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## Thepabutr loses SorPorKor land

**BANGKOK:** (*The Nation, Gazette*) The Supreme Court June 7 upheld an Appeals Court ruling that ordered Tossaporn Thepabutr and his associates to vacate 98 rai of land in part of the Nakkerd Hills, near the Kata Viewpoint.

The Supreme Court read its verdict on the lawsuit between the Provincial Land Reform Office (PPLRO) and Tossaporn, husband of Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) President and former Democrat Party MP Anchalee Vanich-Thepabutr.

Tossaporn claimed the land was given to him in 1989 by landlord Charan Tungku, who had owned it since 1956, before the SorPorKor land reform program came into effect in 1975 and could thus not be driven off the land.

However, the Appeals Court ruled there was no recorded legal ownership of the land by Charan, so the transfer to Tossaporn was not legitimate.

The Supreme Court upheld an Appeals Court's ruling ordering Tossaporn to vacate the land because he had no right to it.

The land had been included in the SorPorKor land reform program, intended to provide agricultural land for poor farmers to make a living.

Tossaporn, found to have shares in companies and personal wealth totaling more than 55 million baht, failed to qualify, the Appeals Court ruled.

The SorPorKor program in Phuket began in November 1994, when then-Agriculture Minister Suthep Thaugsuban ceded title deeds to 592 plots, including land near the Kata Viewpoint, Kamala and other parts of the Nakkerd Hills, to 489 farmers.



Although he lost the case, Tossaporn Thepabutr, Anchalee Vanich-Thepabutr's husband, said he was happy to end the "nightmare" of the litigation.

Photo by Yongyot Preuksarak

It was later found that members of 11 wealthy families in Phuket were among the recipients.

The scandal, which for months was covered as front page news in the Thai daily newspaper *Thai Rath*, eventually led to the collapse of the coalition government led by Chuan Leekpai, Democrat party leader at the time.

In a brief press release after the ruling, Tossaporn wrote that he accepted the verdict and welcomed the end to what he called a "12-year nightmare".

From its inception the real target of the case was his wife, he wrote.

Noting that all criminal charges had been dropped and that the Phuket Provincial Court originally ruled that he had a valid claim to the land, he said that all Phuket people were well aware of the circumstances behind the case.

Of the remaining 10 cases yet to be ruled upon by the Supreme Court, the next is that of Charoen Thawornworngwong, who claims to own four plots totaling 16 rai, also in the Nakkerd Hills in Karon.

Similarly, the Phuket Appeals Court in early 2005 overturned a decision by the Phuket Provincial Court allowing K.

Continued on page 2

## Mala murder suspect surrenders

By Sompratch Saowakhon

**CHALONG:** After two months on the run wanted for the shooting murder of Karon restaurateur Mala Peng-iam, Suban Pon-iamsaen handed himself in to Chalong Police Station on June 5. A reward of 100,000 baht had been offered for information leading to his capture.

About 7 pm March 27, Mala, who owned Mala Seafood restaurant, was shot three times in the face and once in the chest with a .38 caliber pistol. Police also found a bullet hole in the kitchen wall from a shot that had missed its mark.

At the time of the shooting, eyewitnesses reported that Suban had calmly walked into the restaurant kitchen and shot Mala. After the shooting, Suban was seen leaving the scene in his white Toyota sedan.

Mala, 52, and Suban, 40, were distant relatives who owned neighboring restaurants on the Karon Beach road. However, they were known to argue often, including over one of them wanting to have a karaoke machine, but the other disputing that it would be too noisy.

Pol Lt Col Sirisak Wasasiri, deputy superintendent of Chalong Police Station, told the *Gazette* that Suban arrived at Chalong Police Station about 8 pm.

"Suban arrived with a relative and handed himself in to police, but he declined to say where he had been hiding. He said that he would reveal that only in court," Lt Col Sirisak said.

Suban was released after the relative posted 200,000-baht bail, he added.

A date has yet to be set for Suban to appear in court.



## Gamblers top arrest figures

PHUKET: Gambling remains Phuket's top illegal pastime with 306 arrests made from May 1 to May 30, according to statistics released by Phuket Provincial Police.

There were 108 people arrested in drug-related cases, of which 49 involved *ya bah* (methamphetamine): three for importing, five for selling, 26 for possession with intent to sell, 13 for possession and two for use. A total of 6,807.5 pills were seized.

Sixteen people were arrested for inhalant abuse and 22 for possession or use of cannabis, with 18.2 grams confiscated. There were seven arrests for possession of *krathom* (an indigenous Thai plant that acts as a mild stimulant) with 66 leaves confiscated.

Nine people were arrested for possession of "ice" (crystal methamphetamine) with 17.5 grams seized, three for possession of *ya E* (Ecstasy) with 36 pills seized, and another two for possession of cocaine, with 570 grams seized.

There were 88 arrests for prostitution and 109 cases of theft reported, including theft of 10 motorcycles and five cars, with arrests made in 52 of the cases.

Three murders and three attempted murders were reported during the period, with one arrest made for each. There were 19 reports of assault with 10 arrests made and one report of rape.

Twenty-three people were arrested for possession of unlicensed firearms and two people were arrested for possession or distribution of pornography.

From page 1

## Land case lost

Charoen to own the land, which was also designated as SorPor-Kor land by the PPLRO.

In overturning the lower court verdict, the Appeals Court ruled that K. Charoen was neither poor nor a farmer, and therefore ordered him and his associates to vacate the land immediately.

## Cape Yamu controversy continues...

Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit meets a group of about 20 villagers from Baan Yamu who came to Phuket Provincial Hall on the afternoon of June 12 to hear the government's decision on a proposed pier project in their community.

They were told that no decision had yet been made in the case.



# ACID ATTACK: Mother, daughter charged in Kamala

By Sompratch Saowakhon

KAMALA: A mother and daughter were charged with throwing acid on a young woman in her room on June 8. Police believe the attack was inspired by jealousy, after the pair learned the woman was having an affair with the mother's husband.

Investigation Inspector Pol Lt Col Monsak Srisuwan told the *Gazette* that one of the young woman's neighbors called Kamala Police about 5 pm to report people fighting at a home at Baan Hua Kuan in Kamala.

Lt Col Monsak and fellow officers arrived to find Bang-Orn Hempo, 23, rolling on the floor crying in pain from acid that had been thrown on her.

Her clothes and belongings

were strewn around the room; scorch marks on the ceramic tile floor demonstrated the caustic effect of the liquid used in the attack.

Bang-Orn was rushed to Patong Hospital, where she was treated for severe burns to her arms and chest and minor burns to her neck and face.

She was later transferred to Vachira Phuket Hospital.

Police investigation revealed that two women were also treated for acid burns at Patong Hospital not long after the attack was reported. They were arrested later that night while riding a motorcycle in Cherg Talay.

"They are Mayuree Damsuk, 37, and Chutima Damsuk, 16, the wife and daughter of Patchavuth Damsuk, 37,"

Lt Col Monsak said.

"The two suspects have confessed to the charges. The motive was jealousy, as Mayuree's husband had been having a secret affair with Bang-Orn for two years.

"We have a bottle of the same acid that they used. It is much stronger than rubber acid [commonly used in such attacks]," he added.

Mayuree and Chutima were charged with causing bodily harm and trespassing on private property, Lt Col Monsak said.

"We will continue our investigation, but we must wait until Bang-Orn is feeling better before questioning her," he said.

## Bang Tao fishermen gunned down

By Sompratch Saowakhon

CHERNG TALAY: Two teenage fishermen from Bang Tao were gunned down while riding their motorbikes from Heroines' Monument to Cherg Talay early on June 10.

Both died from their injuries.

Deputy Investigation Inspector Pol Capt Sanit Nu-Kong of Thalang Police told the *Gazette*, that police received a report that the men had been shot about 1:25 am.

Officers arrived at the scene, near Baan Manik, to find the two men lying on the ground near their fallen motorcycles.

"Virat Je-So, 18, originally from Krabi, was dead at the scene. He had been shot once in the middle of the back, once in the left calf and once in his right hip," Capt Sanit said, adding that a .38 caliber bullet casing was found near the body.

Likit To-Pulad, 19, originally from Samui, also had been shot three times: once in the chest and twice in his right arm, Capt Sanit added. He was rushed to Thalang Hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

Capt Sanit told the *Gazette* that a friend of the two deceased was riding behind the pair when they were attacked.

"He told me that two motorcycles with about four guys rode up beside them and shot his friends before speeding off toward Bang Tao.

"However, he cannot remember their faces," he added.

"We are not sure whether or not the attack was related to their work. We are investigating whether the two men had any enemies," Capt Sanit said.

"The two men had grown up in Bang Tao, and have worked as fishermen in the area for a long time."

## 2007 Southern Book Fair

PHUKET CITY: More than one million books will be on display in Phuket July 3 to 8 during the 2007 Southern Book Fair. Both Thai- and English-language books will be on sale at Lan Nawamin Park, near the clock tower roundabout on Phuket Rd.

The fair will be open daily from 8 am to 8 pm.

Activities will include new book recommendations, readings and book signings by authors, arts exhibition, stamp exhibition and a booth for donating books or money to needy children.

More than 60 bookstores will take part, offering books discounted between 20% and 90%.

The occasion will mark the sixth time that the fair will have toured Southern Thailand.

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# Phuket cable car idea left dangling

By Natcha Yuttaworawit

PATONG: Investors hoping to build a hillside cable car as Phuket's newest tourist attraction got a lukewarm response during a June 8 meeting with Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit, who told them to come back when they have a more specific plan.

The would-be investors were Malaysian Rodin "VJ" Adi-hilmi of Mesira Investment and his Thai partner Pornlert Wong-sirin, Managing Director of Affluent Thai Co Ltd.

The pair and their associates met with the governor at the Phuket Provincial Operations Center at Phuket Provincial Hall on June 8.

Explaining that he did not want to do anything that would be opposed by the provincial government, Mr Adi-hilmi told the governor that he and his associates only wanted to present the project concept and request a letter outlining the legal and bureaucratic steps they would need to take in order to proceed.

"The entire construction budget would come from private sector investment; we would not ask the province for any funding. We think Patong is the suitable site for such a project, though we still have to study the issue further," he said.

Gov Niran seemed unimpressed, noting that the investors' scheme lacked such basic details as where in Patong the project would be sited. He also noted that,



UP IN THE AIR: Malaysian Rodin "VJ" Adi-hilmi of Mesira Investment presented a plan to Gov Niran Kalayanamit for building a cable car tourist attraction in Patong, but Gov Niran requested that the team return when they have more solid information and plans.

unlike the more autonomous Malaysian states, permission for such a project in Thailand could only come from central government authorities in Bangkok.

The would-be investors were told that if they wanted to proceed they should study the topography and determine possible sites, then consider land rights issues and the effect such a project would have on both the environment and local residents.

"The last step would be to hold a series of public hearings," he said.

Reminding the investors that local building codes prohibit buildings above 23 meters and forbid the construction of any permanent

structures above 80 meters, Gov Niran advised them to be especially careful in determining whether the land they need to build upon was controlled by the government or privately held.

"I'm really worried about local reaction. Even if your project is good, there will be big problems if it is opposed by local people," said Gov Niran, who suggested that they hire a consultant and return with a more detailed presentation.

The two investors, who have no previous experience in cable car projects, agreed to follow Gov Niran's advice and said they would return at a future date.

## Patong 'beach boy' charged with rape

PATONG (*Kom Chad Luek*): Police have charged a parasail boat employee at Patong Beach for the rape of a Japanese tourist.

The rape was reported to Pol Capt Padungpong Dooksookaew at Kathu Police Station at 1 am on June 6.

The victim, a 24-year-old woman, told police that while she was sunbathing at Patong Beach, she met a parasail boat employee who agreed to take her night-clubbing in Phuket City.

Later, after he picked her up on his motorbike, the man said he had forgotten something at home. When they reached his room, in a house for parasail staff on 50 Pi Rd, he forced himself on her, police said.

After he let her go, the woman hired a motorbike taxi and reported the crime to the police. She was taken to Patong Hospi-

tal, where doctors confirmed she had been raped.

The rapist was identified as Somchai Thongyoo, 30, from Ao Luk District in Krabi.

Arrested at his home by a team of Kathu Police led by Pol Maj Serm Kwannimit, Somchai initially denied all charges.

He confessed only after the victim picked him out of a police line-up, police said.

In his confession, Somchai said that he was attracted to the victim.

Given that she had agreed to go out with him in Phuket City, he thought the feeling was mutual.

However, after she resisted his advances he decided to rape her as he thought that she would not report it to the police.

Somchai was charged with raping a woman who is not his wife.

## Fresh market vendors to relocate to new site

PHUKET CITY: Vendors at the fresh market on Ranong Rd, in the heart of Phuket City, will relocate to a temporary market set up for them on Wirat Hongyok Rd from June 17.

The temporary market, opposite Suan Luang Park, has been set up by Phuket City Municipality to minimize inconvenience for shoppers while the municipality builds new market buildings at Ranong Rd, one of the oldest market sites in Phuket.

The Downtown Market, built on private land adjoining Ranong Rd and popular with afternoon shoppers, will be unaffected by the move.

Phuket City Mayor Somjai Suwannasuppana said that the new market has 475 stalls – enough for every vendor from the Ranong Rd market to relocate.

Vendors who relocate from Ranong Rd will not be charged site fees at the new market.

The new market comprises a total area of 15,470 square meters, including: 27 one-story shophouses offering a total of 864sqm; 4,695sqm set aside for goods stalls; 9,816sqm dedicated to traffic and parking, and 96sqm set aside for restrooms.

Construction started in November last year, with a budget of 14.27 million baht.

"The temporary market will be convenient for people; it is very comfortable, clean and has enough area for parking," K. Somjai said.

The public is invited to join the opening merit-making ceremony for the market on June 17, when food offerings will be given to Buddhist monks from 5:30 am.

– Janyaporn Morel

## Karaoke hostess murdered in Soi Pink Lady

PHUKET CITY: A karaoke bar hostess was found murdered in her apartment off Montri Rd early June 6. Police are searching for the victim's live-in boyfriend, who is the prime suspect in the case.

Phuket City Police Duty Inspector Pol Lt Col Sien Kaewthong identified the victim as 28-year-old Kanchana Aonpleng, from Pathum Thani province.

About 12:45 am June 6, police received a report that K. Kanchana's body was found on her bed at an unnamed boarding house on Soi Pink Lady.

K. Kanchana appeared to have been hit on the head with a heavy object. Police estimate that she died five to seven hours before her body was discovered.

Her body was taken to Vachira Phuket Hospital for examination.

Neighbors said the victim had lived in the room since April with a man identified as Saharat Kamhongs, 27, from Khon Kaen province, Col Sien said.

Saharat was a security guard, and K. Kanchana was a hostess at Nongwan Karaoke Bar, north of Nimit Circle.

K. Kanchana's body was discovered after relatives of Saharat called KPS to say that Saharat had called them about 6 pm on June 5. Saharat reportedly said that he had just killed someone and was going into hiding.

Col Sien told the *Gazette* that neighbors had heard people

arguing in the victim's room days before the murder.

Police in Khon Kaen have been notified so they can arrest Saharat if he tries to return to his family there, he added.

Police suspect jealousy as the motive for the murder.



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# Chalong marina and

**W**ith competing plans, untested ideas and the nearby residents up in arms against it, the Chalong Marina project met fierce opposition at the latest town hall discussion June 5. Chalong resident **Marque A. Rome** investigates aspects of the project's proposed second phase.

Tension had been building locally for months, but being a butt for jeers and sarcasm must still have come as a shock to Marine Transport Department Technical and Planning Director Vilawan Siringampen. She and her team of bespectacled engineers from Bangkok had come to Muang Phuket School in Rawai the afternoon of June 5 to "exchange views" on Phase II of her department's Chalong Marina project.

After more than five hours of long-winded explanation and back-peddling by the consulting engineers – whose problems were compounded by inept microphone technique – the local people, NGO representatives and elected officials in attendance were clearly out of patience.

The most animated were sunburnt, long-tail boatmen: "Speak southern dialect if you must speak, but get it over with!" said one from the back of the room whose comments elicited cheers.

"I'm here to offer my opinion on this project and you professors will please stay put – we need no more of your explanations," said an elected tambon official. His gibe was greeted by wild applause. In fact, applause was wholly for speakers who derided the project, now well into Phase I of construction.

So, Planning Director Vilawan, better-spoken than her subordinates, briefly emphasized the Transport Ministry's desire to meet the people's needs; noted that the project as outlined during the meeting had been honestly arrived at and was a good one, considering both budgetary and environmental constraints.

She left the podium – appearing perplexed amid the hubbub. Few heeded her remarks; all were talking among themselves.

Also caught in the middle was Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) President Anchalee Wanich Thepabutr, the island's highest elected official. The *OrBorJor* has signed on to finance part of the proposed marina's infrastructure and will manage the completed project. She is, in effect, the project's final arbiter. Just before the meeting's end, K. Anchalee addressed her anxious constituents.

University of California at Los Angeles-educated, K. Anchalee was for eight years Phuket's sole MP. As a senior member of the Democrat Party, she was awarded one of the coveted "party-list" seats in the 2000 election and served on the party's Management Committee. She is regarded by many as the island's most powerful political figure.

With the Democrats in a



During the June 5 meeting with representatives of the Marine Transportation Office, local boat owners and residents in Chalong voiced strong disapproval to Phase 2 plans for the Chalong Marina Project.

strong position to lead the next government, and with a Cabinet post perhaps at hand – K. Anchalee can have no interest in projects that cause dissension or cast her *OrBorJor* administration in the role of oppressor.

"Nothing is being pushed on anyone. We're here to exchange views. This is a democratic system we live in," she said in her peculiarly refined brand of southern dialect. "We have the right to [tell the government] what we think...."

The substance of what the roughly 130 persons in attendance thought was that the project is wrong: too small and ill-laid out for a proper yacht marina; damaging to the environment; and providing nothing for small operators, save additional hassle and expense.

In a nutshell, the Marine Transport Department and its consulting firms want to construct around the southern half of Chalong pier a 210-slip yacht har-

bor: 66 slips for boats up to 12 meters; 82 for boats up to 16m; 36 for vessels up to 20m; 19 for those up to 30m; and seven for those up to 50m.

Phase 1, costing 70 million baht and slated for completion September 30 after 340 days of construction, involves making only 44 slips (30 x 12m; 8 x 16m; 4 x 20m; 1 x 30m; 1 x 50m).

It also involves installation of most infrastructure: dredging a boat basin; marker towers to aid navigation; freshwater tanks; plumbing; electricity (the slips will have power outlets for re-charging batteries, etc); a fueling and water station; and a single-story maintenance building. There is also a new onshore, underground sewage treatment facility that empties into the klong running behind the bars and beachside restaurants before discharging into the still, shallow seawater near Kan Eng 2 restaurant.

During Phase 2, budgeted at 300 million baht, a multi-pur-

pose building on the pier to house administration, immigration and customs services will be built; the boat basin expanded and a boat channel dredged; and 166 slips added. Plumbing and electricity will be appropriately enhanced – and two breakwaters, "made of large boulders, easily and cheaply sourced in Phuket" put on the south and southeast sides of the pier.

The riprap would have a combined length of 1,300 meters and the whole project would cover more than half a square kilometer.

Budget for the fueling station and water tanks comes from the *OrBorJor*; the remainder from the Ministry of Transport. Two variations on the basic plan were offered at the June 5 meeting. All looked pretty good on paper.

Best of all, the project would generate a 24% "economic return" and pay for itself within five years. "It's certainly some-

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# best-laid schemes...



## The Plans

The three competing plans presented by the Marine Transportation Office, left and bottom, were met with jeers from the crowd during a town-hall style meeting.

Seafarer Divers owner Guy "Charlie" Lidureau also circulated a new plan, right, that he says will better protect the marina from swells and provide more parking.



thing the government should undertake," the consultants wrote.

The project was initiated in 2004, when the Marine Transport Department signed contracts with three companies – Golden Plan, Sea Spectrum and STS Engineering and Consultants – to engineer marinas in four places: two in the Gulf of Thailand and two on the Andaman coast.

The companies were also charged with surveying the likeliest spots for construction. Unfortunately, in the Marine Transport report the three firms are referred to as an undifferentiated unit, so it is impossible to say who does what.

A key word is "marina", that is, a port for pleasure craft. Chalong Bay, it must be recalled, is a port not only for yachts, but

also for small craft of various types: commercial fishing boats; long-tail boats that transport cargo and passengers to off-shore islands, and island-shuttle speedboats. The marina envisioned offers little to owners of such vessels. Indeed it was engineered, according to the consulting report, solely for pleasure craft.

But according to Tambon Rawai Moo 3 (Koh Lone Island) administrative organization (*OrBorTor*) member Siwakorn "Ibrahim" Chaipakdee, such craft are clearly a minority of those using the bay at any given time.

The majority numbers roughly 100 long-tails; 80 locally-owned fishing and diving boats; 50 foreign-owned dive and tour boats; and 200 speedboats.

In his opinion, while the op-

erators of all the boats might welcome appropriate port facilities only the large foreign-owned dive boats would benefit from the proposed marina.

As it happens, the dive boat owners themselves see little in the plan. Even yachtsmen who moor in Chalong Bay are not keen on it.

So how was the plan arrived at? Not by talking with those who use the bay. Instead, the consultants' report cites surveys, studies and mathematical models – the latter of prime importance – as the basis. Some information may have been flawed: dubious assertions are presented as fact.

For example: "In terms of natural beauty, and the quality of its unspoiled environment, number one in popularity on the Gulf of Thailand is Pattaya," it notes,

"followed by Koh Samui [and adjacent islands] and Koh Chang in Trat province...."

The consultants also insist that murky Chalong Bay – with its bottom of richly varied gunk, its several prawn farms and hundreds of boats – is virtually unpolluted. The report is notably silent regarding how statistical gathering was carried out.

It was determined, however, that, as far as marine-borne tourism is concerned, "environmental considerations outweigh anything on the engineering side in choosing a site for the project."

Indeed, muddled attempts to protect the environment handicapped every phase of the engineering, as the consultants readily admitted during the June 5 meeting. Another consideration was

that the marina "must not compete with private sector-owned facilities".

On the important question of how the project would effect water flow in the bay – and the resulting impact on the environment – the report is vague. It references mathematical modeling at various scales, including the smallest at 50m x 50m covering the project site, but goes on to compare modeling results against actual measurements at a site in Krabi – not Chalong. From the report, there is no way to discern which of the three consultants carried out the modeling, nor how it was actually conducted.

Although many aspects of the project have been criticized by locals, the part that evokes

Continued on page 6





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(Bang Tao Beach)

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Sailors from the Royal Thai Navy's Third Naval Command joined officials from Tambon Vichit and the Phuket Marine Office, along with private sector employees, students and local people – in all, about 350 people – to clean up the beach at Cape Panwa on Environment Day, June 5.

Sadly, it's a safe bet to say that while they were doing this, in other parts of Phuket illegal dumping of garbage was going on as usual.

Spotted an eyesore recently? Send a picture and brief description to [dump@phuketgazette.net](mailto:dump@phuketgazette.net)

## TRASHING Phuket



# Chalong marina meets wet welcome from locals

Continued from page 5

perhaps the greatest contempt is the siting of the southern breakwater.

"Our studies show that Chalong Bay's protection from wind and waves is more or less perfect," the consultants wrote. "In considering wave action over the last 50 years, we see that it is necessary only to construct breakwaters at the south and southeast." To minimize environmental impact on the bay, which flushes to the south, the boat channel between the breakwaters is angled so that currents will be diverted as little as possible.

"Analysis shows that the breakwaters' impact on currents will be quite small, hardly different from having no breakwater," wrote the consultants. In this, their opponents agree. "It doesn't happen much, but it happens every year that a strong swell comes from the south," said *OrBorTor* Rawai's Siwakorn, who has three fishing boats in the bay.

"If your boat is tied up at a mooring there's no harm done – the boat turns on its mooring with nothing to beat against. But for boats berthed in slips, the case is different: they need protection from the swells – otherwise they'll bang against the floating docks and be damaged; and some of these yachts cost millions of dollars. But the southern breakwater's siting allows waves to enter the marina, which is bound to cause damage."

