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## Police CCTV to go island-wide

By Janyaporn Morel

PHUKET: Following the installation of 48 closed-circuit television (CCTV) surveillance cameras covering parts of Phuket City, Patong and Kata-Karon, local administrations across the island are preparing to fund 180 more cameras to improve security in their jurisdictions.

Vice-Governor Worapoj Ratthasima on June 4 chaired a meeting on ways to fund installation of CCTV cameras at "risk" areas across the island by year's end.

Attending the gathering were Phuket Provincial Police Commander Maj Gen Decha Budnampetch, Phuket CAT Telecom Manager Worawit Worawiboonpong and representatives of municipalities and tambon administration organizations (*OrBorTor*).

Leading the surveillance surge will be Phuket City Municipality. Wallop Wangdan, an official in the Phuket City Public Works Department told the *Gazette* that the city has earmarked 16.6 million baht of its fiscal 2007 budget for installation of 35 more CCTV cameras and construction of its own central monitoring center, to be sited at the Phuket City Fire Station. The city will also add 25 more cameras at a cost of 9.2 million baht in fiscal 2008.

Phuket City Police, which has its own monitoring center at its headquarters on Chumphon Rd, will be given access to the city's CCTV feeds - but the city will still be unable to tap into the police cameras.

Also expanding its coverage will be Patong Municipality, which will add 10 more cameras



## Rushing through

WICHIT: Former English Premier League star striker Ian Rush demonstrates the fundamentals of ball control, passing and shooting to a group of 60 youths in the Tesco-Lotus Supercenter parking lot during a clinic on June 5.

Rush, a Welshman, is best remembered as Liverpool's leading scorer with 346 goals for the club between 1980 and 1996. Mr Rush joined other famous footballers to conduct the clinic, the last in a series of three that also visited Chiang Mai and Bangkok.

In keeping with his name, Mr Rush and friends' visit was a brief affair; the clinic lasted one hour.

to its existing 16 with 4.2 million baht budgeted for fiscal 2007, the meeting was told.

Karon Municipality, which already has 16 cameras in operation, has no plans to add more. Karon Municipality Chief Administrative Officer Tawatchai Tongmang said that the existing cameras already cover all of Karon's major risk areas. The town will only set aside a budget for system maintenance, he said.

Other local administrations planning to instal CCTV in fiscal 2007 are:

- *OrBorTor* Wichit: 1.9 million baht for 7 CCTV cameras;
- *OrBorTor* Chalong: 5 million baht for 13 CCTV cameras;
- *OrBorTor* Rawai: 20 million baht for 16 CCTV cameras;
- *OrBorTor* Mai Khao: 1 million baht for coverage at Tah Chat Chai.

Cameras in Wichit will be monitored from the control center at Phuket City Police Station, while those in Chalong and Rawai will be monitored from the control center at Chalong Police

Continued on page 2

## Labor office calls for early work permit renewals

By Supanun Supawong

PHUKET: The Phuket Provincial Employment Office (PPEO) has called for employers of Burmese, Lao and Cambodian workers to renew their employees' work permits before the June 30 deadline.

At the monthly meeting of provincial government department chiefs at Phuket Provincial Hall on June 1, Kitti Nuisri of the Phuket Labor Office said that work permits for 6,685 immigrant workers whose permits will expire on June 30 had already been renewed.

However, he added that 13,841 more work permits were due to be renewed before month's end.

K. Kitti pointed out that employers of migrant workers from the three border nations were usually diligent in renewing work permits: 11,539 of the 11,544 work permits that were due to expire on February 28 were renewed on time.

However, he added that those who did not comply would face heavy penalties.

"An employer caught with immigrants working without a valid work permit or doing work not listed in the work permit face up to three years' imprisonment or a 60,000-baht fine, or both.

"Workers caught doing likewise face up to three years' imprisonment or a 5,000-baht fine or both," he said.

K. Kitti explained that there were 32,070 Burmese, Lao and Cambodian laborers in Phuket working under one-year work permits which expire either on February 28 or June 30 each year.



From page 1

## Police CCTV coverage boosted

Station, which already monitors the 16 Karon-based CCTV cameras.

Other administrations planning to set up CCTV cameras include *OrBorTor* Rassada, which will fund installation of 10 cameras in fiscal 2008.

Pol Maj Gen Decha said Phase I of the CCTV system had increased security since it went into operation about three months ago, but the effectiveness of the system ultimately depends on the management capabilities of the police units and other agencies responsible.

At the monthly Governor Meets the Press meeting held on June 1, Phuket Provincial Police Superintendent of General Staff Pol Col Peerayut Karajedee said, "The CCTV system helps police in both crime suppression and prevention, as well as in traffic monitoring and control."

"Reports from the three control stations show that the CCTV has helped solve many criminal cases, including snatch-and-run thefts and acts involving bodily harm."

"We can follow the suspects and order the closest police officers to intercept them more easily. We can use the CCTV records as evidence in traffic cases, too," he said.

## Scheduled blackout

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

The blackout, from 9 am to 4 pm on June 15, will affect Rassadanusorn Rd, from Rajabhat Intersection to Phu Yai Baan Rd, including Soi Tah Jeen, Soi King Kaew Uthit, Moo Baan Suwan Nakaan, Moo Baan Phuket City Home, Trang Rd and Palien Rd.

This information is subject to change without notice. For more information or to update, call 076-211663.

# Phuket requests B2.9bn for waste management program

By Janyaporn Morel

PHUKET (*Gazette, Nation*): Phuket has requested a 2.9 billion baht budget from the central government to fund a four-year plan to manage waste disposal and water treatment on the island. The request includes an allocation of 1.3 billion baht to build a second incinerator.

The plan was discussed at a workshop at the Phuket Merlin Hotel chaired by Vice-Governor Worapoj Ratthasima and attended by Pollution Control Department (PCD) Deputy Director General Wichian Jungrungreung and representatives of local tambon administration organizations (*OrBorTor*) and municipalities.

K. Wichian said the new plan involves preventative measures, rehabilitation and a public-awareness campaign that would take

Phuket's current development into consideration. Rubbish and wastewater will be key priorities of the plan.

Chief of Phuket Provincial Office of Natural Resources and Environment Aongart Chanachanmongkol told the *Gazette* that the 2.9 billion baht budget includes 1.3 billion baht for a second incinerator and the rest is allocated to wastewater treatment and other waste disposal and control measures.

"Phuket currently produces more than 500 tons of rubbish per day, while the one incinerator we have can burn only 250 tons per day."

"The most urgent rubbish management measure we need to implement, though, is for local administration organizations to encourage people to separate their rubbish. That would be a great help."

"Now local administration organizations

are helping to reduce the amount of wet rubbish [which reduces the efficiency of the incinerator] by using it to produce organic fertilizer," K. Aongart explained.

K. Aongart emphasized that the 2.9 billion baht budget request has not yet been approved and they must wait for the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment's Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning (ONEP) to consider the plan and decide how much money to grant.

"Another rubbish problem in Phuket now is that of construction refuse from development. We need all the help we can get," K. Aongart appealed.

The PCD's K. Wichian warned that with Phuket's rising population and growing number of visitors, solving rubbish and wastewater problems would be a challenge.

# Dead red frog crabs 'probably poisoned'

By Supanun Supawong

MAI KHAO: Hundreds of red frog crabs, or *phu jakkajan*, and other species of crabs and sea urchins were found washed ashore on Sai Kaew Beach in the evening of June 3.

Many of the sea animals were dead, possibly poisoned by fishermen, said Somkiet Khokietiwong of the Phuket Marine Biological Center (PMBC).

"We're not sure how many red frog crabs and other marine animals were found on Sai Kaew Beach. Local villagers said the red frog crabs and other animals were in groups scattered along the beach. Many of them had died, but not all," K. Somkiet today told the *Gazette*.

"PMBC staff went to Sai Kaew Beach yesterday and collected samples of the seawater there and the remaining crabs that were still alive, but struggling. We put the crabs in seawater from in front of our office [at Cape Panwa], which we know is not contaminated with any chemicals, and the crabs started show-



Hundreds of crabs and other marine animals including sea urchins were found washed ashore at Sai Kaew Beach in Mai Khao.

ing signs of recovering," he said.

"We also put some crabs in seawater collected from Sai Kaew Beach and monitored them, and they seemed to recover just the same."

"We checked the seawater at Sai Kaew Beach and it tested normal, with no problems of oxygen levels or any other problems," K. Somkiet added.

"Some local villagers said

they had seen fishermen sprinkle harmful chemicals on the beach. This is one way of catching aquatic animals such as red frog crabs, which sell for quite high prices."

"However, this is difficult for us to prove because the chemicals might have dissipated before we have the chance to check," K. Somkiet explained.

"We have yet to determine the true reason why the crabs and other animals died. We will continue to investigate further."

"I would like to ask people who see any problems like this to please call us immediately – do not wait one or two days, as has happened in this case," he urged.

"Also, people should not eat any dead marine animals they find on the beach because they might contain chemicals."

## Rise in registrations continues

PHUKET: As of May 20, Phuket's official population stood at 318,538. The figure was up 7,868 people from January 31, when the province launched a campaign to increase the number of Thai citizens whose names appear on household registration forms in the province.

Phuket Provincial Chief Administrative Officer (*Palad*) Piya Bharatasilpin reported the increase to Vice-Governor Worapoj Ratthasima during the monthly meeting of the Phuket Provincial Security Committee held May 29 at the ST Hotel.

Precisely 3,721 new residents, or almost half of the total, were added to the provincial scrolls for the one-month period starting April 21.

Of these, 2,322 were in Muang District, 464 in Thalang District and 935 in Kathu District.

Also contributing to the rise were 144 babies being born during the period in the three districts, compared with just 71 deaths.

However, the three district offices reported a combined total of 826 people removed from registration forms over the same period.

The registration drive was initiated by Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit shortly after taking office late last year as a way of getting a bigger slice of the government budget pie.

Phuket's actual population is widely thought to be at least double the reported figure due to the large number of migrant workers. – *Supanun Supawong*

## The Key Piece of the Puzzle

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## Plans for Chalong Marina unveiled

By Semacote Suganya

CHALONG: Three different plans for Phase II of the Chalong Marina Project, which aims to provide berths for more than 210 vessels to Chalong Bay, were announced at a public hearing about the project at Muang Phuket School on June 5.

Phuket Vice-Governor Worapoj Ratthasima, who led the meeting, was joined by Marine Department Director Werawan Sirigarmpen and a team of consultants from the Marine Department's Technical and Planning Division.

The meeting, the first of three public hearings to be held about the project, aimed to gather public feedback about the design, environmental and social impacts of the expanded project, which is intended to further raise Phuket's attractiveness as a marine tourism destination.

About 130 people attended the hearing, during which questionnaires were distributed to gauge reaction to Phase II.

During the hearing, Kumpanart Chewapreecha of Golden Plan Company Ltd, one of three consulting firms hired by the Marine Department to study the impacts of the project, unveiled the three alternative designs for the marina.

All three involve construction of two large breakwaters to protect boats in the marina from waves, but differ in the orientation and location of the berths around a large Customs Immigration and Quarantine (CIQ) facil-

ity built on the main dock.

The breakwaters would be constructed as jetties built of large stones piled up on the sea bed.

Under the first two options, existing coral and seagrass beds would be protected by the breakwaters.

Under the third option, they would be removed.

In addition to providing berths for Thai and foreign yachts, the marina would also provide yacht-related training in a number of areas that would help to develop the island's entire marine tourism industry, he said.

"The project is not intended to compete with similar private-sector developments," he said.

Activist Sutha Prateep Na Thalang, President of Chalong Community Network, expressed several concerns about siting such a large marina in Chalong Bay.

Local residents could be affected by the influx of rich foreigners that would increase the cost of living in the area and attract large number of low-wage foreign laborers competing for work.

He was also concerned about the difficult-to-predict effect of the breakwaters on soil erosion and silt built-up in Chalong Bay.

K. Sutha said he appreciated the chance to air his views at the public hearing, because private sector developments all too often proceed with little or no input from local people who will be affected by them.

# New international airport terminal ready for business

By Janyaporn Morel

PHUKET: The expansion of the international passenger terminal at Phuket International Airport has been completed and is expected to be open for the upcoming high season, Phuket International Airport Director Sq/Ldr Pornchai Eua-aree told the *Gazette* on June 5.

The 120-million-baht expansion started in April 2004 and the building was completed earlier this year, he said.

The ground floor of the new wing features check-in counters for chartered flights, which will be mostly international flights. The second floor features the international departure lounge.

A meeting to discuss how to best prepare for high season was due to be held on June 7 with Phuket Tourist Association representatives, the Senior Executive Vice President for Airport Planning and Development, the airline operators committee, Airport Authority of Thailand (AOT) representatives and German airline LTU, which is expected to bring a large number of charter flights to Phuket.

"We will also talk about the management of passport control with the Phuket Airport Immigration Superintendent," K. Pornchai said.



The new international passenger terminal is expected to be open in time for the next high season.

Airport Immigration currently has 16 passport control desks processing about 900 tourists an hour.

However, K. Pornchai said that he is concerned that when several planes land at the same time, Immigration won't be able to serve all the tourists quickly.

"Even if it's not very often that tourists face long delays, just a few hours in a year, it can ruin Phuket's reputation," he said.

"We will have to add more facilities because initially we prepared for chartered flights that

had about 200 passengers, but last year when we were nearly finished with the project, we had big aircraft such as Boeing 747-400s that can carry as many as 600 passengers coming in.

"We now have seven check-in counters but we will add three more to support the international charter flights," he said.

"We intend to open the new area about mid-October because that's usually when the chartered flights begin to arrive.

"We will add about 25 more security staff," he added.

## PPEA moves Phuket City head office

PHUKET: The Phuket Provincial Electricity Authority (PPEA) will move its main office in Phuket from its current location on Thepkasattri Rd to downtown Phuket City.

The new office, which is expected to be more convenient for PPEA customers, will be west of the Honda dealer on the north side of Phang Nga Rd, near where the old "Chatuchak" weekend market was located.

The office will be open Monday to Friday from 8:30 am to 4 pm, from June 11.

## Dowroong noodle shop owner grazed in drive-by shooting

WICHIT: The owner of a noodle restaurant was injured in a drive-by shooting while she worked in her shop on the night of June 4.

A teenager eating at the restaurant at the time, believed to have been the intended target, said he recognized the shooter as the same man who had once stabbed his brother.

Lt Col Yongyut Krongmalai, an Investigating Inspector at the Phuket City Police Station, said the victim, the owner of a noodle stall on Chao Fa West Rd near Dowroong Wittaya School, was not seriously injured as the bullet had only grazed her upper thigh.

"The real target was Thinnawong Martkla, 18, who was eating with his girlfriend at the time. He saw the gunman drive past once, and when he drove back again he shot at him but missed, hitting the shop owner."

Police said they are continuing the investigation but the teen was able to identify the shooter only by his nickname, "Mo".

## Inmates' wares to go on sale

PHUKET: The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Prison Products Exhibition for Southern Thailand, with products made by inmates of the 25 prisons in the South on sale, will be held at Saphan Hin from June 28 to July 7.

Grand opening for the exhibition is scheduled for 6 pm on June 28 with performances by local singers and food stalls from 80 restaurants.

The fair will open from 10 am to 9 pm daily.

Most of the products on sale

will be household furnishings such as sofas, wardrobes, beds and tables made from wood, rattan and iron.

Last year all 25 prisons in the 14 southern provinces took part in the program, which aims to teach prisoners skills they can use when they are released from confinement.

Prisoners are allowed to keep a portion of the funds earned when their products are sold.



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# Phuket's great wall

**C**halong resident **Marque A. Rome** investigates a half-constructed sea wall that has changed the face of Palai Beach in Chalong Bay. As officials declaring it is necessary and will be completed, residents decry the wall's impact on their businesses and their view of the bay.

Science fiction and fantasy thrillers sometimes have as a plot device the mighty remains of a long dead civilization that astonishes distant future ages. Think of the booby traps Indiana Jones faced in retrieving the Hovito Idol from an ancient temple in the Peruvian jungle, or Charlton Heston gazing up in disbelief at the Statue of Liberty, half buried in beach sand, in the closing scene in *Planet of the Apes*.

These tales are doubtless inspired by the existence of similar historical remains, such as the Egyptian pyramids or the Great Wall of China. It seems fantasy to think how whole nations wasted their blood and treasure in magnificent but pointless constructions. Now, locally, though less ambitious in scope, Phuket has its own example thereof, because the half-completed wall undertaken at Palai Beach in Tambon Chalong is no fiction – however fantastic its premise.

Call it the Great Wall of Palai, an edifice to endure, perhaps, to the stupefaction of our

children and grandchildren.

Intended to span the length of Palai Beach, 1.43 kilometers from Klong Moo Dong at the Khao Kad end and into the mangroves southwest of Palai Rd, the wall's construction was proposed by the Chalong Tambon Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*) after the 2004 Boxing Day tsunami destroyed several cheaply-built seafood restaurants scattered along the low-lying Palai Beach in Chalong Moo 3.

The waters carried fishing boats and other vessels about 200 meters inland, knocked over retaining walls of dubious legality built out on the beach and flooded a prawn farm. No one was killed at Palai.

Chalong *OrBorTor* received a total budget of about 52



To repair their vessel, these men built their own ladder to scale the wall and gain access to the beach.

million baht from the Interior Ministry's Community Development Department for repairs, but not just at Palai. The greatest



Although built as a retaining wall and to provide protection from a tsunami, there is little material behind the 34.35 million baht structure to retain or protect.

single piece of destruction involved the old wooden Chalong Pier, which was entirely swept away. That, however, the *OrBorTor* elected not to replace, leaving a great deal of tax money to be spent. Thus 34.35 million baht was earmarked for the wall, ostensibly as replacement for toppled retaining walls, and for a pier at Palai to serve islanders and local fishermen.

To that end, a contract was signed with a representative of Nontaburi-based construction

firm Sompongs Wattana Ltd on June 1, 2005, specifying that work begin June 2, 2005, and be completed by September 29, a period of 120 days. Poured in 5-meter sections, the wall was to be faced with rock and stand 2.5m above its base, which will be a half meter tall and 2.5m wide; the base was to rest on thick pilings sunk in the sand.

The whole structure would be reinforced with steel. As a condition of the contract, Sompongs posted a 1.7 million baht bond – which would be forfeited to the *OrBorTor* should the company fail to comply with any of numerous stipulations.

It was arguably a one-sided document. Under it, the

*OrBorTor* was given the right to choose the project manager; force payments by Sompongs Wattana without benefit of due process; and terminate the contract at will. The contract also made the company responsible for all cost overruns, including those arising from unforeseeable events – or actions of the *OrBorTor* itself.

Perhaps because of these restrictions, *OrBorTor* Chalong fell out with Sompongs more than one year ago, and no other construction company has been willing to take over the project. So the wall remains incomplete, its exposed steel reinforcement bars rust away in the salty air and present a hazard to beach visitors.

As noted, the *OrBorTor*'s master plan called for construction at Palai of a 280m pier to replace the wooden one at Chalong, used by Koh Lone islanders and long-tail boats.

Neither the Harbor Department Office nor the Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*), which governs the concrete, 700m-long Chalong pier, would allow re-construction of the old pier, although small craft operators complained that the new pier has insufficient landing space for their boats and is given over entirely to tourism.

They wanted a "working pier" for themselves. But both the *OrBorJor* and the Harbor Department felt two piers in close proximity would be unsightly, so Chalong *OrBorTor* proposed the pier at Palai.

The proposal failed to receive support, either from islanders or boat operators. Both groups complained that the location was isolated, too far from transport facilities and businesses to be practical. For, indeed, there

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# riddled with holes



Will people from some distant future generation wonder with awe what these massive concrete pillars were used for? These abandoned footings were intended to support and stabilize the wall.



SEE VIEW? Will the presence of the wall really increase property values in the Pa Lai area, as its proponents claim?

is nothing at Palai Beach except a few seafood restaurants and a prawn farm. All users of the new "working pier" were adamant: they wanted to go to Chalong, not Palai.

"No one wants a pier at Palai," said a middle-aged Koh Lone islander. "Villagers often have business in town when they come to Phuket. They need to get on a bus. A pier at Palai would be far from the main road, and no buses pass there."

"Others want to go to Rawai to see relatives, and Palai is further away. Also, no businesses are there except seafood restaurants, which are not much use to us."

His views were echoed by other islanders, who noted that most supplies needed on the island – whether fresh vegetables, marine gear, or block ice – are available within walking distance from Chalong Pier.

The 13.7-million-baht pier probably would have been built anyway, despite opposition from its intended users, but for the fact that ebb tide at Palai exposes a considerably greater expanse of sand than at Chalong, where the old pier needed to stretch 280 meters to be of practical use.

A pier of similar length at Palai would have been left high and dry for long periods every day.

"It has to be at least 400 meters long," said Dechakani Lilanont, Chalong's Chief Administrative Officer (*palad*). "Also, where the pier starts, we need some of the land adjacent for parking and other pier business, otherwise congestion will result."

As the plots adjacent to the Palai site are all privately owned, proceedings to return them to the public domain must be initiated – always a lengthy and costly af-

fair on Phuket.

Nevertheless, Chalong *OrBorTor* President Natapongs Wimolpant confirmed that his office has requested an expanded budget to do just that. So Koh Lone islanders and long-tail boat operators may eventually receive the pier they don't want.

Which returns us to the wall: who wants it? Not the seafood restaurant operators – the wall divides them from the strand and blocks the view. It can hardly be called a "retaining wall", as no embankment exists to be retained.

To add insult to injury, a two-meter wide promenade will be piled up on the land side and finished off with a stainless steel rail – if the project ever reaches completion.

"What do you want to see happen?" the owner of a Palai restaurant was asked.

"I think the *OrBorTor* should either finish it or tear it down," he replied without hesitation. "But like this it's hideous. We invested a lot after the tsunami to rebuild our place. It is much nicer than the old restaurant and cost far more."

"This is a fine location, that's why we want to be here. But now people come expecting a nice view and what do they see but rusting steel and unfinished concrete! So the wall should be finished."

"If you ask me what I really think, though, I should say I don't want it at all, and neither does anyone else. No one consulted us before it was built."

Chalong President Natapongs confirmed during an interview at the tambon offices recently that the *OrBorTor* had failed to consult any of the affected parties before proposing the wall: "The businesses there

rent their land, all except for one restaurant. So we didn't feel we needed to consult them," he said.

He admitted, however, that he was aware the area was one of the most popular seaside restaurant spots on Phuket. "Yes, it's probably the most popular strip for seafood dining now; it's the island's seafood zone," he said proudly.

"How do you think construction of the wall will affect land values?" K. Natapongs and Palad Dechakani were asked.

"It will have a beneficial effect," the *palad* answered instantly. President Natapongs was more pensive: "Well, land values in Phuket go up automatically with development, don't they? So

it won't have any adverse effect."

"If you had a beach house, would you rather have a two-and-a-half meter wall between you and the sand or not?" the pair was asked. K. Natapongs and K. Dechakani seemed to ponder the question but made no reply.

Though only a few people live within 200 hundred meters of Palai Beach, the wall was built there as protection against future tsunamis instead of being built at densely populated Chalong Pier, where thousands live. What prompted its construction there?

K. Dechakani cited destruction of the seafood restaurants during the tsunami and affirmed it was built in direct re-

sponse to that event.

"It's 2.5 meters high, because the last wave was reported at that height. It's intended to guard against a 2.5 meter wave – anything over that we can't be sure of," he said.

So, in the interest of property, when the wall is finished, Palai's seaside restaurants will no longer be on the sea; and landowners who hitherto had valuable beach land will find themselves without access to the beach.

Wouldn't it be better just to drop the whole idea? Apparently not: K. Natapongs said that as soon as another construction firm can be found to carry out the work, "the wall will be finished in 120 days."

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**F**ree to the right person: one slightly used red mattress. Also other sundry secondhand artifacts. A bit smelly, but what the heck. Owner no longer requires, due to complete failure of esthetic, social and environmental awareness.

This blot on the landscape is on Sakdidet Rd, about a kilometer from the Deep Sea Port. The owner of the land has posted a sign asking people not to litter his plot, but it's almost hidden by rampant vines. So that's okay, then. Right?

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

**TRASHING**  
**Phuket**



## Queer News

# RICE POWER: Perhaps best taken with a grain of salt

CHIANG MAI: With the craze for Jatukam Ramathep amulets still going strong, stories of miraculous survivals from shootings, stabbings, car crashes and other seemingly-dangerous events are a fixture in the Thai press at the moment.

On June 1, one lucky 14-year-old in Rayong appeared in the pages of *Thai Rath* newspaper after he was left with only a small bruise on his backside after being shot by a rival. He and his father ascribed the miraculous event to the over-sized amulet he was wearing.

Another recent case of supposed magical invulnerability involved a muay Thai instructor in Chiang Mai's Chiang Dao District. In this case no Jatukam Ramathep amulet was involved and the outcome was not quite so upbeat.

Around noon on May 31 the instructor, Boonsong Khama, 52, was kneeling outside his house conducting a ceremony to bless grains of rice, which he would give to his fighters to chew before a fight.

Known for his knowledge of arts both magical and martial, K. Boonsong claimed that if punched or elbowed, his boys would be resistant to cuts.

Not wanting to send his

fighters into the ring without being sure if his spells and incantations had worked, K. Boonsong decided to test the holy rice on himself first.

He chewed a few grains and then asked his girlfriend to come at him with a knife.

His girlfriend, 23-year-old Lahu tribeswoman Nadoe Jakha, had full faith in her partner's magical abilities. Thus, she didn't hold back, using a knife to slash him once in the head and three more times to the body.

Unfortunately, the knife did not bounce off as the pair had expected. Rather, it sliced quite neatly through K. Boonsong's flesh, leaving him screaming in agony on the ground. Realizing what she had done, K. Nadoe rushed him to hospital.

The police officer in charge of the case, Lt Col Anek Chaiwong, an Investigating Officer at Chiang Dao District Police Station, said that K. Boonsong was in such serious condition that he had to be transferred to Nakhon Phim Hospital in Mae Rim District. His wounds required more than 50 stitches.

