)

Please contact for additional information and further details. To schedule and interview, call K. Smai at Tel: 076-367071. Or via email: [info@tigermuaythai.com](mailto:info@tigermuaythai.com)

### HOUSEKEEPER/COOK

Mature Thai national. English-speaking. To cook for Thai and Europeans, supervise, control and work with staff. Live-in, couple considered. Must like dogs. Please email CV or call for more details. Tel: 081-9683184. Email: [tj.kvrspa@gmail.com](mailto:tj.kvrspa@gmail.com)



Impiana Phuket Cabana Resort & Spa is surrounded by nothing but pallid white sandy beach and fringed with tropical greenery, the island's one and only first class boutique resort haven is situated at the heart of Phuket's most popular beach, Patong Beach. We are the only resort to sit directly on Patong Beach... "no one sleeps closer to Patong Beach than an Impiana guest."

With our excellent location, product and services, the resort is constantly running at a high occupancy. To ensure we constantly deliver the highest possible services to our guests, we are now recruiting highly motivated individuals for the following positions:

- |                           |                      |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. F&B Operations Manager | 6. Waiter & Waitress |
| 2. Restaurant Manager     | 7. Bartender         |
| 3. Chief Gardener         | 8. Spa Therapist     |
| 4. Bellman & Driver       | 9. Engineer          |
| 5. Hostess                | 10. Room Maid        |

Applicants must have a minimum of 2 years' experience in related fields strong customer service skills and good personality

For position 1-7, applicants must have good command of spoken English and positions are opened to Thai Nationality only except position no.1 (Thai candidates are encouraged to apply)

Please send your application to : [hrmipc@impiana.com](mailto:hrmipc@impiana.com) or call **076-340138**



### HORIZON HOTELS & RESORTS

Horizon Hotels & Resorts, based in Phuket. We have an opening for the following positions:

- **Front Office Manager (2)**
- **Assistant Front Office Manager (2)**
- **F&B Cost Controller (1)**

#### Qualifications:

- Good command of English (written & spoken)
- Minimum 2 years experience as Assistant Front Office Manager and one year as Front Office Manager. (4+5 star)
- Starting salary 30,000 to 40,000 plus usual Hotel
- For position 3, minimum 3 years experience required in the same position.

(Vacancies for both Horizon Patong and Karon)

Interested applicants are invited apply in person or send resume to: [personnel@horizonbeach.com](mailto:personnel@horizonbeach.com)

Tel. 076-284555 (Karon) or 076-292526-8 (Patong)

For further detail, please see our website at <http://www.horizonbeach.com>

### SALES/MARKETING

staff. Enthusiastic people wanted for software sales. Able to work on own initiative. 2 years' sales/marketing experience preferred. Good salary plus commission. Training given. Thai national. Able to drive a car. Must speak English. Accounting knowledge an advantage. Please contact K. Mam at Tel: 076-313137. Fax: 076-313269. Email: [mam@aplusplussoftware.com](mailto:mam@aplusplussoftware.com)

### DRIVER WANTED

Family in Pa Khlok looking for a driver with valid driver's license. Tel: 076-260468. Fax: 076-260440. Email: [admin@tacticalcapital.net](mailto:admin@tacticalcapital.net)

### STAFF WANTED

New Phuket City based company requires the following staff:

- Marketing/Sales Manager (foreigner)
- Operations manager
- Secretary/PA
- Telephone operators

All appointments require computer-literate, English-speaking personnel with admin/office experience. 5-day work week with some night shifts. Please email with CV as well as current and expected salary. Please send CV by email or contact for additional information at Tel: 081-8937027. Email: [business.opp01@gmail.com](mailto:business.opp01@gmail.com)

### TIMESHARE SALES

Looking for sales reps for time-share industry. Require a minimum of 2 years' experience and references. Farang okay. Email resume or call for more details. Contact at Tel: 081-1371001. Or via email: [solitude001@aol.com](mailto:solitude001@aol.com)

### ENGLISH-SPEAKING

staff wanted to work in Internet cafe and juice bar located in Phuket City. Contact at Tel: 086-5097510. Or via email: [simonstomas@hotmail.com](mailto:simonstomas@hotmail.com)

### CLIENT ACCOUNTING

services. Required to work with a Thai accounting firm. Translate and liaise with foreign clients. Must be fluent with spoken and written English. Computer literate with some experience in accounting and taxes. Send CV to email: [tj.kvrspa@gmail.com](mailto:tj.kvrspa@gmail.com) or call Tel: 081-9683184.

### WEB PROGRAMMER

Freelance web maintenance technician ready for new hosting company. Tel: 086-2825107.

### WAITRESS WANTED

for small private restaurant in Laguna area. Must have experience and speak English. Working hours from 6 pm to 11 pm, 6 days per week. Salary negotiable. Contact Tel: 081-8937028. Or via email: [sutisa.potter@gmail.com](mailto:sutisa.potter@gmail.com)

### SALES PEOPLE

with work permit. Freelance jobs, high earnings selling holiday packets - no timeshare! Please call for more information. Tel: 085-7926008.