Seafarer Divers owner Guy "Charlie" Lidureau, who has led the foreign community's opposition to the proposal, was more specific: "In winter, there are two-meter swells; this channel opens to the south – which is where the waves come from!" he observed witheringly. Lidureau insists, based on 28

years' experience operating out of Chalong Bay, that the southern breakwater is worse than useless: that it will funnel waves onto the beach, destroying embankments south of the pier. He also notes the proposed marina is far too small – it should have 800 - 1,200 berths "because 300 to 400 boats are already using the bay" and many operators would like berths.

"All hotels would be interested in a good marina," he asserted, noting how current shortcomings at the pier cause tie-ups that play havoc with scheduling. He drew up a plan proposing breakwaters be paved over, connected to the shore, and broad enough for cars to park.

As those who use it know, the current pier area is heavily congested. There is insufficient parking and only one narrow access road. It has no speedboat ramps, and landings low enough for speedboats and long-tails to use are fixed, instead of reacting with the tide: they are thus largely useless, and in fact dangerous, as the lower stairs are covered with slimy, slippery weeds from constant immersion in seawater.

A particular sore point is the existing filling station: Lidureau's 22-meter, 60-ton dive boat, *Andaman Seafarer* takes more than three hours to load a full 3,800-liter tank of fuel and its 7,000-liter water tank takes four to six hours to load, according to Lidureau. Long queues are the norm, moreover, because the filling station pier is too small.

To rectify these and other shortcomings, Lidureau drew up a plan of his own, resiting the channel entrance to the north and staggering the breakwaters to ensure quiet seas in the marina. The plan, which he passed round to some 80 persons both in government and in the private sector, engaged discussion and galvanized opposition by the latter. An informal meeting he arranged June 4 was attended by 22 senior provincial officials and tour boat operators.

"If I am made marketing manager of the Thai Dive Association, as I expect, we shall be even more active," he said.

But reaction was so hostile during the June 5 meeting from local Thais – that is, from voters – the marina may be stillborn in whatever shape: "It seems the information we've heard [from the consultants] was unreliable," said *OrBorJor* president K. Anchalee.

She suggested that re-drawing the plans may be necessary and would require a new budget. That, of course, will depend on a new government.

So the project completion date of Phase II is anybody's guess. In the meantime, one can only wonder how the 44 berths and attendant facilities of the 70-million-baht Phase I will fare without a breakwater.

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# Thai working hours 'too long'

**T**hailand has been ranked third in a global list of countries where people work excessively long hours.

In a new study by the International Labor Organization (ILO), Thailand was shown to have 46.7% of people working more than 48 hours per week.

The figure includes 33% of all salaried employees. Thailand ranked below only the Republic of Korea and Peru on the list.

Thais working in the manufacturing sector were found to be working 59 hours per week, more than in any other country.

In the service sector, many employees are also working 50 hours or more per week, including: transport, storage and communication (50 hours a week); real estate and business (50.7); financial services (52.9); and health and social work (53.4).

Informal employment is another major source of longer working hours. Nearly 57% of all self-employed workers in Thailand are working more than 50 hours. Very few self-employed people, only about one in eight, work less than 35 hours.

In addition, the minimum legal entitlement for annual holidays in Thailand is also among the lowest in Asia.

Shorter working hours, the report says, can have positive consequences, including benefits to workers' health and family lives, reduced accidents in the workplace, greater productivity and equality between the sexes.

**Blackmailing Brit:** The hunt by Thai police and Scotland Yard for a blackmailer who threatened to poison food at a Tesco-Lotus store if he was not given UK£ 2 million (137 million baht) ended with the arrest of Briton Alexander John Winstone, 36.

Married to a Thai woman, Winstone said he simply wanted to settle down in Thailand and open an Internet café.

Tesco would have had no



**MEDITATION MOTIVE:** A dozen monks on June 4 began a week-long fast in front of Parliament to persuade the National Legislative Assembly to declare Buddhism the national religion.

problem paying the money because it was a very profitable business, he said after his arrest.

Winstone was nabbed on June 7 just as he walked out of an Internet café in Bangkok after sending his seventh blackmail email to a top Tesco executive.

He confessed to the crime, expressed remorse and said that he never intended to harm anyone.

Winstone has been charged with blackmail and faces up to five years in jail if convicted.

**Twisted yank:** An American tour guide and restaurant owner was jailed for 50 years after being found guilty of serially molesting his own daughter.

The South Central Criminal Court convicted Joshua Napp, 34, of regularly molesting his 12-year-old daughter. The girl's mother filed a police report after she learned of the events.

The court heard that the man had forced his daughter to

stimulate him and perform oral sex on several occasions between July 2 and July 15 last year.

The mother told the court the offenses occurred following their separation and her employment at a casino in Cambodia, when the daughter went to stay with Napp at his Bangkok home.

**Real merit:** Bangkok taxi driver Suthep Kasak, 41, returned three cashier's checks worth a combined 140 million baht that three Japanese businessmen had left behind in his cab, saying he never wanted to take a "short cut" to riches.

K. Suthep, who heard about the missing checks on the Sor Wor Por 91 traffic radio station, returned them to their owners the same day.

The Japanese thanked Suthep for his honesty and rewarded him with 3,000 baht in cash before the group went on to Suvarnabhumi Airport to catch a flight back to Japan.

Suthep said he was excited to have something as valuable as the checks in his hands, although it was later explained to him that only the named beneficiaries could have cashed them.

He urged other taxi drivers to do good deeds and avoid temptation and greed.

**Desperate measure:** Laddarat Thummalee, a 23-year-old from Surin Province, confessed to theft charges after stealing more than 65,000 baht worth of alternative health foods, sold by a company she worked for, in the hope they could cure her breast cancer.

After her confession she pleaded for sympathy and also for donations to repay a huge debt her parents had incurred in order to get money for her treatment.

Case investigator Pol Maj Sanchai Phisaiphan said he sympathized with Laddarat, but had no choice but to proceed with the case as demanded by the firm.

He said he had suggested to Laddarat that she prepare all the documents proving she had breast cancer to show to the court in the coming trial so she could ask for leniency.

"I took the products because the labels said they could cure cancer," said K. Laddarat, who was diagnosed with breast cancer early this year.

**Content curfew:** The Cabinet has banned TV programs with content considered "suitable only for adult viewers" from going on air before 10 pm.

TV programs rated as having content appropriate for children aged between 13 and 18 years old, but with parental guidance required, may be broadcast only after 8 pm.

"The Cabinet has agreed to the plan because it is aware that the medium has influence over learning and development," said interim Culture Minister Khunying Khaisri Sriaroon.

She said that a survey had found that 98% of children spent most of their free time watching TV. On weekdays they spent an average of 3.9 hours a day, with the figure increasing to 5.5 hours a day on weekends.

Deputy Prime Minister Paiboon Wattanasiritham said TV stations began rating their programs in December.

TV stations are expected to take a few months to fully respond to the plan, he said.

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

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# Man kills father, eats heart

A man in Nakhon Sri Thammarat's Phibun District killed his father and ate his heart on June 2, bringing back memories of Thailand's Hannibal Lecter, the infamous 1950s serial killer See-Ouy.

When police, alerted by the killer's wife, arrived at the scene they found Athit Riyaphan, 46, standing, knife in hand, over the body of his father Khlong Riyaphan, 74.

Athit's mouth was red with blood and he was clutching some of his father's organs in his hands, police reported. On confrontation by police, Athit put down the 10-inch kitchen knife and did not resist arrest.

On examination of K. Khlong's body, police found he had been stabbed and disemboweled. His heart was completely missing, presumed eaten, and most of his lungs and liver were also gone.

Athit's wife, Arisa Riyaphan, 40, told police that her husband, a building contractor, had invited his father round for dinner.

"When his father arrived [Khlong] chased me out of the house and tried to attack me.

"I then heard him shouting unintelligibly at his father. I ran to find someone to take me to the police station to get help. When I got back to the house I saw what had happened," she said.

The officer in charge of the case, Lt Col Phongthak Muatmuang from Phibun District Police, said that Athit had vomited all over the police car and detention cell and on questioning replied in a confused manner.

Athit's son, who was present at the beginning of the attack, told police that his father had first throttled K. Khlong be-



**POLICEMAN ASSASSINATED:** Armed police examine the body of Sen Sgt Maj Suriya Malaimaly, a Squad Leader from Reusoe District Police Station, who died in a hail of bullets from suspected insurgents on June 6.

fore using a pillow to suffocate him. Police therefore believe K. Khlong was already dead when he was disemboweled, Col Phongthak added.

Athit's relatives told police that Athit had previously been treated for at Surat Thani's Suansaranrom Psychiatric Hospital and was on medication for a mental condition.

Athit is being detained at Phibun District Police Station awaiting a psychiatric evaluation, Col Phogthak added.

Suspicious suicide? A young man under investigation for theft charges was found dead in his cell in Thung Yai District Police Station in Nakhon Sri Thammarat on June 3.

Police reported that the man, Chainarong Khamnuan, 20,

hung himself from the bars of his cell with his shirt. Relatives of the man, however, were not convinced by the police reports and suggested that Chainarong may have died at the hands of police officers.

Lt Col Nitithon Tanseriskul, Deputy Superintendent of Thung Yai District Police Station, said that he was aware that Chainarong's relatives were not convinced by the police explanation of Chainarong's death. He would be happy to arrange an independent post mortem exam, he said.

**Pirates of the Straights:** Achenese pirates released two Thai fishing boat captains June 2 after receiving a ransom of 1.2 million baht from the boat's Malaysian owner. The two had been taken hostage when pirates raided their boat on May 19.

On June 3, Lt Col Woraek Naetiniyom, an Inspector with Satun Marine Police, went to collect the two men, Seri Rotcharoen, 46, and Bunphen Khong-

kaew, 33, Thais living in Perlis state in Malaysia.

K. Seri said that he and K. Bunphen were off Koh Paesue, near the Thai-Malaysian border, when pirates boarded their boat. The pirates released the 35 crew members but took him and K. Bunphen hostage before stealing the boat, K. Seri added.

The two were then taken into a forest and held prisoner while the pirates negotiated with the boat owner.

"On June 2 the boat's owner, Ko Song, transferred 1.2 million baht from a bank account in Penang to a bank account in Indonesia. The pirates then took us back to Perlis and the boat owner notified the Marine Police in Satun to come and get us," K. Seri said.

**Jatukham fever:** Thieves broke into a temple in Nakhon Sri Thammarat City June 4 and stole Jatukham Ramatthep and other amulets valued about three million baht.

The theft was reported to Lt Col Aphichat Kotchawet, Investigating Inspector at Nakhon Sri Thammarat Muang District Police, at 8:30 that morning.

The thieves climbed through the air vent of the bathroom in the cell of Phra Anuchit Taechapunya, Abbot of Wat Samamuang. They then levered open a wooden chest containing the talismans.

Phra Anuchit told police that the thieves had taken more than 100 Jatukham Ramatthep amulets worth 400,000-500,000 baht and a selection of other holy amulets, a total haul of around three million baht, he estimated.

The previous morning he had seen a youth wandering round the temple but had thought nothing of it. He discovered the crime when he got back from his morning alms round, the Abbot added.

Police said that they believe the criminals probably had some inside knowledge of the temple

as they knew where the amulets were kept and took only valuable ones.

The theft comes amid a surge in crimes related to Jatukham Ramatthep amulets, which has been dubbed "Jatukham Fever" in the Thai-language press.

**Dangerous day:** Twelve people were injured when a powerful bomb went off near a teashop in central Yala June 8. A village official was shot dead and four people injured in militant attacks the same day elsewhere in the troubled Deep South.

Police said the bomb, hidden in a telephone booth near the shop, had probably been set off remotely. A resident of the area heard the blast from a kilometer away.

The victims, many of whom suffered serious injuries, were taken to Yala Regional Hospital. Police blocked off the scene as crowds gathered to look at the damage.

In Narathiwat, militants shot dead Hami Wani, 45-year-old deputy head of the remote village of Baan Salo, about 1 pm as he was driving home from Rangae District with two assistants. The assistants, Hamu Jehvo and Muhamad Nikaji, were injured.

A roadside bomb in the province's Muang District injured two marines on patrol with four colleagues to guard teachers on their way to school.

Two wooden buildings of Baan Pohming school in Pattani's Panare District were burned to the ground about 4 am. A school building in Yala's Krong Pinang District was also set on fire around the same time.

Police suspect the arsonists in Panare are the same that set fire to schools and public-health centers in neighboring Sai Buri district days earlier.

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

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# Bright lights, big city



By Supanun Supawong

Heading west and waiting for the traffic light at the Tesco-Lotus in intersection, you can't miss it: a big eye blinks at you in a rainbow of colors. Get too mesmerized and horns will honk when you miss the green light.

Animation and bright colors have come to Phuket's signs with the introduction of LED (light-emitting diodes) to the local advertising world. And the first shop to have it, naturally, is the sign maker's.

Woraya Buaprom, branch manager of Anima Sign Thailand Co Ltd, told the *Gazette*, "We are the only company in Thailand making animated LED signs. We bought a copyright from America and export signs to Korea. We have shops in Bangkok, Pattaya and Phuket. The other companies here that want to sell animated LED signs order them from us."

The lights come in six colors, K. Woraya says, but by mixing them they can create any color a customer might want.

"We chose to open a shop in Phuket because LED signs are well-known to foreigners and many foreigners have businesses here, so we should do well. Thais are quite familiar with neon signs,

but neon lights are very limited in how they can be animated.

"LED signs cost more than neon signs but have many advantages. Compared to neon, LED lights last a lot longer, up to 10 years or more, and also use significantly less electricity. LED signs use only 12 volts so they are much safer than neon, which uses 1,500 volts. We also have water-resistant systems for outdoors," she adds.

The cost of an LED sign depends on how many LEDs are used, the complexity of the animation program, design, size, and how far away you want the sign to be seen (how powerful the lights need to be).

Animated signs as small as seven centimeters can be produced by the shop, but if you want your sign to be seen up to a kilometer away, they can also make a four-meter high sign for you. The shop can also design full-color screens, similar to a huge TV screen, but it is produced in America, resulting in a two week turn-around time.

*Anima Sign Thailand Co Ltd (Phuket branch), 96/44 Moo 1, Chalermprakiat Ror IX Rd, Kathu, Phuket. Tel:076-304-087. Open 9 am to 8 pm, closed Mondays.*

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# Early bookings hint at Seoul revival

**B**y most standards the most recent high season was a good one for the tourist industry in Krabi. This was a relief for those who suffered through the tsunami and a couple of lackluster years.

The 2007-2008 season, at this early stage, promises to be another strong one.

Barring any major disasters, man-made or otherwise, the number of tourists should continue to expand in number and in countries of origin.

The Department of Civil Aviation, which operates Krabi International Airport, recently released statistics for April 2006 showing a 72.6% increase in the number of passengers from April 2007.

Talking to tour agents and hoteliers, the common theme is "not enough rooms". What a change from 2005! The talk about town is also that the number of direct flights from international destinations will expand from three – currently Singapore, Stockholm and Oslo fly direct – to 10.

The additional seven cities are rumored to include Seoul, Taipei, Hong Kong and Frankfurt. As no contract details have been released, no confirmation can yet be made, however.

However a "Welcome to Krabi" sign in Korean and some Koreans recently looking for real estate might lend credence to Seoul as a new source of customers.

The opening of the 276-room Sofitel in Klong Muang and the palatial Krabi Success Resort, along with expansions at several existing properties, are helping to solve the possible room shortage.

A number of villa projects are on line or just completed to help satiate the demand for larger family-type accommodations required by many visitors from northern Europe.

A lot can happen between June and the beginning of high season in November, but it is clear



**RUDE AWAKENING?** Sleepy Koh Sriboya, with its newly-installed underground power supply, is poised for development.

that the demand for rooms is strong, even at this early stage. So let's hope for clear sailing until next high season.

Power to the islands: Since the announcement of the installation of underground power lines that will supply electricity to Koh Sriboya, Koh Jum and Koh Phi Phi, there has been an increase in investor interest in some of the lesser-developed areas.

Koh Sriboya and Koh Jum have been sleepy islands with little habitation outside of sea gypsy villages and fishing communities.

A recent tour of the islands confirms that interest has been



**ACROSS  
THE BAY**  
By Gus Reynolds

piqued there, but to the outsider it still looks very much like an

untouched, pristine paradise.

In fact, one senior government official from Phuket remarked, "There's nothing like this left in Phuket."

The west coast of Koh Jum is seeing some low-density bungalow colonies and small resorts under construction.

There is also the occasional villa protruding from a hillside, some with fabulous sea views and backdrops of the islands and karsts the area is famous for.

Otherwise the area seems mostly untouched, with no tourists in sight.

There are rumors, however, that some of the bigger hotel groups have started to look at the

area, so what will we find five years from now? Hard to predict, but my guess is it won't be an undeveloped paradise for long.

We received an email from some concerned residents on Railey Beach saying that the coral in front of Tonsai Beach had been dynamited, supposedly to make the beach accessible to boats at low tide.

Inquiries were made to many locals in the area, but no one seems to have any concrete information – or maybe they just weren't talking.

If anyone has any substantiated proof or details, I would like to hear about it. My email is [ltr@loxinfo.co.th](mailto:ltr@loxinfo.co.th)

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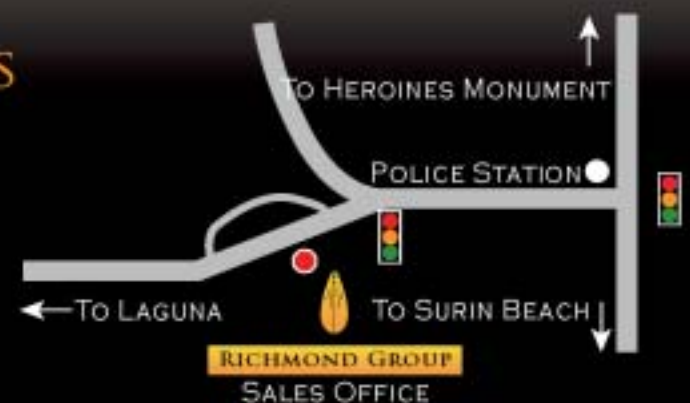
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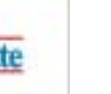
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# Worrying about worrying

Let me start with a disclaimer. I know I should be happy and it's utterly indulgent even to be thinking about not being happy, given that I have a roof over my head, three healthy children, good health, a career and a thousand other things – which my mother would gladly list – to be grateful for.

But if someone asks me, "Are you happy?" the word "yes" emerges a little hesitantly from my mouth, and inside there's a throb of doubt that rapidly escalates into a silent scream: "No! This is not how it's supposed to feel even though I have everything I really wanted."

Of course I don't have everything I ever wanted, because what you want changes over time. When I was a teenager, happiness eluded me in the shape of a pair of tight denim jeans. Not just any pair of jeans, but a faded pair of skin-tight Levi's 501s that clung to every curve.

This was the first of many garment fantasies in which an item of clothing, always just beyond the reach of pocket money/Christmas envelope from an aunt/ Saturday job/ salary/ credit card limit, would change my life irrevocably for the better. When I actually did achieve the Levi's, several fashion cycles later, I never wore them, because by then I really wanted a Nicole Farhi leather coat.

Perhaps that's the thing with happiness. Maybe we're programmed to desire something with a passion that makes life almost unbearable without it, and then when we get it we're straight off in search of the next thing. Perhaps it's the eternal quest that keeps our species evolving – as well as designers in profit. I make a point of buying skintight jeans for all my friends' daughters now.

My father used to ask me: "Would you rather be Socrates dissatisfied, or a pig satisfied?" when he wanted to sharpen up my logic. Well, little piggy actually, because from my encounters with Socrates he always seemed so pompous and miserable.

Struggling with gloomy tomes of happiness according to Plato, Aristotle or John Stuart Mill brought me little enlightenment. And in fact I do remember chancing upon the secret of happiness at university with some friends, but being too drunk to remember what it was the next morning.

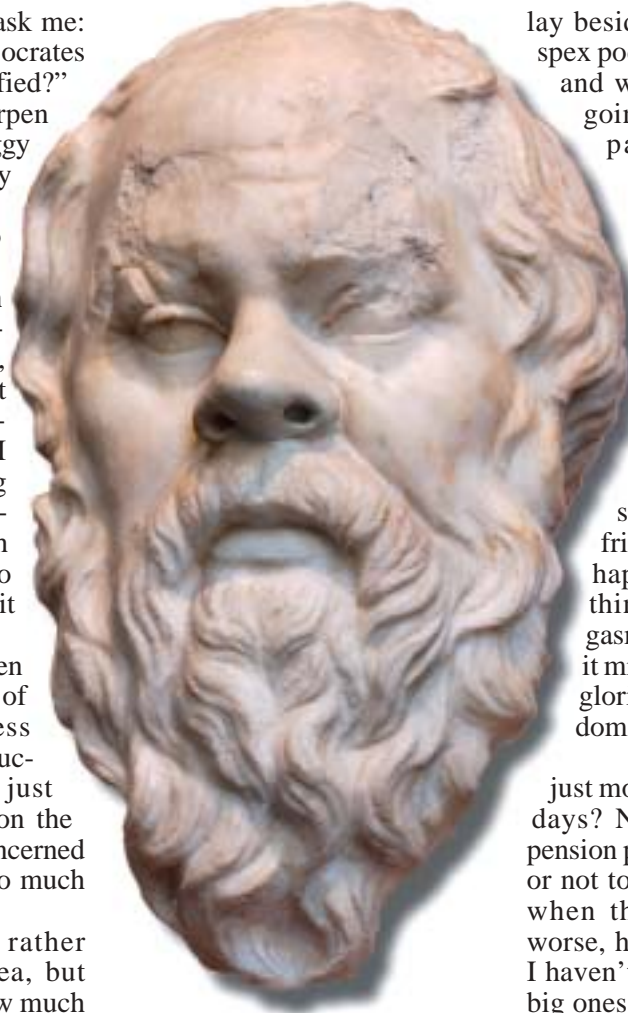
We might have been debating, between bottles of beer, whether happiness would consist of career success, simple riches or just fame. At a recent reunion the only thing we were all concerned about was our weight. So much for higher education.

Back then I was rather keen on the money idea, but when someone asked how much it would take to

make me happy, my riches immediately became another source of anxiety. Once I started imagining wonderful apartments in New York, Paris and London, I also wanted one in Rome, as well as one on Lake Como or even Capri (why not?), and what with all the hired

help and shoes in all those places, the sums involved were almost distasteful.

In my twenties I knew I would be happy if I had a successful career and a lovely flat where I could have dinner parties with my friends. Then in my thirties I thought the secret might be found in a simpler and less materialistic way of life. So I sold my business, gave up my loans



Would you rather be Socrates dissatisfied, or a pig satisfied?

and the whole ambition thing, and decided to become a full-time mum.

Then I became restless for something to do. Laura, a friend who is enviably successful in television, has two homes and a partner she adores, but says that she sometimes wishes she could just disappear and start again with a completely clean slate.

Is this something everyone feels, or is it peculiar to our generation of women who are able to have it all without too much of a fight, but suddenly find that we don't want anything after all?

One of the truly fulfilling things that I have done in my life was having children, but the heady combination of joy, fear, fascination and exhaustion was not exactly what I imagined pure happiness to be.

I remember the first night in hospital when my first-born

lay beside me in his little Perspex pod. I watched him in awe and wondered if I was ever going to be a good enough parent for him. And when he began to cry, I took him into my bed and talked to him, this tiny human being, and it felt like the beginning of a great friendship, full of wonderful promise, but also very scary.

Does happiness have to be a sustained state? Yes, says my friend Chrissie concisely – happiness implies something longer than an orgasm. When I imagine what it might feel like, I think of a glorious continuum of freedom from anxiety.

Is it just me or is there just more to worry about these days? Not just how personal pension plans work, and whether or not to have Botox injections when the time comes (even worse, has it come already and I haven't noticed?) but also the big ones like terrorism and biological warfare.

Sometimes I actually worry about worrying, and I worry whether it would be right to be happy at all in a world that is so full of injustice.

In her book *Wanting Everything: The Art of Happiness* psychologist Dorothy Rowe advises taking responsibility for ourselves and practicing kindness, tolerance and sharing.

I'm sure that's the sensible long-term route to happiness, but I'm inclined to agree with the novelist John McGahern, who says that happiness cannot be "sought or worried into being or even fully grasped. It should be allowed its own slow pace so that it passes unnoticed if it ever comes at all."