Police have filed a preliminary charge of attempted murder against K. Nadoe while they investigate, Col Anek added.

*Source: Thai Rath*

# Positive proof that cat burglars can't fly

PHUKET: Being a keen breeder of songbirds, 34-year-old Chalong resident Warathep Udomsap would have been used to being woken up by the dawn chorus coming from the bird cages he kept at the back of his house.

At dawn on May 28, however, he was awoken by some much less appealing noises: a loud crash followed by anguished wailing.

As K. Warathep, who owns a secondhand motorcycle shop, was sleeping in his bed that morning, he heard the sound of a roof tile breaking, followed by a loud bang and a panicked scream.

When he went to investigate, he encountered a young man, later identified as 24-year-old Wirat Bangsuri, lying in his front room moaning and crying with pain.

K. Warathep promptly called for police to come and remove the unwanted intruder.

K. Warathep told police that

Wirat was probably after his collection of more than 10 prize *nok krong hua juk*, or red-whiskered bulbuls, which he said range in value from 20,000 to 100,000 baht each.

Police believe that Wirat was trying to climb over the roof to get to the birds, which were kept at the back of the house, when he fell through the tiles. On questioning, Wirat admitted that he was indeed after the birds. He was subsequently charged with attempted theft.

The report did not mention the extent of the damage to K. Warathep's roof nor how serious were the injuries to Wirat, and who was generously described in the report as a *teen maew*, or "cat burglar".

Although his taste for winged prey may have matched that description, his skill at traversing rooftops proved to be anything but feline in nature.

*Source: Siang Tai*

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# New airport terminal opens



## FROM THE GULF OF THAILAND

By Barry Singleton

**B**angkok Airways on May 28 opened a large, new second airport terminal at the Koh Samui Airport that will cater primarily to domestic passengers on the popular Bangkok-Samui route.

Boasting a spacious open-plan design with innovative features such as a “walking street” shopping arcade, Samui’s new terminal is being presented as a tourist attraction in itself.

A restaurant and spa will also be part of the expansive complex, allowing passengers to make the most of their last few hours in paradise, and the airline’s signature “boutique lounges” add comfort and hospitality to the practical business of traveling.

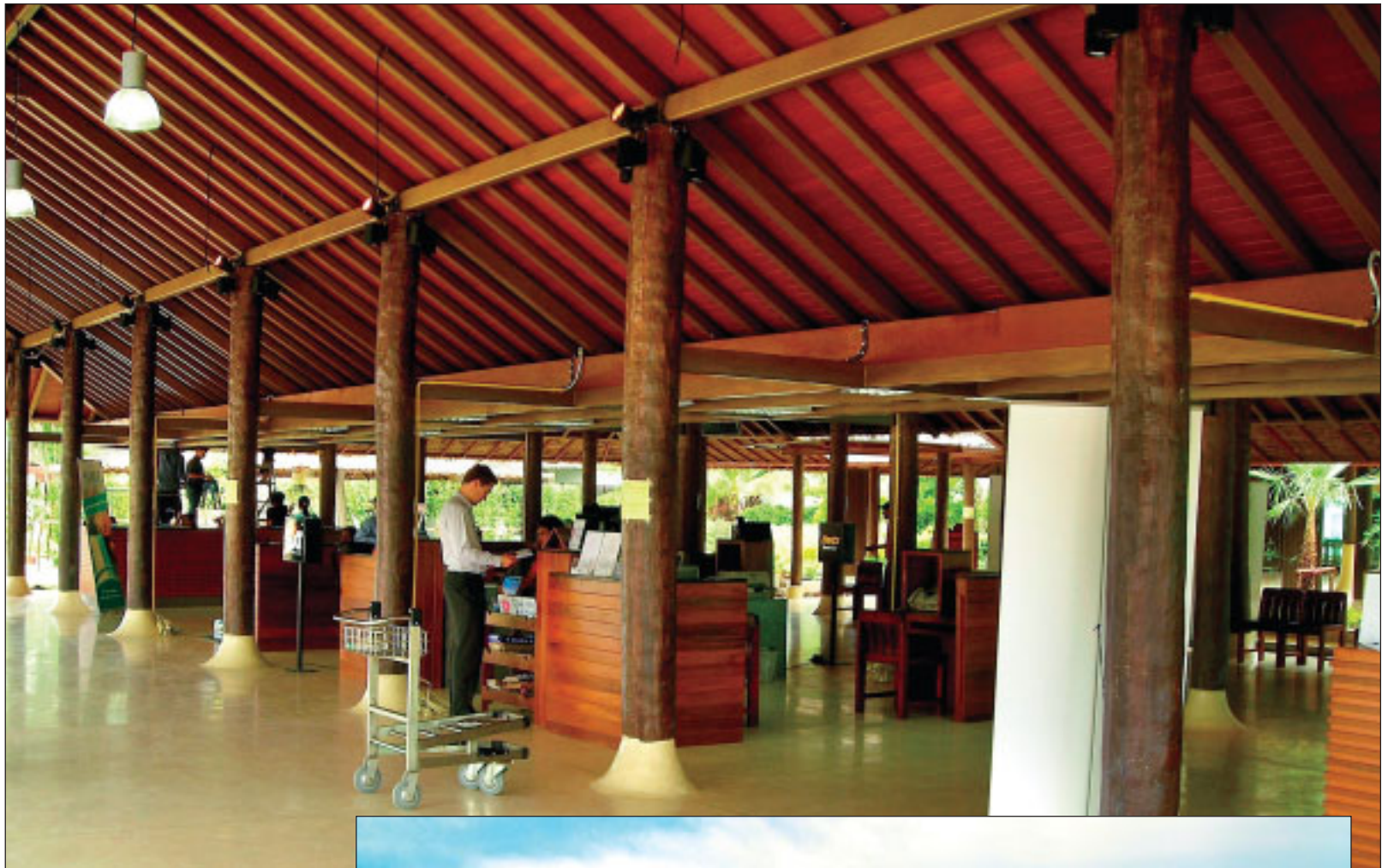
A few teething problems still need to be addressed, such as traffic confusion caused by the introduction of separate entrances for arrivals and departures, but passenger feedback so far has been very positive.

Meanwhile, an ongoing dispute with local villagers over noise pollution has yet to be resolved. Some local commentators have suggested the motive behind the complaints is financial, and based on compensation paid to people living close to Bangkok’s new airport.

As Samui’s tourism boom continues, new high-end hotels and facilities are attracting an ever-more-sophisticated type of visitor. Bangkok Airways hopes the new airport terminal will reflect the island’s status as a “boutique” destination and add to the tropical experience that drew 1.3 million visitors to Samui last year.

**Condos on the up-and-up:** The property market is still experiencing a slump on Koh Samui, due primarily to the strict enforcement of the Thai Business Act, which effectively prevents foreigners from buying land outright.

However, shrewd agents and developers are already investing in high-end condominium projects to woo foreign investors back to the island and long-lease purchases are already attracting



**HAPPY LANDINGS:**  
The new terminal at the Koh Samui Airport – above, the check-in area; below, the exterior of the terminal.



strong interest from around the region and the globe.

The latest condo projects to emerge include Infinity Samui, chosen by Ladies’ World Tennis champ Justine Henin for her holiday home, and Pergrina Bay, which boasts England national soccer team manager Sven Goran Eriksson as an investor.

Both of these developments feature luxury condominiums and penthouses with many of the units offering ocean views and private swimming pools.

More modest, but still drawing considerable interest is Arisara Place, a very affordable 50-unit condominium project in Bophut with a swimming pool, gymnasium and other facilities on site. There’s a choice of one, two and three bedroom units and the development is already 50% sold.

Some local property professionals believe condos may offer the solution to Samui’s ongoing property crisis as they offer the prospect of significant returns without the concerns caused by currently uncertain Thai ownership laws.

**Constitution discussed:** On May 20, a team from the parliamentary constitution committee led by Decho Sawananun held an open seminar on the new Thai constitution at the island’s public meeting hall in Samui’s administrative capital, Nathon Town.

Over 300 people from Samui, Koh Pha Ngan and Koh Tao attended the seminar, where they were asked for their opinions and ideas regarding the new draft constitution.

According to local sources, few people raised objections regarding the details of the constitution, although many of the participants suggested new items and clauses for inclusion.

The meeting was part of the government’s attempt to include all Thai citizens in the drafting process at a grass roots as well as the academic level.

Participants on Samui said they appreciated the opportunity to contribute to the democratic process, but some also expressed doubt that their suggestions would be given fair consideration.

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# 12 soldiers die in Yala ambush

**T**welve soldiers were killed on the night of May 31 when suspected insurgents ambushed their truck in Yala's Bannang Sata District shortly before 10 pm.

A remote-controlled bomb was set off alongside the road as the Army Rangers were traveling past in a pickup truck along a back road linking Yala and Betong. They were returning to their camp from crowd-control duty at a protest by local residents.

"Again, this is a big loss for the army. The insurgents adopted similar tactics to those they used in Narathiwat. They bombed, then killed the injured soldiers to make sure that no one survived," Army spokesman Col Akara Tiprote said the following day.

Col Akara said that an army investigation into the attack showed that the insurgents killed the injured soldiers by either shooting them at point blank range or strangling them.

Three soldiers who survived the attack later died at Yala Hospital. A hunt is under way for the culprits as authorities have received a lead from former insurgents who have surrendered, according to the spokesman.

The frequency of roadside bombs targeting soldiers in the restive Deep South increased considerably in May.

On the same day in Songkhla's troubled Saba Yoi District, gunmen opened fire on a crowd outside a mosque, killing five and injuring two. Earlier in the week, on May 28, a bomb exploded in a busy market in the district, killing four people, including two young girls, and injuring 26 others.

On May 31 alone, a total of 21 people were killed in the Deep South as a result of the local insurgency.

**Haad Yai suspects held:** Police on May 31 arrested five young men from an apartment in downtown Haad Yai for questioning over the May 27 bombings in

Haad Yai that killed one person and injured 12 others.

Deputy Police Chief Lt Gen Abdul Saengsingkoew, the officer who led the raid, said police had discovered items that could be used for bomb making in the apartment. The five suspects were taken to an army camp in Pattani under the Emergency Law that permits detention without trial for a month.

At least four of the detained

were residents of Pattani's Sai Buri District.

On the same day, some 2,000 Muslim students and local residents gathered at the Pattani Central Mosque to demand that the government pull out all its troops from the Deep South and lift the curfew that has been imposed on various locations in the restive region.

They also called on the state not to meddle in the media reports and urged them not to distort information released to the public.

The event was unprecedented as most of the public demonstrations in the region since the October 2004 Tak Bai protest were carried out at the village level by local residents numbering only in the hundreds.

**Bus boys busted:** A bus driver and two attendants were arrest-

ed outside Surat Thani Tourist Police Office on the morning of May 31 after police officers discovered that 11 foreign tourists had been robbed while asleep on the bus.

Tourist Police stopped the bus after receiving numerous reports that tourists had had their bags rifled and valuables stolen on the Bangkok to Koh Samui and Koh Pha Ngan service.

Police officers instructed the 40-odd passengers to check their luggage to see if anything was missing. Eleven passengers – five from Canada, two from Germany, two from Sweden, one from Holland and one from Ireland – said that valuables and cash had been taken.

Officers searched the bus driver, Chanchai Janphuton, 46, and the two attendants, Kraison Srimongkol, 20, and Phatarachai

Duangban, 24, and discovered they had cash of various currencies with a total value of about 40,000 baht and several cameras.

Police reported that the lower deck of the bus had been converted into a baggage storage room and the bus attendants would wait until the passengers were sleeping before searching their luggage.

All three were charged with theft. Police are also preparing to bring charges against the bus operators for running a transport service without a license.

Many of the passengers on the bus were on the way to the June 1 Full Moon Party on Koh Pha Ngan. Tourist Police provided breakfast for the passengers and then arranged for alternative transport to take them the rest of their journey.

**Cop admits beating:** A police sergeant major was badly beaten and had his gun stolen by a gang of youths after he attempted to stop them from destroying the motorcycle of a rival youth in Nakhon Sri Thammarat May 30.

Sgt Maj Wirat Nopphachao, despite being off duty at the time, responded to a call on his police radio of a disturbance at an apartment block near the local Robinson department store.

Two youths had been in an argument with a rival gang and had fled back to their apartment. Two of their attackers followed them and started smashing their rivals' motorbike with pieces of lumber, so the youths hiding in the apartment called for police help.

Sgt Maj Wirat arrived at the scene about 9 pm and ordered the two youths to stop. The youths advanced toward him, so he drew his gun and told them he was a police officer.

Two more youths on a motorcycle then raced up at high speed, pulled a wheelie and crashed into Sgt Maj Wirat, knocking him off his feet.

All four youths then beat Sgt Maj Wirat senseless with pieces of lumber.

The youths then drove away, taking with them Sgt Maj Wirat's .45-caliber Colt Gold Cup pistol, worth more than 100,000 baht.

Sgt Maj Wirat was taken to Maharaj Hospital to be treated for severe cuts, bruising and concussion.

His commanding officer, Lt Col Prasert Nakkhong, an Investigating Inspector with Nakhon Sri Thammarat Provincial Police, said that police had yet to catch the youths responsible for the attack, but from interviewing the two youths who reported the disturbance, police believe they know their identities.

The two youths who ran over Sgt Maj Wirat probably weren't aware that he was a policeman when they attacked him, Col Prasert speculated.

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



**SPLIFF SEIZED:** Border Patrol Police in Songkhla display 180 kilograms of cannabis seized en route to Satun from where they were to be shipped to Malaysia. Four people were arrested and two cars were seized during the raid.

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# Thais slowly stubbing out the cigs

The number of Thai smokers has fallen by nearly 40% over the past 20 years as a result of strict enforcement of seven anti-smoking laws and effective awareness campaigns, Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) Deputy Permanent Secretary Mani Theeratanikanont said during activities to mark World No Tobacco Day on May 31.

There are now 9.54 million Thais aged 15 years or older who smoke daily, compared with 11.7 million in 1987. Of the 9.54 million current Thai smokers, 4.5 million are chain smokers.

The MoPH will continue to focus on curbing secondary smoke and raising awareness about its harmful effects, in line with the World Health Organization theme for 2007, he said.

Local campaigns will include strengthening measures of all seven anti-smoking laws, K. Mani told a Bangkok seminar.

Citing WHO research, Public Health Minister Mongkol Na Songkhla said a lit cigarette created more than 4,000 toxins. At least 250 of the toxins – more than 60 of them being carcinogens – were found in secondary smoke.

A National Statistics Office report last year said men smoked 15 times more than women with an average of 10 cigarettes a day. The average age to begin smoking was 18.

Some 52,000 people die annually from smoking-related diseases, costing 44 billion baht in medical bills.

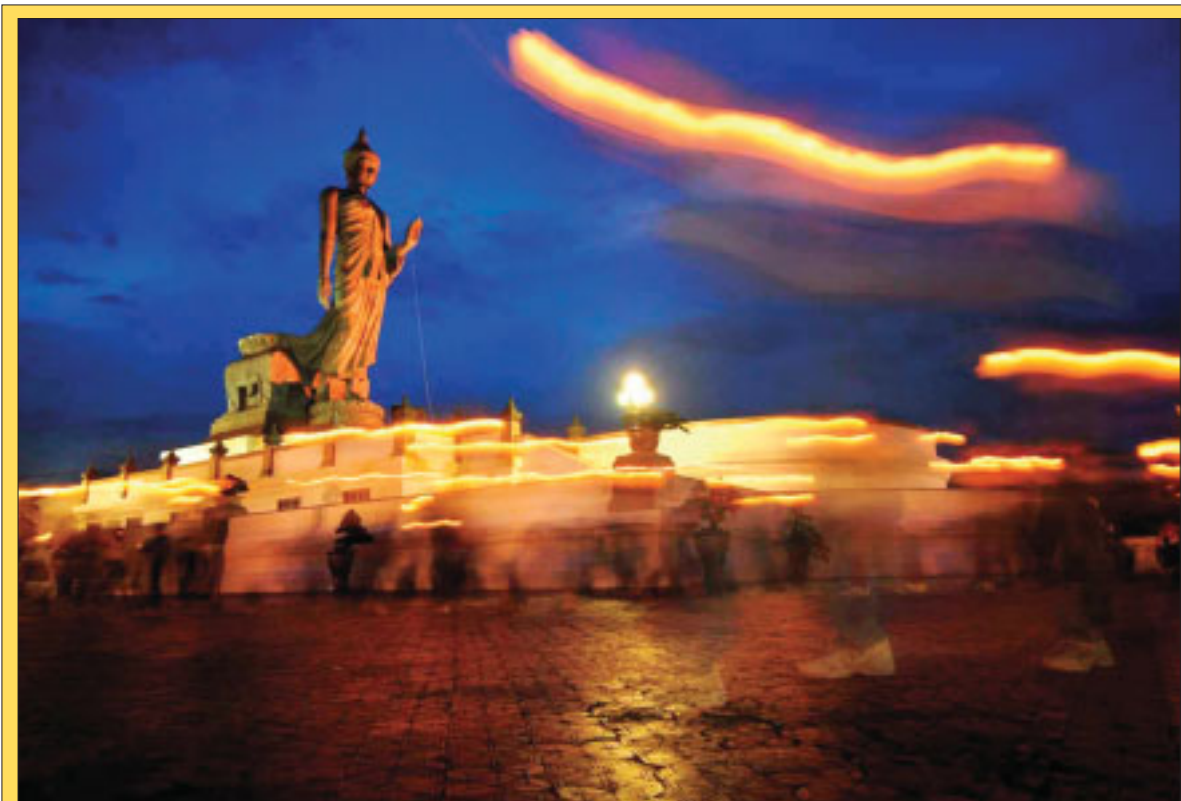
From September 28, ministerial regulations will insist that cigar packs carry warning messages with images covering 50% of the packet's surface, following the way cigarette packs are now designed, said Public Health Permanent Secretary Prat Boonyawongvirot.

**Deadly indemnity:** Nakhon Nayok police arrested Siriporn Poonprasert, 31, for being an alleged accomplice in masterminding her husband's death so that she could claim 14 million baht in insurance.

It was originally thought that Siriporn's husband, Aiyakanseuk Mahawannakit, 31, was killed in a collision with a vehicle driven by Suchat Thammanit in November 2004. Investigators became suspicious, however, because the impact of the crash was unlikely to be strong enough to kill K. Aiyakanseuk.

The arrests follow complaints from insurance companies, which allege that Siriporn forged her husband's signature on 16 life insurance policies.

Siriporn said she had done nothing wrong and neither knew nor had hired Suchat, but police said there was enough evidence to prove the contrary and arrested the couple. Suchat also denied all charges.



Buddhists join a candlelight ritual around the Buddha Monthol in Nakhon Pathom to mark Visakha Bucha Day, the holiest time in the Buddhist calendar, marking the birth, enlightenment and passing of the Buddha.

**Slow justice:** Following an 11-year fight for justice, 37 female workers who suffered a lung ailment caused by cotton dust finally won their lawsuit against Bangkok Weaving Mills. The workers, who had originally demanded 57 baht million in compensation will receive 10,000 baht to 110,000 baht each, with interest backdated to the day the lawsuit was filed.

Somboon Srikam-dokkae, the first plaintiff in the case, said the workers were satisfied with the Appeals Court verdict, even though the compensation was less than half the lower court's ruling.

The ailment, byssinosis, commonly called "brown lung disease", is caused by exposure to dust from cotton or other fibers in inadequately ventilated working environments. It can ultimately result in narrowing of the trachea in the lungs, destruction of lung tissue and death from infection or respiratory failure.

**Rare fish protection:** Thailand will back a proposal by Kenya and the US to put knifetooth sawfish, shark-fin guitarfish and white-spotted guitarfish on Appendix 1

of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (Cites) at the next Cites meeting in June.

Anuwat Nateewathana, Director of the Marine and Coastal Resources Rehabilitation and Conservation Unit, said that if the fish were put on Cites Appendix 1 trade in them would be strictly prohibited among member countries.

The recent dramatic decline in the population of the three species of fish has been attributed to commercial over-fishing.

**Health scare:** Three foreigners at a refugee camp have been quarantined after they were found to have extreme drug-resistant tuberculosis (XDR-TB), Disease Control Department Director-General Dr Thawat Suntrajarn announced.

There is currently no treatment for this strain of TB, which became major news globally after a federal quarantine order unused for 44 years was invoked to isolate a man in the US last month.

"The last time this law was invoked was for a smallpox patient," Thawat said.

There were no known cas-

es of Thais having been infected with XDR-TB. It remained unclear whether TB vaccination would be able to prevent XDR-TB infection, Dr Thawat added.

**Cyber Thaksin:** Websites supporting deposed Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra would continue to be blocked for three more months, Information and Communications Technology Minister Sitthichai Pookaiyaudom announced after the historic ruling by the Constitutional Court to dissolve Thaksin's Thai Rak Thai party.

Although the tribunal dissolved the party, the ministry would continue to monitor websites of its supporters, he said.

If a site's content was deemed to "instigate conflict" or

"cause political turbulence" it would be blocked, he confirmed.

The ministry could block pro-Thaksin websites such as www.hi-thaksin.com, but could not shut them down, because they were hosted on servers outside Thailand, he explained.

**Beer ambitions:** Thai Beverage, producers of Chang Beer and Sangsom whiskey, has set up Cosmos Brewery (Thailand) in Ayudhya to produce Chang beer exclusively for export.

"Chang Export" has been reformulated by reducing its alcohol level to 5%, from Chang Classic's more potent 6.4%.

Cosmos now makes more than 100 million liters of Chang each year and ships to 23 countries, including Europe and the US, said Thai Beverage Director Pisanu Vichiensanth.

To cater to the rising demand for a lighter beer in markets abroad, the firm is preparing to export its Archa brand beer.

The company has already received orders for Archa from countries in Asia, he said.

With 5.4% alcohol content, Archa has been positioned to take on the economy beer segment. It scooped the Gold Medal award at the Australian International Beer Awards' Beer Competition this year, beating out 940 entries from around the world.

"We have, however, adjusted Archa to suit the taste and preference of drinkers abroad," K. Pisanu said.

The company also has plans to launch a new premium beer that has already passed the research and development phase, he revealed.

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



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# Herbs in the 'burbs

By Natcha Yuttaworawit

To pick up a bunch of chillies or a handful of basil, most people in Phuket trek to the markets or supermarkets for their daily needs.

Now, however, the Phuket Provincial Agricultural Office (PPAO) is urging more people to plant their own... up in the air.

The "Sky-high Homegrown Vegetable" initiative aims to teach Phuket residents how to create hanging gardens to grow their own herbs and vegetables.

The homegrown approach, the PPAO says, has many benefits, including being cheaper, having fewer risks of pesticides and a closer adherence to HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej's theory of "sufficiency economy".

PPAO Chief Somchai Hengwacharapaiboon told the *Gazette* that the office wants to promote the practice of growing vegetables and herbs at home to agriculturalists and residents on the island. The sky-high program has been around in Phuket for some time, he said, but the office has recently stepped up efforts to publicize it.

"With this program, people will not need to buy their herbs and vegetables, so they will not have to risk having toxins on their food, which will be healthier for them. They can also reduce how much they spend, especially since the cost of living in Phuket is so high," K. Somchai said.

"With this project, people do not need much space to plant. You can hang it near your windows or make a little pole out of bamboo, scrap iron or wood so you do not need to buy any materials.

"Moreover, you do not need to buy a flower pot because there are many natural containers that work just as well, such as coconut shells or big conch shells, which also look nice just by themselves."

K. Somchai said that any-



**HANG 'EM HIGH:** Hanging gardens such as this one can be created cheaply using old coconut husks, bamboo rods and some string. Not only do they provide good decoration for the front yard; they also supply vegetables and herbs for the kitchen. Provincial Agricultural Office Chief Somchai Hengwacharapaiboon says the plants take up very little space.

one interested in hanging gardens can come by their office at Saphan Hin for more information and suggestions. They also have seedlings available free.

"We have examples set up here, including leafy vegetables such as morning glory, mint, Chinese kale and *kula kud* (Asiatic Pennywort) as well as other vegetables such as eggplants and chili. We also have herbs such as ginger, lemongrass, galangal, basil and tumeric."

Petchaburi native Chor Samrit, 65, says that the hanging gardens at her house near Wat Kosit provide not only ingredients for her kitchen, but also make the outside of her house much more attractive.

"Even though I live in town

I have a very natural ambience around my house. I have many plants, which I think is important because the homegrown vegetables and herbs are good for my family and me.

"When I cook for my son in the evening and I need an extra ingredient like chili or lemongrass, I do not have to buy it because it's already here. My son said if we had more space we could grow all our vegetables here and not need to go to market at all."

K. Chor said that some plants can also provide medical relief. "When I iron my clothes and I accidentally touch the iron, I am lucky that I have aloe vera plants in my front garden. I can rush outside, break off a leaf and put the aloe on my finger. This is

a very useful herb and it is very easy to grow," she said.

K. Chor added that she grows a wide variety of plants, some of which can even provide shade cover until she cooks them.

K. Somchai said that one of the benefits of growing hanging plants is that they can be harvested year-round, and they are easier to take care of than if they were planted in the ground.

"We're getting great feedback from both the government and private sector, especially from students and teachers since our latest activity on May 24 when we had Agricultural Mobile Clinic Day at Baan Sapam School. There we gave out about 800 young chili trees," he said.

"I think this is a great project

for the Agricultural Office, and I think it's good for the people," K. Chor said. "I hope more people become interested so we can all be more self-sufficient."

To plant herbs and vegetables in hanging baskets, the *Gazette's* gardening columnist Bloomin' Bert recommends using ground-up coconut husks available in white bags at most gardening centers.

He notes that it is important to keep the soil well-drained because the plant roots will rot easily if water is allowed to sit for too long.

For more recommendations, visit the Phuket Provincial Agriculture Office or email Bert at [bloominbert@hotmail.com](mailto:bloominbert@hotmail.com)



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# A RACK TO REMEMBER

**C**hef Stephan Bouwman, 35, from Germany, started his culinary career when he was 18 in Hamburg, where he later joined the famed Rive Hamburg seafood restaurant.