### CHIEF ACCOUNTANT

Minimum 3 years' experience, CPD certified. Good English an advantage. Please contact personnel manager, Asian Wind Co Ltd at Tel: 076-381338, 081-8957908.

### GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Design artwork for quality publications & advertising. Thai national, excellent skills in Photoshop and Illustrator with knowledge of InDesign. Some English language. Email: [info@artandcultureasia.com](mailto:info@artandcultureasia.com)

### GERMAN-/FRENCH-SPEAKING GUIDE

Asian Oasis is a tour operator of June Bahra. The magical cruise of Phang Nga bay is looking for bilingual-speaking tour guides to work on board. French and English speaking or German and English speaking. We offer good salary plus benefits. Tel: 076-376192. Fax: 076-376194. Email: [hkt\\_vitthaya@asian-oasis.com](mailto:hkt_vitthaya@asian-oasis.com)

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# Island Job Mart

## ASIANS VIEW ARCHITECT CO LTD

Looking for:

### Foreman:

Diploma degree in construction. Minimum 3 years experience in construction field. Fair in English. Self-motivated and highly responsible. Experience in Auto CAD is preferable.

### Estimate Officer:

Diploma degree in Construction. 2-3 years experience concerning the construction field. Self-motivated and highly responsible. Please email with CV and expected salary or call. Tel: 089-8716133. Email: secretary@asiansviewarchitect.com

## SALES & MARKETING

A position is available for a smart person to earn top money. Must be fluent in both Thai and English, and hold a current driver's license. Knowledge of hotels and restaurants in and around Phuket would be an advantage. Please contact for additional details. Tel: 085-7841691. Or via email: nadir.66@libero.it

## TEACHER WANTED

Phuket Wittayalai School requires native English-speaking teachers to teach English. Bachelor's degree. TEFL certificate required. Apply in person from 2 to 4 pm or contact K. Jon. Tel: 085-7981201.

## PHUKET LAW FIRM

looking for secretary fluent in French, full time and part time. Please send resume to the following email: scphuket@yahoo.com

## SALES & OFFICE SECRETARY

- Age 22 to 35 years old
  - Good command of English
  - Computer literate
  - Good personality
  - Good team player
- Please contact K. Gift  
Tel: 076-203365,  
089-6595853.  
Email:  
ajapply@yahoo.com

## OFFICE ADMIN

Audio-visual company is seeking candidates for the above position. Applicants must be fluent in written and spoken English and Thai. Must have good computer skills. Experience in administration and accounts is an advantage. Interested applicants should email full CV with current salary to cv@enhanceav.com or call Tel: 076-527640.



Happy Biz Co., Ltd., a new and energetic company, is looking for a qualified candidate to join our winning team in the position of

### Sales Executive.

The candidate must possess the following qualifications:

- Female
- Age 22-30
- Bachelor's degree in any related field
- Strong English communication skills
- Good interpersonal skill, service-minded and well organized
- Experience in sales and marketing or in food supply business is a plus
- Self-motivated and able to work independently
- Possess a car driver's license

Qualified candidates are invited to send resumes to [tuavt@loxinfo.co.th](mailto:tuavt@loxinfo.co.th) or contact 076-383590

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### Web programmer/Developer

#### Requirements:

- Young, enthusiastic Thai website developer to join graphic design and internet team in fast growing Phuket publishing company.
- Web publishing including Dreamweaver/FTP and all web applications.
- HTML, CSS, JavaScript, ASP and PHP Database platform, MySQL.
- Photoshop/Illustrator/Graphic Design skills are an advantage, but not essential.
- Knowledge of basic hardware evaluation and simple maintenance is an advantage.
- Some knowledge of English is an advantage.

To apply contact Khun Nittaya at Tel: 076-264491-2 ( Office ) or 081-7875938 ( Mobile ) or Email: [nit@image-asia.com](mailto:nit@image-asia.com)

## URGENT WANTED

### Purchasing Staff 1 position

- Male/Female age 22 - 30 years old.
- High certificate degree in any field.
- Good command of English and computers.
- Experience in interior decorating, furniture and construction is advantage.

### Estimating staff 1 position

- Male/Female age over 25 years old.
- Knowledge of lay out, drawing, design.
- Able to interpret drawing/lay out.
- Experience in any field in advantage.

### Accounting Staff 1 position

- Thai Male/Female age 22-30 years old.
- High certificate or more degree in any field.
- Can close balance sheet and have accounting license.
- High responsibility and active.
- Good command of English and computers.
- Experience in cost control, interior business

### Foremen 2 positions

- Male age over 25 years old.
- Knowledge of interior and construction.
- Able to control and worker management.
- Good command of English.
- Experience in any field in advantage.