Mind you, if I could only write like McGahern, then maybe...

For the moment, I shall just have to settle for moments of sheer joy that happen at the most unlikely times.

The other day, my youngest and I were sitting on the sofa together watching another rerun of *Friends*. "Mum," he said, "she looks just like you!"

I laughed: "Well, thank you. Did you know that many people think that she's the most gorgeous woman in the world?"

He turned to me, as innocent as an angel, and said, "You are the most gorgeous woman in the world."

The wonder of the feeling went on for so long that it might almost have been happiness. It even survived the quite disproportionately loud and sustained laughter of his teenage brother.

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

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## Happily Ever After

Recent weddings  
in Phuket



Above: Britons Janine Smith and Robert Corcoran were married at The Evason Phuket Resort & Six Senses Spa on April 27.



Left: Jiraporn Chanarang and Prathompong Klubsong were married in the Phuket Ballroom at the Royal Phuket City Hotel, Phuket City, May 17.

# A LOVE BEYOND WORDS

**L**ove it or hate it, most people would argue that Patong's Soi Bangla is one of the more interesting places to take a late-night stroll in Phuket.

Suit-hawking touts of dubious immigration status, package tourists pushing baby strollers, ladyboys so spectacularly festooned that a peacock would cringe at the sight: it's all just part of the spectacle of mass humanity on display there every evening.

In such a chaotic visual milieu, one could easily fail to notice a white ambulance marked with Chinese characters parked nightly near the top of the soi – and the bespectacled European man standing at the ready by its side.

That man is Swedish volunteer rescue worker Lars G Dikander, 58, who risks his life three nights a week with the Kusoldharm Volunteer Rescue Foundation, which maintains 10 rescue pickups and three ambulances on the island.

With 25 paid workers and 50 volunteers, Kusoldharm is by far Phuket's largest rescue organization. Equipped with police radios, its workers often arrive at gory accident and crimes scenes before even the police can get there – and are often greeted by horrific scenes of death and dying.

So how does a Swede reaching retirement age end up on a Phuket ambulance crew, responding to some of the island's worst accidents?

After nine months working with the Kusoldharm Rescue Foundation in Phuket as a volunteer, photographer Lars G Dikander has become a fixture at many accident scenes across the island, helping the injured and taking pictures when he can. A man of a varied background, including welder, taxi driver and trained hospital orderly, he seems to be an enigma that fits in perfectly with Phuket.

**Ulf Peder Johansson** asks Lars what keeps him on the roads, helping accident victims time and again.

Lars came to Thailand for the first time in early January, 2005, as part of a Swedish tsunami rescue team organized by a Swedish branch of the Lion's Club. He first visited Railey Beach in Krabi, where he helped a relative, married to a Thai, who was living there.

After that, he began to divide his time between Sweden and Thailand, taking part in post-tsunami reconstruction efforts in hard-hit areas including Khao Lak, Kamala and Patong.

Given his varied background, it is no surprise Lars volunteered to help out. Born in 1949 in the city of Borlange in central Sweden, Lars' life history includes stints as a factory worker, welder, hotel worker and taxi driver – to name just a few of the jobs he has done.

He has lived and worked in many different parts of Sweden, where he still has two children: Alexander, born in 1987, and Jennifer, born three years later. His

mother died in Sweden last year and his father just this year.

"I hope my kids can come and visit soon. I miss them," he told the *Gazette*.

It was in 1979 that Lars first began to work as a freelance photographer, a job he continues to do for a wide variety of news agencies, including some of Sweden's largest daily newspapers, such as *Expressen* and *Aftonbladet*.

Although many of Lars' pictures these days are taken at crime and accident scenes and are too graphic for most English-language media, they have been commonly featured in the Thai media, including numerous accident-scene photos that have appeared on the front page of *Siang Tai*, Phuket's Thai-language daily newspaper.

Most of the photographs he sells these days involve Swedes and are sold to Swedish newspapers, he said.

Lars began his medical training at about the same time as he began snapping pictures. In the early '80s he worked as a hospital orderly. Interested in the work, he studied to become a nurse and before long found himself helping doctors treat patients in the Intensive Care Unit of Gavle-Sandvikens Hospital, in the Swedish city of Gavle.

That experience and training continues to help him to this day in his work with the Kusoldharm Foundation.

It was while living in the large Swedish cities of Stockholm and Malmo that he began contributing many photos to the big Swedish newspapers: fights, fires, car accidents, burglaries – Lars has



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**READY TO ROLL:** When merrymaking turns ugly along Soi Bangla, Lars and his Kusoldharm colleagues are ready to rush any casualties to a hospital.

just about seen it all during his many years behind the lens.

When asked what was the worst accident scene he had ever encountered, he said: "Road accident scenes can be very bad. About four months ago, a Swede got crushed by a 10-wheel truck after falling off his motorbike in Kata. That was a very bad scene. Shootings and stabbings are often very gory too," he said.

When asked what has been his all-time favorite photo, he replied with a laugh, "I don't

know... all the ones that were published."

After he started visiting Thailand regularly he met his future wife Somniang Pengthong, an office worker at *Siang Tai* at the time. After two years of courtship, the couple were married in March this year.

"She is the best wife. We married out of love, nothing else. Sometimes we have a bit of a language barrier, but we are working on it," he said.

Asked why he goes on res-

cue missions three nights a week with no remuneration, Lars said, "The danger has become a part of my everyday existence. We have an expression in Swedish that goes 'My heart pumps to help others,'" said Lars, adding that he likes the excitement of rescue work.

"The sound of sirens is like the soundtrack of my life."

During the nine months that Lars has been with the Kusoldharm Foundation, many of the calls he has responded to have

involved road accidents involving drunk drivers. Those who survive are seldom model patients, he has observed.

"Many people who are in accidents are drunk, confused or in shock. Sometimes they try to rip off the oxygen mask or pull out the intravenous feeds we use to treat them on the way to hospital," he said.

Though he tries to talk to them and calm them down, it doesn't always work: some patients need to be restrained to prevent them from hurting themselves – or others.

At crime scenes, Lars is sometimes called upon to help police. He once had a finger broken when, at a police officer's request, he assisted in trying to drag a violently drunk man into a cell at a police station. Lars said he had to punch the man to get him to let go of the finger.

What is alleged to have been a drunk driving accident also cost the life of a friend and fellow Kusoldharm worker Apirak Suemuang, 24, who was one of two killed when a Kusoldharm truck rushing four accident victims to hospital and a Toyota sedan collided at high speed at the Tesco intersection on May 6.

Despite the dangers, Lars said he feels comfortable and satisfied with the work he is doing and has integrated with Thailand and the Thai way of doing things.

He has great respect for the Thai Royal Family, he said, adding with pride that he was the only photographer from Phuket invited to take pictures at HM The King's Diamond Jubilee celebrations in Bangkok last year.

Asked how he can afford to do so much volunteer work, Lars said he was lucky to get a medical pension from the Swedish government about eight years ago that allows him to live here comfortably – if everything goes according to plan, that is.

Lars explained that Phuket is now his permanent home, following a series of events that

began with a burglary of his rented house in Chalong. That robbery, which left him without any valuables or cash, meant he could not afford to fly back to Sweden or pay the rent on his apartment there.

Eventually, all of the possession he had stored there – furniture, old photos, almost everything he owns – were removed. He has not seen them since.

When not working as an emergency rescue volunteer, Lars enjoys music – and not just as a consumer. He can play several instruments, including the guitar, accordion, harmonica and drums. Back in Sweden, his love for music dovetailed well with his photography skills and he often photographed Swedish bands.

Asked how he deals with the stress of emergency medical work, Lars said that he doesn't drink but admits that his does smoke quite a bit.

"I also believe in the idea of 'heal thyself'. It is not easy to turn to my family for support because of the language problems... Anyway, I have been doing this type of work for a long time so I am used to it," he said.

While life in Phuket is going well, Lars admits that he does need to improve his language skills. Unlike most Swedes living in Phuket, he is not fluent in English – and his Thai language skills are minimal.

His co-workers at Kusoldharm have encouraged him to study Thai, he added with a laugh.

Lars enjoys his life as a rescue team member and plans to continue doing it as long as he can. "I think I might have a guardian angel looking over me, helping me from being in the wrong place at the wrong time," he said.

Perhaps to the accident victims he helps, Lars himself appears to be a guardian angel.

To view samples of Lars' photography, visit his website at [www.newsweb24th.com](http://www.newsweb24th.com) (Swedish language only).

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## This week



**MORALITY CAMP:** Phra Mahakittisak Kotamasasaso from Wat Phra Chetuphon Vimolmangklararm Rajwaramahaviharn (Temple of the Reclining Buddha) in Bangkok leads students from the Kajonkietsuksa School, Pattana Rd Branch, in a morality camp at Wat Sapam Thammaram in Koh Kaew.



**TREES AHOY:** Vice-Admiral Supot Prukpa, Commanding Officer of the Third Naval Area Command of the Royal Thai Navy, plants a tree as a part of Arbor Day activities. Naval officers and their families planted 300 trees around their quarters in Saphan Hin.



**ANIMATED AWARD:** Phuket Vice-Governor Smith Palawatvichai (left) awards 80,000 baht to Woraphan Phuanguich of PKT 3D team (right), the winning team in the "SIPA (Phuket) PITCH 2007" animation and multimedia competition.



**BLOODWORKS:** Bangkok Hospital Phuket Deputy Director Dr Narong Budhraj (4<sup>th</sup> from right) presents a card noting the donation of a refrigerated blood centrifuge to the Phuket chapter of the Red Cross Society (PRC). PRC Vice-President Ornrutima Palawatwichai (6<sup>th</sup> from right) and other PRC representatives join in the ceremony.



**TASTY TREATS:** (Back row) Patong Deputy Mayor Chairat Sukkaban (center) joins Phuket Square Co Ltd CEO MR Jattumongkol Sonakul (2<sup>nd</sup> from left) and Deputy CEO Prawit Janyasittikul (left) at the launch of the Food Heaven food court at Jungceylon. Hosting the event are Channel 3 celebrity chef Raphiphan Luang-aramrat (2<sup>nd</sup> from right) and Food Heaven Director Aphilak Wanich.



**EARTHWARE:** Prapaht Sea Sports Club volunteers joined in the action during the recent Dive for Earth Day festivities by collecting underwater garbage off Tri Trang Beach. Similar activities were held by volunteers and other divers around the island.

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If there's a better way to spend a Friday night than sitting around on a few sofas with friends, sharing drinks and conversation, I don't know what it is.

As much fun as a new club can be with thumping bass and energetic dancing, there is nothing quite so fulfilling as a night on the couches.

Add in some music, some good food and – why not – a few waitresses to keep the drinks topped up and you have found Living Room, a four-month-old eatery and lounge in downtown Phuket City.

With about 13 couches and low tables scattered around the open areas in Living Room it sets the scene for a night focused on friends. The music, provided by a rotating set of singers and guitarists, is entertaining but not so overbearing that you can't hear the person sitting across from you.

Pracha Hason, the manager of Living Room, said that many people, upon seeing the fancy decor inside, have the mistaken impression that the restaurant is high-class and expensive.

"It's really not high-class, it's more moderately priced," he said. "It's just open for everyone to come in and have fun."

Indeed, the tasty food ranges at reasonable prices from

about 80 baht to 300 baht per dish, and bottles of Heineken are served at 120 baht apiece. Mixed drinks such as gin and tonic go for 120 baht as well, while cocktails cost 150 baht each.

Located next to Lemon-grass Restaurant and SengHo bookstore on Deebuk Rd, the main eating section of Living Room has a high, peaked ceiling with quirky chandeliers hanging down above the patrons. There is outdoor seating as well, with landscaping and flowing water around the outdoor tables.

Two back rooms indoors, set apart by a small pond with a walkway over it, are faced with glass

doors to make it an optional private party room. These rooms are also lined with sofas, stuffed chairs and low tables to complete the living

room feel.

No, you won't find a dance scene or the latest bands, but throw in a television and some stray socks, and it may just feel like home.

*Living Room. 2/7 Deebuk Rd. Tel: 076-233171. Open daily, 10:30 am to 1 am.*

## AFTER DARK

By Zach Fridell



**POTATO TIME:** Stuffed chairs and sofas fill Living Room restaurant in downtown Phuket City – providing a relaxing way to while away the evening and empty a few bottles.



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# Good girls learn to strip

For foreign tourists, women and men, visiting Bangkok, it is hard to avoid a tour of at least one of the many night entertainment strips in Patpong, Nana Plaza or Soi Cowboy where the chief attraction is scantily-clad women go-go dancing. The Thai "stripper", even if she doesn't remove her clothes, has become ingrained in Bangkok's international image.

However, for many Thais of the middle and upper strata of Thai society, which is quite conservative, that image is a foreign one.

"Thai society is extreme. One side is very conservative while another side is very open," said Busakorn Vorameth, 36, owner and chief instructor of Rumpuree Dance Studio, on the fifth floor of the upmarket Amarin Plaza, in central Bangkok.

"I believe that conservative people want to express their emotions as well but they can't," said K. Busakorn, who graduated with a master's degree in design management from Harvard University in the US.

K. Busakorn, who works as an architect during the day, decided to open the Rumpuree Dance Studio less than a year ago to share her passion for dancing with others at night.

Six months ago she began offering classes in erotic dancing and striptease, which she had taken classes in for fun while working as an architect in New York.

"At first I didn't dare to open a striptease class, because I was not sure if Thai people could accept it," she said. "It could have drawn criticism."

Instead, her classes drew a lot of media attention and plenty of interested customers – mostly educated, upper-middle-class career women between the ages of 20 to 50 who have found that erotic dancing helped them reduce their stress levels.

"I'm learning striptease be-



Good girls try out erotic dance routines in a Bangkok studio.

– Photo by Rungroj Yomgrit

cause I love dancing," said Kewalin Sukapiboon, 33, a nurse at a leading private hospital.

"It is fun, like I am playing a role. In daily life, I never do that, so when I finally dance my stress is released. I feel relaxed. Besides, this kind of dancing is a good exercise because it uses a lot of muscles."

During the first half hour, K. Busakorn relaxes her students with soft music and dim lights in the room while teaching them to stretch their muscles.

The music's tempo is then turned up as she starts teaching her pupils how to make sexy

dance steps and enticing movements in front of the mirror.

There was plenty of laughter as these career ladies watched themselves in the mirror.

"The striptease I am learning is not like what saucy nightclub entertainers are doing," said Reiko Sakamoto, 36, a manager at the Senju Metal Trading Company. "They do something a bit similar with the expression of sexiness, but it's not the same."

K. Busakorn believes that women are sexier when they feel relaxed. "Sexiness is always from

inside. Nobody can pretend to be sexy. Especially, in such a plastic world today, it is hard to get back to the nature," she said.

"This is why this type of dancing is different from others. Striptease isn't only about learning a pattern of body movement, but also about emotional expression, which is sexually explicit," she said.

"This is the principle of the striptease. To get people to feel free to express themselves," she said.

K. Busakorn insisted, "Striptease is an art, not just a dirty dance to arouse men's sexual desire. Striptease makes a dancer feel more comfortable to their bodies and also has psychological benefit.

"Many women are not self-confident, and are uncomfortable

expressing their feelings, but inside they really want to do so. Striptease makes them think that to release their emotion is not a bad thing."

K. Busakorn's striptease philosophy, unfortunately, may be lost on the thousands of go-go girls engaged in erotic dancing in Bangkok for a living, rather than as a hobby.

She said she understood that these women were dancing for money, and probably couldn't afford her classes at 300 baht an hour, but she refuses to call what they do art.

"I don't think Thailand has real striptease, even at Patpong. I don't see girls in Patpong dancing, they just move their bodies a bit," she said.

– Chalermkwan Jiramonai, dpa

If I come back to my intention,  
my intention comes from my Heart  
I am strong and I am at peace."

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By Supanun Supawong

**T**he bob hairstyle has maintained its traditional shape since it was invented nearly a century ago. In recent years, however, many stylists in Thailand and abroad have taken the initiative to transform the classic cut into one that incorporates modern trends reflective of the individuals who sport it.

A trek to a few select salons in Phuket City revealed what variations of the bob style are in vogue in Phuket, as well as some handy hints about choosing the right style and how to keep your bob looking good.

Suphakorn Sriketsurakul has worked as a stylist for more than 20 years and is currently working at S Hair Design, a subsidiary of Adam Hairdo.

"The current popular style in Thailand is the retro bob haircut that, traditionally, is about chin length at the front and tapers along the jawline to a shorter length in the back," he said.

"The bulk of the hair rests between the individual's ears and chin, and creates a sharp-angled style to the cut."

However, the style of bob cut depends on the individual wearing it, since it is necessary to take into account the facial structure, personality and whether the person prefers the traditional cut or wants to experiment with a unique style, K. Suphakorn said.

Another important factor is the person's level of confidence, since not all individuals wish to have a distinctive cut that sets them apart from the crowd.

Perhaps not surprising, in Phuket many ladies after a different look are choosing to color their hair as well. "Light brown has been the color of choice as of late here at the shop," K. Suphakorn said.

"The coloring is done so that the light brown is accented with highlights which subtly lift color from the hair in specific sections to mimic the lightening effects that would normally result from sunlight.

"This complements the skin tones of most Thais quite well. Fairer-skinned people have free rein in their choice of color since most choices will not clash with their

# BOB, BOB AROUND



The classic bob haircut has seen a resurgence in popularity and local stylists have taken advantage of this by experimenting with styles beyond the traditional cut.

skin tone. But depending on the color chosen, it may attract some odd glances if it strays outside the realm of natural hair colors," he added.

Anchleeporn Treesungsuan, owner of Anchaleeporn Haircare Center in Samkong, Phuket City, said, "We have taken the traditional straight-cut bob a step further by incorporating both curly and wavy textures, as well as altering the

length to make it less of an angular cut."

K. Anchleeporn suggested to those who frequently change their hair color, "An essential service is hair detoxing, which revitalizes the hair after it has undergone harsh chemical treatments from both bleaching and coloring.

"It is vital to do this so breakage is minimized and the overall integrity of the hair is maintained. The detox can be done

immediately after the treatment or within the week that follows.

"We recommend that customers who drastically alter the color of their hair on a regular basis have the detox performed on a monthly basis. The process usually takes about an hour and rejuvenates the hair, leaving it shiny and healthy," she said.

Thanida Rodsunthon, owner of Best Hair shop, said the bob's versatility makes it one of the most popular styles at her salon.

The cut suits teenagers, the fashion-conscious woman who wants that swank look and the businesswoman who needs to balance trend-setting style with something appropriate to the office, she said.

"For a businesswoman, the bob can be modified so the hair remains roughly shoulder length, without cutting large portions around the neckline," she explained.

K. Thanida also discussed the benefits of highlighting or lowlighting hair. "People often confuse the two or are unsure which will look better for them," she said.

"Highlights lighten and brighten the hair while lowlights deepen and darken the hair. Highlights often use blond, gold or chamomile tones and lowlights use red, violet or orange tones," she explained.

"Both provide a great way to update your look without making a too-drastic change to your hair. The tones should not be any lighter or darker than three to four tones from your natural hair color, otherwise the results will be too harsh and unnatural," she added.

• *S Hair Design*. 399/36-37 Yaowarat Rd. Open daily 8 am-9 pm. Tel: 076-254832.

• *Anchaleeporn Haircare Center*. 367/57 Yaowarat Rd. Open Monday-Saturday, 9 am-9 pm. Tel: 076-236386.

• *Best Hair*. 12/5 Montri Rd and 70/150 Chao Fa East Rd. Both locations open daily, 8 am-9 pm Tel: 081-5376268.



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The noodle soup at Kuayteaw Moo Liang (left) may not look very different from other noodles offered in Phuket, but the special recipe used by Naphaporn 'Nui' Panbanpaew (right) gives it a unique, slightly sweet flavor.



One of the key aspects of Thai cuisine that has made it popular around the world is the plethora of Thai herbs used in everything from four-course meals to the 30-baht lunch. These often include those perennial favorites, ginger, galangal, lemon-grass and kaffir lime leaves, but have you ever tried *reo*, aka bustard cardamom?

A member of the ginger family, in Thailand *reo* is most popular in Chanthaburi province and is rarely used in preparing dishes in Phuket, except at *Kuayteaw Moo Liang* (carda-

# The secret herb

**CHEAP  
eats**

BY  
**Natcha Yuttaworawit**

mom pork noodle) restaurant on Thepkasattri Rd.

Restaurateur Naphaporn "Nui" Panbanpaew, 44, hails from Pattani, but got the recipe

for her signature noodles from a friend from Chanthaburi more than 14 years ago. She said the original recipe was very sweet, so she adapted it for southern palates by making it more spicy.

*Liang*, as in the restaurant name, is a Thai soup made from a variety of herbs mashed together and boiled into soup, with a key ingredient being bustard cardamom root. Cardamom looks

similar to galangal but has a distinctive sweet taste and smell.

As with most local herbs, *reo* can be used also as a remedy. The special ingredient, while tasty in itself, is also reputed to ease a queasy stomach and soothe indigestion.

The soups at K. Nui's restaurant include a wide range of noodles, including *yentafo*. However, K. Nui's *yentafo* recipe is

also a variant from the *yentafo* served at most small eateries in Phuket, which generally use red beans to give the noodles their pink allure.

K. Nui, however, uses tomato juice, which adds a twist to her *yentafo*'s flavor.

And just in case her southern adaptations prove too spicy, there are also Thai sweets and fresh coconut-milk ice cream to cool down with after the meal.

*Kuayteaw Moo Liang* is on Thepkasattri Rd, opposite the Esso gas station. Open 10:30 am to 4 pm, closed Sundays.

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# Journey to the heart's core

For much of the past four decades, thousands of volunteers have been taking an eco-holiday with a difference thanks to a charity called Earthwatch. The volunteers travel to exotic locations, but rather than lying on a beach or browsing bazaars, they spend their vacations helping the community – and getting out just as much as they put in, if not more.

Founded in Boston in 1971, Earthwatch aims to match volunteers to scientific projects to promote sustainable conservation of the world's natural assets. For volunteers, it's a highly worthwhile and intimate voyage of discovery. In return, the Earthwatch scientists, dubbed Principal Investigators, or PIs, get a bunch of free and very enthusiastic assistants. So everybody benefits.

The range and depth of Earthwatch projects is amazing. Volunteers signing up for one of its programs could find themselves tasked to collect more than 100 species of butterflies in Vietnam's Tam Dao National

Park, documenting the architecture, history and folklore of a traditional Chinese village before its inhabitants are relocated, or helping to preserve the natural and heritage attributes of Truk Lagoon's WWII diving sites in Micronesia.

The Earthwatch teams are usually quite small, with a maximum of 15 volunteers, and range in age from 16 to 85. They're drawn from all around the world and from a variety of professions and backgrounds, but they all share the same spirit of interest and excitement. Because of this, groups usually bond within the first couple of

days.

Apart from a reasonable level of fitness, no special skills are required, and PIs brief volunteers on the project and what they are expected to do when they arrive. Earthwatch also stresses the need to fit in with the local environment and to respect indigenous customs.

For the PIs involved with the Earthwatch projects, introducing a cosmopolitan bunch of outsiders to their work is time-



Volunteers signing up for one of Earthwatch's programs could find themselves collecting species of butterflies in Vietnam's Tam Dao National Park or helping to preserve the WWII diving sites of Truk Lagoon in Micronesia (above).

consuming but ultimately rewarding.

Dr Mary Littrell, who has worked for Earthwatch in Mumbai, said, "Our research with artisans grounds us in the hardships of daily life in India – yet they continually inspire us by the beauty that they produce under such difficult circumstances."

"Earthwatch gives us the chance as researchers to share that exhilaration with others at a very personal level."

Botanist Dr Susan Kephart, who has been involved with Earthwatch for many years, added, "I've overseen volunteers who are teenagers and volunteers who've retired – and one group included folks from the US, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Ghana and Japan."

"The diverse tasks suit the diverse backgrounds of the participants. One year I had an accountant who kept our data organized, a couple who loved

catching and pinning insects, a cell biologist and a radiologist who were great with microscope work, and an expert on Dr Seuss, the children's author, who kept morale high!"

Just as Earthwatch volunteers spend much of their time working rather than relaxing – although a free day or two is usually allotted for sightseeing – there is of course no free lunch.