"I opened my first restaurant with 80 seats when I was 21 years old. I was still so young at that time that I needed a partner.

"After two years I sold my half of the business to my partner then opened another restaurant. It had only 65 seats, but was more exclusive," Stephan explains.

"One of my chefs, who worked for me for about five years, was from Bangkok. He brought all his ideas to Europe and mixed it up with the food. I like Asian-style cooking. We have many shops in Hamburg and you can buy everything needed for Thai food, so I started to make it.

"When I began my career 17 years ago, my biggest wish was to cook at the Oriental Hotel in Bangkok. This was at the back of my mind all the time," he says.

Stephan knew two people working for Aspasia, one in Hong Kong and another in Phuket; contacts who prompted his move to Phuket.

"They remembered me and needed a new chef. So they flew to Hamburg and asked me if I wanted to come to Thailand. I said, 'Okay, buy me the flight and I'll have a look.' Then I came here, and I saw how everything used spices and herbs," he says.

"When I came to Phuket, with its very nice beaches and nice people, it was a big difference for me. And then after one year, I came to understand the place," says Stephan.

Now after two years at the Aspasia in Kata, Stephan brought his extensive experience to the Jean-Pierre restaurant at BYD Lofts in Patong, where he glories in the title of "Culinary Architect". "I started here on February 6, when BYD Lofts opened," he explains.

"About 80% of the food here is European, mainly from along the Mediterranean coast – from Spain, France, Germany, Italy. All the dishes use fresh meat; everything is imported, all breakfast items come from Italy. Only local herbs and seafood are sourced locally," he explains.

"Rack of lamb is one of my favorite dishes; I have been cooking it for 15 years. I like to play with the meat: lamb, tenderloin, fillet. There are so many things you can do with lamb. You have

## Guest chef

By Semacote Suganya

lamb legs, shoulder, rack of lamb, lamb neck.

"As with so many Thai dishes, you can play around," he says.

"I receive feedback every day on what customers prefer, and now I am being asked for more seafood dishes because I have so much experience with seafood. I play around with the food, and I need to change the menu.

"But guests don't need to order only from the menu. If they want something not on the menu I can bring some ingredients to the table and make something special just for them," Stephan adds.

### Rack of lamb with mushrooms and red wine sauce

#### Ingredients

350g New Zealand rack of lamb;  
25g Dry mushroom caps;  
200g Potatoes;  
Rosemary, milk, butter, salt, pepper to taste.

#### Method

French cut the rack of lamb into individual chops. Marinate for 10 hours in milk flavored with rosemary. Pan fry the chops for 3 minutes on each side then bake in an oven preheated to 160°C for 12 minutes.

Boil the potatoes and mushrooms together, then mash to desired consistency while adding butter, salt and milk to taste.

#### Red wine sauce

200ml red wine  
1 teaspoon balsamic vinegar  
Sugar, butter, thyme to taste

Add all of the ingredients to a pan and simmer until the sauce

reduces to your desired consistency.

### Tuna with asparagus risotto and truffle sauce

#### Ingredients

250g Fresh tuna fillet  
Sea salt to taste

#### For the risotto

100g Italian risotto rice  
50g Green asparagus  
200ml White wine  
1 tablespoon vegetable stock  
Lemon, sugar, pepper, fresh Parmesan cheese to taste

#### For the truffle sauce

1 cup red wine  
3 teaspoons balsamic vinegar  
1 teaspoons truffle paste  
Sugar, salt, pepper.

#### Method

Sprinkle the fillet with sea salt and pan fry for 2 minutes on each side.

**Risotto:** Add the risotto rice, asparagus, white wine and vegetable stock to a small pan and boil for about 14 minutes until it forms a soft and creamy mixture, but is not overcooked.

**Truffle sauce:** Add the red wine, balsamic vinegar, truffle paste, sugar, salt and pepper to a small pan and reduce to a thick consistency.

Garnish with fried rosemary.

BYD Lofts is at 5/28 Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd, Patong, Kathu, Phuket 83150. Tel: 076-343 024-7. Fax: 076-343028. Email: info@bydlofts.com. Open daily 6 am to midnight.



Stephan Bouwman displaying tuna with asparagus risotto and truffle sauce – but his favorite meat, he says, is lamb.

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It is surprising to consider that an old man, for 41 years a respectable Swiss Customs official, can find rejuvenation in Patong after the demise of his beloved wife.

Shocking, perhaps, especially to bluenoses, but a fact nonetheless, which anyone may attest simply by putting one's hand in the vise-like grip of Louis Filli.

The insipid ease of a rest home or a twilight filled with lament and loneliness are not for him. Instead, this hardy mountaineer maintains an inspiring vigor and lust for life. Filli has been visiting Patong for 14 years, and last month his many friends in Phuket gathered at Patong's Tropica Resort to feast the occasion of his 50<sup>th</sup> journey.

The guest of honor was of middle height, thick-set and erect. He greets one standing four-square, with powerful arms and a healthy paunch. His only submissions to age apparently are thick spectacles and a certain moderation of habit.

Otherwise, he might be a man in the prime of middle-age: his features are not deeply lined and Filli still has the level, unhesitating gaze befitting a senior customs officer. Yet he retired 20 years ago, and now is just three months short of his 85<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Host for the evening and owner of The Tropica, where the party had gathered in the resort's garden restaurant, opposite Patong's famous strand, was Hans-Jurgen "Giorgio" Gompf, who, as an agent of Swissair, can claim to have brought the first tours to Patong 27 years ago.

Andaman Sea (Patong) Lions Club president and property developer Peter Wesche was there, along with about 50 others, including journalists from local German and English-language publications. Guests sat at large, irregularly-shaped tables, were of all ages, and included – between their duties clearing and serving – the hotel's staff, among whom Filli is almost family.

Everyone did justice to the buffet, which featured a tasty Greek salad with goat cheese and olives; and pale but spicy Nurnburger sausages. The wine – three varieties of Italian – flowed like water; Filli, however, drank sparingly and remained alert, bemused by the revelry around him.

"Filli visits three or four

times a year and stays always in the same room, and always at least three months – sometimes seven or eight months – at a time," Giorgio explained.

Serving staff giggled and huddled round, wine glasses in hand, to take their place in photos with the guest of honor. A troubadour was belting out *His Latest Flame* by Elvis.

"This trip he leaves in September, but he plans to be back in November and has already booked his room," he added.

"It's hard to believe that man is 84 years old," observed a reporter. "He scarcely seems 60. What keeps him coming back to Patong?"

"Oh, he's traveled all over the world," said Giorgio, who interpreted for the German-speaking Filli, "but he likes the climate here – it's sunny; people are friendly; the hotel is good..."

"Louis is always young because he always has a *jung frau*," some joker interjected. The group laughed. "We have a saying in German that the three best things in life are eating, drinking and..."

"Yes, we've a similar saying in English."

"It's not only that," said Giorgio, "it's the way of treating older people here generally."

Filli – a sober, circumspect man prey to excesses of neither frivolity nor sensuality – has his own opinion about living well: "My motto is: Remember only the good times."

Friends recently gathered at the Tropica Resort in Patong to celebrate the 50th visit to Phuket by 84-year-old Louis Filli from Switzerland. So just what is it about Phuket that keeps drawing Louis back? Marque A Rome finds out.

"You retired 20 years ago. Were times better before or after you retired?"

"Oh, they were equally good. I had a good marriage. But after retiring my wife and I traveled. I have fond memories of visiting her uncle in America. We went to Canada, Mexico... many countries. We did everything together..." he said, adding that the couple never had children.

But then she preceded him on the journey from which none return, and Filli was faced for the first time with the gloomy prospect of being alone. The couple never had any children. "That's when he came to Thailand, liked it and came back. On his fourth trip he stayed at the Tropica, and he's been staying here ever since," explained Giorgio.

Filli is active, enjoys the beach and the ocean, and has the appearance of one intent on getting the most from each moment – always within reason, of course; he is, after all, a retired customs inspector. "Your motto is 'remember the good times'. Were there ever any bad times?"

"There were bad times, but it's better to forget them. There was the war..."

Louis Filli was born in 1922, little more than three years after World War I. Although his country is roundly admired for remaining "perpetually neutral", the admiration of others doesn't make

life for the Swiss any easier.

Switzerland is a federation of 26 cantons, or provinces, with local people being native speakers of German, French and Italian. Wars involving neighbors thus inevitably created social tensions. In WWI, French and Italian speakers sided with the Entente



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# roll, yet again trip to Patong



Although he won't be leaving until September, Louis Filli (left) has already booked his room for his next stay in November. His perennial host is none other than Patong tourism pioneer Giorgio Gompf (right), who opened the Tropica Bungalow and Resort in Patong 27 years ago.

ailed among Switzerland's neighbors, depressing trade. Then came the Great Depression. The only growth industry was banking: the rich were squirreling away their fortunes in anticipation of more war.

It came on September 1, 1939, when Poland was blitzed by the Nazis. In June 1940, France fell. Switzerland was forced to intern whole armies of fleeing French and Polish soldiers. The nation's militia was once again mobilized.

"I was a bicycle soldier," said Filli.

"Being a soldier in Switzerland is special," Giorgio explained, "not the same as in other countries. I always wanted to join, because you take your gun home, then mount it over the front door. So you can see how proud they are to be soldiers, because they all have guns over their doors.

"Bullets, though, are restricted."

Here some explanation is necessary: Switzerland has no regular army, only a citizen militia with a few-hundred-strong corps of instructors; and no officers (except during war) above the rank of colonel.

Men between 19 and 48 years old are liable to militia service unless they pay a special tax. Those aged 20 to 32 are regarded as "frontline" troops. The system is a throw-back to ancient times: the populace even elects during war – as the Romans did – one soldier to serve as General, a de-facto Commander-in-Chief with near dictatorial powers.

Filli, then, was a frontline trooper, warily patrolling on his bicycle during the prolonged crisis. "Switzerland was no paradise during the war," he said. "They had restrictions on food and everything else. Trade was not allowed." Indeed, in Switzerland, where 60% of the nation's wine, 63% of fish and poultry, 67% of bread grains, 94% of sugar, and all fruits were then imported, cessation of trade meant real belt-tightening.

"Other Europeans have this idea that the Swiss took it easy during the War," said Giorgio, "but that's not how it was."

Anxiety was rife that attack might come from one side or the other – for fear of Swiss trading with the enemy. Belligerent air forces sometimes "accidentally" bombed Swiss towns, notably Schaffhausen. Newspapers were censored and the Communist Party proscribed.

"Louis doesn't want to talk about it," Giorgio said.

"Just remember the good times," reiterated Filli emphatically.

Those came after the war. "I became an outside customs inspector in 1946," he said, meaning that his job was to intercept goods before they were smuggled into the country. "I worked in plainclothes, on the Rhine, for 10 years." The Swiss federal government then derived

a large portion of its revenues from Customs fees.

When peace broke out, smuggling began in earnest. "In Germany they had no money, only cigarettes with which to trade," said Giorgio, "and those weren't allowed."

Aside from cigarettes, the most popular items for smugglers were "coffee, machinery, technology and clothes," said Filli. "But almost anything completely-built-up was profitable."

"My biggest headaches came in trying to figure out what things were worth," he explained. "Because something could be worth a million dollars and if I didn't catch it the government would lose a lot of money. That's what made me lose sleep."

"I don't think customs inspectors around here lose sleep over how much the government might not get," said someone. Filli grinned, but said nothing. He had been with the Swiss Customs service 41 years,

eventually rising to Assistant Director.

"Corruption doesn't exist in the Swiss civil service," observed Giorgio. "I myself was never so shocked as when I heard German highway police were caught taking bribes..."

"It's better to forget them," said Filli, who rose to go. "I want to get to the beach early tomorrow," he said.

"First, tell us the secret of your longevity," someone teased.

"I had a good marriage," he said, turning briskly away and walking off. Several glasses rose to toast him: "May you be back 50 more times, Louis," said a guest.

He disappeared into the crowd as the glasses clinked and friends cheered a content man.

Filli – a sober, circumspect man prey to excesses of neither frivolity nor sensuality – has his own opinion about living well: 'My motto is: Remember only the good times.'

Cordiale; German-speakers with the Central Powers.

Economic conditions exacerbated divisions: the country imported most food, had few heavy industries, and relied on tourism, watch, clock and cheese exports for foreign exchange. But with the war, trade and tourism nearly ceased. The male population was put on alert; rationing was imposed; class conflicts appeared.

Communist agitation – not least by Vladimir Ilyich Lenin, founder of the Soviet state, who was resident in Zurich until the autumn of 1917 – and by the Social Democrats, culminated in the general strike of 1918: workers demanded a 48-hour week, pensions, national health insurance and female suffrage.

Then an epidemic of killer influenza wrought its havoc.

The Swiss were just emerging from this chaotic period when Filli was born – but unease continued throughout the inter-war period. Employment grew by

barely 10%, while the population increased by more than 15%.

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# This week



**FINAL CALL:** The graduating International Baccalaureate class of the British International School pose for a final class photo to celebrate their passage onward and upward.

**ZAZA ZOOM:** (Right) Thai pop band ZAZA singers (from left) Kaew-Jareena Sirising, Namwaan-Pimmara Chareonpakdi and Pim-Pimmada Boriruksuppakorn put on big smiles before enjoying dinner at Phuket



**WHAT IS THAT?** A student from Satree Phuket School (left) explains to Pat-tanarak Foundation Chairperson Sudjit Nimitkul (right) how to check water quality. The foundation works to balance the interests of development and



**HAPPY TRAILS:** *Phuket Gazette* Managing Editor Chris Husted (seated, left) and other staff held a farewell party for Desk Editor Dominic Earnshaw (standing, green shirt) at the Living Room in Phuket City.



**AUSSIE ARMADA:** Watermark Bar & Restaurant General Manager Stuart Bird (2<sup>nd</sup> from right) welcomes Australian Ambassador to Thailand William Paterson (left) to an Australian-Thai Chamber of Commerce function at the restaurant. Joining them are the Ambassador's wife, Helen (right), and Kusama Yodhasamutr, Editor-in-Chief of the Foreign News Division of the National




**HANDOVER:** Phuket Education Service Area Director Chien Sirueng (center, left) hands the authority for the administration of the Baan Maireab School to Suthep Thepsakul, Deputy Director of the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*). Baan Maireab School is the third of seven Phuket schools that will be transferred to *OrBorJor* administration.



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# Mazda2 gets a makeover

**L**aunched at the Geneva Motor Show in March, the new Mazda2 – called the Demio in some markets – is a logical progression of the old model, although its makers claim it is “not just a model change”. It is, they say, the first of Mazda’s new-generation line-up “to evolve to the next stage”.

The Mazda2 has been conceived as a fuel-efficient machine in order to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Close attention was paid to minimizing weight as a means of decreasing fuel consumption. During the design stage, a special team at Mazda devised weight-saving changes and conducted evaluations of the resulting low weight on the car’s performance.

Through increased use of high-tensile steel, the engineers not only made the new Mazda2 about 100 kilograms lighter than its predecessor, they also achieved major improvements in terms of safety, body rigidity, noise, vibration and durability.

In terms of fuel economy, the new car delivers performance figures around 15% better than the outgoing model.

The Mazda2 was launched with a choice of a 1.3-liter DOHC gasoline engine or a 1.5-liter version. A 1.4-liter diesel engine will be added to the range later. Maximum power outputs of the gasoline units



The Mazda2 is currently built in Japan, but there are plans to make it in Rayong too.

are respectable: 84bhp (62kW) and 103bhp, respectively. Torque figures are equally good at 121Nm and 136Nm. The top speed of the 1.5-liter model is roughly 185kmh.

The interior has had a substantial makeover and the cabin of the Mazda2 is strikingly different from the majority of cars in this segment. Contoured forms combine with a reassuring visual substance, while the instrument panel helps create a feeling of immense space.

A newly-designed glove box features a magazine rack to store road books and maps, and there is a floor console between the driver seat and the front passenger seat with a large rear tray stable enough to store a handbag and other personal items.

Low mounting points for the exterior mirrors ensure the driver has good visibility toward the front and rear.

Safety has been firmly addressed in the new Mazda2, with a rigid, impact-absorbing passenger cell, complete with front and rear crumple zones, that dissipates impact energy throughout the vehicle during a collision.

In addition, dual front airbags and optional side curtain bags protect occupants in the event of an accident. The hood, fenders and windshield wipers are all designed to minimize injuries in the event of contact with a pedestrian.

Mazda has concentrated on making the new car user-friendly and, in particular, both the brakes and the brake pedal have received close attention, such that the pedal force delivers linear braking force with little or no free play.

On the road the Mazda2 is nimble and responsive, yet the ride is superior to many other cars of this size. Straight-line stability is excellent, while lane changes on the highway can be executed with confidence.

Brakes are ventilated discs up front with drums at the rear. While drum brakes are considerably cheaper than disc brakes, it does seem rather penny-pinching for a new car. Most other automakers manage to bestow rear discs on their vehicles; Mazda should follow suit.

The new Mazda2 is currently built only in Japan, but there are plans to expand production by setting up a line at the Mazda/Ford Auto Alliance plant in Rayong Province here in Thailand. Although prices for the new model have yet to be announced, the expansion would certainly reduce its retail price.

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



By Jeff Heselwood

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# The bearable lightness of seeing

Once the realm of the math squad and the fashion equivalent to a pocket protector, eyeglasses have rapidly transformed their image from a dowdy necessity to a sought-after fashion item. As they break the boundary between needed to wanted, wearers are also breaking the traditional rules of how to wear glasses. The *Gazette's* Suganya Semacote reports.

**U**bonwan Mekarakul of Namsil Optic on Phuket Rd, in Phuket City said that people are now even choosing frame styles contradicting the traditional styles chosen for particular shapes of faces.

"People with square faces used to choose round frames, and people with round faces chose square frames. But now many customers are choosing frames simply according to what fashion trend they like," she said.

Currently, the popular choice among both men and women is thick, colored plastic frames, she added.

"There are many styles, such as oval, rectangular, aviator, round, cat's eye, wrap and goggle. Many people now have several pairs of glasses; choosing which ones to wear depending on the style they want at the time," she said.

In choosing glasses there are several elements to consider. Since non-tinted glasses have not yet achieved wide popularity among people with good vision, Yodthakarn "Yong" Mekaruckul of Better Vision on Montri Rd, in Phuket City, explained that the



**LOOKING GOOD:** Orange frames from Calvin Klein. And you know when CK is making frames, then glasses must be fashionable.

first step was to check how poor the wearer's vision truly is.

"First, we need to determine if you need glasses just for read-

ing or need to wear them all the time for general vision. These

days we can make bifocals so you can wear the one pair of

glasses for both close-up reading and for seeing at a distance, like two in one.

"If people need glasses only

for reading, we recommend they choose small or half-frames so they can simply look over the top of them to see things at a distance. We usually recommend small oval frames so that the lenses look thinner," he said.

However, K. Yong said that it is becoming more common for people who need to wear glasses all the time to choose frames as more of a fashion statement than a matter of necessity. This is also helped because new types of lenses are lighter and more comfortable to wear continuously.

"We now have thin lenses, not thick like before, so they are much lighter. Also lenses are 'multicoated' to cut light reflection," he said. Although glass lenses have a slightly better optical clarity and do not scratch as easily as plastic lenses, they can shatter and cause serious eye injury, he added.

Plastic lenses even allow "borderless" frames, he added. "These frames are popular because they are light and can even seem as if you are not wearing glasses at all. They also give a wider range of vision," he said.

In caring for glasses, K. Ubonwan said, "The easiest way is to use dishwashing liquid to clean glass lenses and use an old toothbrush to clean the bridge supports. People who sweat a lot should clean their frames more often."

She also strongly suggested cleaning the frames each time after returning from the beach. "Even titanium frames should be cleaned immediately because of the sea salt," she said.

Conversely, K. Ubonwan said that office workers needed to clean their frames only about once a week.

However, she added, "You must use a good-quality spray to clean plastic lenses, otherwise the protective coating will deteriorate faster."

The same regimen should also be used for sunglasses, which are gaining popularity for the same fashion purposes.

All opticians agree, however, that for both reading glasses and sunglasses – a taped bridge is never in style.

**La Villa**  
*French Gastronomy*

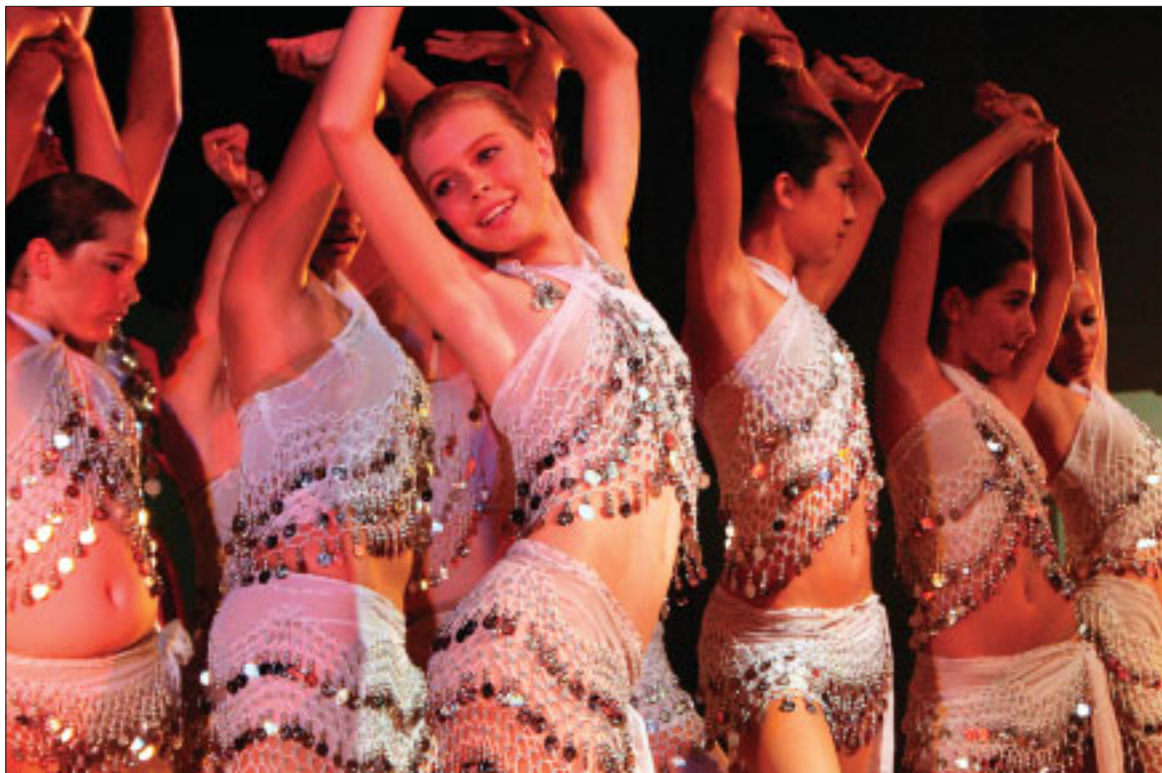
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# Feet! Do your thing!



Words and pictures  
by Alasdair Forbes

Some 350 mums and dads, friends and fans crowded into the ballroom at the Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa June 2 to enjoy *Those Dancing Feet*, a dance extravaganza put on by students of the Phuket Academy of Dance.

Students of the academy who high-stepped, cartwheeled did the splits and otherwise boogied on stage ranged in age from four and five right through to "Don't ask, it's not polite", and drew loud applause and a standing ovation at the end of the three-hour performance.

Solo performers included Maxine Lukas, Jimmy Cumming and Marla Stark.

*The Phuket Academy of Dance, which is run by Karen Alexander, is in the Fisherman Way Business Center on Chao Fa East Rd, Tel 087-2647379/2848536. Email via linda@lindacumming.com*



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# Shophouse astonishment

When she is describing the philosophy behind her Nirvana Home Spa in Cherng Talay, Junyaporn "Joom" Srisapun says, "Do what you love the most, and the results will be the best."

Well, that's good enough reason for me to give Nirvana a try.

When I first see the shophouse that Nirvana occupies, I wonder if a shophouse can provide the soothing atmosphere a spa requires. As I enter, however, I see a small, beautifully-designed garden that puts my concerns to rest.

The spa opens with a large reception area that uses dark woods and an intriguing wall designed to show off spa lotions, oils and scrubs. I am quite impressed with the decoration of the shophouse and how it has been changed to have the magic of a true spa.

K. Joom welcomes me with a big smile and says the spa came from her love of massage and beauty.

She says that it took about three months and more than a million baht to design and decorate the spa, which has now been open for two months.

"Everyone in my family is crazy about massages and I decided I really want to do the thing I love most."

She is fortunate to have a close relative that used to work as a therapist at the Banyan Tree Spa, she says, and that she herself has tried many different spa



**UNUSUAL DECOR:** For a shophouse, Nirvana's interior is a delightful surprise. Left: Spa Owner Junyaporn 'Joom' Srisapun

treatments.

"I studied foot massage and Thai massage with the Phuket Provincial Health Office because I wanted to know the correct techniques," K. Joom says.

A tour of the spa finds several therapy rooms on the first and second floors as well as a beauty and facial area. The main therapy room is used for guests who purchase a full massage and beauty package; and it includes a sauna, a bath, a rain forest

shower and a massage table. The main room is brightened by plants and the cheerful sounds of a waterfall.

The spa menu includes traditional Thai massage, sports massage, aromatic oil massage, foot massage, a salt scrub, herbal or collagen baths, body wraps and facials.

Three special "Nirvana Packages" are on offer that take anywhere from 2½ to 3½ hours to complete.

Prices start at 450 baht for a simple treatment and go to 3,200 baht for a complete package.

Nirvana's three therapists have more than 10 years of combined experience and, lucky me, I got the attention of all three when I took the Sabai Sabai package. Three hours of pampering for only 2,500 baht, a package that K. Joom says is very popular.

Gentle music and soft warm lights in the therapy room make me feel sleepy and very relaxed; the sound of the rain outside makes me happy – and I forget the worries of my work-a-day world.

I start with a sauna and then a sesame scrub with K. Noi, my

first therapist, doing a wonderful job. My skin feels so much cleaner and softer. K. Wan arrives and gives me a rosemary oil massage, which makes my skin feel fresh.

