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## Intarat calls for SorPorKor probe

By Pathomporn Kaenkrachang, and Sompratch Saowakhon

PHUKET: Gen Intarat Yodbangtoey, in his capacity as special adviser to Natural Resources and Environment Minister Anongwan Thepsutin, on May 18 led an inspection tour of properties believed to be illegally built on agricultural reform (SorPorKor) land in the Kamala, Kalim and Patong hillsides.

The day before, Gen Intarat and his team inspected other building sites in the area, including some on Koh Yao Yai in Phang Nga, which Forest Department surveys also show to be SorPorKor land (degraded public forest land intended for agricultural use by poor farmers).

The two-day inspection tour followed a meeting chaired by Gen Intarat at Phuket City Municipality offices on May 16.

At that meeting, Gen Intarat proposed a two-prong attack to reclaim public land for the state. "The are two main types of encroachment: people squatting on public forest land to plant rubber trees and cases where land titles have been [improperly] issued for public land," he said.

Gen Intarat proposed that rubber plantation squatters could be charged rent and allowed to continue to farm the land. "They could pay rent to the governor and continue to farm their existing plantation, but they would not be allowed to expand their plantations or cut down any more of the natural forest," he said.

However, for public land on which titles have been issued, Gen Intarat proposed that the government reclaim the land and restore it to its natural state as preserved forest.



Gen Intarat Yodbangtoey, advisor to Natural Resources and Environment Minister Anongwan Thepsutin, during his inspection tour of the Kamala Hills in tambon Kathu on May 18.

"Land that local people have encroached on so that they can farm will be handed back to the Forestry Department and restored to natural forest, but other encroachers could face minimum jail sentences of 10 years," he warned.

While ready to reclaim public land that people may have government-issued titles on in order to restore it as natural forest, Gen Intarat left the door open for some plots to be developed for tourism by government offices and the local administrative bodies where they are located.

"For forestry land that can be used as a public park or a tourist attraction, we are pleased to support and protect our natural resources to support tourism in Phuket," he said.

Aongart Chanachanmongkol, chief of Phuket Provincial Office of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE), reported that of the 339,396 rai that comprises

Phuket, 108,581 rai is state forest land.

Some 41,200 rai in Phuket is titled as SorPorKor land. Of this, occupancy rights (Tor Por 4 titles) have been issued for 21,182 rai, he said.

K. Aongart reported that so far this year, the Phuket MNRE office had discovered 23 cases of encroachment on state land: 15 cases in state forest, six cases in protected mangrove forests and two cases of illegal logging.

Phuket Vice-Governor Worapoj Ratthasima proposed handling encroachment cases locally. "If any local [administration] organizations discover encroachment in their areas, they can report these cases to the governor," he said.

Also at the meeting was Monthon "Palad Rambo" Chartsuwan, the MNRE official responsible for investigating law-enforcement issues throughout the South.

Continued on page 2

## Suspect in 7-Eleven shooting surrenders

By Sompratch Saowakhon

PATONG: After meeting Patong Mayor Pian Keesin, the prime suspect in the shooting murder of a motorcycle-taxi driver in a 7-Eleven store handed himself in to police on the night of May 18.

The suspect, Chainart Yuyen, 31, has denied any involvement in the murder.

About 2 am on May 16, motorcycle-taxi driver Satien Wongwai, 35, was shot twice in the back and once in the neck with a 9mm gun inside the 7-Eleven on Nanai Rd near the intersection with Sainamyen Rd.

By the time Kathu Police and rescue workers from the Kusoldharm Foundation arrived, K. Satien was dead.

His body was taken to Patong Hospital for examination.

Witnesses described the shooter as a dark-skinned, short-haired man wearing a white polo shirt and black jeans. After shooting K. Satien, he ran out of the store and fled on a motorbike, they said.

Kathu Police Inspector Lt Col Chalermchai Hernsawas told the Gazette that police had an arrest warrant issued for Chainart on May 17.

The suspect met Patong Mayor Pian Keesin early evening on May 18 before turning himself over to Kathu Police Station at about 8 pm. He was accompanied by relatives, who posted bail for him.