Accommodation can be no-frills, meals not exactly gourmet-standard

and the cost starts at around US\$ 1,800 for seven days, flight not included.

But as one volunteer put it, "My regular job is high-tech numbers and computers all day, and I was desperate for the human touch. Earthwatch grabbed me at the core."

For more information visit their website at [www.earthwatch.org](http://www.earthwatch.org) or call their international number at 978-461-0081.

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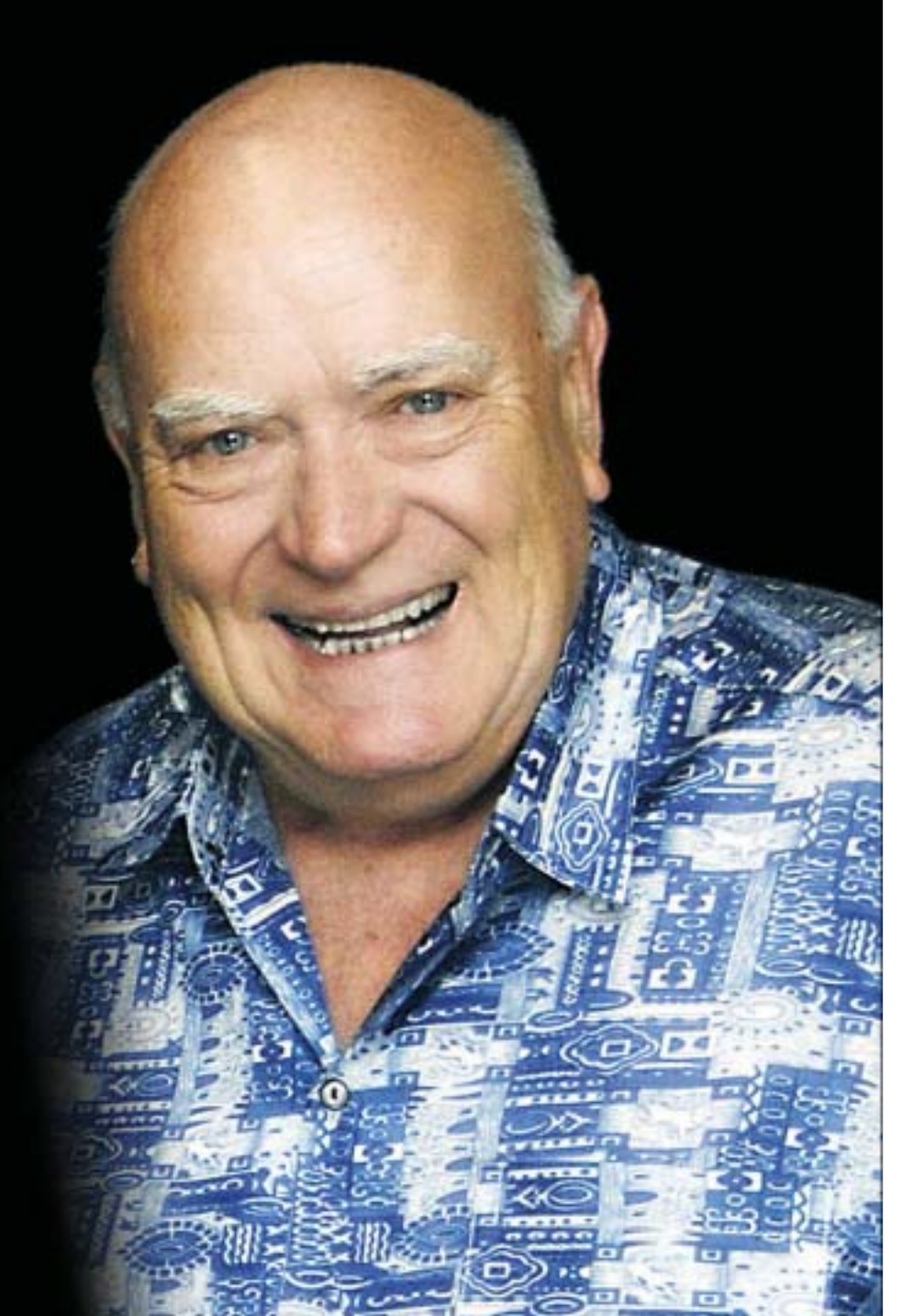
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Puzzles

Hidden Words

Hidden in the grid below are the names of 24 sets of brothers who are in showbiz. The words may read vertically, horizontally or diagonally. They may also read right-to-left or down-to-up. Score: 15 or more, good; 20 or more, very good; 24, excellent. Solution on the next page.

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

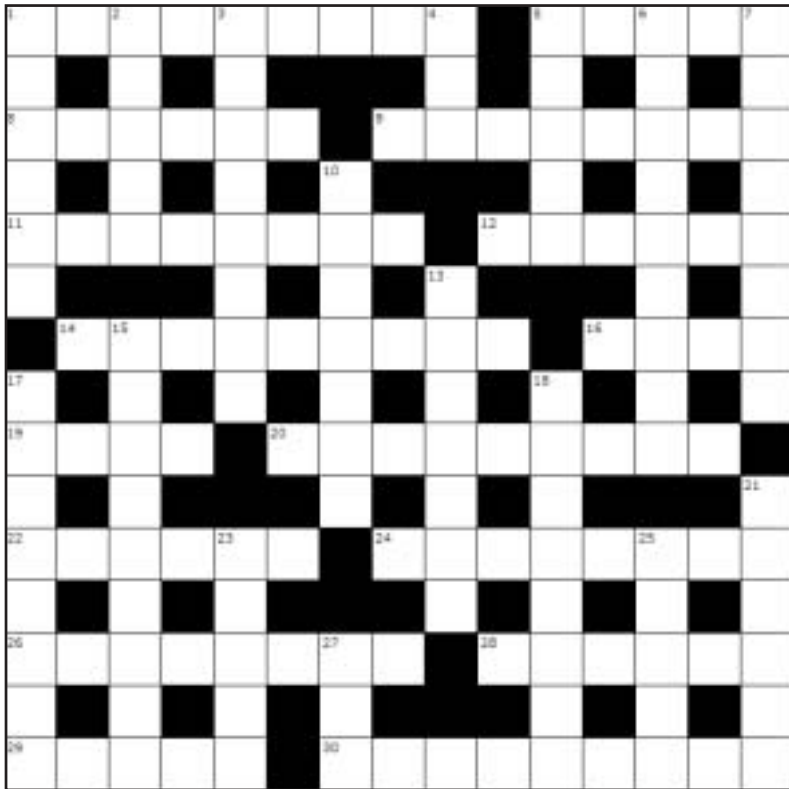
The Cryptic Crossword

ACROSS

1. Luggage appropriate for police investigations. (9)
6. Demand I'm in shellfish. (5)
8. Terrible experience or agreement. (6)
9. To the south, quiet missiles and birds. (8)
11. Chinese favorite from Noah's boat strong in leg part. (5,3)
12. A thousand and a thousand and a fifty and a town. (6)
14. Very small salutation to kitchen equipment. (9)
16. Coffin carrier's ale to the ear. (4)
19. Heedless of skin problem. (4)
20. Rotting source of children. (9)
22. Simon, golfer, holds Khan. (6)
24. Scoundrel with direction gets worse. (8)
26. Tara's red woman? (8)
28. Encountered Little Richard, it's said, in measuring system. (6)
29. Cardinal shed tears and cleaned floor. (5)
30. Drop evens. Odd to exceed budget. (9)

Down

1. Partner is drunk, but quiet inside. (6)
2. In Diana, a country. (5)



Compiled by Tortuus. © 2007

3. Biscuits for lunatics? (8)
4. Heats up partly to eat. (3)
5. Dog I take to a medieval court. (5)
6. Fuss over allocation of love. (9)
7. Slaughter of mob on large area. (8)
10. If we dim concoction, she'll assist at arrival. (7)
13. Dodge! I go into Rawai resort. (7)
15. They say, "In sin, you ate hint." (9)
17. Legal explanations of land and buildings. (8)
18. Worries about right siblings. (8)
21. Put a value on rice in police department. (6)
23. Cry of pain rent small bird. (5)
25. Never destroy courage. (5)
27. Pair of 23 down lacking the French back. (3)

Solution on next page

Scribble Space



EZ TRIVIA QUIZ

1. Shiitake, Amanita and Chanterelle are all types of what?
2. Tirana is the capital of which country?
3. In Thailand, what is the minimum age for driving a motorbike?
4. And for driving a car?
5. Who plays Elizabeth Swann in the *Pirates of the Caribbean* series?
6. Which is the largest mammal in the world?
7. Who currently has a hit single entitled *Umbrella*?
8. Which carmaker uses a three-pointed star in a circle as its emblem?
9. Who wrote the novel *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*?
10. What common product is made from the latex of the chicle tree?

Answers on next page

Rhyme Time

The words or phrases described below all rhyme with 'Greek'. What are they?

1. Sprint in the nude.
2. Brook.
3. Sharp end of a bird.
4. Bad thing to have in a dike.
5. Welsh symbol.
6. Unassertive.
7. Weird carnival performer.
8. 168 hours.
9. Hide's partner.
10. Bizarre person.

Answers on next page

sudoku

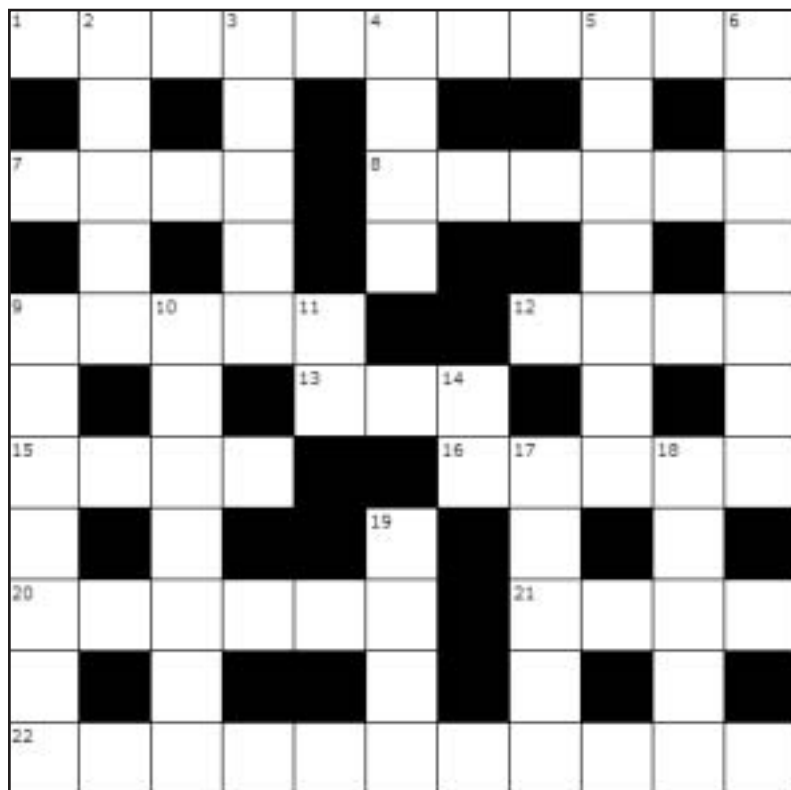
Solution, tips and computer program at [www.sudoku.com](http://www.sudoku.com)

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

HARD # 23

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





## Quick Crossword

### ACROSS

1. It's at the end of the journey.
7. Attack with a knife.
8. Far from rare.
9. Criminal.
12. Against.
13. Horse fodder.
15. Meat from cattle.
16. Individual parts of a list.
20. Financial checks.
21. A "thing word".
22. Occasions for calling an ambulance, maybe.

### DOWN

2. Go in.
3. Culturally forbidden.
4. French Riviera town.
5. Huge.
6. Silly people.
9. Green vegetable.
10. Late.
11. A boxing match stops here.
14. Between La and Do.
17. Pick-me-up.
18. Small rodent.
19. Island.

*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. How many million people are thought to have died in China's Three Kingdoms War?           | 8. Which country was wracked by The Anarchy in the 12th Century AD?   | demy for setting a fellow cadet on fire during a fight with pokers?  |
| 2. Bar Kokhba's Revolt was the last in which series of wars?                                 | 9. Which country invaded Southwest Cay in the Spratly Islands in 1993?  | 16. Iron Maiden released the song <i>The Trooper</i> in 1983 and again in 2003. Which war is the song about? |
| 3. Which empire was split by the War of the Two Brothers (1531-2)?                           | 10. What circumstances made the invasion successful?  | 17. Queen Ana de Sousa Nzinga Mbande led her troops in battle against which colonial power in the 1600s?     |
| 4. How many Cod Wars were there between Britain and Iceland?                                 | 11. Who were the last invaders to set foot on US soil?  | 18. How long did the Hundred Years War between England and France last?                                      |
| 5. The Casamance Conflict is an ongoing civil war in which country?                          | 12. Which islands in which state did they occupy?   | 19. Which war ended with the Treaty of Paris in 1898?  |
| 6. Who said, "I've been to war. I've raised twins. If I had a choice, I'd rather go to war"? | 13. Which country's troops occupied Buenos Aires in 1806 and Montevideo the following year?   | 20. The Battle of Stoke Field was the last in which war?   |
| 7. Which two countries fought the Cenepa War in 1995?  | 14. Hanoi was sacked in 1372 and again in 1377 by forces from which country?  |  |
|  | 15. Which soldier, later a general, was expelled from Sandhurst military academy for setting a fellow cadet on fire during a fight with pokers? |  |

*Answers below, left*

# Puzzle Solutions

## Monster Quiz Answers

1. 40 million; 2. The Jewish-Roman wars; 3. The Inca Empire; 4. Three; 5. Chad; 6. George W. Bush; 7. Ecuador and Peru; 8. England; 9. Vietnam; 10. The Filipino soldiers on guard had gone to another island to attend a birthday party; 11. The Japanese; 12. Kiska and Attu in Alaska; 13. The United Kingdom; 14. Champa; 15. Gen Bernard Montgomery; 16. The Crimean War; 17. Portugal; 18. 116 years; 19. The Spanish-American War; 20. The War of the Roses.

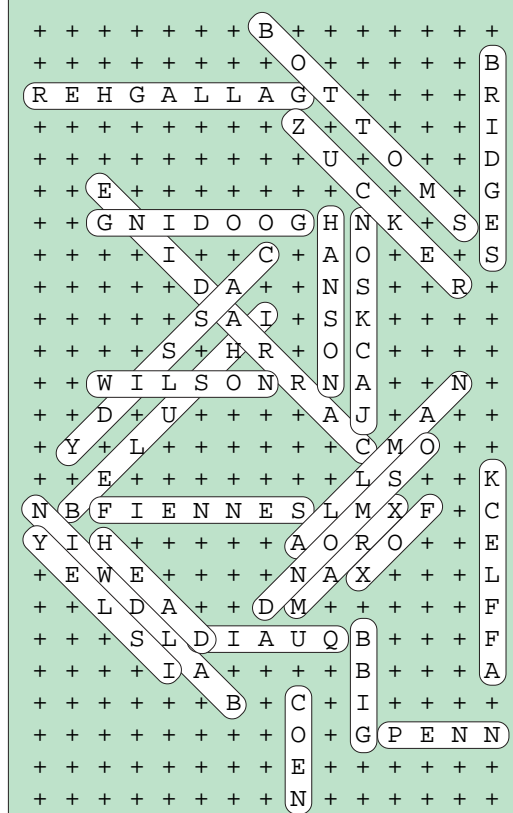
## Rhyme Time Answers

1. Streak; 2. Creek; 3. Beak; 4. Leak; 5. Leek; 6. Meek; 7. Geek; 8. Week; 9. Seek; 10. Freak.

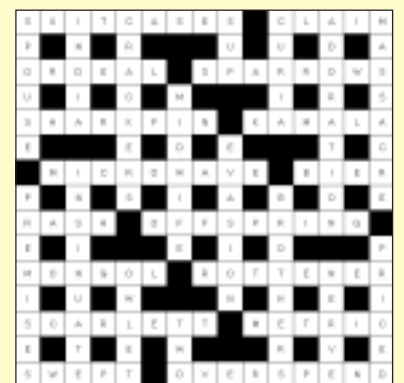
## EZ Trivia Answers

1. Mushroom; 2. Albania; 3. 15; 4. 18; 5. Keira Knightley; 6. The blue whale; 7. Rihanna (featuring Jay-Z); 8. Mercedes-Benz; 9. Robert Louis Stevenson; 10. Chewing gum.

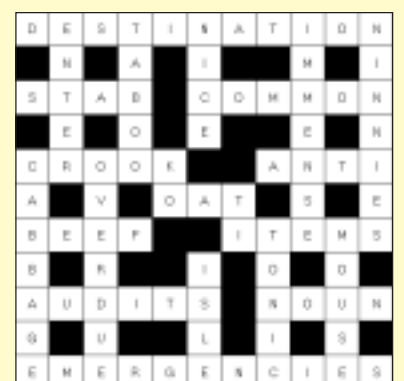
## Hidden Words SOLUTION



Solution to this week's Cryptic Crossword



Solution to this week's Quick Crossword



Solution to this week's Sudoku puzzle





# McMurtry meanderings

Larry McMurtry has written 29 novels, so they all can't be deathless works of high literature. His early novels were literary: *Horseman, Pass By* and *All My Friends are Going to be Strangers* about modern Texas, as was his mid-life masterpiece, the great Pulitzer-Prize winning *Lonesome Dove* about the Texas of the great cattle drive days.

But he does crank out some stuff for pure entertainment and moneymaking reasons, and one such piece is *Telegraph Days* (Pocket Star Books, New York, 2006, 405pp).

The conceit is that this is a tale of the Old West as told by a spunky independent woman in the mode of the successful novel and film *True Grit*. But the language isn't that colorful, the characters aren't vivid and the plot isn't gripping. *Telegraph Days* instead limps along with flaccid language, cardboard characters and an aimlessly meandering plot.

It's 1875 and Nellie Courtright's father has just "suicided himself" on a lonely ranch in Oklahoma. Nellie and her 17-year-old brother head for the rundown village of Rita Branca. Nellie is 22 and "kissable". So far in her progress from Virginia she has kissed Wild Bill Hickock and General George Custer.

"Here we were, the two surviving Courtrights, having already, in the course of our westering progress, buried two little brothers, three little sisters, an older sister, three darkies, our mother, and now look! Father's tongue was black as a boot."

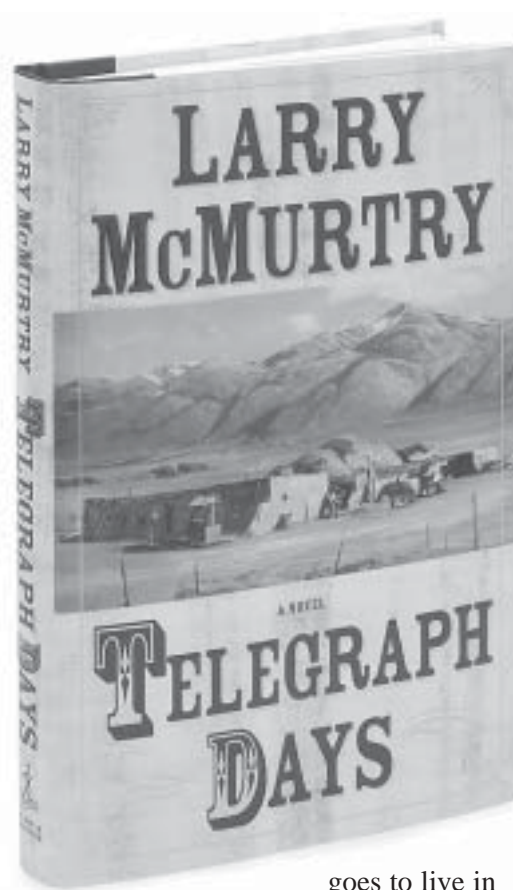
Her brother Jackson gets a job as deputy sheriff while Nellie takes over the village telegraph station. One day the six notorious Yazee bandit brothers ride into town and Jackson, by a fluke, manages to gun each of them down with shots to the heart.

Nellie writes up the story and the town is flooded with reporters, one of whom, Zenas Clarke, becomes her lover and later her husband.

The parade of famous Western characters now continues with the arrival of Buffalo Bill.

"I had pretty well convinced myself that this Buffalo Bill Cody was probably somebody who needed to be put in his place... The man might well have an irksome personality. When Thursday came I got ready to be icy and stiff, but then up Bill Cody trotted, on a fine gray horse, beautifully dressed, handsome as a god, friendly as a collie, and all my tough resolves turned into toffee."

The final half of the book is a series of desultory adventures in which Nellie



goes to live in Buffalo Bill's mansion in Nebraska, meets the Earp brothers in Dodge City, bluffs a train-robbing Jesse James, jokes with Billy the Kid and is an eyewitness to the gunfight at the OK Corral in Tombstone, Arizona.

She's working as a reporter for her

boyfriend's newspaper at the time and the two go off to run a magazine in California, which leads up to the movie-making era in which Lillian Gish plays Nellie on the day of the big gunfight against the Yazee brothers.

What McMurtry wrings out of this picaresque tale isn't much. There is no suspense and little humor. The descriptive scenes are weak and the action perfunctory.

Occasionally he can wind up a crisp bit of dialog. Here, for example, is Nellie reporting at the bank in North Platte to exercise Buffalo Bill's power of attorney. The fat banker, Senior Applewhite, is skeptical that "a slip of a girl be allowed to make free use of the Cody funds".

"Have you known Mr. Cody long?" the ample banker asked.

"Long enough to know he doesn't flinch from expense and extravagance," I said.

"Are you his harlot?" he asked.

"How'd you like it to catch an inkwell in the middle of the forehead?" I responded, standing up. "When I tell Bill Cody what you said I have no doubt that he'll come back here and pound you into blubber!"

But for the most part each short listless chapter follows another in a meaningless plot and by the end you suspect that the author is as tired of the tale as you are.

## PHUKET DIARY

## Upcoming events on the island

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

Wine tasting 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 a Continental brunch on June 17. 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 meditation practice, as well as a question and answer period.

Instruction is provided by English monk Phra Nicholas Thanissaro and people of 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 out 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, 10km fun run, 5km walk and 1km kid's 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 17. Rotary Club of Laguna Phuket Family Fun Walk

As part of the great RUN PARADISE! event, members & friends of Rotary Laguna will walk the 5km family fun walk to raise awareness and build our coffers for worthy projects. Members will be raising sponsorship; others welcome to join just for fun.

T-shirts will be given to all. Bring the kids, grandma, whoever;

it's a leisurely stroll with plenty of cheerful banter. No training or doctor's certificates required, and all for a good cause. Please contact Stuart Bird for further details at: stuart@watermarkphuket.com

The Rotary Club of Laguna Phuket meets for breakfast every Wednesday 7:30-9 am at the Dusit Laguna. All are welcome. For more info, contact dusit@rotary.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.

Call 02-6220605-7 quoting "Phuket Sponsorship Clinic" to become eligible to take part in this exclusive offer. For more information, see www.paulpoole.co.th or email paulpoole@email.com

### July 1. A Touch of Jazz Romance.

Join us at the Beach Club of the Kata Thani Hotel for an evening with Danish Queen of Jazz Katrine Madsen and her award-winning Jesper Bodilsen Trio.

Tickets, priced at 1,000 baht,

include a light cocktail and are on sale now.

Call Khun Jib at 076-236555 to book now for home delivery, or enjoy a 20% discount if you pick up your tickets at the *Phuket Gazette* offices on or before 24 June.

Sponsored by Kasikorn Bank and major international airlines and hotels, this event is organized by the Nation Multimedia Group and Hitman. All net revenue will be donated to His Majesty The King's Charity Projects.

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### Jul 19-22. Evason Phuket Raceweek.

Four days of top-class yacht racing with reliable monsoon winds, five nights of great beachside parties at the 5-star Evason beachside terrace. Raceweek is organized by Image Asia Events and is held under the auspices of the Yacht Racing Association of Thailand and the Ao Chalong Yacht Club.

For more information contact Grenville Fordham at 081-8948122 or gren@image-asia.com

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## Icons R Us

Despite a push by the interim government for people and organizations to adopt HM the King's "Sufficiency Economy" principles, Phuket has clearly retained its uncanny ability to attract big, bold development schemes, both from the government and private sectors.