The herb facial that K. Joom gives me is my favorite. You could do it at home yourself if you want to have young skin and take years off your face.

**Spa  
MAGIC**



By Sangkhae Leelanapaporn  
**Nirvana Home Spa,  
Cherng Talay**

K. Joom was kind enough to fill me in on the secrets of her technique, and she says that it works at home as well. Make sure to clean your face between each of the steps.

First, clean your face with cold natural yogurt to remove all cosmetics. This should take about 10 minutes.

Massage your face with a rice scrub (found at most beauty shops) for about 10 minutes.

Use a mix of cucumber juice and honey to massage your face for another 10 minutes.

Cover your face for 15 minutes with a mix of cucumber juice and ground cucumber that has cooled in a freezer for at least 15 minutes. Relax.

Finally, when all the cucumber is removed, cover your face with a cold towel for at least five minutes.

This treatment will help skin look younger and brighter no matter where you do it, but if you enjoy the pampering and convenience, the professionals at Nirvana Home Spa can do it for you.

Nirvana's guests are a mixture of Thais and foreigners who live or work in the Cherng Talay area and they often see brides who come to the spa before their weddings.

And, since K. Joom is doing what she loves the most, the results are never less than the best.

Nirvana Home Spa is on Srisoonthorn Road in Cherng Talay, on the left side of the street about 500 meters east from the Tessaban offices. For more information call 076-527547. The spa is open Tuesday through Sunday from 10 am to 9 pm and offers free pick-up and drop-off in the local area including Cherng Talay, Laguna, Bang Tao and Surin Beach. Booking is required for this service.

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The train from Bangkok to Chiang Mai was scheduled to leave Thursday at 7:35 pm – I needed to be on it. With my stress levels exceedingly high, I was in dire need of a three-day weekend jaunt to escape the hustle and bustle of Bangkok. Chiang Mai is as good a place as any to escape monotony, relax and recharge the batteries, so with my trusty backpack and two bottles of water, I jumped into a taxi and headed to Hua Lampong Station, Thailand's largest train depot.

Night or day, Hua Lampong Station is filled with a throng of travelers coming and going, all with their own purpose. Despite this mass of humanity, it took less than five minutes to find train #13 on platform two. A few seconds later I found my seat and after a few minutes we were on our way.

Normally I would plan out every minute detail of a trip, making certain to squeeze as much out of my time as possible, but there is something to be said for taking things as they come. I had no idea what to do in Chiang Mai, nor did I care. But I did care about where I was going to stay, so before I left I made an on-line reservation at the 4-star Novotel Chiang Mai. At just 889 baht per night, not including breakfast, it's one of the finest bargains in the city. The service is excellent, the room is clean, comfortable and tastefully decorated – and there's in-room Wi-Fi!

Traveling by train is vastly underrated. Unlike with air travel, there's no rushing from point A to point B, then point C to point D, and so on, until you finally reach your destination – all the while confined to an undersized seat undoubtedly made by and for Lilliputians.

The airport rigmarole is often a rushed and regimented affair: take the taxi to the airport, find the check-in counter, pass the luggage through the X-ray machine, make the long walk to the departure gate and then wait for the cattle call to board.

To take the train, on the other hand, you simply set off for the station, get on your train and enjoy the ride. No information overload, no stress and plenty of time for relaxation. Nobody is falling asleep and drooling on me, nobody is talking my ear off, nobody is hogging my armrest. Most importantly, nobody is blocking my path to the toilet.

Before continuing, allow me to address the subject of the toilet. One category in which planes completely surpass trains is the toilet.

No matter what class you choose to travel in, toilets on State Railroad of Thailand (SRT) trains are extremely low-tech: they're simply a hole cut in the floor. Simply a chute from the floor of the train to the outside world. No encumbrances.

On many trains these commodes are of the "squat" variety, which for people like myself makes using it next to impossible. When I was a young boy, I used



The cavernous interior of Hua Lampong Station, Thailand's largest train station, is a round-the-clock temporary home to Thais in transit. Even in these days of low-cost airlines, it remains the most common entry point to Bangkok for rural people visiting the city.

## Going off the rails? Then ride the rails

to amble along the train tracks on the way to school ... never again.

But I digress (and perhaps strain the boundaries of good taste). My second class, 881 baht seat allowed ample room to stretch my stubby little legs,

and the seat across from me was empty, providing even more room. An hour into the trip the conductor came through punching the passenger tickets. Shortly thereafter, the seats were transformed into bunk beds and the lights dimmed. I crawled on to the bottom bed, closed the dingy curtain that closed off the rest of the world, turned on the small but effec-

tive light and pulled out a magazine. Within minutes I was visiting the land of nod and prancing through dreamland. This is an experience one never has at 30,000 feet.

At 6 am I am rudely awakened by the sound of an old woman's grumbling. On and on she went about how poorly she slept. For a moment I thought

about letting her know this didn't mean she had to disturb everyone else's sleep, but only for a moment.

I plugged in my iPod, drew the window curtain and was quickly rewarded for refusing to concentrate on the cackling old

woman. Maybe it was the good night's sleep I got, maybe it was the unusual lavender-grey sky that greeted me upon drawing the curtain, or maybe it was because the journey was nearly over. Whatever it was, all my stress was gone and I felt strangely giddy. Sometimes doing nothing does quite a lot.

Then it dawned on me, I

needed coffee! I meandered back to the dining car and immediately asked for a cup of their finest java: in this case Nescafe 3-in-1. No matter, two cups later I was sufficiently amped and prepared for arrival.

We pulled into Chiang Mai Station at 10 am and it was pouring rain. I found the friendliest looking tuk-tuk driver there and fifteen minutes later I was at the Novotel. It rained all weekend, but I really didn't mind. There were a few respites so I did manage to get out of the hotel; I drank a couple of glasses of wine at the Writers Club and Bar, had dinner at Zorba's Restaurant, bought an Edgar Allan Poe book at the must-see Suriwong Book Store and, of course, drank coffee at Starbucks.

When it came time to leave on Sunday night, I was ready to go home. The three days of doing nothing had served their purpose. Mission accomplished.

The journey back to Bangkok was relatively uneventful – until I went to the dining car for dinner. The car had been magically been transformed into a lively Thai karaoke, complete with revolving disco balls and blaring western music. There was singing, clapping and a general atmosphere of sanook. I ordered a Singha, savoring it, and then ordered dinner.

Although the food will never make it into the Michelin Guide and is overpriced by Thai standards, it's filling and tasty and adds to the experience. And after all, when riding the rails, the experience is what it's all about.

Despite requests made since 1938, Phuket has never had train service. Options for travel by train from Phuket are limited to taking a local bus to Thung Song Junction in Nakhon Sri Thammarat, Surat Thani Station or Trang Station. A complete list of times and other information is available in English at: [www.railway.co.th](http://www.railway.co.th)

### Thailand TRAVELER

By Scott Mallon



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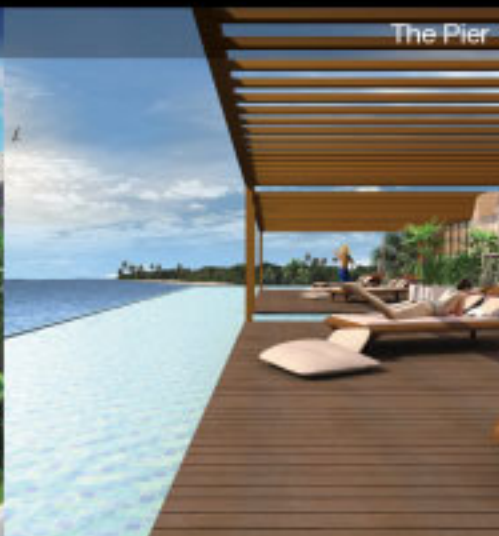
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Puzzles

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?



su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

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

MEDIUM

# 23

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.

The Cryptic Crossword

ACROSS

1. Putting off captor, sir, damaged state. (15)

9. City marsh? No thanks. (6)

11. Many numeros around the bend. (8)

12. Being former wife, is tense, we hear. (9)

14. Aspect of point in fact. (5)

16. Welsh veg returns to bottom of boat. (4)

18. Not used, they say, to being someone to look up to. (4)

19. Play sexy, may move quickly right in. (5)

21. Rep is a gentleman. (5)

22. For each bend, a state. (4)

23. Leon returns around Christmastime. (4)

25. Add a couple of zeroes to the bill? It’s forbidden! (5)

27. Dancer’s hesitation in a sphere before. (9)

29. Felipe, perhaps, in spa when drain backs up. (8)

31. Dumb one? Bond takes learner to point. (6)

34. Resident sang, “He’s corrected myopia.” (15)

DOWN

2. Right, I have nothing in city. (3)

3. See love twice and speak lovingly. (3)

4. College type takes a nasty chap to record company, note. (8)

5. Type of soldier for Phuket industry? (3)

6. Handle makes point man go back. (4)

7. Paul in, after sailor’s waterproof cover. (9)

8. Seed bad love – goes round the bend. (5)

9. Stop working quickly to make meal. (9)

10. Craftiness is almost guilt. (5)

13. Collar a disease, we hear. (7)

15. Excite small bird, sick and consumed. (9)

17. Squire’s network with calming pill. (9)

20. Naïve seabird takes one note to the French. (8)

24. Constellation or charged particle. (5)

26. Maple chopped up; that’s plenty. (5)

28. Artist puts 500 before boxer. (4)

30. Dit’s partner had gone back. (3)

32. Admit to possessing. (3)

33. Show contempt for Diana’s. (3)

Compiled by Tortuus. © 2007

Scribble Space

EZ Trivia Quiz

1. Which computer company was started by Steve Jobs?

2. Which is the human body’s largest organ?

3. Felinophobia is the fear of what?

4. Out of every 100 species of animal, roughly how many species have vertebrae?

5. Humans have existed for about 2 million years. How long were the dinosaurs around?

6. What is the capital of Iceland?

7. What color do you get if you combine red and white paint?

8. Would you see an aurora borealis at the North Pole or the South Pole?

9. Where would you find the original *Mona Lisa* painting?

10. What is the correct name for a geometrical solid with 12 sides?

Answers on next page

Rhyme Time

The words or phrases described below all rhyme with “form”. What are they?

1. Insect equivalent of fish school.

2. Give wrong info.

3. Anti-Iraq campaign.

4. Fit in with the majority.

5. Communal sleeping room.

6. Getting close...

7. What a seal may do.

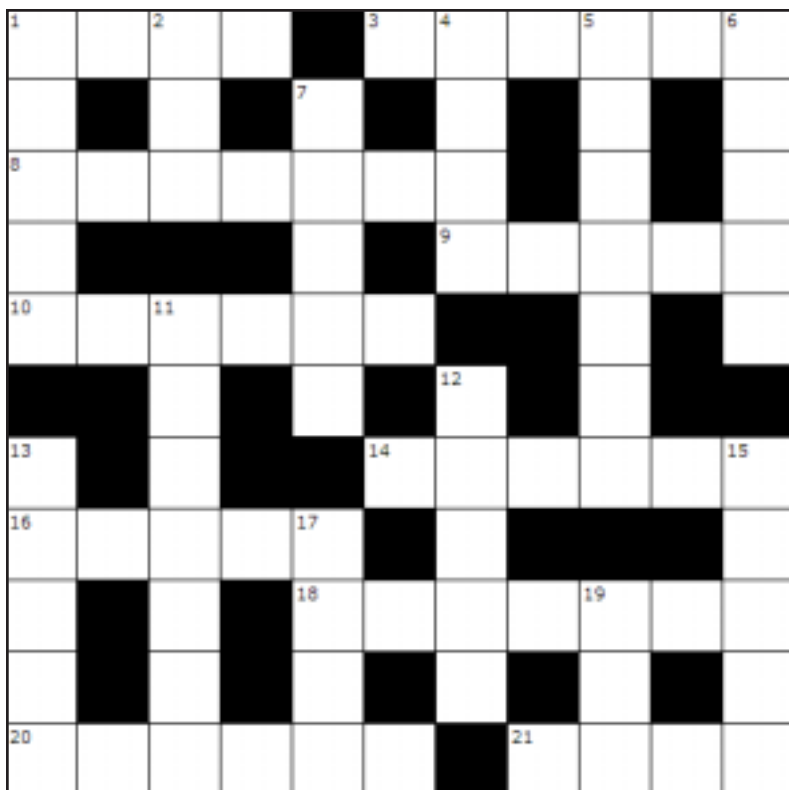
8. Average.

9. Fix.

10. Bend out of

Answers on next page





## Quick Crossword

### ACROSS

1. Rotating motion.
3. What a volcano does from time to time.
8. Pungent chemical.
9. The same.
10. Toy on strings.
14. Assault.
16. Southern Thai province.
18. Made of animal or vegetable matter.
20. Sign treaty.
21. Eliot \*\*\*\*, crimebuster.

### DOWN

1. How a knife should be.
2. Statement of existence.
4. Use a book.
5. Thai "fun" city.
6. Use a gun.
7. Reference list.
11. Top of wall.
12. Where actors tread.
13. Total.
15. Penalties, for example.
17. Game on links.
19. Opposite SSW.

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. In a musical score, what usually comes between woodwind instruments and percussion?
2. In an orchestra, which instrument does the concertmaster generally play?
3. Josephine von Brunswick had a two-year love affair with which famous composer?
4. Tchaikovsky's *1812 Overture* commemorates which battle?
5. In which year did Tchaikovsky start work on the overture?
6. Josef Haydn was dismissed in 1749 from the St Stephen's Cathedral Choir. Why?
7. How much did Antonin Dvorak earn as director of the New York National Conservatory of Music from 1892 to 1895?
8. Philip Glass's *Low Symphony* was based on the work of which other musician?
9. Which work by Claude Debussy was featured in the movies *Giant*, *Casino Royale*, *The Right Stuff* and *Ocean's Eleven*?
10. Who was praised as "the Great Gardener" in Dmitri Shostakovich's canata, *Song of the Forests*?
11. Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana* is the first part of a trilogy. Name the third part.
12. Which composer was nicknamed *Il Prete Rosso* (the Red Priest)?
13. How many children did Johann Sebastian Bach father?
14. Who said, "An intellectual snob is someone who can listen to the *William Tell Overture* and not think of *The Lone Ranger*"?
15. Which composer was baptized with the names Joannes Chrysostomus Wolfgangus Theophilus?
16. How old was Henry Purcell when, in 1670, he composed an ode for the King of England's birthday?
17. Chilean composer Jorge Washington Peña Hen was murdered in 1973 by which Chilean army squad?
18. Guiseppe Verdi's opera *Rigoletto* is based on a play by whom?
19. Felix Mendelssohn had a sister who was also a composer. What was her name?
20. Which British composer was known as "The Black Mahler"?

Answers below, left

# Puzzle Solutions

## Monster Quiz Answers

1. Brass; 2. Violin; 3. Ludwig van Beethoven; 4. Battle of Borodino; 5. 1880; 6. His voice broke; 7. US\$15,000 a year; 8. David Bowie; 9. Claire de Lune; 10. Josef Stalin; 11. Trionfo de Afrodite; 12. Antonio Vivaldi; 13. Twenty; 14. Dan Rather; 15. Mozart; 16. 11; 17. The Caravan of Death; 18. Victor Hugo; 19. Fanny Cäcilie; 20. Samuel Coleridge-Taylor.

## Solution to Cartoon Puzzle



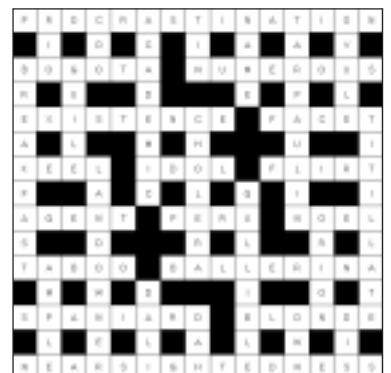
### EZ Trivia Answers:

1. Apple; 2. The skin; 3. Cats; 4. Roughly 2; 5. 150 million years; 6. Reykjavik; 7. Pink; 8. North Pole; 9. In the Louvre museum, Paris; 10. Dodecahedron.

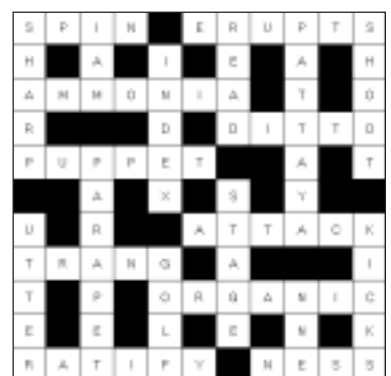
### Rhyme Time Answers:

1. Swarm; 2. Misinform; 3. Operation Desert Storm; 4. Conform; 5. Dorm; 6. Warm; 7. Perform; 8. Norm; 9. Reform; 10. Deform.

## Cryptic Crossword Solution



## Quick Crossword Solution



## Sudoku solution

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



# GARDNER OF ARABIA

Many Westerners, perhaps understandably, take a dim view of Arabs, given not only the constant terrorist atrocities but also the nightly TV scenes of mobs of bearded men shaking their fists and howling in outrage.

But BBC correspondent Frank Gardner has devoted his life to a study of Arab language, history, culture and religion. He studied Arabic at Exeter University, hitchhiked all over North Africa, lived with a poor Egyptian family in Cairo, worked as a banker in Dubai and as a TV journalist throughout the Middle East.

His reward came on June 5, 2004, in Al-Suwaiddi, a poor district south of Riyadh, when he was shot six times by a roving Al-Qaeda gang.

"I had spent four years studying Islam for my degree, learning Arabic, reading and translating the Koran and other Islamic texts," he writes. "I had lived happily amongst Arab families, fasted with Bedu tribespeople in Jordan and taught English to the impoverished family of an Egyptian taxi driver in a verminous Cairo slum.

"For the past few years I had tried hard to explain the complexities of the

Middle East and the thinking behind the Al-Qaeda phenomenon to Western and international audiences. And this was my reward? A bunch of bullets in the guts from men who had convinced themselves they were killing in the cause of Islam. It just did not seem right."

Gardner opens his book *Blood and Sand* (Bantam Books, London, 2006, 464pp) with an vivid account of his shooting. Then he moves back to his youth and his first moment of fascination with the Arab world. This came about by accident.



## Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt

On a winter day in 1977, he was 16 and riding on a London bus with his mother when an elderly man rose to give his seat to a young lady. It was Sir Wilfred Thesiger, the legendary Arabian explorer.

It just so happened that Gardner's mother had known him in the 1950s and she promptly accepted his offer for tea. Young Gardner was entranced by the Arab memorabilia that decorated Thesiger's flat, and thus the course of his life was fixed.

The highlight of his undergraduate career was a junior year in Cairo. "I liked Egyptians immediately," he writes. "They have a tremendous sense of humor, a win-

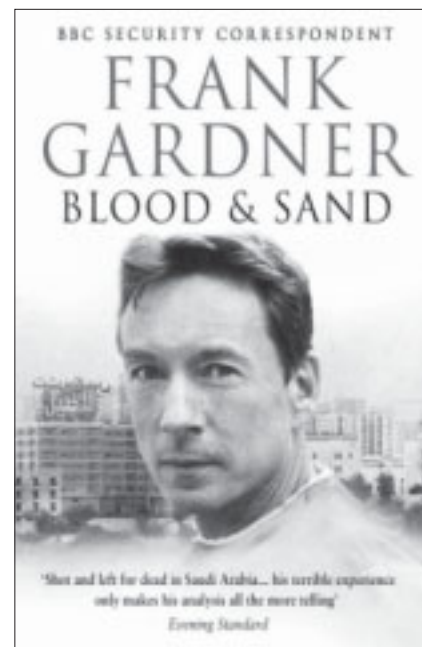
ning way with words, and an ability to see the funny side of themselves and their situation that is sorely lacking in much of the rest of the Arab world."

He tells the story of sitting in a crowded café in a poor area of Cairo when a hoof suddenly protruded from a hole in the ceiling, "and suddenly half the ceiling gave way and a sheep fell through the roof and on to the floor of the café. Amazingly, it was unhurt.

"It picked itself up, shook its fleece a couple times, nodded as if to say 'beat that' and wandered off into the street. Café conversation paused for about five seconds to take this in, then resumed as if nothing had happened. Cairo."

Degree in hand, Gardner lands a plush job with a British investment bank in Dubai where his knowledge of Arab language and culture stands him in good stead in meeting with local tycoons.

"I loved those meetings," he writes.



"We hardly ever did business at them, it was just getting-to-know-you stuff. Business may or may not flow at a later date..."

"One of the delightful things about doing business in the Gulf is that so much of it is based on personal friendships. It must be one of the last places in the business world where the art of good conversation really counts. If the client likes you and trusts you, he will eventually do business with you."

Still, banking left him with not enough of a challenge, so with a wife and two daughters in tow he plunged into freelance television work, eventually becoming BBC Bureau Chief in Cairo. Then he returns to the scene of his shooting.

Up until this point, the narrative has been brisk and sprightly. It slows down over the last 100 pages as he describes his lengthy and painful recuperation. Wheelchair bound, he pens this book and goes back to work at BBC.

## PHUKET DIARY

## Upcoming events on the island

### June 10. DJ Party at Baan Yin Dee Lofts in Patong.

Party starts with DJ Eddie (of 360° fame) at 6 pm and runs until 11:30 pm at the BYD Lofts, just off Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd, near the Andaman Beach Suites. Free tapas included with 535 baht entrance fee. For more information call 076-343024-7 or send an email to: manager@bydlofts.com

### June 16 and 30. Wine Tasting at the Wine Connection.

Wine tasting along with a tapas buffet and live music from 7 pm to 9 pm at the Wine Connection in Bang Tao. 350 baht. For more information, please call Pascal at 087-8896074.

### Every Sunday at the Mangos-teen Resort and Spa.

Specialty brunches featured every Sunday, with an Italian Brunch on June 10. The brunch begins at 11 am and runs until 3 pm. Only 499 baht net, with the first 20 bookings each week paying just 399 baht net. With a half-bottle of wine, the charge is 950 baht net.

For more information contact Christophe Lopez at 076-289399 or email info@mangos-teen-phuket.com

### June 17. Meditation Retreat.

Free monthly meditation retreats are offered on the third Sunday of every month from 1:30

pm to 3 pm at the Wang Kung restaurant behind the King Rama IX park in Phuket City.

The sessions will include an introduction to meditation, relaxation exercises and mediation practice, as well as a question and answer period.

Instruction is provided by English monk Phra Nicholas Thanissaro.

All nationalities and religions are welcome to attend.

For more information call 081-3704005, 089-6476424 or 087-2838185; Email: mananya@hotmail.com or poolsuk@asianpremier.com; or check the website at: www.meditationthai.org

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

Go Adventure Asia, organizers of the Laguna Phuket International Marathon 2007, are expecting 1,500 international runners from 40 different countries to compete in this year's event.

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 18. Phuket Sponsorship Clinic.

Seeking sponsors? Seeking an opportunity to sponsor? Looking to maximize an already sponsored opportunity?

FREE! Phuket Sponsorship Clinic exclusively for *Phuket Gazette* readers at Trisara on Monday, June 18, from 9 am to 6 pm, led by sponsorship expert Paul Poole from Bangkok.

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## Missing out on MICE

Last month, Prime Minister Surayud Chulanont's refusal to approve government funding for an International Convention and Exhibition Center (ICEC) came as only the latest in a series of setbacks to Phuket's long-held dream of having a facility capable of tapping into the lucrative regional and international market in Meetings, Incentives, Conventions and Exhibitions (MICE) tourism.

The idea of a convention center in Phuket is almost as old as the island's tourism industry itself, and it long ago passed from a fanciful notion to a missed opportunity.

At last count, Phuket officially had 580 accommodation establishments comprising more than 32,000 rooms. These numbers do not include rapid expansion in upscale villa-style resort industry or the multitude of small, shophouse-style guesthouses that are not registered with the Tourism Authority of Thailand.

Even by conservative estimates, the number of tourists staying in Phuket at the peak of the high-season is near 100,000. Rapid tourism industry development along beachfront land in Khok Kloy, just over the Sarasin Bridge in Phang Nga, adds further to the number of visitors landing at Phuket International Airport and spending time on the island.

While many Phuket hotels boast excellent MICE facilities for smaller functions, the fact remains that event planners – both in Thailand and abroad – all too often must dismiss Phuket as an option when organizing exhibitions and conventions for more than the current limit of about 1,500 attendees.

As a result, Phuket misses out on MICE events that could otherwise be an important source of low-season tourists. Consider as an example the Thailand Travel and Dive Expo, held for the fourth time last month at the Queen Sirikit National Convention Center in Bangkok.

The expo, which would seem a natural for Phuket, brings in 10,000 trade visitors and consumers over a three-day period, according to its organizers. During the same period, Phuket suffers with tens of thousands of hotel rooms sitting vacant for lack of tourists.

Breathing life back into the MICE dream, Tourism and Sports Minister Suwit Yodmanee recently confirmed the interim government is committed to moving ahead with the project, not by funding it directly by approving private sector development – and there is already at least one solid proposal on the table from ING Funds (Thailand).

We can only hope that the panel being set up to decide on the location does not get bogged down in conflicts of self-interest that once again keep the dream from becoming reality. – **The Editor**



## 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.

### Time for developers to take a siesta

There have recently been a number of articles in both daily national newspapers and your own newspaper about the moribund property market on this enchanted isle.

In a piece by Janyaporn Morel in last week's *Gazette*, for example, the chief of Phuket's Provincial Land Office was quoted as saying that "unstable laws" allied with a climate of political uncertainty have been contributing factors in this slow-down.

While this is indubitably true, it is worth noting that there has been a steep rise in the building of large apartment blocks in pleasant rural areas previously the sole preserve of individual houses set in verdant gardens.

Not only are these an ugly testimony to the greed of developers seeking to maximize profits, they also denude large areas of greenery and in many cases devastate the natural views for those home owners who were there before these so-called "developments" were built.

What is happening in parts of Rawai is a case in point.

I would like to ask why the local government, in its infinite wisdom, is permitting these concrete blots to appear on the landscape.