### Secretary 1 position

- Female age 22-30 year old.
- High certificate or degree in any field.
- Good command of English and computers.
- High responsibility and active.
- Experience in interior furniture and construction is advantage.

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1999, good condition, ABS. Asking price: 235,000 baht. Contact for additional details at Tel: 089-4724870. Email: ngakaruwan@hotmail.com

### JEEP SUZUKI CARIBIAN

Violet color, best condition, aluminum wheels, big tires. Price: 135,000 baht or long-term rent. Photo upon request. Contact for additional information at Tel: 076-333242, 089-6517818. Fax: 076-333243. Email: horstkaron@yahoo.com

### D-MAX LS 30 DDI I-TEQ

Auto., 4 WD, turbo inter-cooler, 37,000km, one owner, still under 3-year warranty. 200,000 baht for extras. New: 1,150,000 baht. Special price: 580,000 ono. Please call for more information.

Tel: 087-1466622.

## Motorbikes

### 2004 YAMAHA NOUVO

Automatic, electric start, 1-year insurance, 22,000km, gold. 24,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 086-0681972. Email: ydelk@hotmail.com

### KAWASAKI ZZR 400

Runs well, 400cc, blue & black. Price: 48,000 baht. Please call for more info. Tel: 085-7888262.

### HONDA WAVE 125

Excellent condition, only 4,400km, 18 months old, silver. 33,000 baht. Please contact for additional details. Tel: 081-8956112.

### HONDA CBR 900 RR

1995/6 Fireblade 900 with book. Has had lots of routine maintenance work recently (carbs, fork seals, new chain, brake pads, engine service and rebuild, etc). Could use a respray, hence only 100,000 baht obo. Irresistible urge to buy a Ducati forces wife to make sale. Please contact for more information.

Tel: 081-8022800.

Email:

markbowen@ji-net.com

### YAMAHA MIO 2004

Good condition, green book, extras, quick sale. 25,000 baht. Tel: 086-1206934.

### HONDA CBR 150

This bike for sale. Only 40,000 baht. Purchased it but didn't use, it has been on the road less than 900km. Please call Tel: 081-9045852.

### HONDA STEED FOR SALE

400cc, good condition, well-maintained, green book, etc. Please contact for more information at Tel: 081-5395329. Or via email: grahamtre@hotmail.com

### HONDA DREAM

Low season deal. Good condition. 2,000 baht per month. Please contact for more details. Tel: 089-4727304.

### YAMAHA NOUVO 2006

33,000 baht. JRD scooter 2006. Price: 20,000 baht. Good condition. Please contact for more information. Tel: 084-8433358.

### HONDA WAVE 125 CC

in perfect condition. Only 12 months old, low mileage, 2,800km. Price: 34,000 baht. Please contact for additional information and specifics. Tel: 087-4176393.

### TWO HONDA WAVE

125s for sale. Disk brakes, 15,800 baht. Electric start 17,000 baht. Both only 4 years old. Please contact for more details. Tel: 076-383380, 086-6837162. Via email: yosometch@hotmail.com

## Rentals

### SUZUKI CARIBIAN

1 year old for rent. 600 baht per day, 3,500 baht per week, 9,500 baht per month. Koi's Kamala. Please contact for more info. Tel: 087-9037933.

### NEW VIOS FOR RENT



Many types of cars for long-term rent. Prices start from 10,000-18,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-6078567. Email: suksavat@hotmail.com

### MOTORBIKE 2,400 BAHT/MONTH

Motorbike for rent. Honda Wave or Dream: 2,400 baht. Mio auto: 3,300 baht. Honda Click auto: 4,500 baht. Prices per month. Contact for more information. Tel: 076-288545, 086-6837162. Or via email: somthawin\_pw@hotmail.com

### NEW CAR FOR RENT

New Toyota Vios and Isuzu truck, 4-door, long-term rent. 15,000 baht per month. Please contact for additional information and details. Tel: 076-248923, 081-8920531. Fax: 076-249474.

### JIKKY CAR

Many types of cars for rent, good price for long term with auto., CD player, insurance. Contact for more info 081-8915296. For further details, please see our website at <http://www.jikkycar.com>

## CAR FOR RENT

Nissan NV Deluxe, auto., perfect condition. Full insurance. Low monthly price for A-1 renter. Please contact for more information and specifics. Tel: 081-8922824. Or via email: makocraft@hotmail.com

## P.M.P. CAR RENT

and taxi service. Toyota Wish, Camry, Vios, Yaris and Honda Jazz for rent. Short term or long term. Minibus for tour, taxi service. Contact for more details and additional information. Tel: 087-2646808, 083-1743880.

## A1 CAR RENTAL



Cars, trucks, jeeps that are all fully-insured for rental. Best prices for long-term rental: 12,000 to 20,000 baht per month. Please contact Tel: 089-8314703. For further information and details, please email: a1current@myway.com

## Car Services

### MINIBUS SERVICE



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