In the past few month alone, there have been private sector initiatives to build a man-made island to cater to the yachting needs of the world's richest people, followed by a raucous public hearing on the need for the ambitious Phase II of the Chalong Marina plan.

These two schemes combined would pale into insignificance if the futuristic Phuket Bay "International Convention, Exhibition, Entertainment & Resort Complex" ever becomes reality.

Earlier this year, a proposal was put forward to build a tsunami barrier that would automatically pop up in the nick of time, protecting Patong Bay from the ravages of any future tsunamis.

Back on dry land, investors last week came to meet the governor to sound out the possibility of constructing a cable car to transport holiday-makers up to a scenic vista in the hillsides above Patong (see News pages).

In January 2003, Srimuang Charoensri, then a member of the Senate Committee on Communications, became the latest official to propose the construction of a tunnel under Patong Hill to ease traffic congestion and reduce road accidents there.

Slowly nearing completion in the Nakkerd Hills, on what was once government virgin forest land, is what promises to be Phuket's newest icon: the Mingmongkol Buddha image, a 45-meter-high colossus built on donations by faithful Buddhists "finding their ways to leap out from sufferings to face the enduring happiness", according to the project's fund-raising website.

Another icon to be open soon is the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization's long-delayed, 46-million-baht "Welcome Gate" project at Tah Chat Chai.

Two other ambitious plans that threaten to leave much of Tah Chat Chai covered in concrete are the large sports complex and the international convention center, both on Treasury Department land.

If and when all of these projects are completed, Phuket will likely have more icons than a computer desktop – but much less of the natural beauty that attracted most residents in the first place.

When a new government is elected, let's see if it identifies environmental protection as its top priority and takes steps to preserve what is left of Phuket's natural beauty after decades of poorly-regulated, greed-driven development. A good first step would be immediate funding for a second incinerator at Saphan Hin.

– The Editor

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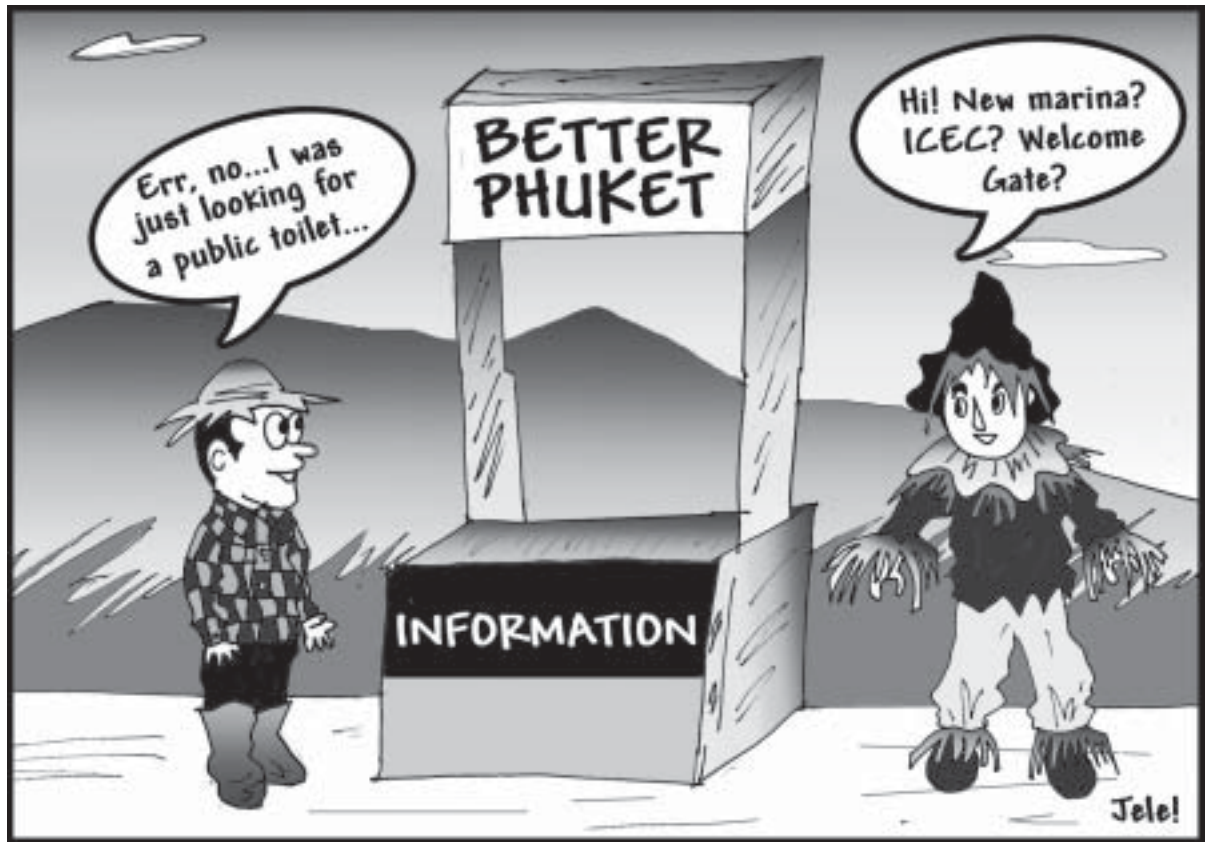
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## Letters

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

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

### Why so much whining in Paradise?

I am starting to feel a little sorry for the poor editor here. What has become of the *Gazette*'s letter page?

All we ever see in the letters page these days are moans and complaints about this and that, oppressed small-bodied (but large-breasted) women having a pop at us tubby fellas with our poor little deprived Thai wives, big nasty SUV drivers taking over the roads, noisy neighbors and much, much more!

Why so many complaints when we are living on a beautiful island full of interesting and diverse things to do?

I for one am very happy with the lifestyle I have chosen to live. No sleet or snow on my horizons, no freezing cold mornings lying tucked up in bed wishing I could be back in sunny paradise for me. (Unless I left the AC on 18 degrees all night.)

No, I made the choice to have this beautiful island in Thailand as my home and have very little to complain about. The weather is fantastic, the views are magnificent and most local people are a pleasure to deal with.

But of course there is an answer to all that ails perennial moaners: sod off back home and stop slagging off such a wonderful life and land. It might leave more room on the roads for our SUVs and it certainly would make it easier for me to park my truck outside the bank when I go in to count my money. (I don't go in really... I have Internet banking for that.)

I have an idea, dear editor:

maybe you should change the name of the letters page to "Whiners Corner" or even make a section called "The Female Dog", because all people do here is bitch!

Get over yourselves and enjoy life, I know I am!

John  
Rawai

### No need to get hot under the collar

The letter to the editor entitled "Island marina plan is ecological madness" [*Gazette*, issue of June 2] is typical of eco-zealots around the world. It gives "global warming" as a reason to deny the building of the island Z oran – and then gives no evidence to say how or why the project would affect "global warming".

Unfortunately, the as yet unproven *theory* of global warming has become more of a religion than a matter of scientific inquiry. People now ask only if you "believe".

By the way, what kind of cars were people driving and what were they doing that caused the melting of the ice bridge between Asia and America some 12,000 years ago? Global warming has happened in natural cycles for millions of years. No need to panic folks...

Name withheld  
Rawai

### Kicking back

Whoa, wait a minute here. Thailand is ranked the third-most overworked nation in the whole world? I just read on the Internet that Thailand has ranked third in the list of countries where people work the most hours each week [see *Around the Nation*, p 7].

For all of Phuket's excesses, apparently spare time is hard to find. I know that I may be preaching to the already-relaxed choir, but for the overworked among us, it's time to take a look around. Is the money really worth it?

Need to relax,  
Kamala

### That sinking feeling

Just letting you, the marine safety and tourism interests know that news of the incompetence of those involved (except one take-charge passenger) in the ferry fire and sinking off the Phi Phi Islands was big news fodder not only here [in Thailand] and in Australia but also in Germany, France, New Zealand and the US.

Another nail in the coffin for Phuket tourism?

Capt Ottokar  
Ao Chalong

### A switched on idea

Kudos to the powers that be who installed the guard rail along the east side of Chao Fa West Rd, just south of the junction with Kwang Rd. It is one of the very few road safety features in the south of the island, and I applaud the forethought that might actually save lives.

Now all we need is some lights on that very dark stretch of road and drivers might even be able to see it.

Spending a few *satang* on painting a center line might help somewhat, too. Night and day one can see vehicles swerve out of each others' way in a last ditch effort to avoid a head-on collision.

In the dark  
Chalong

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.



# Display your prices, or suffer market forces

**O**n March 6 the Internal Trade Department updated the list of goods and services for which prices must be displayed. Prices must be shown for 232 categories of goods and 47 types of services.

The list is comprehensive and includes categories instead of specific products, so that nearly all products and services are included, from pens to washing liquids and fabric softeners and even cars and haircuts.

However, many vendors continue to break this law, even though we keep carrying out random inspections and publicize that complaints can be made by calling our 24-hour consumer rights hotline at 1569. Some vendors still do not realize that displaying prices is necessary.

Most of the complaints we get from our hotline center are about vendors not displaying prices. The second most common complaint is about gas stations displaying one price on the signs and charging a different price at the pumps.

Since October last year we have fined 11 vendors for not displaying prices. The punishment is a fine, from 400 baht to 10,000 baht, depending on the size and type of business registered.

However, since not displaying prices has become punishable by law, vendors are starting to take heed. Also, our campaigns have become more successful

## FIRST PERSON

The Phuket Internal Trade Office (PITO) has launched its annual campaign for all vendors to display prices for products and services, as required by law since 2000.

Here PITO Chief **Somphot Sungkhaphong** explains why his office stages this campaign every year, and why he thinks it is a critical part of eliminating dual pricing in Phuket.



since we started using the media to inform vendors they must display their prices.

In Phuket the usual way of doing business is as a 'Thai-style' family business, such as the stalls at the market, and they never display prices.

Most family businesses keep the cost price in mind or written down where the whole family can see it, then charge customers a little more than the cost price. But problems arise when one member of the family sells a product at one price and another family member sells the same product at a different price.

When we go out and inspect vendors, there are always some without prices on display. Some vendors tell us that they didn't know that it is required by law; others say it is too complicated because the prices keep changing. For example, at the fresh markets prices may change many times throughout a single day.

Some shops, especially souvenir shops, mark their products with two prices – one for tourists and one for local people.

By law prices for products must be clearly displayed. It is legal, however, to have a price on an item but charge some people

less than the price displayed.

However, only one price must be displayed. Although it is up to vendors whether to offer certain people discounts, we urge them to understand what effect this might have.

Phuket is a tourism province, so if vendors price their goods properly it will benefit the entire province.

Tourists would see that we are fair and hold the same standards for everybody, not having one price for Thais and another for foreigners.

Indeed, the days of charging different prices might be nat-

urally drawing to an end as more large retailers, businesses run by foreigners and businesses managed to international standards open on Phuket.

By clearly displaying prices, such businesses are elevating trading standards in Phuket. This makes tourists feel good about visiting and shopping here.

This is also one of the reasons why these businesses have so many customers. Consumers can see the correct price before making the decision whether or not to buy the product. It even helps employees at the store and the businesses benefit by having a good reputation.

If we are very strict in enforcing the law, it might not lead to success. We have to convince vendors to appreciate the big picture and understand why franchise convenience stores and large retailers are becoming so popular, as well as the general effect on Phuket as a tourism province.

I urge all vendors who still do not display their prices to consider all these factors. Phuket is very competitive, so vendors must promote their products well, including prices, to remain competitive. Something as simple as this may well keep them in business.

Also, it's the consumer's right to know the price before making the decision to buy.

*Compiled by Sangkhae Leelanapaporn*

## POWER CUTS

I recently moved to Rawai and have suffered a lot of power failures, usually of one to four hours, during the heavy rains. My friends in Chalong are not affected.

Is this an ongoing problem for this area and am I going to have to endure this for the rest of the rainy season?

What are my options as far as a generator is concerned? Does somebody have a suggestion?

Keith  
Rawai

**Ekkachok Tantipareepan of the Phuket Provincial Electricity Authority replies:**

Rain should not affect houses though it might affect big businesses that are using a lot of power.

Sometimes the electrical power is cut when there is an accident and someone runs into and knocks down a power pole, or if an animal falls against the wires and short-circuits them.

These things are more likely during heavy rain. You should also check and make sure your home doesn't have an overload. If, after you check and if there are no problems at your home, please call our office at 076-210427-8 and we can have an officer come and check your home to see what the problem might be.

## Health regulations for foreign worker camps

About six months ago, a foreign worker camp turned up overnight on a patch of land down the road from my house in Soi Samakkea. The "camp" consists of several corrugated iron sheds.

The owner of the land, who leased it to a construction company to house their workers, tells me that more than 100 Burmese men, women and children are housed at the site.

Sanitary services consist of just four lavatories, which appear to lack a proper sewage treatment system incorporating a septic tank. In my view, the conditions are ripe for outbreaks of dysentery, cholera, typhoid – or all three.

Are there any regulations on the number of people who can be housed on a certain size plot?

Also, are there regulations covering the sanitary arrangements for that number of people?

There are many other such camps around; this is not an isolated instance.

John Quemener  
Rawai

**An officer at the Phuket Provincial Office of Labour Protection and Welfare replies:**

There are regulations covering hygiene at worker camps. They apply to laborers, regardless of nationality.

The requirements regarding maintaining hygiene at worker camps are listed in Thai on our website at: [www.labour.go.th/welfare/](http://www.labour.go.th/welfare/)

The contractor who employs the laborers are responsible for ensuring that the camp is hygienic and complies with the regulations.

Regarding toilets, all the regulations say is that the employer must provide enough toilets and clean water for the employees.

If there is an outbreak of a communicable disease, the Phuket Provincial Health Office will be called in to help.

If you have more questions please email us direct at: [phuket@labour.go.th](mailto:phuket@labour.go.th)

Our officers will be willing answer all your questions.

## Issues & ANSWERS

### Where can I buy packed straw?

Where I can buy packed hay or straw on Phuket?

Pepe  
Phuket

**Sunart Wongchawalit, Chief of Phuket Provincial Livestock Office, replies:**

I know of nowhere on Phuket, but you can buy it from the Surat Thani Animal Nutrition Research and Development Center in Moo 2, Tambon Pack Chalui, Thachang District, Surat Thani. Tel. 077-292094; Email: [nsur\\_urt@dld.go.th](mailto:nsur_urt@dld.go.th)

**Phanuphan Chaowanit from Phuket Laguna Riding Club replies:**

We are happy to sell bales of hay from our stables at the entrance to Laguna Phuket in Cherng Talay for about 150 baht a bail. Call us at Tel: 076-324199 or 076-324099.



# Fruity proposition

**D**r Zoltan Rhubarb, an anthropologist who is currently visiting Bangkok, has developed a novel system for classifying people, determining their character, and even predicting their future. I found this out recently when he struck up a conversation with me in the beer garden of the Happy New Squalor Guesthouse in fabulous downtown Banglampoo.

**Dr Zoltan:** I find it odd that people in Thailand think their recently ousted prime minister has a square face.

**Me:** You don't think he has a square face?

**Z:** No. It's shaped more like a rectangle.

**Me:** Well, "Old Square-face" is a nickname that sings. "Old Rectangleface" doesn't.

**Z:** Of greater significance, to me, is the fact that his head is shaped like a pomelo.

**Me:** I like that. "Old Pomelo-head" sings even more melodiously than "Old Squareface."

**Z:** In fact, I have devised a system for classifying people ac-

cording to the shape of the head. Using my system, you can predict with reasonable accuracy what a person's character will be like, and even what his future will bring.

**Me:** Wow. It sounds like astrology.

**Z:** Astrology is an outdated superstition. My system does it better. I call it fruitology. It classifies people according to the fruit their heads are shaped like. So, for instance, former Prime Minister Thaksin has a head shaped like a pomelo. From this we can guess his character.

**Me:** Errr...what is his character?

**Z:** Well, he's been called many things, but now that he's out of office and in exile, his outlook on life is mainly sour. And that's exactly what a pomelo is. If fruitologists had studied the man earlier in his career, they would have noted his pomelo-shaped head and deduced that eventually he would become sour. What would cause his sourness? Obviously some great misfortune, like losing his job. Thus, properly analyzed beforehand, his pomelo



head would have told us that eventually he would be forced out of office. So fruitology enables us to predict a person's future.

**Me:** Gosh. This will create a whole new system of fortune telling in Thailand. You'll be rich and famous in no time.

**Z:** Yes, it's just a matter of making my system known and developing a well-trained cadre of fruitologists to implement it.

**Me:** But, errrr...the heads of most people are more or less round. And so are most fruits. How do you tell which fruit to identify a round-headed person with?

**Z:** Well, if the shape of the head fails to give sufficient clues,

we look at other features. If a round-headed person has a yellowish complexion, we identify him with a grapefruit. If it's reddish, he's an apple. Whitish, he's a cantaloupe. Brownish, a coconut. A person with lots of pimples is a pineapple person, and a man with a bushy beard is a rambutan guy. If he has bad body odor, that makes him a durian dude.

**Me:** I bet you don't get many people with heads shaped like bananas.

**Z:** No, banana-heads are a rare type. Now, see if you can guess which fruit would identify a woman with dark skin and her hair done up in a topknot.

**Me** (after some thought): That would be a mangosteen woman. The hair in a topknot would reflect the flowery-looking little thingie that grows at the top of a mangosteen.

**Z:** And what would her character be like?

**Me:** Sweet. Because mangosteens are the sweetest of fruits.

**Z:** And her future?

**Me** (scratching my head):

Hm, that's a tough one. Most mangosteens end up being eaten.

**Z:** Exactly. So do fruits in general. From this we can predict that a mangosteen woman will eventually die. And so will all other fruitheads.

**Me:** That's brilliant. Now, what would a mango-head look like?

**Z:** He'd have an oval head, and possibly a greenish complexion. He'd be prone to jealousy, because mangoes are green and green represents jealousy. He might also be stone-hearted. In fact, all people identified by fruits with stones are likely to be hard-hearted.

**Me:** Fantastic. How about papayas?

**Z:** We don't get many people with heads shaped like papayas. But I'm thinking of starting a new religion based on my system. I'd call it Fruitarianism. Believers would be Fruitarians.

**Me:** You could also call them Fruitcakes.

*S. Tsow, who is a confirmed Fruitcake, can be flamed at [stsow@yahoo.com](mailto:stsow@yahoo.com)*

# Setting up your home gym

**Y**ou want to be fit. You want to be healthy. You want to get rid of that little bit of extra weight without giving up your Friday night bottle or twelve pack of beer or your morning pastries. But, like so many people, you're also loath to go to a sweaty, busy and expensive gym.

Luckily for you, home fitness is a few purchases away.

However, with so many options on the market these days, deciding what to buy when setting up a home gym can be quite confusing. Let's take a look at a few of the most common equipment and rate them in terms of effectiveness.

**Treadmill:** It is perhaps unfortunate that this particular piece of equipment has a name synonymous with drudgery and boredom, because it is in fact one of the better choices in home fitness equipment.

Walking – and for some people running – is a naturally great fitness activity that, when performed correctly, results in reduced bodyfat levels and increased cardiovascular fitness.

By "performed correctly" I mean working within a designated heart rate range. This range, which varies from person to person, takes into account such individual factors such as size, weight and age.

There are numerous treadmill models available on the market, with prices to suit just about every budget. The best choices have good shock absorption characteristics, plenty of length and width, and a digital display with distance, speed and possibly heart rate, course alternatives and an automatic incline feature.

**Stationary bike:** Although not as effective as the treadmill in terms of bodyfat reduction, stationary bikes are great for improving cardiovascular fitness as well as leg strength and muscle tone. More common varieties include the spinning bike, recumbent and standard upright bike.

Although the spinning bikes do not have digital displays, they do allow the rider to sit in a more correct position than the other alternatives. Similar to treadmills, the better recumbent and standard bikes will have course alternatives and speed, distance and heart rate displays.

**Elliptical trainer:** Also called "cross trainers", this is another good option that offers the user a similar body action to running and, on some models with hand levers, cross country skiing. Great fitness gains and calorie expenditure can be expected with regular use on this machine.

With continual foot to pedal contact, there is no shock absorp-

tion through the legs. This makes the elliptical trainer great for the many people who suffer from knee problems.

**Stepping machines:** Climbing stairs is never easy or enjoyable, so why replicate the action on a piece of equipment and expect the user to spend long periods of training time performing this action?

As you may have guessed, I am not a fan of steppers. The piston-like leg action replicates the one used when climbing hills or resistance on a bike in the standing position. Only really useful when used for short periods, in conjunction with other pieces of equipment.

**Free weights and weight machines:** Any balanced fitness training program will include an element of strength work.

Depending on your budget, you have the choice of spending small and going for a few sets of dumbbells and a bench – or spending large and selecting several resistance machines.

Unless you are lucky enough to live in a palace or mansion, a home gym will normally be confined to a small space, so a compact option is the best one.

There are several multi-sta-

tion or multi-purpose cable machines available here in Phuket. Both allow the user to perform several movements and train all parts of the body via the one piece of equipment.

To supplement this machine, a selection of dumbbells from five to thirty pounds and a fit ball are good choices. The fit ball, also known as a Swiss ball or pilates ball, is a large inflatable sphere that provides an unstable platform from which many exercises can be performed.

The body responds to the instability of the ball by using more muscles than it would on a more stable platform – great for core strength and stability.

**Workout room:** Obviously, you need space to move onto and around your exercise equipment. Measure your floor space before making any purchase and design a floor plan according to the exact measurements of your equipment.

Exercise creates body heat and our natural method to keep core body temperature down is sweating. Sweat evaporates on the skin with passing wind flow, which, in turn, cools down the blood and internal organs.

In Phuket, you must have either a sound air conditioning unit

with the appropriate BTU rating for your room size or a strong fan which can direct airflow over you at all times during training.

Also, consider which room will offer the best protection from direct sunlight.

The last consideration is floor covering. A durable, non-slip surface is best. An excellent option are soft rubber tiles that are designed specifically for gymnasiums and are available here in Phuket.

Wooden floorboards and ceramic tiles are too hard and potentially slippery, while carpeting is not only hot but may also harbor dust, mold and any number of microbes.

Plan your budget, create the space at home and seek professional advice on the best choices for your own fitness needs.

Finally, remember that motivation and direction are not supplied with your fitness equipment purchase. If you lack these, your home gym will become just another spare room – no matter how well equipped it may be.

*Nick Dobyn is the manager of Phuket Personal Trainers Co Ltd, a Rawai-based personal fitness consultancy specializing in personal fitness training. For more information call 086-2514801 or email: [nick@phuketfitness.net](mailto:nick@phuketfitness.net) or visit the website: [www.phuketfitness.net](http://www.phuketfitness.net)*

**FIT FOR LIFE**  
By Nick Dobyn



As an Australian journalist living in Pattaya and writing about the nightlife scene, I quite often receive emails from readers near and far asking all sorts of questions ranging from simple things like my opinion of the best chrome pole palaces to visit, the names of good nosheries, what are the most reasonable and central sleeping dens, what time of year does the climate suit the wearing of PVC outfits and other mundane things.

Perhaps the most interesting email was sent to me by a fellow dingo-fancier, and I have to admit I was at a loss as to how to answer this most delicate of questions. I have reproduced it in full below.

G'day Mate,

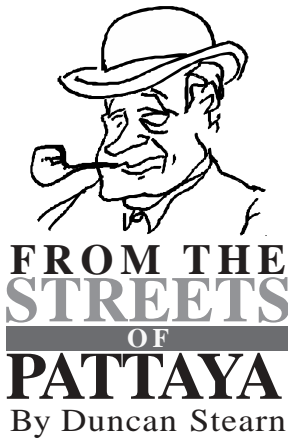
I have a serious problem I hope you can help me with. I first

# TELL ME TRUE...

came to Pattaya just a few months ago and fell in love with the place.

I am in the Australian Navy and am one of a family of five children, three of them female. One is married to a former England cricketer and lives in Perth. The other two work in massage parlours in Sydney. They used to work as hookers on William Street up in King's Cross and they were pretty popular and built up a good clientele.

I haven't seen my mother for about five years, since she ran off with the butcher, and my father is serving 10 years in prison after a botched bank hold-up. My other brother is doing a short stretch for a drugs offence.