They are invariably at least three-and-a-half stories high (in one case seven stories high) and their growing presence reminds me all too vividly of what happened in southern Spain in the '70s and '80s.

Thin end of the wedge? Enough said.

Room without a View  
Rawai

### Giving berth to a superyacht idea

Maybe someone should point out to Mr Gulu Lalvani that there is in fact a Phuket Marina, Yacht Haven, capable of taking megayachts. It has been doing precisely that since opening in 1997.

This past high season we had 16 superyachts berth here and we presently have nine superyachts on our docks. Just recently we said goodbye to *White Rabbit*, 61 meters in length.

We would be very happy to provide some photos if you so wish...

Zara & Nick  
Yacht Haven Marina

### Noisy Nai Harn no longer a problem...

I lived in Nai Harn for four years and, like Bert [see Letters, issue of May 26, 2007] used to run around Nai Harn and Kok Makham between 5:30 am and 6 am.

Unlike him, I always found the mentioned bar to have been closed, with all but a few customers on their way home.

I was never kept awake night after night, but the bass-line that I used to very occasionally hear in the early hours has now been blocked out by the ghastly wall erected around the new Baan Bua site.

The owners of the club have had no complaints from the local residents, otherwise they would have done something about it. The only real objections came from disgruntled competitors.

Rawai and Nai Harn are now no longer the Thai idyll as all the paddy fields have been filled and built upon. If Bert wants a taste of "real" Thailand, can I

suggest he either alters his morning route or uproots and moves to a quieter district or another province. That's what I did!

Chris Cawdron  
Formerly of Nai Harn,  
now in Udon Thani

### Unless of course you still live there...

Bert Lang comments in the May 26 *Gazette* ["Nai Harn nightclub noise a nasty no-no"] addressing the irresponsible noise level of music emanating seven nights a week from the popular bar in Nai Harn, is applauded by many of my neighbors.

Many complaints have been made in writing to the Chalong Police, to no avail. The frustrated public – Thai and farang – living near this night spot have given up filing official complaints, since these efforts are being ignored by the police.

My concern is not about the legality of the hours of operation, but the sound level at which the music is played night after night after night with reckless abandon. It's leaving an entire neighborhood sleepless.

Still Sleepless in Nai Harn

### Cryptic torture

As a long-time reader, I must say that as much as I enjoy your Quick Crossword puzzle, I find your Cryptic Crossword devilishly difficult.

I accept that by the name "cryptic" it is supposed to be hard, but in all honesty I just don't understand many of the answers, even after peeking.

Are you sure it is not by someone named Torture Us, and not Tortuus?

Puzzled  
Phuket City

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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.



# Battling with an excess of cars on the road

Phuket is not a large province, but it is crowded in some areas and traffic jams are a problem. Phuket, a popular tourist destination, has too many vehicles for the available road area – and not enough public transport to help people get where they want to go.

My first duty is to get a site chosen for the second bus station and get it built. The existing bus station is too small and there is no room for expansion at its downtown location. The number of passengers is increasing all the time, putting too much pressure on the one station.

After getting a budget of 80 million baht from the Bureau of the Budget, my predecessor began looking for suitable land. I am continuing that process.

We now have two possible sites. The first is located on Thepkasatri Rd, about four kilometers north of Phuket City. The second is on the way to Patong [Phra Phuket Kaew Rd], not far from the Tesco Lotus intersection. I am not yet sure which one we will choose, but we hope the second bus station will be completed by early 2009.

As for mass transport, I have already talked with the Vice-Governor Tri Augkaradacha about bus service at the airport and plan to survey the quantity of passengers using the system during low and high seasons. I think Phuket is growing and going to continue growing so we need a bus system that will support everyone.

Improving the transport system in and around Phuket City is not a simple thing. The city's layout is very complicated, so its not easy to add more bus routes. We also need a plan for Patong, whether it be minibuses or vans.



## FIRST PERSON

From tuk-tuk mafias and traffic jams to the issuing of driver's licenses, Chief of the Phuket Provincial Land Transportation Office Chatchawarn Ngarmtup is responsible for keeping the island's road traffic flowing safely. On the job only since April 9, Chief Chatchawarn tells *Gazette* readers about his plans for improving traffic on an island where the number of new vehicles is soaring.

And there is the problem with tuk-tuks in Patong. They might protest, but we try to help them understand that more transport options are needed and that tuk-tuks alone cannot meet all public transport needs because of their small size.

I hear that the tuk-tuk mafia is powerful, but Patong Municipality has the authority to plan and solve this problem. We need a good plan, as we plan to begin a van or minibus service soon.

I also want to improve the process for renewing driver's licenses and car registrations. Of these, the driver's licenses are the

most important because some 200 people come to our office every day and it is very hard to service them all in such a small area.

I'm consulting with the Department of Land Transport (under the Ministry of Transportation and Communications) about the possibility of constructing a new building dedicated solely to processing driver's license applications and renewals.

There is a problem with renewing driver's licenses if they expire on a weekend or holiday, but it is legislative issue.

The old rules provided for

two kinds of licenses: a temporary one-year license, followed upon renewal by a license valid for your entire life. The rules were the same for both cars and motorbikes.

Now the rules have changed. Temporary driver's licenses are issued for one year. When it is renewed you get a five-year license that must be renewed every five years.

In the past, if you wanted to renew your license before the expiration date you could do so, but you would get only a temporary license again, because the original had not yet been valid for

one full year. Unfortunately, the law was changed in 2005. Now you cannot renew a driver's license before its expiration date. If your license expires on a weekend you must wait until Monday; you can not do it on Friday. It's the law and we cannot change it.

We know it's a problem around the country, not just in Phuket. I cannot order my officers to do illegal things, they have to follow procedure.

The amount of time it takes to get a driver's license can also be a problem. Normally a renewal should take about 30 minutes. If it takes longer than that, let me know. The first driver's license takes much longer. We must test reaction time, vision and provide instruction for two hours before applicants can take the written examination and driving test.

We have computers for the written examination, but we have only 20 computers. About 200 people need to use them each day. This is a problem because we can't provide fast enough service, everyone must queue. This is also a nationwide problem.

The best way to solve this problem is for the government to provide enough computer test terminals to properly service the number of people who come to take the examination.

Finally, I want to tell everyone that we are always trying to improve our services. Also, please remember that there should not be any extra charges in the fees you pay. If an officer asks you for extra money, report it to me and I will investigate.

Anyone who has a problem with our services can contact me at Tel: 076-214929 or 089-2031432.

– Compiled by  
Natcha Yuttaworawit

## Where can I play table tennis competitively?

I am an expat working in Phuket and I am looking for table tennis clubs here on the island. Is there a table tennis championship or any clubs in Phuket?

I would like to play table tennis from time to time but have not been able to find the addresses of any clubs on the island. Thanks for your help.

Franz Chalong

**Suarporn Chanker, Secretary of the Phuket Table Tennis Club, replies:**

The Phuket Table Tennis Club (Tel: 086-6862683) is based at Satree Phuket School, opposite Isuzu car gallery on Damrong Rd, Phuket City.

Other venues where you can play competitively are:

Plookpanya School, on Sa-

tun Rd, Phuket City. Tel: 076-212036, 076-218491.

Phuket Educational Area Office, at the junction of Mae Luan Rd and Yaowarat Rd in Phuket City. Tel: 076-211591.

Sports Authority of Thailand (Phuket office), Gymnasium 3 at Saphan Hin, Phuket City. Tel: 076-250110.

All places play from 4 pm to 8 pm Monday to Friday, except Satree Phuket School and Plookpanya School, which are closed during school holidays in October and from March to May.

However, it is advisable to call and check before turning up to play at any of the venues as table tennis is very popular among students and there are often no spare tables on which to play.

## Expired licenses and insurance firms

Following up on the question regarding driver's license renewals on weekends (online, March 21, 2006), it is comforting to hear the response of Supakorn Wilairat, Chief of the license issuing section at the PPLTO.

The issue and answer explained that you must wait until your license expires to renew it, and if that should happen at the weekend, you must wait until the following weekday to renew.

In her response, she said, "...traffic police are usually understanding if they catch you driving on a license that has only recently expired..."

However, it would be useful to know if insurance companies are equally understanding. In my case, as my license expires on Saturday, I must either stay home the following day or rely on the "usual understanding" of the traffic police. Although I am con-

fident that K. Supakorn must be correct in her evaluation of the common-sense approach of the police, it would be useful if a leading car insurer could comment.

Grenville Fordham  
Baan Manik

**Suphachet Thipthong, Chief of Fines Department, Phattana Insurance Phuket replies:**

Don't worry if you have an accident while you are driving with your expired license. We al-

ways support you and I think it is very unlikely, and unlucky, if someone were to get in an accident during that weekend.

**Kanokwan Sakda, an officer at Viriyah Insurance, replies:**

If you are our customer and you have an accident on the weekend or holiday when your driver's license expired, we will still support you, but you may have some problems with the police that we cannot help you with.

## Issues & ANSWERS

**Want to know how to get something done? Can't understand some of the dafter things that seem to go on in Phuket? Want to pitch an idea to Phuket's authorities or institutions? Then this is the forum for you.**

The Phuket Gazette, 367/2 Yaowarat Rd, Muang, Phuket 83000. Fax 076-213971, or [www.phuketgazette.net](http://www.phuketgazette.net)



# Using DEET safely

Readers have contacted me and are concerned about using DEET. Recurring questions include, "How much exactly is safe?" and "If it's okay to use, why the recent bad press?" One reader was concerned that dengue fever must be rife on the island. Well, at least this has a simple response.

Dengue is not rife here, it just pops up now and then, but it is worth avoiding. As the wet season takes hold, rainwater collects in containers. This results in more mosquitoes, and thus more dengue cases. It happens every year.

The problem is that many people have had dengue before or been infected without noticing. Subsequent infection with a different serotype can make you very ill, even though you may think it is your first infection. To know whether you have been infected before, a trip to hospital to check for specific antibodies should suffice.

Using DEET repellent greatly reduces your chances of being bitten by mosquitoes. However, the safety issue is a thorny one. To know the exact side ef-

fects of DEET would require highly unethical testing of thousands of people in a controlled environment, and I hope that there aren't too many Dr Joseph Mengele types out there.

So we have to rely on animal testing, everyday human use and any reported side effects. Toxic effects in animals occurred after the application of huge amounts of DEET, far more than would normally be used by you or me, which is why we are allowed to use it.

A particular example. After six hours, 9%-56% of the DEET in your typical application may appear in your circulation. Typically, this would mean that 10-12 grams of a 75% DEET solution applied to the skin would lead to a blood concentration of about 0.0005 millimoles/liter (mmol/L). This is not a worry.

However, ingestion of a similar amount of DEET may result in a blood concentration of 1 mmol/L. That is 2,000 times higher and it is this latter concentration that has been associated with seizures and death. Imagine how much you would have to cake yourself with to achieve that re-

sult. In my opinion a sensible, daily use of a 15% spray is fine, assuming daily use is even required.

The "bad press" that DEET has received resulted from reported seizures in children. However, in the 50 years or so since DEET has become available, there have been about 10 reports describing seizures in children following dermal application.

Seeing as seizure disorders occur in up to 5% of all children and perhaps 30% of children are regularly exposed to DEET, some of those cases may have been associated by chance. Viral encephalitis was not ruled out in any of the cases and a differential diagnosis of encephalitis given in three.

In short, some people worry about DEET because of irresponsible reporting and assumptions made from a tiny number of cases. Aspirin or paracetamol are more dangerous than DEET – just don't drink the DEET.

*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 home-science@gmail.com*

## HEALTH MATTERS

By George Robbie

## In The Stars

by Isla Star

**GEMINI** (May 22 – June 21): A glowing week lies ahead for you. If you're due to celebrate coming of age but are expecting a low-key event, think again. Friends and family have other ideas. A wish you make upon a star this weekend has a good chance of coming true, so visualize clearly what is missing in your life. Virgo has been trying to get you to notice, but is still too shy to drop more than subtle hints.

**CANCER** (June 22 – July 23): Astral backup provides some welcome help for you until the middle of June. Most work-related problems should be smoothed out during the coming days, but property matters remain uncertain. This is not the right time to take someone at their word; Aquarius in particular has the ability to spin a good story. In romance, you are doing all the right

things, so don't make waves by trying too hard.

**LEO** (July 24 – August 22): An unpredictable week is forecast for you. People are likely to let you down at the last moment, so keep your schedule as flexible as possible. You will thank your lucky stars midweek that you didn't commit to a business agreement last month. A much better opportunity is about to be revealed. Freedom is highlighted and single Leos start to appreciate their independence more than ever.

**VIRGO** (August 23 – September 23): Your wild side makes an appearance this week and living for the moment pays dividends on Sunday. If you are in a relationship you may be frustrated by your partner's demands for more security. If you're not ready to make that concrete commitment,

find a tactful way to make your true feelings known. Changes at work are about to take you by surprise, but these should work out for the better in the long run.

**LIBRA** (September 24 – October 23): The heat is on for Librans who are ready to climb a few rungs on the career ladder. Capricorn colleagues may be alienated by your promotion, but have only themselves to blame for missing out. Money matters continue to fall under favorable astral conditions and the number 7 is lucky on Thursday. Wear lotus pink to enhance your attraction.

**SCORPIO** (October 24 – November 22): Your words are likely to be misinterpreted this weekend so think carefully before you speak. Romantic affairs will improve after a shaky start to the month, but you still need to better

appreciate your partner's point of view. Pressure at work gets more intense. If you feel that too much responsibility is on your shoulders, Tuesday is the best day to let this be known. Wear silver to sharpen your wits.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 23 – December 21): You will be prone to missing the point this week. Endeavor to listen carefully and double check details. If possible, put off signing and sealing agreements until the middle of the month. Romance is best enjoyed in a light-hearted manner, although Aries is aiming for more. Family bring you unexpected joy this Sunday; an important announcement is likely to be made.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22 – January 20): The social scene is sparkling with opportunities to have fun and meet new people. You should be in your element this week, but you could lose track of important work commitments in the midst of all this excitement. Scorpio is poised to dangle a tempting carrot in front of you, but this is not the right time to make sudden career changes. Promotion from your current position is highlighted next month.

**AQUARIUS** (January 21 – February 19): Relationships will be subject to outside stress this week and the trend could continue until the end of the month, so do not to rock the boat by making empty promises to your partners. Money matters are well-highlighted this month, so there are no ex-

cuses for not taking a romantic break. Getting back to basics is a good aim for you right now. The number 4 can bring good fortune on Wednesday.

**PISCES** (February 20 – March 20): Working towards being more independent is on the agenda for the rest of June. If you're still not sure how to attain this, look at how a Cancerian acquaintance has managed so far in life. Love with someone from a very different culture has its attractions for now, but you should focus on being flexible. Wear aquamarine to help open your mind.

**ARIES** (March 21 – April 20): Creative pursuits bring pleasure this week. You are about to discover that you have hidden talents that could transform your life. Financial matters remain stable, but the end of the month could see a downward trend. Do what you can to boost savings in the meantime. A Piscean friend needs advice on Sunday; try to avoid being too honest. The number 8 is lucky on Tuesday.

**TAURUS** (April 21 – May 21): You should be settling down into a more relaxed lifestyle, though you may find it difficult to resist offers of work. If you don't need the extra cash, be firm in your refusals. Toward the end of the month an interesting chance to do good deeds will crop up. This could prove time-consuming. A visit from an overseas friend is forecast; this could put your hospitality skills to the test.

### USING DEET SENSIBLY

- Spray onto exposed skin, not under clothing. The surface of clothing may be sprayed, should you wish. Do not spray directly into your face. Spray onto hands and dab on to the face, avoiding the eyes and the mouth.
- Do not apply to broken or sunburned skin.
- Do not use sunscreen/DEET all-in-one products. Apply the sunscreen first, wait 20 minutes, then apply the repellent.
- When applying to a child, apply to your own hands then rub the repellent on the child.
- Do not apply repellent to children's hands – they do tend to stick their hands in their mouths.
- Do not allow young children to apply repellent to themselves and keep the repellent out of reach.
- If you think you're not going to be exposed to bites, don't use DEET. Rotate with other repellents every few weeks to yourself a break from exposure.

### ALTERNATIVES TO DEET

- Picaridin. Trade name KBR 3023. A 10% aerosol spray to skin. Low acute oral, dermal and inhalation toxicity. Effectiveness similar to DEET.
- Permethrin. To be sprayed onto outside of clothes or mosquito nets. Reapplication every six laundries or every six months for netting. Best not to wear clothing until two hours after treatment.
- Soybean oil. A 2% solution provides protection for one to four hours. Safe to use for all ages with no limit to application. Important that young children do not ingest it.
- Citronella oils. A solution from 5%-15% provides protection between 30 minutes and two hours. Not recommended for children under 2.
- Eucalyptus oils. Trade name PMD. A 10% solution gives protection for at least 90 minutes. Not recommended for children under 3. Application should be limited to twice a day for all ages. May stain leather.
- Lavender oils. A 5%-15% mixture provides protection for about 30 minutes. Not recommended in children under 2 for lack of data to state otherwise. No limit to application. Possible skin irritant.

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# Practice what you preach

Public relations is easy, but also meaningless without backbone. The hot buzz phrase is "Walk The Talk", so if you believe my website survey of Phuket hotels declaring their environmental commitment, then we've already solved the world's environmental problems. According to the "talk", aka PR, we've got the cleanest, greenest, most beautiful hotels providing total comfort in nature while actually reversing global warming.

So why hasn't anybody come forth to contribute their environmental practices to this series on environmental resorts? I've announced it in this column, at the SKAL Club (a club for tourism industry professionals) and to every general manager I have met around Phuket. So far, only one hotel, the Frangipani Langkawi Resort and Spa has come forth with willingness to "Walk the Talk" – and that was through my travel academic's discussion group.

In a highly simplified world, there are two types of businesses – the greedy "in it for the money" old way of doing things; and the modern "corporate citizen" model. I don't need to explain the old way – it's all around us.

The new way understands that one's business is a powerful statement, and can be a tool for change – positively influencing one's corporate family of staff, suppliers and customers. This model seems more complicated, but it's actually simple, profitable and reduces headaches. Good corporate citizens experience fewer operating problems, gain from employee feedback, develop lasting business relations and a loyal customer base – all factors with a positive influence on the bottom line.

What separates the old way and the visionary new way? It's nothing more than passionate management commitment – and the intelligence to consider all factors and impacts of the way one does business.

One of the most important ways to influence our personal and business environment is to become environmentally aware.

Everybody wants clean air, clean water, no rubbish and no pollution. On the personal level, commitment is as simple as using a rubbish container instead of littering. On the business level – such as operating a major resort – things get a bit more complicated. Management commitment means innovative investing – in human resources and the physical materials. Of course, good investments are profitable and the most important of all investments is people. The most important currencies in the world of "people capital" are caring and communications.

Evason Phuket understands the impact of effective commu-



**SPREADING THE WORD:** Local schoolchildren visit the Evason to learn about protecting the environment.

nications, so they "Walk The Talk" by turning their staff – euphemistically called "host" – into environmental warriors with a comprehensive training program.

In a culture where many companies simply buy their first aid/CPR accreditation, Evason Phuket not only budgets money for staff training and public service, but also presents the basic science of global warming, waste management and energy conservation in easily-understood graphic presentations so hosts develop the same environmental concerns as their turned-on managers. They aren't breeding scientists, but they do want environmentally-aware employees.

Following their stated policy, all Evason Phuket hosts take the Six Senses environmental training called the "Green Module", a tasteful and easily understood graphical presentation that covers heady topics starting with "What is an environment?" and includes examples immediately around us, and expanding not only to a satellite photo of our home, planet Earth, but onward to an image of space plasma with an arrow saying "We are here," carrying the obvious message of how insignificant we really are in the universe. Environmental training consumes about 2,400 hours per

## THE GRAY AREA



**By John 'Caveman' Gray**

year, or four hours per year for every employee.

The show then moves to one of my favorite lifetime themes – "What is the world's most dangerous animal?"

Of course, it's man. Who else prizes tigers and rhinos for their placebo effect, pollutes our air while drowning entire ecosystems, butchers sharks only for their fins and even hunts whales. With the gift of "intelligence", we are the most effective and irresponsible of all predators.

The training then moves on to environmental problems in-

cluding a basic explanation of greenhouse gases from the global to the local perspective. The resort's official policy explains what we can do both collectively and personally to slow down the effects of global warming.

Then it's on to waste management, complete with an explanation of biodegradable versus non-biodegradable. This section also discusses plastic and polystyrene (Styrofoam) – both devastating, especially in the marine environment. The training covers recycling, beach clean-ups and conservation.

If that isn't enough to boggle the mind of any beach boy, bartender or housekeeper, Evason Phuket then adds Al Gore's Emmy award-winning "An Inconvenient Truth" to the syllabus.

That's a lot to digest, so on another day, the training moves on to waste separation, composting, water and energy saving. That way, everybody fits into the Evason Phuket team.

The training then highlights the hosts' environmental efforts by dividing Evason staff into four houses (Aqua, Fire, Earth and Wind), and gives each group about 25% of the environmental fund (0.5% of Evason Phuket's overall revenue – not just profits) to compete for the effective-

ness of their civic and environmental activities on a monthly basis. Hosts actually decide how to spend their financial gift on social and environmental projects. I was pleased to see lots of mangrove planting, beach clean-ups and visits to local schools.

Enough for you? Not for Six Senses. The people at Evason Phuket say it's also their duty to educate guests in environmental issues and practices. There's a "Little Green Book" in every room, explaining Evason's environmental practices and how guests can continue helping the environment after they return home.

Despite this exhaustive policy, the lack of a statement explaining the evils of 2-cycle speedboats was disappointing. Furthermore, with only one 4-cycle inboard speedboat of their own, Evason Phuket still sells environmentally destructive tours through third parties.

Given the fact that the TAT mindlessly promotes these speedboat tours without encouraging 4-cycle boats, it's almost a moot point that Evason has no environmental speedboat suppliers.

Speedboats aside, Evason Phuket stands alone in its environmental awareness and commitment to educating guests. Its stand on reducing water consumption, preserving its on-property eco-system, highlighting social and cultural issues, providing a natural habitat for wildlife and vegetation, protecting air quality and eliminating noise pollution; its incredible waste water treatment system, solar hot water and minimizing waste and recycling systems, stands far above the travel industry norm.

Evason Phuket sends its guests home with an increased environmental awareness that comes from just staying in the resort. If we expect to pass on a livable planet, the entire travel industry must adopt the Green Globe 21 benchmarking format and educate travelers on the consequences of every aspect of their lives – not only on vacation.

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# The kids from the Big House

By Scott Mallon

The Lookbanyai Boxing Camp is nestled in a densely populated, residential neighborhood in Bangkok, just up the street from the Fortune Hotel at the busy intersection of Asoke and Dindaeng Roads.

Inside, the compound is quiet. A filthy white dog chases a chicken back and forth, under a field of heavy bags, through the lone boxing ring, around some dilapidated motorbikes and back underneath the ring until the chicken perches on the top rope of the ring and stands motionless. The pursuit is over – at least temporarily.

The scruffy little mutt looks to be part poodle, but for now he is simply the hunter. The bewildered dog takes a moment to sniff the ring, baffled by the disappearing fowl. Spinning around in circles, the canine searches in vain; completely unaware his silent quarry is standing just above him.

Eventually though, the dog loses interests and runs off to do whatever it is dogs do.

Ninety-nine percent of Thai boxing gyms are identical to the Lookbanyai Gym. They're always outdoors: behind a house, next to a police station, outside of an apartment complex or between a row of homes and a dirty canal.

In Thailand, you'll find the dandiest things in the unlikely of places: fruit stalls in front of tire shops, carts selling a variety of deep-fried insects along pedestrian malls, *salabao* (Chinese steamed bun) vendors prowl backstreets for customers.

The running joke is if there is an empty plot of land, someone in the Land of Smiles will figure out how to squeeze a beer bar or grilled squid vending stall onto it. This ethos reaches its epitome in Bangkok, where the air is heated, full of grime and thick with pollutants.

None of this matters to the Thai fighters, though. Unlike fighters from the west, Thai boxers train six days a week, rarely taking more than a week off between fights. It is a full-time job and they are employees of the promoter.

When one of the boxers has



**VICTORY:** Saenghiran Lookbanyai after his Round 10 win by knockout over Jovan Jorda in September 2005.

a fight approaching, the entire gym comes alive. Six hours a day – three hours in the morning, three hours in the evening – the sounds of boxing resonate throughout the gym.

During the downtime though, the pace of the training slows, intensity wanes and sounds of laughter are heard more frequently.

The name Lookbanyai literally translates into "children in the big house". In actuality, the Lookbanyai camp is a gym surrounded by four connected buildings that house both the fighters and their families.

Training is a time-honored ritual followed by fighters around the country; after the fighters finish their morning workout, most shower and go back to sleep. A few watch TV, some listen to music or run errands. Others read boxing magazines. At around 3:15 pm, however, boxers inevitably begin their shuffle to the training area from their communal quarters.

The afternoon training session commences around 3:30 at the Lookbanyai camp. It kicks off unhurriedly; after all, there is time and then there is Thai time.

The fighters leisurely wrap their hands, put on their shoes and socks and, in due course, hit the Bangkok streets en masse for a three-mile run, their second of the day.

For now, the training is relaxed in the Lookbanyai Camp. The gyms' most well-known fighter, Saenghiran Lookbanyai (20-0, 15 KOs) had been scheduled to face fellow Thai Napapol Kittisakchokchai (40-2, 36 KOs). The bout was postponed, however, because of a shoulder injury suffered by Kittisakchokchai.

Training was in full swing when the Lookbanyai Camp got word Kittisakchokchai had suf-

fered a most unusual injury. While sparring, he was accidentally headbutted – to the shoulder. Just like that, the date for the bout was pushed back more than a month.

As that date approached, Lookbanyai came down with appendicitis. The second postponement caused major doubts as to whether or not the fight would ever come off.

Lookbanyai is currently ranked second by the WBC, Kittisakchokchai first. While many debate the pair's lofty ranking; few question the competitiveness of the bout. Saenghiran is known for his heart and technique; the same cannot be said for Kittisakchokchai. Known for his knockout power, he has faced criticism for lacking a champion's heart. He also knows a loss to Lookbanyai could spell the end to his last run at a title.