When I came to Pattaya I met a really sweet girl in the Mutt Shavers A-Go-Go. She had this great tattoo of a snake on her back, and another one of a but-

terfly on her left arm. Oh, and she's got a great tattoo of a Phoenix rising from the ashes going down from her belly button to the top of her baby factory.

Anyhow, she's only 20 and said she'd been working in the bar about two months. To cut a long story short we fell in love and we hope to be married once her divorce from a German bloke she married a couple of years back comes through. And her divorce from a Thai bloke her parents made her marry when she was 15.

She was a bit vague when I asked her how she met the German, though I think it might have been through one of her sisters. She's one of six girls, and four of

them also work in Mutt Shavers.

Once we're married we'll apply for a visa to come to Australia and we plan to go and live in Melbourne and open a brothel, because it's legal down in Victoria and you can get a license.

My dad should be due for parole in about a year or so and he's happy to come and work as security for the brothel. My two sisters have said they'd be willing to come down and work in the brothel as well so we can keep the business in the family.

I haven't told my sweetheart that my dad and brother are in prison. I also haven't told her about my mum, so all she knows much about are my sisters.

My problem is this: because I'm going to marry this girl and she'll become one of the family, should I tell her that my brother-in-law is a former England cricketer?

## In The Stars

by Isla Star

**GEMINI (May 22 – June 21):** Try to avoid becoming negative this week but expect disappointing news on Wednesday. However, it shouldn't be too difficult to look on the bright side, with all the good fortune you've had so far this month. If you are coming of age you can look forward to a well-balanced year, with highs predicted during September and October. Wear sunshine yellow to attract happy people.

**CANCER (June 22 – July 23):** The week should flow by pleasantly, although bittersweet memories may be triggered by a chance encounter with someone from your past this weekend. Your financial intuition is red hot right now; investments you make before the end of the month will receive strong astral backing. A dream you have midweek gives romantic food for thought regarding a Piscean friend. The number 6 is lucky on Saturday.

**LEO (July 24 – August 22):** If you have been working overtime to improve your career chances, you will receive cosmic backing this week. Strike while the iron's hot or see Sagittarius snatch this opportunity. Love seems to be hanging in limbo; if you're single, someone is waiting for you to make the first move. Those in a relationship are advised to push the boat out and pamper their partner this weekend.

**VIRGO (August 23 – September 23):** Life slows down this week. This is an auspicious time to review how the year has progressed and make minor adjustments. A missed opportunity is forecast to reappear but you should reassess the pros and cons before committing; this may not be such an attractive proposition now. Leo has a romantic message to pass on this Sunday.

**LIBRA (September 24 – October 23):** Your calm and practical approach will be put to the test in an emergency this weekend. A stormy atmosphere at work on Tuesday can be a good thing if the clouds break. Certain issues need to be brought to light and your reluctance to make a point has prevented this from happening.

**SCORPIO (October 24 – November 22):** Social connections are all-important this week. If you're feeling unusually keen to stay at home, resist this tempta-

tion and get out and about. Sunday is a lucky day for useful, new contacts. Sagittarius certainly has the handiest tips regarding financial gain, but Aquarius can't see the big picture. Wear topaz to boost insight and patience.

**SAGITTARIUS (November 23 – December 21):** Your sensible attitude toward money will be much appreciated by others this week, but don't give too many secrets away. If you're looking for a partner in a creative project, Aries has the right skills. If you are single, you are likely to meet your match when traveling overseas. If you are already in a relationship you will be taken aback by surprise developments in the family. No 2 is lucky on Sunday.

**CAPRICORN (December 22 – January 20):** Someone you are estranged from has been thinking about you a lot and would like the chance to have a heart-to-heart talk. Arrange to meet on Wednesday, as the stars will sup-

port your efforts to be as honest as you need to be to clear the air. Lost documents at work could cause you to work overtime early next week.

**AQUARIUS (January 21 – February 19):** Leave relationship issues on the back burner this week. The other person concerned is about to find out that they didn't get their facts right. A dream you have early next week reminds you that accepting too much responsibility at work can backfire. Spiritual enlightenment comes out of the blue – you are entering a much more contemplative period. The color slate gray promotes a more serious outlook.

**PISCES (February 20 – March 20):** A slight slump in early June is nearly over and you should be filled with renewed enthusiasm for new projects. Creativity is starred until the end of the month and you could easily find some new hobbies by then. If you're unhappily single, meeting your

soulmate could be a result of this. An established relationship will benefit from sharing interests with your partner.

**ARIES (March 21 – April 20):** Your luck looks good if relocation is a priority; Taurus comes up with a perfect solution. Some additional pressure at work will mean that the days fly by. In the midst of this busy atmosphere, it's likely that you will forget an important appointment. Take time out on Monday to plan the week carefully. Wear dark jade to encourage being down to earth.

**TAURUS (April 21 – May 21):** Social invitations will flow faster this week. Your charisma is strong during the coming days; Virgo is about to become hooked – it's not by coincidence that they keep turning up in the same places as you. Overspending could become a problem if you don't soon revert to your normal cautious ways. The number 5 is lucky on Monday.

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# Come together, right now...

I've been writing this column for more than five years now, and the volume of questions keeps increasing. I'm finally going to get off my duff and do something about it.

I would like to invite you to join me in something I call "PC Group Therapy". The idea's pretty simple: let's get a bunch of computer people together in the same place at the same time, and help each other solve problems.

There's an enormous pool of computer talent here on the island. Many uber-geeks, for a myriad of reasons, prefer to fly under the radar: they don't get out much and when they do, they don't readily admit to knowing much about computers. I certainly understand why.

On the other hand, everywhere I turn, I meet people who simply need to spend a few minutes picking the brains of someone who knows about a particular product or someone who knows how to solve a specific problem. Thus the need for, and the benefit of, PC Group Therapy.

If you have a computer question, I would like to invite you to join me this and every Sunday between 10 am and noon at my Sandwich Shoppe in Patong. Bring your questions. Bring your problems. Bring your computer – and don't forget your sense of humor.

If you qualify as a card-carrying geek, or even a geeklet or GIT (that's a geek in training), I would like to invite you to join all of us lost souls. We need your help!

More than that, if you have something to sell – a computer, an EV-DO card, a genuine pearl-handled Osborne 1 Portable – schlep it with you. If you're a computer consultant, system builder, re-seller, Internet Service Provider, Web programmer or a hardware repair guy, come on by. You'd be astounded how many



people really want to get their computers fixed, or need help getting their websites off the ground, but have no idea where to turn.

In short, I hope to build a critical mass of computer people every Sunday, between 10 am and noon in Patong. No rules. No holds barred. No commitments. No guarantees. Let's just get together and see if we can solve each other's problems.

For those of you who haven't been to the shop: drive over Patong Hill, turn left on Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd, go past the Post Office and turn right immediately after Thanachart Bank into Aroonsom Plaza. Just after the CAT office and before the entrance to Andaman Beach Suites, at BYD Lofts, turn left. We're there on the right.

If you can't make it this week, not to worry. I'll be there next week, too. And the next.

Switched on: I received a fascinating – and deadly accurate – message from David Kirk the other day. If you're thinking about

shelling out big baht for a fancy TV, David's imagined conversation warrants your consideration. With his permission, I reprint it here more-or-less verbatim:

"So there I was contemplating handing over half-a-million baht for a fancy LCD TV. A thought came to me, and I asked a particularly intelligent-looking clerk, 'Will this gorgeous TV be compatible with my current DVD player? Will I need a special cable or adapter to get the same quality of picture that I can currently see on this HD (high definition) LCD screen?'"

"Oh yes sir, you won't be able to get this clarity from your existing DVD player. You need one of these," he explained pointing to a very smart looking box.

"No problem, I will hand you over another half-million baht for this HD DVD player," I said reluctantly.

"Well the problems don't really end there. You see you can't buy high-definition DVDs in Thailand, and we don't sell HD DVD players."

"So why are you demonstrating a product with a picture quality that the customer will not be able to replicate at home?" I asked.

"Bait sir, and unlike you most customers get hooked on this demo quality and don't ask

If you plan on watching satellite broadcast shows on your new ultra-deluxe 42-inch LCD or plasma TV, be aware that the picture won't look much better than that on a traditional 7,000-baht 21-inch TV set.

these questions, so they are conned into buying HD TVs. It doesn't end there; as soon as they turn on their terrestrial or satellite cable reception the picture is 10 times worse than the DVD quality. What we are showing here is in effect a complete illusion."

Of course the above conversation is completely fabricated, but nevertheless the facts are correct and extracting them was like trying to get blood out of a stone.

While in Bangkok last week I did a huge amount of research on this. Everyone I talked to said the Panasonic Viera plasma high-definition TVs ran rings around the competition. I looked at the same movie on the Viera and then on the half-million-baht LCD TV, and for sure you could see the plasma was infinitely better, with no "shake" or "motion pattern noise", as they say in the trade.

Price-wise, the Viera 42" model lists at 129,990 baht, but I saw it offered for 75,000 baht with a DVD player thrown in.

As for getting a demonstration of terrestrial or satellite TV, the retail shops were loathe to give one. Eventually a shop at the Emporium let me see just how bad it can be. Seemingly, it's the old technology being beamed into the new technology, and for sure they are not compatible.

Although I agree with David's observations, my take on the matter is a little different. I have a new 27" Dell monitor that runs 1920x1200 pixels. That means it shows full 1080p "true high-defi-

nition TV" pictures in 16:9 aspect ratio without any munging of the signal. (For a discussion of 1080p and other truly inscrutable TV terms, see [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1080p](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1080p)).

UBC TV's Star network, based in Hong Kong, recently ran a Star Wars movie marathon, with each of the movies in digitally re-mastered, high-definition 16:9 format. In Phuket, they looked like crap. If you lived in Hong Kong and watched the HDTV version of Star Wars, you saw the re-mastered high definition version of Star Wars – a truly awesome experience. If you live in Phuket, the UBC TV satellite set-top box – at least, the one that I rent from UBC – doesn't even have a Super VHS plug, much less a set of three composite DVD-quality video plugs.

The video quality of satellite TV in Phuket is limited to a "yellow RCA" video connector, or standard antenna co-ax. Virtually every TV made since the mid-1990s has an SVHS plug. UBC doesn't.

Eagerly anticipating the Star Wars marathon, I fed the co-ax output from my UBC box to my new 27" monitor, and I couldn't bear to look at the result. George Lucas's masterpiece appeared as though it were shot with the lens on a telephone camera.

On that point, David and I agree. Here's where I differ: I've found that downloaded HD videos – TV shows recorded in the US or Europe, or ripped (and most frequently illegal) DVDs offered on the Web – play with astoundingly good quality. All it takes is Windows Media Player 11 under Windows XP or Vista, a hefty video card and a big monitor.

Toss in a great sound system and a bucket of popcorn and a drink, and *Pirates of the Caribbean* will put the swash back in your buckle.

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

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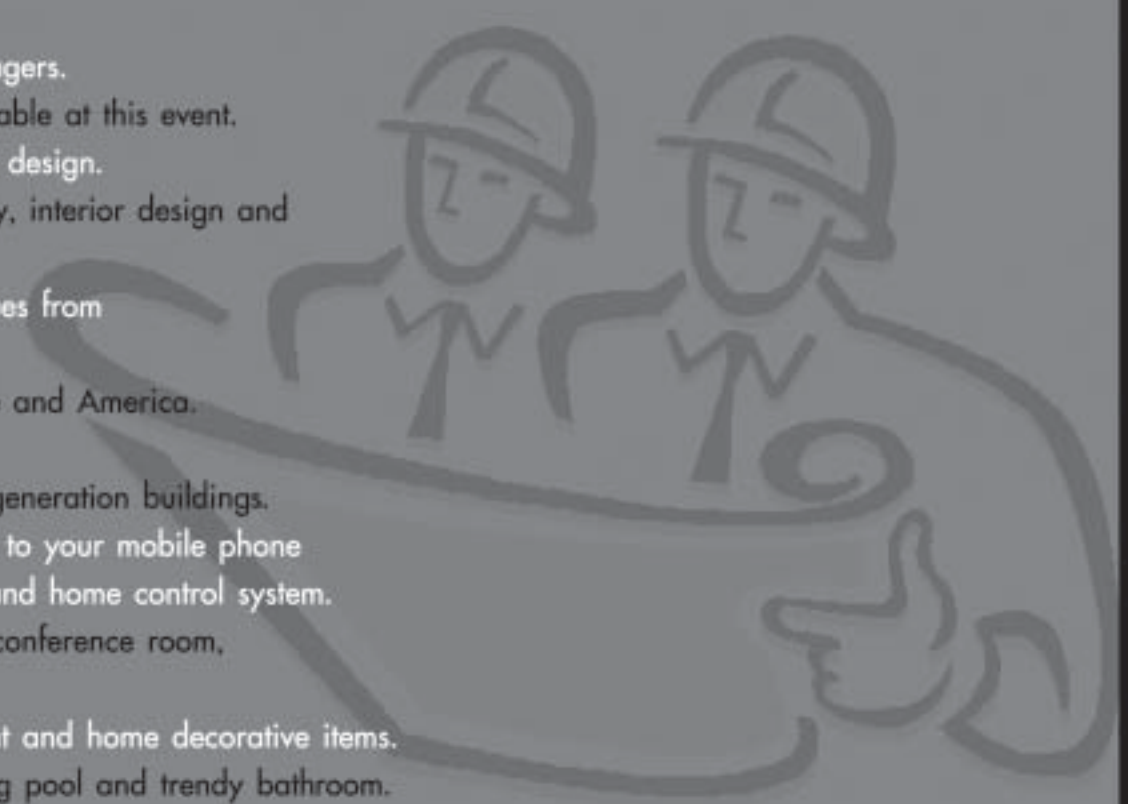
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This week's article will discuss two completely different Fund Management Groups with only one area in common: their head offices, which are in London.

The first group, Matrix Money Management London, has teamed up with Stillwater Capital Partners, a US-based investment house. Stillwater Capital specializes in asset-backed lending and the Matrix Asset-Based 2 Fund invests in a fund of hedge funds employing these strategies.

The fund targets a 10% annualized return with very low volatility in the range of 1-2% annualized. It has a low correlation to equities, bonds and other hedge fund strategies. The fund offers an extremely diversified portfolio with a minimum of 30 underlying managers who, in turn, will be diversified across 30 to 100 positions each. The aim of this strategy is to produce consistent predictable returns.

Asset-backed lending is a relatively new entrant to the hedge fund universe and has virtually nothing in common with most hedge fund strategies. This reflects the reality of how diversified hedge funds can be, with strategies so different that they bear almost no relationship to each other.

Asset-backed lending primarily originates loans to small and medium-sized companies, secured against their assets rather than their operations or future business prospects. These loans are generally secured against a specific asset of the company, which is typically taken outside the corporate structure.

The borrowers generally face a liquidity constraint, which is attributable to the timing of their cash flow needs rather than to any inherent weakness in their underlying business.

Asset-backed lenders are able to negotiate pricing which more than compensates for the risks incurred. Pricing usually includes an attractive margin, which

# Hedging with asset-backed lending

## MONEY TALKS



By Richard G. Watson

is supplemented by fees and floors on floating lending rates.

The diversification of managers and holdings can lead to around 2,000 underlying positions but also achieves a broad exposure to different industry sectors and countries.

Asset-backed lending (ABL) is increasingly being dominated by specialty finance companies like GE Capital and hedge funds as banks are increasingly unwilling to transact in lending facilities of small sizes. Banks are usually lacking in speed and flexibility in this sector. ABL hedge funds are, broadly speaking, ultra-specialized "niche" finance companies that realize the value of originating, warehousing and managing secured loans and cash-flow producing assets.



Students gather in the common room at Swansea College in Wales. But when classes are over for the day, they need somewhere to lay their heads, which is where the Brandeaux Fund makes money for investors.

The Stillwater New Finance Funds, launched in 2004, have never dropped in value and have returned results inside their targeted range. This approach adds diversification to any portfolio.

The second fund management group, Brandeaux, was featured in last week's article with respect to their ground rent funds. However, this is only part of their business; university student accommodation and key person accommodation being their other major areas.

The name Brandeaux has become very well known in the

offshore investment world and is held in very high regard because of the level of consistency of returns to investors.

University student accommodation is a growing market with around 100 universities in the UK and a student population growing at between 3% to 5% a year.

It is at the affluent end of the market that Brandeaux offers accommodation. Brandeaux typically buys residential blocks holding between 200 and 600 beds. These are either in the format of individual self-contained units, similar to a hotel, or a mixture of

self-contained units combined with three- to five-bedroom apartments. One acquisition in 2006 covered 900 beds for students at the University of Birmingham.

The tendency is now for universities to have 50-week scholastic years and there is a very real shortage of quality accommodation in this area. This ensures that the accommodation is virtually fully let – 98% in reality.

University years are broken up into three terms and Brandeaux charge students 50% of the annual fee before the commencement of the first term, 30% before the second term and the balance taken before the third term. The Brandeaux funds that specialize in student accommodation ensure future payment by bank or parental guarantees. Losses are historically only in the range of 1% to 2% per annum and this is catered for in the charging structure. Brandeaux are currently negotiating with four different groups for new student accommodation, two of these are expected to be finalized during June 2007.

The historical returns for the Brandeaux student accommodation fund average an annualized rate of 9.36% and in the latest 12 months, 10.78%. In addition, Brandeaux offer "mixed" funds which consist of 65% ground rent, 30% student accommodation and 5% key personnel accommodation. These funds are available in three currency classes: pound sterling, US dollar and euros and have been very successful. For example, the sterling fund averages and annualized rate of 10.1% and in the latest 12 months, 12.8%.

The demand for student accommodation is driven by the continuing increase in the number of students in higher education and the attraction of the UK as a leading destination for international students. Sector growth, and thus fund performance, is not correlated to the UK economic cycle or to the general UK residential property market.

Brandeaux pre-lets over 50% of its beds to leading UK universities under nomination or lease agreements, which are typically multi-year and allow for annual rental increases at market rates (5%+). Brandeaux now has 30 buildings, purpose-built to a high standard, in 13 cities across the UK.

Brandeaux entered the student accommodation market in the late 1990's. None of its funds have ever reflected negative performance. Its website is: [www.brandeaux.com](http://www.brandeaux.com)

I have written about Brandeaux student accommodation in the past but with its continued, and even improving returns, it is worthy of inclusion here.

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

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## ON THE MOVE



**Dr Krittavith Lertutsahakul** has been appointed managing director of Bangkok Hospital Phuket (BHP) and chief executive officer of Group 4 of the Bangkok Dusit Medical Services Co Ltd, which includes BNH Hospital in Bangkok, Bangkok Hospital Phuket, Bangkok Haad Yai Hospital and Bangkok Hospital Prapadang. He completed medical school at Chulalongkorn University and the Advanced Management Program at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, USA. Before joining BHP, he was hospital director of Samitivej Sukhumvit and Samitivej Srinakarin hospitals in Bangkok.



**Dr Narong Budhraj**, from Bangkok, has joined the Bangkok Hospital Phuket team as the deputy hospital director. A graduate of the Dayanand Medical College in India, he was previously at the Department of Orthopedic Surgery at BMA Medical College and Vachira Hospital in Bangkok, and was a clinical associate at the Department of Orthopedic Surgery, Faculty of Medicine at the University of Hong Kong. Before moving to Phuket he was the director of Bangkok Hospital Samui.



**Scott Mawhinney**, from Canada, has been appointed general manager of the Central Karon Beach Resort. He holds an executive MBA and a degree from Lausanne Hotel School. He has more than 25 years' international experience and is fluent in English, French and Spanish. Mr Mawhinney has eight years' experience with Shangri-la Hotels and Resorts and, before taking up his current post, was the resident manager of Shangri-la's Al Husn A Mascate in Muscat, Oman.

# Jatukham fever shows no sign of breaking

By Sompratch Saowakhon

PHUKET City: Jatukham Ramathep amulets and shops that sell them seem to be springing up all over Phuket, reflecting the hope that springs eternal among their devotees.

The amulets, priced from 50 baht to several hundred thousand baht, have become the latest craze – not just in Phuket but across the country and even abroad.

Nationwide, the business was estimated to be worth 20 billion baht in 2006, according to research by Kasikorn Research Center.

Shops selling the Jatukham amulets have been operating in Phuket for more than a decade, but it is only in the past several months that the number and visibility of these shops has skyrocketed, following a spate of media reports about the amulets.

In the past two or three months alone, between 10 and 20 new amulet shops and stalls have opened across Phuket, said Panya Ruengsawang, owner of one of the oldest Jatukham shops in Phuket City, on Rassada Rd near the Suriyadet Circle.

He estimates that about one million baht exchanges hands every day in Phuket's Jatukham trade.

"When I started my shop in 1993 there were no more than



**Panya Ruengsawang (left)**, owner of a Jatukham amulet shop in Phuket City, discusses amulets with a customer.

three amulet shops in Phuket to serve amulet lovers. However, in the past year Phuket has seen at least 10 new shops. During the most recent Jatukham boom over the past two or three months, another 10 to 20 amulet shops have opened," said K. Panya, 55.

Originally from Nakhon Sri Thammarat, the amulets are believed to bring good luck and business prosperity, which is why younger people and business owners are buying them, K. Panya said.

"It used to be that our customers were mostly older folks, but now we have more working men and women, along with teenagers, buying amulets. The local interest in Jatukham amulets has definitely been brought on by the

national craze," he said.

"We also have a lot of international business owners who want to take the Jatukham amulets home with them, so they are buying amulets as well. The prices are going up so quickly that sometimes I reserve a top amulet for about 100,000 baht, but before I can even put it in the customers hands the price goes up to 300,000 baht.

"The most sought-after type of Jatukham are of the original Jatukham *Hluk Mueng* series, produced at Wat Mahatat in

1987. Prices for these generally start at 400,000 to 500,000 per amulet because they are so difficult to find now. The Jatukham *Kod Sed Thee* (Megarich) is also very popular, especially in Singapore and neighboring countries. Those can fetch between 60,000 and 80,000 baht each."

The boom in amulet shops in Phuket is helping K Panya's shop. Although there are fewer customers, they are buying more expensive amulets.

"I don't have as many customers as I used to because there are so many shops to choose from now," he said. "I used to turn a profit of 800 to 2,000 baht per day, but since the Jatukham boom started three months ago, my profit jumped to 4,000 to 6,000 baht per day. Some shops have more than 10,000 baht per day profit."

K. Panya said that he expects the prices, and profits, from Jatukham amulets to continue to increase in Phuket, especially if

more miracles are attributed to them in the media.

With so many people getting in on the Jatukham bandwagon, perhaps it should come as little surprise that the government is seeking for ways to get its share of the spoils.

In late April, Revenue Department Director-General Sanit Rangnoi said the department was sending officials to check the estimated income from Jatukham transactions and was considering whether to tax enterprises related to the soaring sales of the amulets.

"There is a tremendous amount of money floating around in the amulet market. If the production of the talismans is for commercial purposes, it should be taxed. If the production is done purely out of faith, it may be exempt," he said.

Thus far there has been no announcement that the Revenue Department was planning to move forward with the tax.

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# Minx makes it look easy

By Chris Husted

AO CHALONG: Kevin Gillow and his crew on *Minx* led the fleet from start to finish in Race 5 of the Ao Chalong Yacht Club (ACYC) Keelboat and Multihull Race Series 2007 on June 10, putting them in the top spot overall in the Racing class.

*Minx* taking line honors was in no small part thanks to crewman Rob Taylor, whose outstanding effort in preparing the yacht for the race won him the Image Asia Encouragement award.

Nick Band, usually on Emerald Blue, finished in second place in the Racing class on his new yacht *Wind Song*, followed by Nigel Beare on *Fidji*.

Day sponsor Harry and Susan "Lady Pie" Usher on *Eos* won the Cruising class ahead of Tony Swain Dudman on *Onyx* and his crew of more than 20.

Tony Merrett finished third in the class on his former Yacht-pro Hunter 31 *Wild Orchid*.

With Phuket's fleet of Firefly 850s still en route back from the Koh Samui International Regatta, Bob Brindley on *Xcatriot* was the only multihull racing on the bay, and took top honors with a cruise around the course.

At Samui, *Voodoo Child* won first place in the regatta's



Mamba (left) takes on fellow Phuket yacht The Frog in the inaugural Firefly 850 class at the Koh Samui International Regatta. – Photo by Martyn Goodacre for Image Asia Events.

inaugural Firefly 850 class with Firefly designer Mark Pescott as skipper and a Samui crew.