Although unbeaten for more than three years, Kittisakchokchai remains haunted by his two knockout losses: first to Filipino journeyman Rey Llagas at the start of his career and his last loss, a Round 10 KO at the hands of former champion Oscar Larios.

The Lookbanyai – Kittisakchokchai bout had originally been scheduled to be for the WBC interim super bantamweight championship, but for reasons known only to the WBC, it has been downgraded to a title eliminator.

Whatever happens, Lookbanyai plans on taking it all in stride. "Obviously I'd like to fight Napapol right now, but whatever happens, I'll just keep fighting," he said.

Lookbanyai, still recovering from appendicitis, should be back in action in approximately 90 days.

Both fighters will watch with interest a super-bantamweight rematch between WBC champ Rafael Marquez and former champ Israel Vasquez in Texas on August 4.

There is now hope that the winner of that fight could face second-ranked contender Napapol in the US, with Lookbanyai taking on the loser in a title eliminator in the under card.

That scenario, if it happens, would ensure big paydays for both Thai fighters.

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## Soccer home for orphans, destitute children opens

THALANG: The Youth Football Home (YFH) foundation officially opened on May 23 to serve as a home for orphaned and destitute boys.

The goal of the organization is to provide the children with lodging, an education and to foster their passion for the game of football through daily training.

The founding trustee of the home was Henrik Lorenz, a Hong Kong resident who died December 16 last year. Mr. Lorenz had made a second home in Phuket for many years.

Kam "Wing" Cheung, co-founding trustee, was accompanied by Alan Kennedy, a former member of both the England and Liverpool teams and a friend of Lorenz, to celebrate the opening day of the home. The opening ceremony was presided over by Phuket Vice-Governor Smith Palawatvichai.

The YFH, built on eight rai of land in Tambon Thepkasattri, is located about 150 meters from Wat Muang Komaraphat. Facilities include of a dormitory home for 32 boys, a residential building for staff and a regulation football

field, with additional training areas.

Boys living at the home receive a comprehensive education at local schools and enjoy daily coaching and training in football from fully-qualified coaches.

Opening day festivities included a celebration involving friends, family and former European football stars.

In addition, there was a friendly soccer match between the Thailand Senior Football team and the European Senior Football team, the 7-2 result favoring the latter squad.

YFH is currently home to 24 youths. The trustees said they wish to fill the remaining eight vacancies with youth footballers between 8-11 years old who come from underprivileged circumstances.

*For more information, please contact Youth Football Home Foundation (Phuket) 142/4-5 Moo 3, Thepkasattri, Thalung District, Phuket 83110. Tel: 076-512 524, Fax: 089-5873618 or visit their website at [www.youthfootballhome.com](http://www.youthfootballhome.com)*

### PATONG DARTS LEAGUE

## Dog's Bollocks go top

PATONG: Dog's Bollocks moved into first place with another three-point win, this time at home against Beach House. Shakers kept up the pace by swiping all three points against Valhalla, while Offshore dropped into third during their bye week. In the only other league match played, Simply Red took the beer leg off Queen Mary after losing the singles and doubles by a lopsided 8-1 score.

Players in the league have noted that Simply Red is a good place to play, with a brand new board illuminated with a flood light.

Also, the board is at the back of the bar, so there is no danger of service staff or drunken patrons interrupting play or risking injury by accidentally walking into the line of fire.

It should be noted that despite the weekly sessions of drinking and throwing sharp objects that is the Patong Dart League, no one has ever been stuck by an arrow.

Several of the league's keenest darters have been hanging out at Queen Mary, which now has an informal competition on Saturday nights, starting at about 7 pm. Players arrive mutually decide what the format will be, with "winner stays on" games of 501 being one of the most popular.

Former Scottish internation-

al player Billy is now a regular at Queen Mary, after having personally installed the league's first proper "oche", the line you stand behind when throwing. In most Patong bars that have real dartboards, the oche the consists of little more than a chalk mark, piece of tape stuck to the floor, or even the grouting between ceramic floor tiles – which leaves one to wonder just how accurately they are measured.

Darters will be interested to know that there is a complete list of all the dart bars in the league at the website: [www.dartsthai.land.bamboosiam.com](http://www.dartsthai.land.bamboosiam.com)

The site is also a good source of information about where you can get a game when visiting other parts of the country. Well worth checking out.

**May 29 results:** Dog's Bollocks\* 8 Beach House 1; Simply Red\* 1 Queen Mary 8; Shakers\* 7 Valhalla 2 (\* = winner of beer leg).

**Standings:** 1. Dog's Bollocks (16 pts.); 2. Shakers (14); 3. Offshore (13); 4. Piccadilly, Queen Mary (9); 6. Beach House (6); 7. Simply Red (3); 8. Valhalla (2).

**June 12 matchups:** Queen Mary v Dog's Bollocks; Shakers v Beach House; Simply Red v Offshore; Piccadilly and Valhalla byes (home team listed first).



This rough-and-tumble truck from Khok Kloy was one of more than 100 off-road vehicles that convened at the Phuket Gateway on June 2 for the Southern Off-road Day. The rally raised money for a school in Phang Nga and the sea gypsy village in Rawai.

## Off-roaders rally through Phuket

By Supanun Supawong

PHUKET: More than 100 off-road car enthusiasts on June 2 rolled out for the first Southern Off-road Day, held at the Phuket Gateway. The stop in Phuket was the finale to a three-day rally held to promote tourism in Southern Thailand and raise money for charities.

The Off-Roaders Federation of Thailand organized the event, which began May 31 with

30 off-road vehicles in Bangkok.

The caravan then went to Chumphon, Prachuap Khiri Khan, Surat Thani and Phang Nga before reaching Phuket. Riders from 25 different off-roading clubs joined the group along the way.

Each rider paid at least 100 baht and most made bigger donations.

Proceeds went toward ride T-shirts and donations to the Songpraek School in Phang Nga and the sea gypsy village in

Rawai, both of which have large numbers of needy children.

Additional funds will go to buy a new computer for the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization's Mobile Library project.

After the group took photos at the Phuket Gateway, they separated into two groups; one drove on to Nong Harn Beach in Karon, while the other went to Rawai Beach to camp for the night and close the event.

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## ON THE MOVE

Phuket native **Thanomsri Ratabutra**, 59, has been appointed Director of Phuket Vocational College (PVC). K. Thanomsri graduated in industrial education from King Mongkut Institute of Technology in Ladkrabang and has a business management degree from Rajamangala University of Technology. Before joining PVC, she was Director of Phuket Polytechnic College for four years' and before that Director of Pattani Vocational College.



**Olarn Hengcharoen**, 35, from Nakhon Nayok, has been appointed Chief of the Phuket Marine Office. He graduated with a certificate from the Merchant Marine Training Center in Samut Prakan and has 10 years' experience with the Marine Department of Thailand. He was the Port Inspector at Chachoengsao Marine Office for six years, and before moving to Phuket he was a Port Inspection Officer at the Pattani Marine Office for four years.



Phuket native **Narissa Phokabut**, 26, has been appointed Business Development Manager of West Sands Phuket for Central & City Developments Limited. She holds a degree from the Faculty of Humanities at Bangkok University. Her experience includes working as Executive Secretary at engineering service company Patkol Co Ltd in Bangkok and as Sales Executive at the Boat Lagoon Park Residence in Phuket.



# Nok Air 'is committed to Phuket-Haad Yai route'

By Semacote Suganya

**D**espite a slow start, Nok Air remains committed to its new Phuket-Haad Yai route and has introduced a special promotional rate of 999 baht one-way to kick-start the fledgling service linking two of Southern Thailand's main tourism hubs.

Pinyot Pibulsonggram, Nok Air's Vice-President for Marketing, told the *Gazette* that plans to introduce a "code-sharing" agreement with rival carrier One-Two-Go for the route have yet to be finalized.

In mid-May both carriers were granted licenses by the Department of Civil Aviation to operate the route, abandoned in 2005 by Phuket Air.

To avoid impending losses on both sides, the two carriers agreed in principle to a "code sharing" agreement under which One-Two-Go would be able to book seats under Nok Air's flight code number.

However, as the two carriers have yet to finalize fare rates

## *Code share agreement with One-2-Go yet to be finalized*



Nok Air's colorful aircraft will share the route with planes from rival low-cost airline One-2-Go.

and seat allotment numbers, all bookings thus far have been made directly through Nok Air, he explained.

It was still not possible to

book flights on-line through One-Two-Go as of June 1.

K. Pinyot told the *Gazette* that bookings were increasing as more people, mostly Thais, real-

ized the service was available. By the end of May, about 50% of seats were filled on average, with about 75% of seats filled on peak periods around weekends, he said.

Nok Air has a single Boeing 737-400 with seating capacity of 150 dedicated to the route.

"Now we have 70 to 80 passengers and up, which we think is enough for a new route. We want to establish Phuket as a regional hub for the South, just as we have done with Chiang Mai in the North. When first introduced, bookings on flights between Chiang Mai and Udon Thani were similarly low, at just 30 or 40 passengers per flight, but we continued to fly until bookings improved. We expect the same thing to happen on the Phuket-Haad Yai route," he said.

Asked about the cancella-

tion of the Haad Yai-Phuket leg of the flight on May 22, he said it was the result of a technical problem and did not spell the end of the service.

Passengers booked on that flight were given free transport by coach to Phuket International Airport and had the option of either a full refund on the flight or a round-trip Phuket-Bangkok flight redeemable within a three-month period, he said.

One passenger booked on that flight told the *Gazette* that she was traveling with an infant and was greatly inconvenienced by the cancellation, for which Nok Air provided no advance warning even though she provided the carrier with her mobile phone number when booking.

The Phuket-Haad Yai route would continue with the 999-baht net fares for at least another three months, K. Pinyot said.

"We look at this as an investment. It's too early to look at the route from a strict profit and loss standpoint. We realize this is the low season and we just want people to try it, and we expect much more passenger volume at the 999 baht fare price," he said.

Formerly tickets on the route were priced at 1,750 after all fees and surcharges.

K. Pinyot downplayed the impact of the most recent set of coordinated bomb attacks in Haad Yai, saying it had "no impact at all" on the route.

"We will retain the route permanently...to end it now would be like a slow form of suicide."

"We intend to market the service further though advertisements on billboards and local radio, as well as with banners," he said, adding that 1 million baht had already been invested in marketing the service.

K. Pinyot's comments contradict a recent media report that Nok Air was considering abandoning the route.

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# Short leases cause spike in UK ground rent returns

The term “structuring your portfolio” means different things to different people. Portfolios have traditionally held mainly shares (equities), bonds (fixed-interest investments) and cash. Many portfolios use just these three asset classes while others include asset classes, such as commercial property, hedge funds and commodity funds.

Bonds are a very popular and I have used them for years, but for more than a decade most of the portfolios I have managed have not included bonds. Why? Simple, it is all about yield and bonds, except in a few countries that have shaky foundations, offer low yields. For example, US 10-year treasuries offer about 4.75%, UK Gilts 5.1%, Euro-bonds (Bunds) 4.10% and 10-year Thai Government Bonds 3.7%.

Investors often use bonds to generate income, but unless a large part of the income is reinvested the value of the income and bond capital is slowly eroded by inflation. If global growth and inflation continue, they will unsettle the bond market and create volatility. Although 10-year bonds will offer the same income and yield, the capital value could fall. The problem is that the return on bonds is so low that after adjustment for inflation the real return is abysmal.

As for equities, many people are scared of the stock market. After decades in the industry, I no longer try and convince people to have at least some exposure to the stock market. If you are apprehensive about the stock market, leave it alone, there are alternatives.

In the investment world, good portfolio performance is not only a matter of selecting “non-traditional” assets but questioning the relevance of “traditional” assets altogether. Eleven years ago, I was based in Durban, South Africa, as an independent financial adviser and had a regular quarterly meeting with Royal & Sun Alliance International (RSA).

During that meeting, the RSA Sales Manager mentioned a new fund that they had recently established with a UK group – Brandeaux. They had launched a new asset class called ground rents in an offshore mutual fund managed in London.

This fund has never dropped in value, which is very unusual for



**SKY-HIGH PRICES:** Much of the property in Britain, particularly in London (above) and other cities is built on leased land – so-called ground rents. – Photo by Andrew Bossi.

its age. However, it is not so much the fund rather the asset class – ground rents – that is responsible.

The granting of a 99-year lease by the owner of the land (ground rent holder) means that the lessee can build a house, block of apartments, hotel, offices or even an embassy. The lessee can obtain normal mortgage finance on the lease but must continue to pay the ground rent on the property. The property may be sold in the normal manner but once the lease is less than 50 years from expiry no bank will offer a new mortgage on it.

The ground rent holder simply has to collect the ground rent. If the lessee defaults, the ground rent holder will send a letter of demand plus a fine to the lessee.

In the event of nonpayment, the property is sold at auction. Thereupon, the ground

rent holder collects all outstanding ground rent, fines and any other costs; no legal action in court is even required.

In reality, banks and building societies will simply pay the ground rent holder account to stop the forced sale of the property which could easily incur a loss.

When a lease expires, the whole property is owned by the ground rent holder to do as they wish: sell, develop and so on. Tony

Blair, during his term as Prime Minister, often lectured the British public on the importance of buying their property from ground rent holders; good advice, but how many were listening? A huge percentage of UK properties are on leasehold.

In the UK it is land in the cities that is now of interest. Brandeaux kept silent for years on their approach to short leaseholds.

However, about 18 months ago they announced that the Ground Rent Income Fund had been buying properties with short leaseholds in the most expensive suburbs of London and other cities. They gave an example of one property that was increasing in value at 35% compound as it approached the end of the lease.

Even during a lease, the ground rent holder often makes

money. If a property requires extensions or a complete rebuild, it requires the owner's (ground rent holder) permission. Permission equals cash.

Renegotiations of lease terms are also common, in this case a mixture of cash and a greatly increased ground rent is earned. The ground rent holder is in a very attractive position.

Ground rents themselves are bought and sold at auctions. It is not a “deep” market, most of the trading is by individual investors, pension funds – looking for high yielding assets and of course Brandeaux Ground Rent Income Fund and some of their other funds such as the Sterling Fund, US Dollar Fund and Euro Fund. There are no other mutual funds in this sector; the fund is not open to British residents.

The Ground Rent Income

Fund has returned, after charges, +185% since February 1996 and 11.11% over the past year. Average annual return has been 9.99%.

The fund auditors are Ernst & Young and the custodian banker is Investec Bank (Switzerland). More information can be found at: [www.Brandeaux.com](http://www.Brandeaux.com)

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## MONEY TALKS

By Richard G Watson



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# MAIL BEHAVING BADLY

A friend recently wrote: "I use Outlook Express for my email as I have a host in the UK. Since I started using my CAT EV-DO card, I have had many problems sending emails."

"Now I find out that my CAT IP address is blacklisted, possibly due to spamming. I do not spam. I have scanned my computers thoroughly for rootkits, viruses, spamming ware etc, all my computers are squeaky clean."

"Every time I shut down the CAT card and restart it, I get a new IP address from CAT. When I check my new IP address at the UCE Protect site, www.uceprotect.net/en/rblcheck.php, it says (in a very inscrutable way) that the new address is blacklisted at UCEPROTECT-Network Level 2 because of spam from other addresses that appear to be CAT addresses."

"I asked our web programmer to check it out, and he said, 'Strange. It seems there is a host filter between your PC and your server. Some government may be filtering interaction with your email server because of the UCE Protect level. Or it could be a setup issue on your PC's connection.'"

What do you reckon?

OZB, Patong

It's a complicated question. Many people all over the world have problems getting their messages out of Outlook – and their difficulties have nothing to do with CAT. Try Googling "message stuck outbox" for zillions of potential solutions.

But email in Thailand presents special, uh, challenges. Often people have problems because their IP addresses identify them as originating from Thailand. The problem isn't limited to CAT, and sometimes it isn't the ISP's fault.

First, a bit of background. Every time you log on to the Internet you get an IP address – a number that's similar to a phone number but looks like 144.232.13.147. If you have an "always on" ADSL connection, your com-

puter always gets the same IP address.

IP addresses are assigned in blocks, so it's possible to look at an IP address and tell, more or less, where it came from – not unlike the country code and area code in a telephone number. For example, see www.tamos.com/products/countrywhois.

If you use Outlook, Outlook Express or any other email program, your email sits on a computer, called a mail server, on the Internet until you retrieve it. When you get your mail, usually you send mail, too – from your PC to the serv-

er (in OBZ's case, the server's in the UK), which then sends it to the intended recipient. The mail server knows your IP address – that's how you communicate with the server – and the company that runs the mail server can keep tabs on where you are.

There are several problems with this. The most common problem is a breakdown in communication between the PC and the mail server. Many people who are visiting Thailand are surprised – and angry – when they discover that their mail server is blocking access to the mail server from Thailand, from Asia in general or

from specific ISPs in Thailand.

Many people find that they simply can't connect to the mail server at all. Some can retrieve mail but can't send any. Sometimes Outlook puts up a nonsense message like, "Cannot connect to server. Contact your network administrator". Sometimes the email program doesn't say anything at all.

In Outlook you may be able to get more information about a misbehaving email connection by clicking Tools, Email Accounts (or Account Settings), selecting the account that's not working and clicking the button marked Test Account Settings.

The second most common problem arises from the folks running the mail server changing something and not telling you. One time, a Thai server company changed an "SMTP port" setting and notified all of its customers of the change – but the notice sent by email was all in Thai. I couldn't read the email, so I ignored it. A week later, my mail didn't work. It took a long, long time to figure that one out.

Even if your mail is sent, your IP address may be blocked by a spam filter on the receiving side, so specific messages may simply never arrive at their intended destination. Every spam filter works differently, but some

The Freedom Against Censorship Thailand website – facthai.wordpress.com – reports on censorship and the new cybercrime law, a topic of interest to every Phuket resident who has ever had trouble sending email.

use the IP address to upload the message.

If your IP address is on an email recipient's blacklist, your mail gets blocked. Some blacklists automatically reject entire blocks of IP addresses. In my experience, the people who maintain the blacklists couldn't

give a furry rodent's posterior whether one specific individual has been blocked unfairly.

The solution? Get a Gmail account and use it. When you send mail from Gmail, it gets branded with a Gmail IP address, and no blacklist in their right mind would block all Gmail mail.

You can get blacklisted in ways that have nothing to do with email. My old TT&T ADSL line was blocked from accessing the popular Slashdot website because other TT&T ADSL users with similar IP addresses were flooding Slashdot with thousands of hits per hour.

I complained, but in the end had to wait a week until the ping-pong stopped. Only then would Slashdot allow my IP address to access their site.

More than a few financial sites, including bank sites, in the US and Europe indiscriminately block all access from Thailand. One even blocks all incoming traffic from Asia. Last week a guy at the Sandwich Shoppe wanted to get onto a real estate training website, but the site blocked all access from CAT's IP addresses. I have no idea why.

In general, the way to work around these mindless IP address blocks is simple: you use an anonymizing web service to relay your request. If the National Bank of Humptulips won't allow access from Thailand, you log on to a specific kind of website called a "proxy server" that acts as a go-between.

The anonymizing site inter-

acts with the bank, automatically forwarding what you type to the bank's computer and returning whatever the bank's computer may regurgitate.

You can use a similar technique called TOR routing to anonymize your connection to your mail server, possibly breaking an email logjam. I wrote a lengthy article about anonymizing web servers and TOR in the August 12 issue of the Gazette.

Just one little problem. Last month, Thailand's National Legislative Assembly passed a law that appears to make web anonymizing services illegal (www.asiasentinel.com/index.php?option=com\_content&task=view&id=499&Itemid=31). The law hasn't come into effect yet but if it does, some people contend that you can get sent to a Thai jail for using an anonymizer, or even visiting an anonymizing website.

I have yet to find an English translation of the final bill, but there's a discussion of a follow-on meeting at facthai.wordpress.com/2007/05/22/cybercrime-law-no-prescription-for-dictatorship. The same site has a list of websites currently being blocked by the Thai Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Ministry. Interesting reading.

For OBZ, there is a filter between your PC and your mail server in the UK: and the filter's run by the ICT Ministry, which can filter every single Internet connection going in and out of Thailand.

I don't know why your EV-DO card's IP address is being blacklisted, but presumably the blacklisting organizations have their reasons. The only legal solution in Thailand I know is to change the ISP – and pray that the blacklisting doesn't continue.

Alternatively, use a free online email service. I use Gmail and Hotmail, er, Windows Live Hotmail all the time. If you set up Gmail to forward copies of your mail to your regular Outlook account, you can get your inbound mail delivered to your Outlook inbox without lifting a finger.

Although the ICT Ministry has threatened to sue Google, the government hasn't blocked access to Gmail. Yet.

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, www.askwoody.com) runs Khun Woody's Bakery and the Sandwich Shoppe in Patong.

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## Gardening

by Bloomin' Bert

# Gender benders in the garden

There are a lot of confusing people in the world. Glaswegians (hailing from Glasgow, in Scotland) are probably near the top of that list. They possess the unique ability to utter several sentences within a few nanoseconds. The problem is that unless you grew up on the same street as they did, you haven't the faintest idea what they're talking about.

Cockneys, from London, even create confusion deliberately, for no other reason than to elicit the reaction "What the heck are you talking about?" from those not of their ilk around them. They choose to invent clauses to describe the most abstract of things. Apples and pears = stairs, whistle and flute = suit, Alan Whickers = knickers, Barnet fair = hair, butcher's hook = look ... and the list goes on.

What's the point? I'll just never get it. They are from the south of England, I suppose, so much of what goes on in the nether regions of the country is largely confusing to folk from the north. We tend to leave them to it, mostly. It's for the best.

There are people in Thailand who are perplexing, too. Policemen at roundabouts probably claim the top prize. They have an amazing knack of causing complete chaos by waving cars through and stopping others, seemingly at random and generally slowing things down to a snail's pace crawl. What is frustrating is that they make an appearance only at peak traffic times, when they can cause maximum disruption.

Another source of confusion on the island is *katoeys*. For readers that have just stepped off the plane, a *katoey* is the Thai word for a gentleman that rather thinks that he's of the female persuasion, and would like the rest of the world to think so, too. Some *katoeys* are stunning, and



This individualistic ginger plant has enough fur in all the wrong places to warrant some questions...

that's the confusing part – there are plenty of them that even the most red-blooded males of would describe as gorgeous. Scary.

Things are certainly not always what they seem. Paul Hogan got it right, in that daft film from the eighties, *Crocodile Dundee*. Having made the mistake once of trying it on with one of these "gorgeous" blokes, through no fault of his own, he took matters into his own hands next time he was in doubt. He made sure in the most obvious way possible, with a quick grab of the key area.

Once the woman's gender had been definitively established, he winked knowingly at the hapless lady. "Just checking," he said apologetically. I'm certainly not advocating that method next time you're approached in Patong, as it may well not be appreciated, but it's certainly worth a thought in an emergency.

There are a couple of things that usually give the game away. The first is the Adam's apple that's very hard to hide. The second is those furry chins, a bit like your Great Aunt Daphne. Particularly unattractive.

In the plant world, the closest thing we've probably got to a *katoey* plant is a member of the ginger family – the *costa speciosus variegatus*. It's a ridiculously long and complicated name for a plant that is otherwise known as the variegated crepe ginger, or *huang mai-naa* in Thai.

The French got at least something right when they assigned genders to everything. A palm tree is masculine and a rose is feminine, but the variegated crepe ginger hasn't chosen which side of the fence it's on, and so it's all down to its furry feel. It kind of needs a shave, but hasn't quite decided whether it wants to or not.

It's a curious plant. From a distance, it looks much like any other plant with variegated leaves (having more than one color). Up close, it's a different story. Both sides of the soft, 10-centimeter-long leaves are covered in a layer of fine fur.

The leaves of this tropical evergreen appear on stems that are sometimes maroon-red, emerging directly from the ground. Each leaf has a narrow white strip along each edge with occasional light streaks through the blade of the leaf. They kind of spiral around the stem, forming arching clumps that can form some fairly elaborate and bizarre shapes.

They can grow to over a couple of meters tall, and the tallest stems can occasionally fall over and collapse on the ground. This is another *katoey* aspect of the plant. It pretty much does what it wants, and does its best not to conform to the usual rules of the plant world, and really

doesn't care what the rest of that world thinks.

Most members of the fauna side of the evolutionary scale take the easy, predictable route and reach skyward the most direct route possible. If there's more light in one direction, they turn that way in order to follow it.

Not the variegated crepe ginger. Sometimes it will form weird spiral shapes, almost as if it wants to take its time getting there. Often it will change direction as if purely on a whim. It has to be one of the most non-conformist plants around.

Attractive, white, five-centimeter-diameter flowers are produced when it feels like it, appearing on the tips of branches. The leaves are spectacular; the flowers are a bonus.

For the best results, this plant should get some hours of direct sunlight daily, but not be out there all day, baking. This plant has feelings, after all. But if you put it in fertile, organic, moist but well-drained soil, it will be particularly content. It does enjoy its water.

All members of the crepe ginger family grow from thick, fleshy roots – rhizomes, similar in appearance to the ginger root that you would buy at the local market. Most people take the easy way out and buy them as a pre-potted plant, but even if you start out with bare rhizomes, they are still easy to grow.

Plant the rhizome two or three centimeters below the surface in a sandy loam or clay soil that has been improved by some of that coconut husk-based compost you see in those white sacks at every garden center. A single rhizome will produce new shoots and increase to a fairly big clump quite quickly.

A plant with feelings? Not quite sure which direction to turn? Fur on the oddest parts of its anatomy? No wonder it's confused. Though I'd bet it would be an improvement to have it directing traffic at Chalong Circle.

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## Decor

by Natcha Yuttaworawit



SUPER COMFORTABLE: A large teak bed for those layabout rainy days.

# SEEKING TEAK

Finding quality furnishings in teak anywhere can be a chore; and expensive. How do you know if it will shrink or twist with age, or stand up to Phuket's tropical weather?

Noppawat Settapipat, the owner of Classic Design in Phuket has the solution.