Phuket's Henry Kaye on *Mamba* finished second overall with fellow Phuket sailors Roger Kingdon on *Moto Inzi* finishing in third place and Chris Jongerius on *The Frog* finishing fourth.

Other Phuket yachts that sailed well at Samui were Ben Copely's *Asia Spirit*, which finished third in the IRC1 class, followed by David Lindahl's *La Samudra* in fourth place.

The next ACYC race day will be June 24. "Skipper's briefing will be at 10:30 am followed

by a midday start. We're starting a little later as the southwest winds have arrived and we now have better breeze in the late afternoon," said Tony Knight of the ACYC.

All are welcome to join. For more information call Tony at 081-7470087.

## B100,000 up for grabs in Municipality Cup

SAPHAN HIN: While it's too late to sign teams up for the Phuket City Municipality Soccer Cup competition, it's not too late to go cheer on your favorite tambon or district as 16 teams from Phuket compete for 100,000 baht in prizes.

The competition, being held from June 19 to July 8 at Saphan Hin Sports Center, is sponsored by Phuket City Municipality offices in an effort to increase awareness of sports for youths and adults in Phuket and to encourage people to respect municipality policy.

The top three teams will receive trophies and awards of 50,000 baht for first place, 30,000 baht for second place and 15,000 baht for finishing third.

The games will kick off at 4 pm June 19 and will be played every day.

For updates and the full schedule, call the Phuket City Municipality Youth Center at 076-250163, 076-216866 or 089-2929271 during office hours.



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## Futsal victory is sweet for the Sweet Suns

PHUKET CITY: Tawanwhan ("Sweet Sun") beat Phuket Central Tour 3-0 on June 10 to win the Open division of Phuket's inaugural Futsal Club Tournament.

About 500 people were on hand for the final matches of the Under-16, Over-35 and Open divisions. During the tournament 84 teams took to the court at Saphan Hin for five-a-side play.

The tournament, which has been held at Saphan Hin every Saturday and Sunday since May 19, was sponsored by the local Young Turks political party.

Tawanwhan won 20,000 baht for their efforts, Phuket Central Tour receiving 10,000 baht.

Ratchawit team, which finished third in the division, received 5,000 baht.

In the Under-16 event, Plookpanya School beat Aod Lottery team 6-4 in the final to receive the 5,000-baht first-place prize. Aod Lottery received 3,000 baht.



Tawanwhan (in red strip) make another charge during their final against Phuket Central Tour.

FC Copper team received 2,000 baht for finishing third in the division.

Reporter's Club thrashed Master Bush 7-3 in the Over-35 final to win the 15,000 baht top prize. Master Bush received 8,000 baht for finishing second. Dusit A team received 4,000 baht for finishing third.

## TriBallistic comes to a close

MAI KHAO: The final triathlon in the SILK TriBallistic series 2006-2007 will be held June 23, followed by the awards ceremony to name the Junior and Senior Champions from the race series.

The sixth race in the family-oriented triathlon series will be a reverse triathlon, and will be run in three lengths – Splash 'n' Dash, Junior and Senior.

The Splash 'n' Dash will have a 750-meter run, 3-kilometer bike ride and 50m swim. Junior division will have a 1.5km run, 6km bike and 250m swim, while the Senior route will include a 5km run, 20km bike and 350m swim. Registration will start at 7 am and races will begin at 8 am.

Entry costs 1,500 baht per team, 1,200 baht per person for the senior division, and 1,000 baht

per Splash 'n' Dash Junior entrant.

The race will be followed by an awards ceremony at the Silk Bar and Restaurant at Surin Plaza from 6 pm to 9 pm, when the Junior and Senior series champions will be announced.

The Junior winner will receive a triathlon bike, and the Senior winner will receive a three-day triathlon training camp with Team TBB, the professional team based at the Boat Lagoon and Bor Saen Villas in Phang Nga.

Tickets for the dinner (750 baht for adults and 500 baht for kids) are available from organizer Hugo Jones or from Silk.

For more information call Hugo Jones at 081-0782024, or email: info@triballisticclub.com or visit www.triballisticclub.com

## PATONG DARTS LEAGUE

### Shakers fail to lick Dog's Bollocks

PATONG: With play in the league reaching the half-way mark, Dog's Bollocks look to be in a strong position to take their first-ever title after taking all three points on the road at Shakers.

Meantime, defending champions Piccadilly scraped by Offshore at home, 5-4. Jeff, paired with Dave, threw the winning dart in the second doubles match.

Offshore came back to take the beer leg and they now sit tied for second with Shakers, both five points behind Dog's Bollocks.

In other matches, Queen Mary snatched all three points against Valhalla, while Beach House whitewashed Simply Red – but then managed to drop the beer leg.

**June 5 results:** Piccadilly 5 Offshore\* 4; Shakers 2 Dog's Bollocks\* 7; Valhalla 3 Queen Mary\* 6; Beach House 9 Simply Red\* 0 (\* winner of beer leg).

**Standings:** 1. Dog's Bollocks (19 pts.); 2.= Shakers, Offshore (14); 4. Queen Mary (12); 5. Piccadilly (11); 6. Beach House (8); 7. Simply Red (4); 8. Valhalla (2).

**June 19 matchups:** Dog's Bollocks v Piccadilly; Beach House v Queen Mary; Offshore v Shakers; Valhalla and Simply Red = byes (home team first).

Send reports of 180s, high-closes and so on to: darts@phuketgazette.net

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# Sawasdee aims for 2010 completion

**S**awasdee Residence, a residential villa development in the foothills north of Patong, has begun building its first display home with the aim of completing the development by 2010.

Close to the heart of Patong but far enough to avoid the traffic and noise, the luxury pool villa development by Thai developer Sawasdee Residence Co Ltd has launched its project on 10 rai on the east side of Phra Barami Rd.

Pawat Nisagorn, a member of the developer's committee, told the *Gazette* that Sawasdee Residence has been a long time coming, but developers now think the project will be completed by 2010.

The development will have 25 three- and four-bedroom pool villas surrounded by gardens. Three villa designs are available – types A, B and C – but they are all two-story, single-pool villas on plots ranging from 384 to 600 square meters. Prices will range from nine to 15 million



Computer-generated impression of one of the homes in the Sawasdee Residence project near Patong.

baht; three of the units have been sold.

"We started our project in

2005, but we officially launched it in December last year. Now we are constructing a B-type show

home, which is expected to be completed within the next three months. We will start the C- and A-type show homes around October. We expect that the project will be completed within three years."

"The property market is slowing down, especially in developments that are not located in seaview locations.

"For us I think that when the show homes are finished, they will help our market run easier," K. Pawat said.

"Our B-type show home will take about three more months to complete because we would like to have the best interior detail.

"With the premium-grade materials and luxury design, I think it's a good value for the price," he added.

Each of the 10 A-type villas will have three bedrooms and three bathrooms. On the ground floor, the living and dining room will be connected, but the main kitchen and a Thai kitchen will be separate.

There will also be a washing room, a maid's room and a carport for two cars. Total usable

area for A-type villas is 336sqm, including an infinity-edge swimming pool measuring 3.8 meters by 7.4m.

The B-type villas will have four bedrooms and four bathrooms, with 359sqm of usable space.

While B-types have a similar design to the A-type villas, the fourth bedroom will be on the ground floor with bay windows looking out over the private pool. There will be eight B-type villas in the project.

C-type villas will be the smallest of the three types, with three bedrooms and three bathrooms and a total of 280sqm usable space plus a 15sqm pool. The project will include eight of these units.

"The location of the project is a big selling point because it is so close to Phuket City and yet has easy access to Patong, which makes it very convenient for businesspeople who do business in both Patong and in town, and who want to have access to the city's facilities," K. Pawat said.

"The villa's design is a mix of modern and contemporary design, since we didn't want to have the Thai-style design seen in so many projects."

Asked about the intended customers for the villas, K. Pawat said, "Although our project has a luxury living resort theme, we also aim to attract Thai customers, which I think we will be able to do because the prices are affordable for people in Phuket.

"For foreigners, all buying and selling conditions will follow Thai law," he said.

The project's architect is Somchai Tiatrakul from Triaxial Co Ltd, an experienced Thai architect. The construction contractor is Phuket-based Trimitr Engineering Co Ltd.

For more information contact Sawasdee Residence sales office at 47/14 Phra Barami Rd. Tel: 076-203501-2. Fax: 076-203 503. Email: sawasdee.pk@gmail.com Website: www.sawasdeeresidence.com

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## Home of the Week

## Natai Beach



The exposed timbers and makha wood highlights give the impression of being on an old ship, yet the home exudes a modern, stylish feel throughout.

# Worth the drive

A modern, two-story house near Natai Beach, Phang Nga, is waiting for new owners. The house is three kilometers north of the Sarasin Bridge and a couple minutes' drive from Natai Beach, with its five-star resorts, including the Aleenta Resort and Spa.

Outside, the carport is large enough to hold two cars while the 7.5-meter-by-10m pond, two terrace areas, sala and swimming pool together make for a relaxing and spacious yard. Well thought-out lighting highlights these features and gives the house a modern stylish look at night.

The main entrance leads to the large living room, with large windows and sliding glass doors adding to the impression of space. Underfoot are white Cotto ceramic tiles while overhead are exposed timber beams evoking the sense that one is on board a ship.

Through glass doors and down a hallway are the kitchen and adjoining dining room. At the end of the U-shaped, black granite worktop that forms the preparation area is the circular breakfast bar that is the centerpiece of the kitchen.

Adding to the modern look are the ceramic and gas oven, built-in microwave, decorative hood and washing machine all finished in stainless steel. The wall around the food preparation area and sink is lined with dark blue handmade ceramic tiles and features a double-door serving window.

Back down the hallway is the 4.5m-by-5m study with stylish black ceramic floor tiles. The study has a large L-shaped desk and set of table and chairs forming a coffee nook. Offering the ideal view for pensive moments of reflection, the sliding glass doors look out over the deck and the pond.

Other rooms on the ground floor include a separate laundry and a guest toilet with handmade ceramic floor tiles and natural stone wall tiles.

Up the open makha-wood stairs are two bedrooms. The master bedroom, measuring 4.2m by 6m and located at the rear of the house, overlooks the garden, pond, sala and swimming pool. This bedroom, with a makha wood floor, has a 3.2m-by-4.5m adjoining dressing room with large fitted bamboo wardrobes, en-suite bathroom with Jacuzzi, and a balcony.

The bathroom has black slate floor tiles and natural-stone tiled walls.

The second bedroom, measuring 25 square meters, also has an en-suite bathroom finished to the same standard and includes bamboo fitted wardrobes.

The highlight of the upper floor is a terrace area with sea views. All swinging doors are made of teak and are either solid panel or louver with clear stain.

The kitchen, bathrooms and all wardrobes are fully fitted with quality fixtures. The home comes with built-in furniture, two Sony LCD TVs and two sets of home theater equipment already installed. All furniture in the villa is included in the 30-million-baht asking price.

The property is available with freehold title.

For more information or to arrange a viewing contact Morna Mackintosh at CB Richard Ellis at Tel: 085-782 9544 or Email [morna.mackintosh@cbre.com](mailto:morna.mackintosh@cbre.com)

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## Gardening

by Bloomin' Bert

# A Brief History of Gardening

I get bored with 'experts'. Far too full of their own importance for my liking. They're just so... well... smug. These people are interviewed on television and appear in the newspapers espousing their supposedly irrefutable views on the most bizarre of subjects.

Then someone else with an equally silly haircut and 1960's National Health Service spectacles (not an attractive look) will come along and proclaim that actually they'd gotten it all wrong and that you should ignore everything previously mentioned on the subject and start again.

Salt is a good example. For years, salt was considered to be an essential part of the human diet. Then one of those scientist types appeared on the scene, shoved a few pounds of salt down a rat's throat. The rat didn't take too kindly to this, and died.

The conclusion was obvious – salt was deadly. It gained 'evil' status overnight, and the Western world was told that should we consume too much salt in our diets, that imminent death was in-

evitable. So we stopped eating the stuff. Food, as a result, is boring.

Interesting experts are few and far between. They all seem to want to do their best to behave like those polo-necked, Arransweatered chaps that appeared late night on BBC2 in the UK back in the '60s and '70s when Open University used to broadcast in black and white. They just seemed so obsessed with their charts and algorithms.

These late-night feasts were entertaining in themselves for a maximum of about five minutes after staggering home from the pub, insisting on a little televisual stimulation. The problem was that once that time had elapsed, you just wanted to throttle them and bring at least a little excitement into their monochrome lives.

Today's most exciting scientist is the one with the least in physical personality, ironically enough. Stephen Hawking. He's brilliant. He doesn't have a wacky haircut or a spotty bow tie; he just sits there and explains things in a way that even I sometimes understand.



The pina, later renamed pineapple, is one of the many non-indigenous plants transplanted from its native land to a prodigious number of disparate locales, including Thailand. Also, it looks pretty.

Photo by David Monniaux

He may not be able to talk in the same way that many of us do, but he has a knack of making even those obscure subjects that many of us would runaway screaming from rather interest-

ing, especially in his book *A Brief History of Time*. I have to say that I agree with the proposition that the unassailable *sine qua non* for a quantum physicist is that the quintessential homogeneity of Hawking's theory should not be entirely challenged by academic empiricists in absentia.

No, I haven't read it.

And so we move inevitably into things green and tropical. How about *A Brief History of Gardening* instead? Well, tropical gardening actually. There's little point in droning on about tulips and crocuses, when they're much more at home poking their heads through a blanket of frost.

Anyway, most people will know the story of Captain William Bligh, and the Fletcher Christian-led mutiny on board *HMS Bounty*. Perhaps fewer people are familiar with why he went to Tahiti in the first place and why a mutiny, once he left the island, was fairly inevitable.

He was sent there by a wealthy 18<sup>th</sup> century botanist, Joseph Banks, to collect 1,000 seedlings of a local version of the breadfruit to transport them to the West Indies to feed slaves working on the plantations.

It took almost five months for the seedlings to be ready to be transported, and during this time the sailors had become somewhat fond of the Tahitian ladies. In fact, a writer at the time claimed that "every man had his girl". I can't blame Mr Christian for being a bit miffed at being told they had to move on. As it happens, Captain Bligh did actually deliver the breadfruit seedlings to the West Indies a few years later – but the slaves didn't like it.

Captain Bligh and his merry men weren't the only ones to move plants around the globe in years gone by. On a visit to Guadeloupe, Christopher Columbus was given a weird-looking cone-shaped fruit. The Spanish visitors thought it looked a bit like

a pine cone, so they called it a *pina*.

It later became known as the pineapple and found its way to many other tropical parts of the world including Madagascar, India and Hawaii where it was cultivated and became hugely popular. Today, most pineapples come from the Philippines, Malaysia and here in Thailand.

Columbus also 'discovered' the *capsicum*, or chili pepper. Bizarrely, the first seeds he sent back to Europe weren't even used to grow plants to season food; people liked the look of the bright red and orange fruits, and used them for decoration. Very odd. They became so popular in Asia that their Mexican/ South American origins were probably forgotten quite quickly.

Then there are the plants that made it overseas not because they were worth anything commercially, but people simply liked the look of them. The *cordyline*, or ti plant, for example doesn't do much apart from looking good. In fact, early Polynesian visitors to Hawaii found it so impressive that they wove the leaves into *leis* for their priests.

The 'experts' in the world of gardening will put forward a whole list of reasons as to why we have the plants we have in our corner of the globe. Most of them spout twaddle – they're here because our forefathers either thought that they could make money out of them or they looked good. Or both. Simple.

Unfortunately, my 'brief history of gardening' hasn't been as brief as intended; in fact I think I'll need to continue this at a later date. Now where did I put my spotted bow tie?

Want to know more about a plant in your garden? Email Bloomin' Bert at: [bert@bloominbert.com](mailto:bert@bloominbert.com)



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Looking at the current phenomenal regional expansion of Asian low-cost airlines (LCCs) such as Air Asia, Nok Air, Tiger and Jet Star, the question that always comes up is just how much more market demand can they generate? Is it a fad or is the face of travel evolving into uncharted territory?

According to several local developers, one key trend that is emerging is that the door-to-door access provided by the regional LCC's is becoming a significant factor in new property transactions.

Regional aviation analysts are quick to point out that comparisons between the US, Europe and Asia in terms of air travel are not always relevant. Whereas road and rail links within the US and Europe are prevalent ways to travel, in Asia the airways are the "roadways" between key cities and countries. Let's face it, not many people will be driving to Hong Kong or Bali on their next holiday.

Developing Asian countries with such enormous populations often leapfrog even Western countries in new technology or trends simply by means of economies of scale.

A case in point is the mobile phone boom in India, where there are hundreds of millions of potential users, it is faster to install modern mobile networks than traditional land lines to keep up with the demand. The same could easily be said for aviation in Asia which is home to half the world's population.

One of the best case studies of the LCC's has been Air Asia from Malaysia. Coming with a bold Internet booking strategy, providing limited services (with options on a per pay basis) the airline by June 2006 had flown

# Low-cost travel is a boon for developers

more than 9 million passengers with just 40 aircraft.

It expects to have nearly 100 aircraft in the skies by 2010 and AirAsia.com is ranked by Google as the No 1 travel site in Asia.

The direct customer approach in booking with the airline and not travel agents, offering lower prices and flexible rates that offer nearly anyone the option of overseas travel is changing the face of the industry.

With the Asian economies currently growing and the emergence of a larger middle class, the region's LCCs are able to service strategic markets, such as China, India, Thailand, Malaysia, the Philippines and Indonesia.

While LCCs are often construed to cater only to those without money, the fact is that it creates more frequent travel among a larger market of travelers. It's cheaper for someone who is Singapore-based to fly to Phuket than to spend a week-end in, say, Bintan.

Backed by the use of new airplanes and easy web-based reservations, you can plan an international trip with a few clicks of your computer mouse. The impact this increase in airplane seats has on tourism to a market such as Phuket is significant.

One of the key demand drivers for property is return tourists, who make repeat visits to the island and ultimately end up buying a villa or condo here. In a destination resort such as Laguna Phuket, which has strong



Air Asia's first Hotel Tune has opened in Kuala Lumpur.

brand equity, a large portion of their residential buyers are guests who have stayed at the resort many times for years. It's a simple equation: the more tourism grows, the greater the impact on property sales.

An interesting development of the LCC's growth is that these carriers are now entering the hotel market. EasyJet has started a hotel brand and now Air Asia has launched Tune Hotels.

In what's bound to raise eyebrows and perhaps cause a few hotel chains to rethink the way they do business, are the innovations of the product. Selling rooms the same as airline seats, direct, prepaid and rates vary depending on how far in advance you book.

Services have been stripped down to offer only a basic room, TV and bathroom, with extras such as air-conditioning and a

towel charged if they are requested. There are no phones in the room as they presume everyone already carries a mobile.

Hotel lobby space is leased-out retail space to a convenience shop. Housekeeping and maintenance are outsourced and the average number of staff for a single property is 10. While not suitable for everyone, the product allows a wider range – and a greater number – of people to get on an airplane and have affordable holidays abroad.

Tune has opened its first hotel in Kuala Lumpur and has another 10 under development at locations the airline flies to.

However, the jury is still out on the long-term viability of the LCCs both here and worldwide. In the past, airlines have followed cyclical trends, but as technology changes new startups such as these seem to be able to embrace it and introduce new products at a rate much faster than legacy carriers.

On a recent flight on Tiger Airways from Singapore, I was startled to see business travelers and affluent local residents in greater numbers than I have ever seen before.

For the property development business in Phuket and beyond, the LCCs are going to change the way we see our market for a very long time.

## PROPERTY WATCH

By Bill Barnett



Bill Barnett is Managing Director of C9 Hotelworks (c9hotelworks.com), a Phuket-based hotel and residential property consulting firm. With more than 20 years' experience in the region, he has played an active role in some of the island's biggest developments.

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# Property Gazette

## Properties For Sale

### LUXURY VILLA NATAI BEACH



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>

### HOUSE FOR SALE

Beautiful Sino-Portuguese house in center of Phuket Town. Already restored, ideal for restaurant, guesthouse or business. Tel: 081-9700121. Email: tikky2@mac.com

### LAND IN KAMALA

All with Chanote. 55 rai in the most exclusive area near Kamala center on flat land at 8.5 million baht per rai. Also, 6 rai with good sea view at 6 million baht per rai. 20 rai with best sea view in Kamala at 6 million baht per rai. Tel: 086-2742308. Email: kim@kamalafalls.com

### 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.phuket-besthomes.com](http://www.phuket-besthomes.com)

### CHALONG HOUSE



for sale or rent 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, aircon, dressing room and bathroom with Jacuzzi). Price: 6.9 million baht. Please call for details. Tel: 081-5693890.

### URGENT SALE

House in Thalang near Mission Hills golf course, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms on 3.5 rai of land. Price: 12 million baht. Tel: 089-7298365

### 4 RAI CHANOTE LAND

Private access, two houses, underground infrastructure, stream, orchard. 7.5 million baht. Tel: 086-4705809.

### RAWAI BEACH

condo. Sea view, foreign freehold. 550,000 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@thaisunshine.com](mailto:admin@thaisunshine.com)

### BEACHFRONT POOL

house. 3/4 bedrooms from only 8 million baht. For more info, please email: [admin@thaisunshine.com](mailto:admin@thaisunshine.com)

### LAND FOR SALE

25 talang wah: 800,000 baht. 80 talang wah: 1.5 million baht. 90 talang wah: 1.8 million baht. With title deeds and close to Nai Ham Beach. Tel: 081-8921057. Email: [angela\\_prajantabut@hotmail.com](mailto:angela_prajantabut@hotmail.com)

### 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, price 35 million baht. Contact for more information. Tel: 087-6050365. Email: [kim.wuzzup@gmail.com](mailto:kim.wuzzup@gmail.com)

### 3-FLOOR PATONG

shophouse. Best location, 100 meters to the beach. Built-up area: 270 sqm. Ground floor: restaurant with new, fully equipped kitchen, WC, aircon, ADSL Internet. 1st floor: 2 bedrooms, teak wood 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.

### PATONG SEA VIEW

in north Patong. Top-floor, freehold, 2-bedroom apartment with pool. Price: 9.7 million baht. Please contact for photos and full details at Tel: 086-2765117. Email: [jihshand@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jihshand@yahoo.co.uk)

### 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: [kunraf@hotmail.com](mailto:kunraf@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>



### 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 0.5 million baht for the first-floor apartment. Please contact Ann 66 81 868 7676

### KAMALA NEW VILLA



for sale/rent, 4 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, 2-car garage. Studio apartment: 370sqm. Land: 750sqm. Price: 16.5 million baht. Call Boomer. Tel: 086-2878966.

### 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)

### 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.phuket-besthomes.com](http://www.phuket-besthomes.com) for more information.

### 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](mailto:herbert.eisenberg@gmail.com) For further details, please see our website at <http://eisrawai.wetpaint.com/page/Phuket+Townhouse>

### OCEANVIEW

land plots. Bang Tao. Fantastic ocean and Bang Tao view plots, 3-phase electricity, road access. Tel: 089-5903665, 089-5903665. Email: [bannuaton@yahoo.com](mailto:bannuaton@yahoo.com)

### BEAUTIFUL NAI HARN



3 bedrooms and 3 ensuite bathrooms in a private walled villa 2 minutes from Nai Harn Beach. Quality building and finishing by one of Phuket's finest developers. Fully furnished with Internet, UBC, 42" wall-mounted LCD TV. Laundry, storage, infinity pool and everything else you would expect with a quality home. Ready to move in. 390sqm, quiet location, hill views. NEW home. 14.2 million baht. Call Tel: 087-2982028. Email: [timothy.ross@financialadvice.com.sg](mailto:timothy.ross@financialadvice.com.sg)

### CONDO FOR SALE

Renovated Rawai condo, furnished, aircon, TV, freehold. Price: 700,000 baht. Contact Tel: 084-1899868.

### PATONG HOUSE

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, sitting room, kitchen. Corner plot, 2 stories. 24 talang wah. Chanote title. Tel: 076-296541, 089-7298852.