"We choose only aged wood to build furniture with; wood that is more than 40 years old. Aged wood will not bend or twist over time," he says.

Phuket's outdoor living can be rough on furniture, K. Noppawat says, so he uses sun- and water-proof paints on furniture with a one-year guarantee on the paint.

"You don't need to worry about your furniture being outside when it rains. We also airbrush a clear sealant over the paint so the furniture will have a very smooth finish," he says.

K. Noppawat's family has been in the furniture business for 20 years. They have five shops in Bangkok and opened in Phuket two years ago.

"We have one shop on Yaowarat Rd in Phuket City near Tesco-Lotus," K. Noppawat explains.

"I started with curtain design, then moved into interior design and now focus on furniture design," he says. "I think Phuket is the best location for my furnishings and curtains. I focus on 'modern classic design' and use natural colors, and we use only legal teak wood from northern Thailand to make our indoor and



DURABLE: Classic outdoor furniture stands up to Phuket's weather.

outdoor furniture.

"We have our own factories in Lamphun and Nonthaburi and make our own products. We use our own designs, but we can also make new designs according to our customers' preferences. I think we can cater to all our customers' needs," says K. Noppawat.

Classic Design's range of furniture for outdoor living includes camp beds, dining tables and couches.

The range of indoor furnishings include classic four-poster beds, large dining tables and chairs that can withstand lots of strong sunlight, but should not be exposed to rain.

Custom-designed furniture

can be built and delivered within two weeks, he adds. Delivery is free, even to Khao Lak.

"We aim to build furniture that matches the Phuket lifestyle. We use the best materials for all products because we know people will use them for a long time," K. Noppawat adds.

He also knows his customers well, and says, "Foreign residents should not worry that they will charged more because they are not Thai. We have the same prices here as at our five branches in Bangkok."

For more information call 081-5844454 or 076-255468-9 or email [classicdesignphuket@hotmail.com](mailto:classicdesignphuket@hotmail.com)

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**Construction Update**

by Janyaporn Morel

Site clearance for the "Park and Shop" shophouse project by local real estate developer CB Estate Co Ltd has been completed and construction of the 220-million-baht project will commence in July. The project is expected to be completed by October 2008.

Park and Shop will sit on eight rai on Chao Fa East Rd in the Nabon area.

It will have 41 four-story shophouses in seven buildings, a large parking area and a centrally-located, multipurpose area for exhibitions and sales promotion events.

Phuchat Petvaroon, General Manager of C.B.Estate Co Ltd, told the *Gazette* that due to the growth of Phuket many local businesses are expanding outside Phuket City's central built-up area. Shophouses are being built in Nabon and Chalong, but not enough to meet the demand of people looking for new business venues.

"The Nabon area, sited between Phuket City and Chalong Circle, has lots of potential for business, so we are building where we can pool shophouses with different kinds of businesses together and offer buyers and

# Park and Shop arrives in Nabon



**Built-in convenience – the developers of Park and Shop promise there will be plenty of parking space.**

tenants the facilities to attract customers," he said.

The seven buildings, de-

signed for dual commercial-residential purposes, will be built around the borders of the land.

"Most businesspeople in Phuket like to live in the same place as their shops, so we designed the top two floors for living and the ground floor wide open for the shop or business. We opened up the second floor as a mezzanine for the office and a staff bathroom," said K. Phuchat.

At the center of project, an open area of about one rai has been set aside to accommodate sales, promotions and exhibitions.

"When the project is finished, we will have an event organizer consult with our customers to promote their businesses. We do not want them to buy into our project and then be left alone to do business – we want to help.

"We will also provide plenty

of parking. Most shophouses are close to main roads and parking space is difficult to find. These are our strong points," he said.

Of the 41 shophouses, there will be 27 single units four meters wide and 12 meters long, 11 double units eight meters wide and three single units with extra land on the corners.

Each single unit will have two bedrooms, three bathrooms, living room and kitchen. A spare room on the second floor could be used as a bedroom or office.

What will set Park and Shop apart from many other shophouse projects being built in Phuket, K. Phuchat said, is its design and plot plan. "By our name Park and Shop, we explain that people can literally park and shop, unlike many places where customers have to park along the road or can't find any place to park at all.

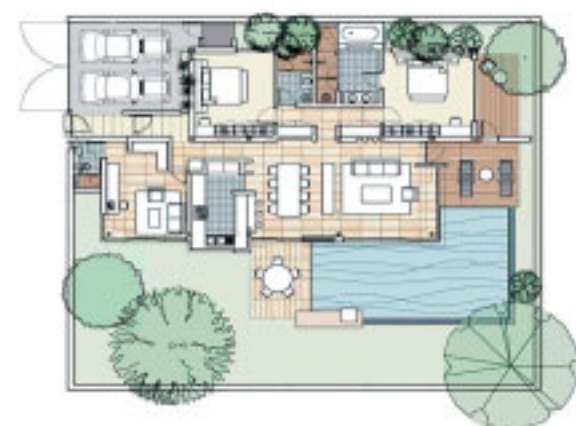
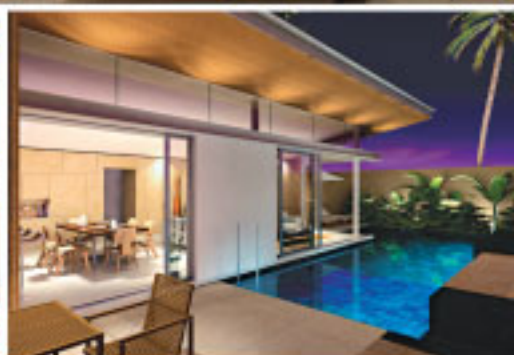
"Our design will be a little bit different too. We used modern styling in the shophouses and will use shingle roofing instead of the usual tiles," he said.

About 20% of the project has been sold. Prices range from 4.39 million baht for single units to 9 million baht for the corner units with extra land.

"I think this project is attractive for people who are looking to start a new business away from the city. This location will be good because it is close to two Phuket Villa projects and it is a well-populated area. It's also not too far from the city," he added.

The construction contractor for Park and Shop is Taksin Concrete Co Ltd, a company of the C.B. Estate Group.

For more information contact the Park and Shop sales office at 183/86 City Park Plaza Building, Phang Nga Rd, Phuket 83000. Tel: 076-217020-5, 084-4401826, 084-4401827. Fax: 076-217026.



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## Home of the Week

## Cape Panwa

# Spacious living on the cape

This recently completed condo is part of the Bel Air Panwa development on Cape Panwa, which is home to quiet beaches, several hotels and the exclusive Sri Panwa Resort, and is only 20 minutes from the main shopping areas, restaurants and bars of Phuket City.

Located on the second floor of the Kraburi building, this condominium offers views to the Phi Phi Islands and looks over the top pool deck of the development. The large pool deck comprises a free form pool, three timber salas, extensive mature landscaping, children's play area, timber decking, sandstone paving and sun lounges.

The 162-square-meter unit has three bedrooms and three bathrooms, which feature attractive rough-cut local sandstone worked to a modern style with ceramic floor tiles. Two of the bedrooms are master size, each with en-suite bathroom, and both open up onto the large balcony that makes the most of the views, providing an ideal place to sit back and have a cold drink, entertain or have an evening meal.

Flooring throughout the condominium is a combination of timber, travertine and ceramic tiles. Rooms are tastefully decorated in neutral tones and include original oil paintings.

The furniture is a complete package, and the interior features a Thai influence to this classy condo, right down to finer details and inclusive of crockery and cutlery.

The open-design living area adjoins a large kitchen that features European-standard appliances and granite bench tops. Air conditioning internally and external ceiling fans provide cooling throughout the unit.

The condominium has been built to last with the security and comfort of double-glazed windows and doors. The paint used within the development has been specifically developed to withstand the tropical climate and sea-side location.

Utilities include UBC TV, telephone, broadband Internet connection and a room safe. Bel Air Panwa Resort incorporates a host of facilities that include reception, spa, fitness center, two restaurants and bars, two swimming pools, children's playground, room service, laundry, and 24-hour gated security.

The development has been built, managed and sold by the Watson Property Group from Australia. The resort is managed and let by the Homduang Group from Bangkok. The common area management is undertaken by CB Richard Ellis.

This new condominium, available freehold at 11.5 million baht including the furniture package, is complete and ready for either owner occupation or entry into a rental program with a guaranteed 10% gross return over three years.

For more details call David Petrus at Bel Air Panwa at 089-9086168 or visit the website at [www.belairpanwa.com](http://www.belairpanwa.com)



Facilities at Bel Air Panwa include a large communal swimming pool.

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# Property Gazette

## Properties For Sale

### TROPICAL VILLA FOR SALE



Living area: 600sqm. Garden area: 6,400sqm (4 rai). Large 250sqm terrace. 3 bedrooms & 1 master bedroom with en-suite bathroom. Open-plan kitchen, living room, Jacuzzi, swimming pool, 100sqm of artificial river & charming island, 3-car garage & exterior parking. Completely furnished, foosball table and snooker table. Price: 49 million baht. Located at Pa Khlok, 5 mins from Ao Por, marina, golf, etc. No sea view. Company formed since 2002. Chanote title. Project by international architects. For info, contact Tel: 081-8935270. Email: mrdupouy@yahoo.fr Please visit our website: [www.tropical-house.net](http://www.tropical-house.net)

### 4-STORY SHOPHOUSE

for sale. Located near Phuket City bus terminal. 4m x 12m. Price: 3.8 million baht. Tel: 084-6518028. Or via email: herbert.eisenberg@gmail.com For further details, please see our website at <http://eisrawai.wetpaint.com/page/Phuket+Townhouse>

### 1 RAI KAMALA

Land: 3.7 million baht. House and garden, electric, water, free to build. 2.9 million baht. Tel: 076-292596, 086-2678477. Email: [tourniechristian@hotmail.com](mailto:tourniechristian@hotmail.com)

### BEAUTIFUL RETREAT

Great location on 4 rai, Chanote land, stream, well, electric, buildings, tonsai trees. Price: 7.5 million baht. Please contact Tel: 084-3600166.

### LUXURY NATAI BEACH VILLA



358sqm, sea view, 2 mins from the beach, 15 mins to airport, 2 bedrooms with en-suite bathrooms, Western kitchen with high quality appliances, fully furnished with designer furniture, 2 home theaters with plasma TV and UBC, ADSL ready, 1 rai garden with swimming pool. Must see! Contact for more information about house and land. Tel: 081-0863309. For further details, please see our website at <http://www.janepropertyphuket.com>

### DUPLEX HOUSE

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, parking. Gated community, fully furnished. Only 1.8 million baht. Call Tel: 02-9570053, 081-4040018. Or via email: [contactmalisa@yahoo.com](mailto:contactmalisa@yahoo.com) For further details, please see our website at [http://www.phuketsecondhand.com/post/detail.php?post\\_id=3523](http://www.phuketsecondhand.com/post/detail.php?post_id=3523)

### LIVE IN KATHU

New modern-design house for sale. 3 bedrooms with en-suite bathrooms. Living room, kitchen/diner, walled garden, large veranda, private parking. Near British Int'l School and golf course. Price: 4.5 million obo. Tel: 084-8439579. Email: [somlerdee@yahoo.com](mailto:somlerdee@yahoo.com)

### 3-FLOOR PATONG

shophouse. Best location, 100 meters to the beach. Built-up area: 270 sqm. Ground floor: 1 restaurant. New, fully equipped kitchen, WC, aircon, ADSL Internet. 1st floor: 2 bedrooms, teakwood floor, bathroom with new whirlpool, WC, 2 aircons, balcony. 2nd floor: 2 rooms, 1 aircon, bathroom, WC, balcony, UBC, ADSL, TV. Price: 12 million baht. Please call Tel: 081-8914844.

### 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.

### NEW PATONG VILLA WITH POOL

Very exclusive, completely furnished villa with swimming pool in best residential area of Patong. 2 floors, 3 bedrooms with aircons, 3 bathrooms, Jacuzzi, Western kitchen, dining area. Living area: 200sqm. Freehold land: 150sqm. Price: 8.5 million baht. Contact at Tel: 081-8928526. Please visit our website at [www.phuketbesthomes.com](http://www.phuketbesthomes.com) for more information.

### LAND NEAR KHAO LAK

22 rai of beautiful, flat land in Tab Lamu, near Khao Lak and Tab Lamu golf course. For quick sale at 10 million baht. Contact for details at Tel: 081-8921097. Email: [info@svethai-realestate.com](mailto:info@svethai-realestate.com)

### BEAUTIFUL 3-STORY

building. 5 aircons, 3 rooms on second floor, third-floor apartment with kitchen and bathroom. Price: 6.2 million baht. 600 meters from Chalong circle on Chao Fa East Rd. Tel: 081-4763242. Email: [davidbul@loxinfo.co.th](mailto:davidbul@loxinfo.co.th)

### KAMALA BEACH LANDPLOTS

Two plots: 10m x 16m and 10m x 20m. Close to beach and main road. Chanote. Approved for apartment development. Please contact Tel: 081-8930935. Email: [surlamer05@yahoo.com](mailto:surlamer05@yahoo.com)

### LAND FOR SALE



Flat land, 119sq wah in Maneekram, located between Chalong and Central Festival, full public utilities, quiet area. Please contact Tel: 084-8516115. Email: [suksavat@hotmail.com](mailto:suksavat@hotmail.com)

### PATONG SEA VIEW

in north Patong. Top-floor, freehold, 2-bedroom apartment with pool. Price: 9.7 million baht. Please contact for photos and details at Tel: 086-2765117. Email: [jihshand@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jihshand@yahoo.co.uk)

### RAWAI LAND FOR

sale. Near mainroad, seaview land plot, 5 rai, water, electricity. Tel: 081-8151636.

### CONDOS FOR SALE

Condos with fantastic sea views and hill views in Patong Tower for sale. Only a few minutes to Patong Beach. Contact Tel: 076-341871, 081-5697616. Email: [sales@phuketislandrealestate.com](mailto:sales@phuketislandrealestate.com)

### CHEAP LAND FOR SALE

8 minutes to Laguna, Baan Jo, 150 talang wah or 600sqm. Full Chanote, very nice area, good location. Asking price: 1.1 million baht. Tel: 081-0415646. Email: [khunraf@hotmail.com](mailto:khunraf@hotmail.com)

### LAND FOR SALE

Kata/Rawai hillside. 11 plots from 400 to 1,200sqm. Tel: 081-2730080. Visit our website: <http://landandshopforsale.phuket.net>

### COMMERCIAL CONDO 600SQM

Individual building located on the bypass rd near Tesco Lotus. Includes a penthouse with 2 en-suite bedrooms, American kitchen and big living room. Fully furnished. 25 million baht. Tel: 076-355067, 081-7977210. Fax: 076-355067. Email: [scspkt@loxinfo.co.th](mailto:scspkt@loxinfo.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.

### RAWAI SHOPHOUSES FOR SALE/RENT

2 new, connected shophouses in Rawai, on Wiset Rd. Living area: 200sqm. Freehold land price: 4.5 million baht. Financing possible. Tel: 081-8928526. For more details and photos, please visit our website at: [www.phuketbesthomes.com](http://www.phuketbesthomes.com)

### RAWAI BEACH

condo. Sea view, foreign freehold. 450,000 baht. Tel: 086-9408914. For more info email: [freeholdprop@yahoo.com](mailto:freeholdprop@yahoo.com)

### RAWAI BEACH VILLA

400sqm land, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, pool. 6.5 million baht. Tel: 086-9408914. Email: [freeholdprop@yahoo.com](mailto:freeholdprop@yahoo.com)

### BEACHFRONT LAND

From only 1.5 million baht per rai. For more info, please email: [admin@thaisunshinedevelopments.com](mailto:admin@thaisunshinedevelopments.com)

### BEACHFRONT POOL

house. 3/4 bedrooms from only 8 million baht. For more info, please email: [admin@thaisunshinedevelopments.com](mailto:admin@thaisunshinedevelopments.com)

### LAND ON KOH MAPHRAO

East side, street access, electricity, water. Approx. 1 rai, ready to be built on. Price: 3.9 million baht. 7 rai next to Swiss resort. Price: 2.9 million baht per rai. Call Tel: 081-8918930.

### AO POR LAND URGENT SALE



150 rai, Chanote, panoramic sea view. From 2.3 million baht per rai. Contact for more information. Tel: 081-5597456. Email: [se\\_rim@hotmail.com](mailto:se_rim@hotmail.com)

### LAND IN RAWAI

3 plots with private road access. Chanote titles. Flat land with hill view. Perfect for housing projects. Sizes are: 449, 476, 475sqm. Price: 4,250 baht per sqm. Tel: 087-3828078.

### HOUSES AND CONDO

Two-storey houses in secure estate. Only minutes from golf course, large land plots, 3-4 bedrooms, starting from 5.9 million baht. Also a luxury two-bedroom condo with sea views in Patong. Over 240sqm of living space, Jacuzzi in master bathroom, communal swimming pool. Price: 12.9 million baht. Tel: 076-288908. Fax: 076-383646. Email: [patrick@siamrealestate.com](mailto:patrick@siamrealestate.com)

### KATA APARTMENT

Private, cable TV, furnished. Tel: 076-284065, 081-9704638, 086-5958512.

### LAND FOR SALE

25 talang wah: 800,000 baht. 80 talang wah: 1,500,000 baht. 90 talang wah: 1,800,000 baht. With title deeds and close to Nai Ham Beach. Tel: 081-8921057. Email: [angela\\_prajantabut@hotmail.com](mailto:angela_prajantabut@hotmail.com)

### NICE HOUSE FOR SALE

Perfect house, 4-5 bedrooms, ready to move in. Close to Central Festival and Rawai Beach. Contact Tel: 081-8915296. Email: [hkthomesale18@yahoo.com](mailto:hkthomesale18@yahoo.com) For further details, please see our website at <http://www.jikkycar.com>

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### Surin Beach - Modern Seaview Apartments for sale

Within 100 metres of the beach, no sqm. of living space. One bedroom, living room, European-style kitchen, fully furnished, air conditioning, hot water system, home security system, internet connection, television and satellite TV. The price starts from 6.5 million baht for the first-floor apartment. Please contact Ann 66 81 868 7676



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**Prices from 7,9 Million Baht**



# Property Gazette

## Geoff Curry

### Land for sale at Kathu

5 rai 50 sq.wah with Chanote title, good area canal at the back 5 minutes to Big C/Central. Perfect for private complex. 7 million baht per rai.

### House at Phuket country

Club Golf course, near Club house 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, aircon, kitchen units with hob, hood, oven and dishwasher. Land area 175 sq.wah with chanote title, pool & Jacuzzi 7.3 x 12 meter. Nice & quiet beautiful Golf views 17 million baht. Available for long term rent

### New double shop unit

First and second floor open plan third floor 3 bedroom or offices 2 showers rooms 3 telephone lines and 4 aircon. Good location opposite lotus. Its a corner unit leandg to 450 condos 80,000 baht per month.

#### Please contact:

**Mr. Geoff Curry**  
Mobile: 081-8540061.  
Tel office contact  
**K.Ning: 081-0803414.**  
Tel: 076-323214  
Fax: 076-323215

### HOUSE FOR SALE

Soi Namtok in Kathu, 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, aircon, kitchen. Price: 880,000 baht. Tel: 089-8728188.

### OCEANVIEW

landplots Bang Tao. Fantastic ocean and Bang Tao view plots, 3-phase electricity, road access. Tel: 089-5903665, 089-5903665. Email: bannuaton@yahoo.com

### RAWAI POOL VILLA

6.5 million baht. Two 2-bedroom pool villas for sale at 6.5 million baht each. Tel: 081-8953979. Email: bdandy@tttmaxnet.com For further details, please see our website at <http://poolvilla.vetpaint.com/>

### 3.5 RAI FLAT LAND

Chanote title, square plot, 500 meters from Thepkarsatti Rd., Thalang area, 1 rai. Price: 2 million baht. Tel: 084-0577505.

### KHO YAO YAI

2 rai, 1 million per rai, Chanote, water, electricity, close to the beach. Tel: 081-8928208.

### PATONG TOWER

condo. Seaview, furnished 1-bedroom, 1-bathroom condo, 2 balconies. Double bed, TV, fridge, air conditioning, pool, indoor parking. Price: 6 million baht. Call Tel: 086-7730046. Email: tamjai@yahoo.com

### 2 STORY HOUSE PHUKET TOWN

5m x 20m, soi Rommanee. Price: 3.8 million baht. Contact Tel: 084-0577505.

### LAND FOR SALE 58 RAI



Beachfront land on Ko Yao Yai (Long Island Phuket). Only 3.5 million baht per rai with Chanote + 1 rai on Kamala beach road with Chanote. Please contact Tel: 087-6050365. Email: kim.wuzzup@gmail.com

**HOUSE FOR SALE OR rent.** 1 km from Heroines Monument, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished, swimming pool. Sell: 2.6 million baht. Rent: 22,000 baht per month. Tel: 083-1036578.

### POOL VILLA FOR SALE

New 3-4 bedrooms, living room, 5 aircons, 2 levels, garden, sat TV, Internet. Price: 8.8 million baht. Contact Tel: 084-8516121.

### HOUSE WITH POOL

2 levels, 3 bedrooms, large living room, 2 bathrooms. Price: 4.6 million baht. Tel: 084-8516121.

### SPA & RESORT

37 million baht. A peaceful place of 3 rai, 900sq wah in Ao Nang, 9 villas of Thai-Bali style, blissful open-air bathtub, tropical garden, herbal steam & Jacuzzi pool, international restaurant. Tel: 081-4236906. Email: sunsetap@ji-net.com

### LAND FOR SALE

9 rai for sale at Pasak Soi 8, Cherg 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

### POOL VILLA IN NAI HARN

New, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, European kitchen. Price: 5.5 million baht. Please contact for information at Tel: 076-288047, 081-8941660. Or via email: cottrell@loxinfo.co.th

### CONDOS FOR FOREIGN

ownership. Nai Harn Beach condos. High-quality, up-market, safe, secure. Large 2-bedroom units completely furnished and equipped, great location and views, close to the beach. Only 8 million baht. Must see! Please call for more information at Tel: 081-7974068.

### CALIFORNIA VILLA

3-bedroom house for sale. Corner plot, many extras. Very nice accommodation. Asking price: 3.2 million baht. Please call Tel: 089-8751154.

### KARON LAND FOR SALE



15 rai, Chanote, hillside, panoramic sea view, quiet area. Please call for more information. Tel: 081-5597456. Email: se\_rim@hotmail.com

### HOUSE FOR SALE



Single house in Soi Bangrae, Chalong. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, living area, kitchen and many facilities. 125 talang wah + 500sqm. Price: 6.5 million baht. Please contact Tel: 081-5395317, 086-6890769.

### CONDO FOR SALE

Renovated Rawai condo, furnished, aircon, TV, freehold. Price: 700,000 baht. Contact Tel: 084-1899868.

### NEW HOUSE FOR SALE

Beautiful, modern, European style. 3 large bedrooms with aircon, 3 en-suite bathrooms, huge terrace and living area, garage, laundry room, safe and alarm system. Plot of 600sqm. Quiet area. Built by European contractor. Only 10.5 million baht. Please contact Tel: 084-8441486. Email: meeuwissenpaula@hotmail.com

### 3-STORY SEA VIEW

Includes 6 rooms, 2 balconies, 4 bathrooms. 9.7 million baht. Roof with Jacuzzi. In Rawai/Nai Harn area. Call Tel: 085-7955383.

### 4 RAI FLAT LAND

Chanote title, square plot, access from 2 roads. 2km from Heroines Monument. 500m from main road. Price: 6.8 million baht. Please contact Tel: 084-0577505.

### SEAVIEW CONDO

Stylish apartment nearly completed in Kata Beach. Two bedrooms, 104sqm, nice location. Price: 5.9 million baht. Tel: 076-292265, 084-0535780. Email: info@ayudhya.net

### SEAVIEW HOUSE

2-bedroom house with large swimming pool and European kitchen in the best area in Patong "Baan Suan Kamnan". Price: 17.5 million baht. Contact Tel: 086-2706454, +44-778-9995522, 089-4727588. Email: djjudges@hotmail.com

### PATONG BAY GREAT SEA VIEW



A stunning beauty. Art deco house in Baan Suan Kamnan. One of the best, most quiet, green, clean and safe neighborhoods on the island. Located on a hillside at the south end of Patong. A large and tall house in a top location. Overlooks the bay of Patong in the daytime and you can enjoy the lively Patong scenery in the night time. Enjoy the views from a distance and have a look at our webcam. Tel: 086-786-6350. Fax: 076-345273. Contact via email: buumanb@hotmail.com For more info please see our website at [www.patongbluepoint.com](http://www.patongbluepoint.com)

### APARTMENTS IN KARON

One unit with 3 fully furnished apartments for sale. Please contact John Johannesen by email or mobile phone for more details. Tel: 081-8957957. Email: gymworld@loxinfo.co.th

### HOUSE FOR SALE

Beautiful Sino-Portugese house in center of Phuket Town. Already restored, ideal for restaurant, guesthouse or business. Tel: 081-9700121. Email: tikky2@mac.com

### NEW 95SQM

bungalow. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, living room, kitchen, carport, 210sqm land. 2.8 million baht. Call Tel: 086-9518140, 081-5383821. Email: info@1nj.de

### PHUKET PALACE

condo. New re-fit, fully fitted and furnished. Large swimming pool with waterfall, carpark. Price: 3.6 million baht. Tel: 087-2650118. Email: ant\_p\_clark@yahoo.co.uk

### NEW HOUSE FOR SALE

in Phuket City. 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom. Price starts from 1.49 million baht. Please call Tel: 076-221595.

### 4-FLOOR TOWNHOUSE

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

### KRABI LAND

for sale near Ao Nang, hill view. Price: 1.2 million baht per rai. Please contact at Tel: 081-7475293.

### Platinum Residence Park

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**5 Star Services**

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Landscaped Park  
Foreign Quality  
Serene Location  
Wide Roads

from 9.5 million baht

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### NEW LUXURY PENTHOUSE

Beautiful panoramic ocean and sunset views over Patong Bay.

Large living room and balcony.

2 bedrooms, 2 en-suite bathrooms. Fitted kitchen, aircon, ceiling fans. Includes private roof terrace.

Total area: 245sqm.

Also includes lift, pool and private covered parking.

Price: 12.9 million baht.

Tel: 087-8879070.

Email:

ianscondo@yahoo.com

### 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

### NICE HOUSE

2-story detached house with Western-style kitchen, dining room, living room, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 1 aircon, carport, garden, fully furnished. Only 3.2 million baht obo. Contact at Tel: +31-64-6098573. Email: shd1@planet.nl Visit our site: <http://home.planet.nl/~duang000/house.htm>

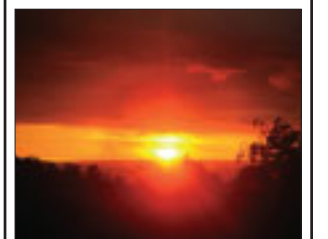
### LAND IN NAI YANG

Chanote near beach for sale. 2 rai: 7 million baht. 1 rai: 3.5 million baht, 6 plots (each 440sqm): 1.5 million baht per plot. Contact for more info. Tel: 089-7241140. Email: nong.phuket@yahoo.de

### CHEAPEST BEACHFRONT LAND!

1.6 million baht per rai. Will sell from 5 to 22 rai. Contact for additional details at email: admin@thaisunshinedevelopments.com

### 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-rise resort or hotel. Nor Sor 3 Gor. (Upgrade and transfer with Chanote title possible). Only serious inquires. Contact Edwin for additional information and specific details at Tel: 086-7866350. Or via email: buumanb@hotmail.com

### 885SQM PLOT

in Bang Tao. 1.79 million baht. 3-phase elec., road access. Nor Sor 3 Gor. Ready to build. Tel: 089-5903665, 086-2670157. Email: bannuaton@yahoo.com

### HOUSE FOR SALE OR

rent. Located on Chao Fa Rd near Khao Khat viewpoint, 76 square meters, 2 bedrooms. Master bedroom is fully furnished with aircon. Restroom with hot water. Rent: 5,500 baht per month. Sell: 1.2 million baht. Please contact K. Jeab for more information. Tel: 084-6890760 or via email: a\_manasanan@hotmail.com

### PATONG CONDO

Seventh-floor condo for sale. Furnished, fan, air conditioning, very good condition, fridge, TV, hot shower, balcony. Call Tel: 081-6938010.



# Property Gazette

## KARON LAND FOR SALE



15 rai, Chanote, hillside, panoramic sea view, quiet area. Please call for more information. Tel: 081-5597456. Email: se\_rim@hotmail.com

## 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. Contact Tel: 081-8926251. Email: mrsouza@hotmail.com More photos and details can be found at our website: www.phuketdreamhome.com

## MODERN & LUXURIOUS VILLA



323sqm, newly built, 4 bedrooms with bathroom, dressing room, living room, dining room. Spacious kitchen 80sqm, 12m x 5m swimming pool. Land: 1,780sqm. Near Rawai Beach. Sell: 22.8 million baht. Rent: 100,000 baht per month. Please contact Tel: 086-2713454. Email: talavilla@yahoo.fr

## HOUSE FOR SALE AT CAPE PANWA



Med. styled, fully furnished, bayview home. 3 bedrooms, 3 en-suite bathrooms. Living room with office area, Western kitchen, sala, maid's room, laundry and storage room. Infinity pool. Includes 2 cars. 2003 Honda CRV and 2003 Ford Escape. Must see this great deal! Price: 33 million baht. Please contact Liany for more information at Tel: 076-200707, 087-9312301 or via email: joyc\_lean@yahoo.com

## Properties For Rent

### SURIN BEACH APARTMENT

Modern, luxurious ground-floor Lersuang apartment, 2 bedrooms, fully furnished, pool and parking. European kitchen with bar! 35,000 baht per month. Minimum rental of 6 months. 400m to the beach and restaurants. Tel: 089-1925186. Email: slees@slees.com

### HOUSE FOR RENT

near Heroines Monument. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, cable TV, ADSL. Price: 18,000 baht per month. Please call Tel: 086-2778461.

### BEACHFRONT

house for rent. 1-4 bedrooms. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-381181, 076-381189.

### NEW BUILDING

2 units for rent. Opportunity for only minimart opposite Kathu waterfall. Please call Tel: 087-2799500.

### BOAT LAGOON

Two bedrooms, lagoon-fronted townhouse, modern fully fitted kitchen, use of communal swimming pool, near British Int'l School, shops, etc. Price: 32,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-8337836.

### NEW CHALONG HOME

Furnished, 2-bedroom home for rent with telephone, UBC, and aircon. Please contact for details and pricing information. Tel: 089-6521473.

### RAWAI FLAT

for rent. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, Internet, cable TV, fully furnished. Please contact for more information at Tel: 081-6067410.

### FURNISHED 2 BEDROOM CONDO

Villa California located on Chao Fa Rd. 1/2 way between Chalong Circle & Phuket City. Western kitchen w/ oven & microwave, 1 bathroom, washing machine, 3 aircons, 3 ceiling fans, attic fan, landline phone, ADSL connection, cable TV, communal swimming pool. Long term only, 1 year or more. 10,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-245871, 086-2734678. Fax: 076-245871. Or via email: roy@kool-mix.com

### AMAZING SEA VIEWS

Spacious 3-bedroom villa set in tropical garden. Lounge, kitchen, 2 bathrooms, swimming pool. Big driveway, 10 mins to Cape Yamu. 40,000 per month. Please contact for more information. Tel: 086-2796283.

### HILLSIDE LAND

1 rai. Exclusive location west of Rawai Rd. Private access, beautiful setting. Chanote. 4.9 million baht. Please call for more information. Tel: 076-521005, 084-8504544.

### LAND FOR SALE

1,436sqm. Flat, square plot, Chanote title, in residential area with hill views. Price: 3.5 million baht. Please contact for any inquiries at Tel: 081-6910391. Email: info@liveandletdive.com

### RAWAI BEACH HOUSE

Recently modernized, 2-bedroom, 2-bathroom townhouse for sale with gorgeous sea views, just meters from Rawai Beach. There is a large 1st-floor terrace at the front of the house, off-road parking for 1 car, and a balcony at the rear. The bright and airy living/dining area is very large. As a bonus, there is a spacious attic room. Price: 3.3 million baht or nearest offer. Call Tel: 02-5097872, 081-5118201. Fax: 02-5097874. Email: ben@LDSK.com

### PATONG BEACH CONDO

Apartment, foreign freehold. Price: 1 million baht. Tel: 086-9408914. Email: freeholdprop@yahoo.com

### CHALONG 16-MILLION-BAHT

quality home in Land and Houses park, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, big Western-style kitchen, spacious living and dining rooms, open study, aircons, fans, cable, ADSL, furnished, carport, private garden, near clubhouse and pool. Chanote. Must see! Contact Tel: 076-283235. Fax: 076-283235. Email: sanaralang@yahoo.de

### POOL VILLA FOR SALE

New, 4 bedrooms, 5 aircons, living room, kitchen, 2-level garden. Tel: 084-8516121.

### POOL VILLA FOR SALE

3 bedrooms, big living room, 2 levels, 2 car spaces, Bang Tao area. Tel: 084-8516121.

### SELLING HOUSE AND

3 apartments. 1st floor: 2 x 3 rooms, 100sqm. 2nd floor: 5 rooms, 80sqm. Jacuzzi, 3m x 40m gardens. 3 million baht. Live in one, rent other two. Urgent! Nai Harn. Tel: 084-4454614.

### HOUSE FOR SALE

Saiyuan Rd, Nai Harn. Secluded, spacious, open plan. Chic black-tiled pool. 3 air-conditioned bedrooms. 2 en-suite bathrooms. Modern kitchen with convection oven. Large garden of native plants. Parking space. 320 sqm. Price: 4.8 million baht. Call Tel: 081-8931258, 081-2733303.

### HOUSE FOR RENT

2 large bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, aircon, fully furnished, great sea views. Very private. Long-term rent: 25,000 baht per month. Contact Tel: 084-4407472.

### BIG HOUSE FOR RENT

3 big aircons, fully furnished bedrooms, no fence, beautiful garden, near Chalong Bay. Price: 30,000 baht per month includes electric + water. Call Tel: 081-8924311.

### 3- TO 4-BEDROOM KATHU VILLA

for rent. Pool, 4km from BIS, lake, golf and valley view, quiet on a private hill. Gated with security guard + maid. 2 luxury Thai-style villas for rent with 300sqm each. All amenities in top-class surroundings. Internet, UBC, yearly lease at 65,000 baht per month. Please contact Tel: 087-2698492.

### 100SQM STUDIO

for rent. Furnished, beautiful views that overlook the lake, golf course and Kathu valley. Private and quiet location, pool, Internet, UBC. Long-term rent: 16,000 baht per month. Please contact for more information at Tel: 087-2698492.

### KATA LUXURY APARTMENT

Furnished, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, aircon, Western teak kitchen, huge terrace. Long and short term. Starting at 25,000 baht per month for long term. Please contact for more information. Tel: 089-5926890. Email: north8west98@yahoo.com

### HOME NEAR AIRPORT

8km to Phuket airport, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms at Garden Place, 115sqm. 13,500 baht per month. Please contact for more information. Tel: 086-3823237, 081-2976162.

### LUXURIOUS VILLA FOR RENT

3-4 bedrooms, sat TV, Internet, big pool, 2 levels, nicely furnished. Please call Tel: 084-8516121.

### 1-BEDROOM CONDO

in Patong Tower. Newly renovated in a beautiful modern style. Best location in Patong area. Long-term rent only. Price: 18,000 baht per month. Please contact for more information. Tel: 087-1238320. Or via email: deherder@hotmail.com

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# Property Gazette

## HOUSES FROM WELLTA

My name is Wellta. I was born in Phuket. I have many houses for sale and rent here in Phuket. Contact Tel: 081-9680309. Email: info@houseinphuket.com For further details, please visit our website at: www.houseinphuket.com

## RAWAI BEACH VILLA

Long term, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, UBC, Price: 25,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-9408914, 086-6865567.

## PALAI, GREENHOUSE 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.

## HOUSE FOR RENT

at Chalong Land & Houses by the lake. New house, 3 bedrooms, fully furnished, aircon, UBC, ADSL. Please call Tel: 081-8953649.

## ONE BEDROOM CONDO

For rent in Patong tower. Both newly renovated in modern style. Please contact for more information. Tel: 087-2773086. Email: lhanfinn@online.no

## B.L. APARTMENT

New in Kathu. Big room, 1 bedroom, 1 living room, aircon, cable TV, ADSL, hot shower, garden, car park. 8,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-6923163.

## KAMALA CASTLE

Large room in Kamala private villa. 10,000-12,000 baht per month. Tel: 083-3897023. Email: limoz@earthlink.net

## PALM GARDEN

New 2-bedroom, 2-bathroom in Thalang gated community. 24-hr security, swimming pool, furnished. 15,000 per month. Tel: 081-8928208.

## RAWAI BEACH CONDO

Nicely furnished studio, aircon, ADSL, cable TV, great location. Price: 6,000 baht per month. Please contact for specific details at Tel: 084-8473304.

## NICE HOMES NEAR BIS SCHOOL

Many pretty houses to choose from. All houses with spacious rooms and high ceilings (3.5m), big kitchen, large living room. Main bedroom comes with walk-in closet and Jacuzzi. All houses with pools and an office. Tel: 076-239839, 081-8779292. Fax: 081-2963413. Email: prakai.sriroj@hotmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.gracegardensphuket.com

## CONVENIENT APARTMENT

Fully furnished, spacious 1-bedroom apartment with kitchen, laundry and living room. Close to Central. Only 12 units. Vast infinity pool and sunbathing deck. Price: 35,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-239839, 081-8779292. Fax: 081-8779292. Email: prakaisriroj@hotmail.com For further details, please visit our website at: www.gracegardensphuket.com

## RAWAI LUXURY VILLA

4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, European kitchen, large swimming pool, garden, ADSL, UBC. 70,000 baht per month. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-7196998.

## LARGE HOUSE FOR RENT

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms house for long-term rent. Telephone, UBC, garden, etc. Close to golf course & BIS school. Located on quiet private road. 25,000 baht per month. Tel: 084-8439579, 086-9402227.

## RAWAI BUNGALOW

1 bedroom or 2 bedrooms, ADSL, cable TV, quiet location with large, furnished terrace. Starting at 8,000 baht per month. Please call Tel: 081-7196998.

## PATONG CONDO

1-bedroom condo for rent in Patong. Fully furnished. 10-minute walk to beach and Bangla Rd. Long-term rent at 13,000 baht per month. Call Tel: 089-8726895.

## SEAVIEW BUNGALOW

Fully furnished, 2 bedrooms, aircon. Price: 22,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-6064279. Email: pichit\_49@yahoo.com

## PATONG CONDO

9th floor, Phuket Palace. Has everything. 17,000-20,000 baht per month. Please contact for more information. Tel: 083-3897023. Email: limoz@earthlink.net

## STUNNING SEA VIEW

New house for rent overlooking Karon Beach. Pool, fully furnished. 20,500 baht per month. Call Tel: (English, German) 089-5938690 or (Thai) 087-8100150. Email: ruen\_narayan@hotmail.com

## RAWAI RESIDENCE

studios. Rent: 6,000 to 12,000 baht per month. Aircon, safe, ADSL, UBC, close to beach. Please contact for more information. Tel: 086-9408914.

## KATA LUXURY

apartment. Furnished, 1-bedroom penthouse. 2 and 3 bedrooms, aircon, Western-style kitchen, huge terrace. Long and short term. Starting at 18,000 baht per month. Please contact for more information at Tel: 089-5926890. Or via email: north8west98@yahoo.com

## SEAVIEW APTS

for rent in Karon and Patong beach. Please contact for additional details and pricing information. Tel: 089-4912496. Email: jjc@gmail.com

## 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

## GOLF VILLA FOR RENT

New 4-bedroom, 4-bathroom villa at Phuket Country Club. Pool, aircon, maids' rooms. Long-term rent: 65,000 baht per month. Contact for more info at Tel: 086-2772691. Email: davidinasia@hotmail.com

## RAT-U-THIT ROAD SHOP

Detached building, large shop with offices above, prime location. For more info, call Tel: 081-8935200. Email: gsf@seal-asia.com

## RAWAI HOUSE

for rent in Rawai resort. 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, kitchen, terrace, fully furnished, 2 safes, 5 aircons, ADSL Internet, communal pool, tropical gardens, carpark. Long-term rent: 50,000 baht per month. Please contact for more information via email: hans\_lange@hotmail.com

## 3-BEDROOM HOUSE

for rent in Chaofa Thani. 9,500 baht per month. Nice garden. Please contact at Tel: 076-280440, 086-6831964. Fax: 076-280440. Or via email: franklee200@hotmail.com

## HOUSE FOR RENT IN CHALONG

2 bedrooms, kitchen, living room, dining room, laundry room, fully furnished, aircon in every room, carpark, shared swimming pool, tropical garden. High-speed Internet and UBC satellite TV included. Price: 25,000 baht per month. Minimum 6-month contract. Tel: 087-1057320. Email: stefan@phuketit.co.th

## DISCOVERY GARDENS

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## HOUSE FOR RENT

at Chalong Land & Houses. New house by the lake. 3 bedrooms, fully furnished, aircon, UBC, ADSL. Tel: 081-8953649.

## 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 TV, ADSL. Tel: 081-9560257.

## NAI HARN HOUSE

1 minute to the beach. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, aircon. 20,000 baht per month, minimum 1 year. Contact Tel: 081-3971835.

## CHALONG HOUSE

Nearly new house for rent. 2 bedrooms, 2 aircons, fully furnished. Quiet street, close to everything. Please contact for more information. Tel: 084-8485517.

## SEAVIEW APARTMENTS

for rent in Karon & Patong beaches. Please contact for more information. Tel: 089-4912496. Email: bluewaterphuket@gmail.com

## FREEDOM APARTMENTS

Near Patong temple. Soi Khuan Yang. European-style kitchen with fridge. Fully furnished, aircon, fan, cable TV, hot/cold water bathroom, high-speed wireless Internet. A must see! Price: 9,500 baht per month. Please contact for more information at Tel: 084-8450541, 081-8914561.

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## WANTED

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## MATHEMATICS TEACHER

QSI International School of Phuket, an American-style school, has a vacancy for a middle/high school Mathematics teacher for the 2007/08 school year. The ideal candidate is a native English speaker, has a bachelor's degree and teaching certification and has experience teaching Mathematics to students aged 12 and up. This is not an ESL position. Please contact via email: [alansiporin@qsi.org](mailto:alansiporin@qsi.org)



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If you are outgoing, energetic, customer focused individuals who possess a natural flair for hospitality, creativity and passion for work, send us your resume with a recent color photograph to:

**Director of Human Resources**  
 Hyatt Regency Phuket  
 Pre-Opening Office, Plaza del Mar, Unit 115 - 116  
 No. 1 Pasak-Koktanod Road, Chergtalay, Thalung, Phuket 83110  
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 E-mail: [hrphuket.humanresources@hyattintl.com](mailto:hrphuket.humanresources@hyattintl.com)

Should you be interested in other positions not listed above, we would also be appreciated to receive your resume.





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- 2 years' experience in sales department.
- Excellent communication skills including knowledge of MS Office, e-mail and Internet
- Proficiency in both written and spoken English

### Site Manager

- Male
- A bachelor's degree in engineering or architecture
- At least 8 years' experience in supervising or project administration
- Excellent communication skill, service-minded
- Fluent in both written and spoken English.

### F & B (Cook & Service)

- Male or female.
- Hotel or restaurant experience is essential.
- Some English required and service-minded.

### Civil Engineer

- Male
- A bachelor's degree in civil engineering
- At least 5 years' experience in supervising or project administration
- Excellent communication skill, service-minded
- Fluent in both written and spoken English.

All positions offer an attractive salary and benefits including service charge. Candidates with the above requirement and qualifications are invited to send a resume with a recent photograph to:

**Human Resources Sri Panwa**  
 88 Moo8 Sakdidej Road Phuket 83000  
 Tel: 076-371000, Fax: 076-371011  
 E-mail: [hrm@sripanwa.com](mailto:hrm@sripanwa.com) or [recruitment@sripanwa.com](mailto:recruitment@sripanwa.com)

**CHIEF ACCOUNTANT**  
 Minimum 3 years' experience, CPD certified. Good English is an advantage. Please contact the Personnel Manager at Asian Wind Co Ltd for more information. 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)

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**DIVE & SURFSHOP**  
 Need staff, male or female, must speak basic English. Work on the beach. Please call for more information. Tel: 081-9685904.

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# Island Job Mart

## LAW FIRM

Looking for 2 Thai lawyers & 2 Thai secretaries who can speak French or English. For more details, please send resum<sup>e</sup> to email: scphuket@yahoo.com

## SECRETARY NEEDED

Secretary w/ experience needed. Good English and computer skills required. Tel: 087-077-8454. Email: solitude001@aol.com

## STAFF FOR INTERNET

in Rawai. Thai female staff wanted full or part time with computer skills and basic English knowledge. Good salary. Good opportunity. Contact Mr. Rudi. Tel: 076-288808, 081-0909640. Email: info@phuket-car-rentals.com

## CONSTRUCTION INSPECTOR

needed for a major Phuket property developer to oversee the construction of houses, villas and apartments. The Thai national must speak fluent English and have 3-5 years' previous experience in the field. Generous salary. Please contact for details about the position. Tel: 081-5376886. Or via email: info@platinumresidencepark.com

## ESTATE SALES MANAGER - KRABI

Manage residential sales in Krabi region and, together with GM, plan and execute sales, marketing campaigns, exhibitions and social functions. Female or Male. Should have experience in sales, and must speak and write English. Additional languages a bonus. Driver's license required. Must be able to work under pressure and have Internet and computer skills. Must also be self-motivated and able to work independently. Thai nationals preferred. Contact via email: krister@krabisunset.com

## HEAD ACCOUNTANT

in Krabi. We seek a person who is able to implement and standardize the whole process of accounting. Experience of a minimum of 3 years in the same position, and/or with an accounting company, is required. Must also speak and write English; be loyal and fair; and be willing to take ownership of tasks and work well under pressure. Internet & computer skills are required, as is knowledge of Quick Books. A driver's license is also required. Contact via email: krister@krabisunset.com



## HORIZON HOTELS & RESORTS

Horizon Hotels & Resorts, based in Phuket. We have an opening for the following positions:

1. Receptionist (6)
2. Guest Relations Officer (4)

### Qualifications:

- Good command of English (written & spoken)
- Minimum 2 years experience for position 1
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- For position 1 starting salary 9,000.- and position 2 starting salary 15,000.- plus usual Hotel Benefits & Service Charge.

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Interested applicants are invited to apply in person or send resume to:

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For further detail, please see our website at

http://www.horizonbeach.com



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Koh Kaew Phuket 83200 Thailand

tel: +66 (0)76 239 114, fax: +66 (0)76 239 139

www.yachtsolutions.net

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for Krabi. Male or female. Knowledge of interior and construction. Ability to speak English a bonus. Must be able to manage and control workers. Must also be self-motivated and highly responsible. Candidates with experience of Auto CAD are preferred, and a minimum of 3 years' experience in construction is required. Please contact for more information via email: krister@krabisunset.com

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Applicant to: please send CV to phuket@generalrecruit.com

Tel 089 8730177, Fax 076 310226

## OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

required for busy real estate office. Applicants must have excellent written and spoken English and Thai plus very good computer skills. Contact Tel: 076-527565. Fax: 076-527564. Email: cv@phuketoceanvillas.com

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## 1. Development/Project Manager

## 2 Positions

- \* Candidate should have a minimum of 8 - 12 years of experience working as project manager in construction projects. Experience in managing hotel/resort projects is a definite asset
- \* Good knowledge in project management is required
- \* Candidate should have a good command of English and computer skills
- \* Academic requirement: A degree in Civil Engineering, architecture or QS

## 2. Construction Manager

## 2 Positions

- \* Candidate should have a minimum of 7-9 years of experience working as construction manager or site manager in construction projects.
- \* Experience in managing hotel/ resort projects is a definite asset.
- \* Good knowledge in site manager is required
- \* Candidate should have a good command of English and computer skills
- \* Academic requirement: A degree in Civil Engineering or Architecture.

## 3. Architectural Supervisor

## 4 Positions

- \* Candidate should have a minimum of 4-6 years of experience working as site architect on construction projects. Experience in hotel/ resort project is a definite asset
- \* Candidate should have a good command of English and computer skills
- \* Academic requirement: A degree in Architecture or related fields

## 4. Project Accountant

## 2 Positions

- \* Candidate should have a minimum of 4-6 years of experience working as project account on real estate or construction projects. Experience in hotel/resort project is a definite asset.
- \* In charge of one of our projects overseeing A/R, A/P, project reporting, monitoring budget and financial draws
- \* Candidate should have a good command of English and computer skills
- \* Academic requirement: A degree in Accountancy or related fields

## 5. Site Administrator

## 2 Positions

- \* Candidate should have a minimum of 3-5 years of experience in construction site administration.
- \* Experience in hotel/resort projects is a definite asset.
- \* Able to work as a team and good in document control knowledge
- \* Candidate should have a good command of English and computer skills

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# Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following positions:

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### REQUIREMENTS:

- ▶ Fluent in English
- ▶ Able to work to strict deadlines
- ▶ A team player
- ▶ Naturally curious about the world, especially Phuket and what affects its residents
- ▶ Some page layout skills, experience with PageMaker preferred

Salary commensurate with skills and experience.

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV and writing sample by email to chris@phuketgazette.net

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### WOODEN SOFA SET

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### BAR STOOLS

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### BAR EQUIPMENT

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### T-SHIRT TRANSFER

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## Bulletins

### ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Mission Hospital  
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Wed and Sun 7 pm  
Bangkok Phuket Hospital  
Phuket City  
Fri 7 pm  
Patong Hospital Patong  
Mon, Tue, Wed, Sat, Sun  
at 7 pm and Fri at 8 pm  
Chalong Health  
Clinic-near Chalong Circle  
Tues 1 pm  
For Phuket info (English)  
call 081-9564031,  
081-8912895  
Scandinavian speaking Group  
Wat Karon School-Karon  
Tue 7 pm  
Tel 081-2732053 (Nor)  
087-2795636 (Nor)  
086-7458910 (Swe)  
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at Tel: 02-2318300  
(for Thai language press 3)  
www.aathailand.org or  
email info@aathailand.org

## Business Opportunities

**PATONG GUESTHOUSE**  
for sale. Chanote title, includes 7 rooms, 1 apartment and a shophouse. 5 minutes to the beach, 4 motorbikes for rent. Price: 8 million baht. Contact K. John at Tel: 085-7826826.

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### BARGAIN BUY

Bar for sale on Nanai Rd., includes pool table, dartboard, 42" plasma TV, fully stocked. Bargain price: 475,000 baht. Rent for only 10,000 baht per month. Tel: 084-8520862.

### DISCOTHEQUE

in Phuket City. Fully furnished and equipped. Great staff team. Handles 300 people. For sale: 3.5 million baht. Tel: 076-388623, 089-7317520.

### CLOTHES SHOP

for sale. In Villa Dowroong. Nice big shop, good profit, includes rent and contract. Price: 450,000 baht. Contact Tel: 087-4176393.

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### PUGWASH BAR

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Green, 2,800km, excellent cond. Price: 620,000 baht. Call Tel: 084-0577505.

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2.8L, diesel, this truck is in excellent condition, 4 new Michellin radial tires, new battery, engine is very well maintained, never used as a work vehicle. Must sell! 210,000 baht. Tel: 086-9719776.

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### KIA SPORTAGE 4X4

1999, good condition, ABS. Asking price: 235,000 baht. Contact for additional details at Tel: 089-4724870. Email: ngakaruwan@hotmail.com

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Open cab, XLT, 2006. Price: 395,000 baht. Please call Tel: 084-4413633.

### 2003 FORD ESCAPE

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### HONDA SHADOW

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### HONDA BOSS 650CC



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## MOTORBIKE FOR SALE

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