### PATONG CONDO FOR

sale or rent. Fully furnished, recently decorated. Two mins walk from the beach. Quiet location. 56 sqm. For sale at 2.2 million baht, or rental at 16,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-344080, 087-9362514. Email: [jimbeckett41@hotmail.com](mailto:jimbeckett41@hotmail.com)

### RESORT ON PHI PHI

18-room resort on Phi Phi. 5 rai of land. 15 years remaining on lease. Lots of space for expansion. Contact for further details. Tel: 081-7193375. Email: [precarious\\_phil@hotmail.com](mailto:precarious_phil@hotmail.com)

### SHOCK! 5MIL NOW 3.99 MIL

NEW home, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 carports. 250 meters to the beach. Tel: 089-7830494. Email: [jimcox007@msn.com](mailto:jimcox007@msn.com)

## 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 shower rooms 3 telephone lines and 4 aircon. Good location opposite lotus. Its a corner unit lead 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

### RAWAI POOL VILLA

4-bedroom, 4-bath pool villa with 5 rentable bungalows. Fully furnished. Email: [mike.smith2000@runbox.com](mailto:mike.smith2000@runbox.com) For further details, please see our website at [http://www.andamanthaiproperty.com/atp\\_property\\_486.htm](http://www.andamanthaiproperty.com/atp_property_486.htm)

### URGENT SALE

Khao Lak. Bang Niang bungalow-apartment-resort. 8 bungalows with 2 rooms + 2 bungalows with 3 rooms. 6x12 meter swimming pool. Sauna and Jacuzzi. Restaurant. All rooms with airconditioning, color TV, DVD player, and Internet with ADSL. Parking. Price: 9 million baht. Tel: 076-346065, 081-8914844. Email: [joerg@phuket.ksc.co.th](mailto:joerg@phuket.ksc.co.th)

### HOUSE FOR SALE

Soi Namtok in Kathu, 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, aircon, kitchen. Price: 880,000 baht. Tel: 089-8728188.

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# Property Gazette

## UNIQUE POOL VILLA



Simply place a deposit on this well-designed, Thai-style pool villa at Tewana Village in Chalong now, and choose your own materials for kitchen, bath, pool, etc to make it truly your own. Due for completion in August, this 3-bedroom, 3-bathroom villa has a large curved pool and separate guest sala. 240sqm of living space on a 400 sqm Chanote land plot with jungle views. Western management. Just minutes to Central or the beach. Freehold or leasehold. Price: 8.5 million baht. But hurry, there's only one! Sole Agent: Tewana Village. Tel: 089-5930986. Email: tewanavillage@gmail.com

## LUXURY IN NAI HARN



New luxury detached villa with private swimming pool - 2 minutes from Phuket's best beach. Set in a quiet and prestigious location in the southwest of Phuket. Offers complete privacy on a level plot of land. Four bedrooms (all en-suite), lounge/kitchen. Private swimming pool with outdoor shower/bathroom. Double garage. Built by a renowned local developer and fully furnished to an exceptional standard. Ready to move in. 21.5 million baht. Tel: 087-2982028. Email: timothy.ross@financialadvice.com.sg

## AO POR LAND URGENT SALE



150rai, Chanote, panoramic sea view. From 2.3 million baht per rai. Contact for more information. Tel: 081-5597456. Email: se\_rim@hotmail.com

## 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\_leane@yahoo.com

## LAND FOR SALE



or long-term lease at Khao Rang Hill. By the main road on left-hand side on the way up to the hill. 2 rai, 1 ngan. Good location for running a business in town. Spa, hotel, office, condo, school, etc. Call Tel: 084-5091452, 087-5911840.

## 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 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)

## 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.wetpaint.com/>

## 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

## RAWAI POOL VILLAS

Two 2-bedroom pool villas for sale at 6.5 million baht each. Tel: 081-8953979. Email: bdandy@tttmaxnet.com or for further details and info, please see our website at <http://poolvilla.wetpaint.com/>

## PATONG TOWER

condo. Sea view, 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

## HOUSE WITH POOL

2 levels, 3 bedrooms, large living room, 2 bathrooms. Price: 4.6 million baht. Tel: 084-8516121.

## PHUKET PALACE

condo. New re-fit, fully fitted and furnished. Large swimming pool with waterfall, carpark. Price: 3.6 million baht. Call Tel: 087-2650118 or email: ant\_p\_clark@yahoo.co.uk

## 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

## 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

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## BEAUTIFUL HOUSE FOR SALE

51.47sqm, in Chanakran Property Village, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Behind TOT Public Co Ltd (Chalong). The house is under construction and will be ready within one month. Price: 3.9 million baht. Please call for more details. Tel: 081-9562406.

## 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

## 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.

## 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

## 2 STORY HOUSE PHUKET TOWN

5m x 20m, Soi Romanee. Price: 3.8 million baht. Contact Tel: 084-0577505.

## 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

## CONDO FOR SALE

Renovated Rawai condo, furnished, aircon, TV, freehold. Price: 700,000 baht. Contact Tel: 084-1899868.

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# Property Gazette

## LUXURY VILLAS



Close to Laguna. Best negotiable price. Brand new. 1,100sqm land, 4 bedrooms, pool, lotus pond & garden. Contact K.Gai. Tel: 081-7344324. For more information please see our website at [www.phuketgreenlandvillas.com](http://www.phuketgreenlandvillas.com)

## 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.

## 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 at Tel: 081-5395317, 086-6890769.

## 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](mailto:mrsouza@hotmail.com) More photos and details can be found at our website: [www.phuketdreamhome.com](http://www.phuketdreamhome.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](mailto:slees@slees.com)

### HOUSE FOR RENT

Furnished, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, cable TV, ADSL. Price: 18,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-9732917.

### NEW CHALONG HOME

Furnished, 2-bedroom home for rent with telephone, UBC, and aircon. Please contact for details and pricing information. Tel: 089-6521473.

### BEAUTIFUL 2 BEDROOM FLAT

Beautiful, fully furnished. Fully-equipped Western kitchen. Air conditioning throughout. Private access to swimming pool. Elevated view of Patong. Quiet and secure. Rental price includes water and UBC TV. Email: [simon@coppingerproperties.com](mailto:simon@coppingerproperties.com)

### 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.

### RAWAI FLAT

for rent. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, Internet, cable TV, fully furnished. Please contact for more information at Tel: 081-6067410.

### 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 a 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.

### KAMALA BEACH

New apartment and houses for rent or sale, fully furnished. Price: 15,000 - 30,000 baht. Tel: 084-3059606.

### BOAT LAGOON HOUSE

Exclusive, fully furnished, 2-bedroom townhouse. UBC & aircon. 25,000 baht per month. Long-term lease. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-8921732.

### 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 baht/month. Please contact for more information. Tel: 086-2796283.

### WE BUILD YOUR HOUSE

90sqm bungalow. Price: 990,000 baht. 145sqm two-story house. Price: 1.39 million baht. We build you any style of private home or commercial building at any location in Phuket. Contact JN Tech Co Ltd. German construction. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-322015, 084-8528234. Or via email: [info@1nj.de](mailto:info@1nj.de) Visit our website at: [www.1nj.de/e-index.html](http://www.1nj.de/e-index.html)

### 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](mailto:gymworld@loxinfo.co.th)

### 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](mailto:tannynanny@hotmail.com)

### 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](mailto:meeuwissenpaula@hotmail.com)

### SEAVIEW LAND PLOTS

Bang Tao. 3-phase electricity, top sea view. Starting at 3.9 million baht. Contact us for additional details. Tel: 086-267-0157, 089-5903665. Email: [bannuaton@yahoo.com](mailto:bannuaton@yahoo.com)

### KATA APARTMENT

Private, cable TV, furnished. Tel: 076-284065, 081-9704638, 086-5958512.

### 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: [toumiechristian@hotmail.com](mailto:toumiechristian@hotmail.com)

### HOUSES AND CONDO

Two-story 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)

### LAND IN NAI YANG

for sale. Chanote. Near beach. 2 rai: 7 million baht. 1 rai: 3.5 million baht, 6 plots (each 440sqm): 1.5 million baht per plot. Tel: 089-7241140. Email: [nong.phuket@yahoo.de](mailto:nong.phuket@yahoo.de)

### CHEAPEST BEACHFRONT LAND!

1.6 million baht per rai. Will sell from 5 to 22 rai. Contact for additional details. Email: [admin@thaisunshinedevelopments.com](mailto:admin@thaisunshinedevelopments.com)

### 3-STORY SEAVIEW

home with 6 rooms, 2 balconies, 4 bathrooms. 9.7 million baht. Rooftop Jacuzzi. In Rawai/Nai Harn area. Call Tel: 085-7955383.

### 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: [djudges@hotmail.com](mailto:djudges@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](mailto:shd1@planet.nl) or visit our site: <http://home.planet.nl/~duang000/house.htm>

### LAND FOR SALE

9 rai for sale at Pasak Soi 8, Cherng 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](mailto:heypiassy@hotmail.com)

### NEW HOUSE FOR SALE

in Thantong Villa 7. Townhouse with 2 floors, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms on Chao Fa East Rd opposite Villa California. Price: 1.9 million baht. Contact Khun Jeab. Tel: 084-6890760. Email: [a\\_manasanan@hotmail.com](mailto:a_manasanan@hotmail.com)

Would you like to keep up on what's happening in Phuket - the good, the bad and the bizarre? Let us share it with you - every week!

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# Property Gazette

## BALI-STYLE JUNGLE HOMES



Live in the cooler mountain air at Tewana Village, Chalong. Just minutes to the beach or Central, our jungle-setting cottages and great design make for a perfect hideaway. One furnished double bedroom, Bali-style bathroom, kitchen, living room and terrace costs as little as 16,000 baht per month. Call Tewana Village. Tel: 089-5930986. Email: [tewanavillage@gmail.com](mailto:tewanavillage@gmail.com)

## CONDO FOR RENT

Rawai location. Renovated, aircon, cable TV, small kitchen. Price: 4,500 baht. Tel: 084-1899868.

## 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.

## RAWAI, NAI HARN

Large luxury house for sale. 6 bedrooms, 7 bathrooms, large swimming pool and lake, big garden, large outside living area. 65,000 baht per month. Minimum 1-year, up to 30-year lease. Sale price: 15 million baht. No agents. Tel: 081-3971835.

## HOUSE FOR RENT

at Land & Houses Chalong. By the lake. New house, 3 bedrooms, fully furnished, aircon, UBC, ADSL. Please call Tel: 081-8953649.

## LAGUNA TOWNHOME

3 bedrooms, 400 sqm, garden & lap pool, views of golf course. 85,000 baht per month. Please contact for more information. K. Amber Tel: 0892001681. Email: [aabsxx88@truemail.co.th](mailto:aabsxx88@truemail.co.th)

## PATONG APARTMENTS

Choice of two units at Beverly Hills, both 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, aircon, sat TV, etc. Apartments in lovely condition, in desirable area. Pool-side sea view: 35,000 baht per month, long-term hill view: 25,000 baht per month, longterm. Contact Kevin. Tel: 085-0717134. Email: [robinsonkevin@mac.com](mailto:robinsonkevin@mac.com)

## RAWAI BEACH STUDIO

Furnished, kitchen, aircon, UBC, ADSL. 5,000 baht per month. Contact K. Noki Tel: 086-9408914.

## RAWAI VILLA

Beautiful new 2-bedroom villa with private pool. Close to Rawai and Nai Harn beaches. Fully furnished, air conditioning. 35,000 baht per month. Pool and garden maintenance included. Minimum 6 month lease. Tel: 081-9701716.

## KAMALA CASTLE

Large room in Kamala private villa. 10,000-12,000 baht per month. Tel: 083-3897023. Email: [limoz@earthlink.net](mailto:limoz@earthlink.net)

## ONE BEDROOM CONDO

For rent in Patong tower. Newly renovated in modern style. Please contact for more information. Call Tel: 087-2773086 or email: [lhanfinn@online.no](mailto:lhanfinn@online.no)

## KATHU TOWNHOUSE

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, hot shower, 3 aircons. Fully furnished. Price: 17,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-5371515, 089-9222800 (Eng).

## HOUSE FOR RENT/SALE

Villa 3 Soi 8/1. Fully furnished, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, aircon, hot water. Good price. Tel: 081-5376045.

## 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.

## 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.

## B.L. APARTMENT

New in Kathu. Big rooms, 1 bedroom, 1 living room, aircon, cable TV, ADSL, hot shower, garden, car park. 8,000 baht per month. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-6923163.

## 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](mailto:franklee200@hotmail.com)

## 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.

## 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: [prakaisriroj@hotmail.com](mailto:prakaisriroj@hotmail.com) For further details, please see our website at [www.gracegardensphuket.com](http://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, 081-877 9292. Fax: 081-8779292. Email: [prakaisriroj@hotmail.com](mailto:prakaisriroj@hotmail.com) For more information and details, please visit our website at: [www.gracegardensphuket.com](http://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.

## 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.

## LARGE HOUSE FOR RENT

3-bedroom, 2-bathroom 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. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-6064279. Email: [pichit\\_49@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto:limoz@earthlink.net)

## STUNNING SEA VIEW

New house for rent overlooking Karon Beach. Pool, fully furnished. 20,500 baht per month. Please call Tel: (English, German) 089-5938690 or (Thai) 087-8100150. Email: [rueen\\_narayan@hotmail.com](mailto:rueen_narayan@hotmail.com)

## KATA LUXURY

apartments. 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](mailto:north8west98@yahoo.com)

## SEAVIEW APTS

for rent in Karon and Patong. Please contact for additional details and pricing information. Tel: 089-4912496. Email: [jjc@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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. Tel: 086-2772691. Email: [davidinasia@hotmail.com](mailto: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: [gfs@seal-asia.com](mailto:gfs@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 info. Email: [hans\\_lange@hotmail.com](mailto:hans_lange@hotmail.com)

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# Island Job Mart

## G4S Security Services(Thailand)Limited Phuket Branch

### Require the following :

- > Sales and Marketing Manager
- > Front office receptionist
- > Security Branch Manager
- > Control Room Operator
- > Electronics / Electrical engineer



All applications must have a good command of English.  
Good packages for the right applicants.

Please call to Ms Mona 089-9698356  
Tel. 076-262-101 - 102 Ext. 303, E-mail : mona.sarobon@th.g4s.com



### Sales Manager (Luxury Property)

Female or male, age between 25-35.

Pleasant personality and self-motivated.

Minimum 2 years experience in property sales and marketing.

Excellent command of both written and spoken English

Must be able to work under pressure

Please submit your resume, application letter including expected salary, details of references and a recent photograph to:

Khun Orrapin Jaroenwathcharatanon  
MALAIWANA Park Development Co.,Ltd  
26/10 Moo 4, T. Sakoo, A. Thalang, Phuket 83110 Thailand  
Tel: 076 316240, Fax: 076316241  
Email: orrapinj@malaiwana.com, www.malaiwana.com



"Sri panwa....a young exciting, luxurious estate with a hotel and residential pool villa is looking for vibrant, energetic and most importantly service-minded individuals to join our innovative team. If you have what it takes, please contact us at the address below."

### Sales & Marketing

- Male or female.
- Bachelor degree or higher.
- 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.

### J & 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 or recruitment@sripanwa.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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Sales reps and OPCs needed. Minimum of 2 years experience. Farang ok. Contact for more info at Tel: 081-1371001. Email: solitude001@aol.com

### HOUSEKEEPER

and butler required. Experienced housekeeper/butler required for private household. Applicants must be fluent in English and Thai. Email: cv@phuketoceanvillas.com to apply or call Tel: 076-527565 for details.

### WANTED

1. Babysitter (1 position)
2. English teacher (1 position)
3. Administrator (1 position)
4. Teaching a baby farang at home (3 positions). Please call for detailed information about any of the positions. Tel: 076-239209, 084-1885828.

### LOOKING FOR

kindergarten teacher for teaching 3- to 5-year-old kids. English native speaker preferred. Tel: 084-7144104.

### ADMIN & SALES

Seara Int. is looking for an Admin & Sales Assistant. Thai female with a good command of English. Please send CV to: [cj@searasports.com](mailto:cj@searasports.com) or fax CV to 076-355039. Call 076-355040 for details and more information.

### 3 FOREMEN

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 AutoCAD are preferred, and a minimum of 3 years' experience in construction is required. Please contact for more information via email: [krister@krabisunset.com](mailto:krister@krabisunset.com)

### OFFICE SECRETARY/

administrator needed for foreign company. Experience with government procedures and good command of spoken and written English. Basic computer skills required. Please call for more information. Tel: 076-282211, 081-8926251. Email: [mrsouza@hotmail.com](mailto:mrsouza@hotmail.com)

### SALES & MARKETING

A position is available for a smart person to earn top money. Must be fluent in both Thai and English. Must hold a current driver's license. Knowledge of hotels and restaurants in and around Phuket would be an advantage. Applicants are invited to send full CV stating present and expected salaries, enclosed with a recent photo by email or contact via Tel: 085-7841691. Email: [nadir.66@libero.it](mailto:nadir.66@libero.it)

### TEAM LEADER

Site supervisor. TCM Asia is looking for a site supervisor and team leader. Thai national, age 25. Strong leadership and problem solving skills. BA in Mechanical Engineering or related field. Self-motivated and able to supervise other staff. Good communication skills, service-minded and well-organized. The position offers an attractive salary and additional benefits. Applicants are invited to send full CV stating present and expected salaries, with a recent photo, by email, or contact for more information. Tel: 086-943-9834. Fax: 076-279088. Email: [office@tcm-asia.com](mailto:office@tcm-asia.com)

### LAW FIRM

Looking for 2 Thai lawyers & 2 Thai secretaries who can speak French or English. For more details, please send resum via email: [scphuket@yahoo.com](mailto:scphuket@yahoo.com)

### SMART THAI PERSON WANTED

Confident and responsible Thai national required to help small but busy and growing Patong-based company maximize its market potential. Responsibilities include traveling throughout Phuket and meeting both new and existing clients ranging from retail outlets to 5-star hotels. You must be of smart appearance and able to work under your own initiative. Basic salary after training period in excess of 20,000 baht per month (+ benefits) with high season target earnings of over 40,000 baht attainable for the successful applicant. Must have excellent command of both spoken and written English. Please submit CV with photo by email to: [phuket.job@hotmail.com](mailto:phuket.job@hotmail.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. Thainationals preferred. Please contact via email: [krister@krabisunset.com](mailto: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 QuickBooks. A driver's license is also required. Contact via email: [krister@krabisunset.com](mailto:krister@krabisunset.com)

### FITNESS STAFF

Thai nationals required for new fitness center and leisure club. Applicants should have good English skills and a lively personality. Full training provided. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-0880422. Email: [alun@eden-thailand.com](mailto:alun@eden-thailand.com)

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# Island Job Mart



## CHIEF OF MAINTENANCE

Maintenance expert who knows how to maintain the resort and how to lead a Thai team. Able to develop maintenance plans, preventive maintenance and budgets. Expat welcome if you are able to communicate with the Thai staff. Tel: 076-289399. Fax: 076-289389. Email: hajo@mangosteen-phuket.com For further details, please see our website at [www.mangosteen-phuket.com](http://www.mangosteen-phuket.com)

## CASHIER/ORDER TAKER

Two years' experience in restaurant. English speaker. Call Tel: 076-345024, 089-7298852.

## FREELANCER WANTED

Good research and writing skills needed. Native English speaker. Please contact. Tel: 081-0809192. Email: gavin.wills@angloinfo.com

## SECRETARY NEEDED

Secretary w/ experience needed. Good English and computer skills required. Tel: 087-0778454. 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. Tel: 081-5376886. Email: info@platinumresidencepark.com

## SECRETARY WANTED

for Thai and English company. You must be able to operate Windows and have a good command of English. Experience is preferred. Please call Tel: 083-1060088.

## SALES OFFICER

Layan Beach Resort & Spa Village is looking for a Sales Officer. Must be fluent in both Thai and English, possess good communication and presentation skills, be customer-focused with good leadership skills & ability to motivate others, and able to work under pressure. Car and driving license required. Interested applicants are invited to apply in person or send a resume to: info@layanphuket.com. Call Khun Orasiri at 076-313412-4 for more information.

## RECEPTIONIST

27-room hotel in Patong requires female staff. Good English skills a must. Please call for more information.

Tel: 081-8921621.

## STAFF NEEDED

for nightclub and high-class restaurant in Patong.

1. Waiter, waitress
2. Doorman

- Must be service-minded and have good spoken English

- Male/female

Please call for more information.

Tel: 084-0143121.

## PILOT TRAINING

The International Aviation College at Nakhon Phanom University is recruiting cadets for training at European standards for commercial pilot license with instrument rating + MCC and ELT on an A320 simulator. Please contact for more information. Tel: 042-551120. Email: gcharles01@yahoo.co.uk For further details, please visit our website: [www.npu.ac.th/iac/](http://www.npu.ac.th/iac/)

## OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

required for busy real estate office. Applicants must have excellent written and spoken English and Thai, plus very good computer skills. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-527565. Fax: 076-527564. Email: cv@phuket-oceanvillas.com

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- Thai national with an outgoing personality
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needed. Horizons Learning Center, an international school for mainly expatriate students, seeks qualified K/ G1 and G2/G3 teachers to start in August 2007. Native English speakers with university teaching certification required. Experience preferred. Fun, friendly work environment, inquiry-based program, generous school holidays. Tel: 076-238756. Email: [pamela@horizons-phuket.com](mailto:pamela@horizons-phuket.com)

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| Qualification | - Male or Female<br>- Age between 28-35<br>- 3-5 years' experience, preferably in development/construction<br>- Able to use QuickBooks program<br>- Good command of English                                 |
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| Qualification | - Male or Female<br>- Age 30 up<br>- At least 2 years' experience in Property<br>- Able to use email, internet, Microsoft Office<br>- Good command of English<br>- Must to have own car and driving license |

Please send resume with covering letter stating salary expectations to [annie@campbellkane.com](mailto:annie@campbellkane.com)

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**Bangkok Phuket Hospital Phuket City**  
Fri 7 pm  
**Patong Hospital Patong**  
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**Chalong Health Clinic-near Chalong Circle**  
Tues 1 pm  
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Wat Karon School-Karon  
Tue 7 pm  
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For info on other Thailand AA meetings inquire at Tel: 02-2318300 (for Thai language press 3)  
www.aathailand.org or email info@aathailand.org

## Business Opportunities

### SHOPHOUSES

Phuket center near the Metropole hotel. From 8,000 to 12,000 baht per month. 3-year leases, or sale. Tel: 089-6186894.

### BEAUTY SALON

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### CHEAP RESTAURANT

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### PATONG GUESTHOUSE

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### CLOTHES SHOP

for sale. In Villa Dowroong. Nice big shop, good profit, includes rent and contract. Price: 450,000 baht. Contact Tel: 087-4176393.

### BUSINESS FOR SALE

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Tel: 081-8914844.

### GUESTHOUSE

for sale in Patong. Call Kevin. Please call for more information. Tel: 084-7300190.

### KAMALA BAR

and restaurant for sale. Newly renovated in Dec '06, all movables are new, 36 seats. Price: 650,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 089-5911407. Email: gerd-janne@hotmail.com

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1.5L, manual, 240,000km. Well-maintained and serviced, good condition. Price: 115,000 baht. Must see. Contact Tel: 087-2709093. Email: s.anut@hotmail.com

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1998, manual, top condition, 4-door. Price: 205,000 baht. Tel: 076-288833, 081-0909640, 087-2650652. Email: info@phuket-car-rentals.com

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2003. 160,000km, perfect condition, good runner, 3.0L, automatic, only one owner. Price: 490,000 baht. Contact for more information. Tel: 087-2709093. Or via email: s.anut@hotmail.com

### TOYOTA MIGHTY X

1994, 4-door, 120,000km, runs excellently, clean interior, great buy. Asking price: 185,000 baht. Contact Tel: 076-341827.

### 95 TOYOTA PICKUP

Nice, X-Cab, aircon, power options, mags, 10 CD changer, very clean. Must see and drive. Price: 180,000 baht. Contact Tel: 076-341199, 081-5378394, or email: ricodmilo@hotmail.com

### NISSAN NV 1995

pickup. 140,000km, blue color. Price: 150,000 baht. New engine. Please contact for more details. Tel: 081-4151875, 084-6032361.

### FORD RANGER

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### TRITON MEGA CAB

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### ISUZU SPACECAB

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