Friends of the victim confirmed that both men had been drinking at the same venue in Patong just before the killing.

The victim's friends said they had no idea why K. Satien was murdered.



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From page 1

## SorPorKor probe

K. Monton last month filed a police complaint at the Phuket City Police Station charging Land Department Director Chairerk Dissaya-amnaji for dereliction of duty in failing to revoke an illegally issued land-ownership deed on protected mangrove-forest land in Rassada.

"There are many cases of encroachment from Kamala to Kalim and some in the outskirts of Patong," he said.

On May 20, Pongpayome Vasaputi, Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Interior, met Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit, Vice-Governor Tri Augkaradacha and local authorities to discuss encroachment issues.

"Around the nation, about 6 million rai of *SorPorKor* land has been encroached upon," said K. Pongpayome.

"Since 1997, we have taken legal action against 11 people in Phuket who had claimed 20 plots covering 500 rai.

By the end of 2006, the Supreme Court had heard the cases against five of those people – and had decided against all of them, ordering 11 plots covering 300 rai to be returned to the state," he said.

Among those who lost *SorPorKor* land under the Supreme Court rulings is current Phuket MP Tossaporn Thepabutr.

"Much of the *SorPorKor* land returned to the state is in Patong and Kamala, which are very beautiful areas. So I have come to Phuket to inspect those areas to protect them against encroachment.

"I received a report from the Phuket governor that many local *OrBorTor* [tambon administration organizations] are ready to provide funds to develop their areas.

"We can develop the land for public use or allocate it for farming. It depends on what provincial officers decide what to do with it. I will follow up on these issues later," he said.

# Sharp increase in drug arrests

PHUKET: Crime statistics released by the Phuket Provincial Police show that the number of drug-related arrests was about 52% higher in April than the same period last year.

There were 120 arrests for drug-related offenses, 63 of which involved *ya bah* (amphetamine) with a total of 3,761 pills seized. However, arrests for gambling offenses still topped the list with 202 arrests.

A total of 21 people were arrested for using cannabis, with 49 grams of the illegal herb confiscated.

There were 12 arrests for possession of *krathom* (an indigenous plant that acts as a mild stimulant), with 177 leaves of the plant seized.

Sixteen people were arrested for possession of solvents, with 16 bags and a can seized. Seven people were arrested for possession

of *ya ice* (crystal methamphetamine).

There were five attempted murders, with two related arrests made, as well as three reports of assault and three arrests.

There were 84 cases of theft reported, including four motorcycles and two cars. Arrests were made in 42 of these cases.

Prostitution accounted for 78 arrests, while 23 were nabbed for possession of unlicensed firearms. – *Natcha Yuttaworawit*

## 1,267 ya bah tablets seized in Mai Khao

By Pathomporn Kaenkrachang

MAI KHAO: Following a random vehicle inspection, Tah Chat Chai Police on May 11 arrested three people for possession of *ya bah* (methamphetamine) with intent to sell and seized 1,267 pills.

The arrests were announced at a press conference held May 12 at Phuket City Police Station.

Attending were Phuket Vice-Governor Worapoj Rattasima, Phuket Provincial Police Commander Maj Gen Decha Budnampetch, Phuket City Police Superintendent Col Paween Pongsirin, and Tah Chat Chai Police Superintendent Col Sakchai Limcharoen and his drug investigation unit.

Col Sakchai said that at about 9:30 pm on May 11, officers at a checkpoint in Village 7 pulled over a motorcycle being ridden by 21-year-old Pongdanai Jinirat for a routine inspection.

Under the seat they found a stash of about 300 *ya bah* pills in six plastic bags.

Pongdanai confessed to possession of the drugs and agreed to call his dealer, 31-year-old Prapate Thayeng, to arrange a sale at the home of Prapate's 18-year-old girlfriend, Saowanee Tonglahorm, in Mai Khao Village 2, Col Sakchai said.

At the home, police found almost 1,000 more pills and ar-



**SUSPECTS ON PARADE:** Prapate Thayeng (right) is the alleged ring-leader of a drug-running scheme, in which his friend and girlfriend were snared as his accomplices.

rested Prapate and Saowanee.

A total of 1,267 pills were seized along with 40,000 baht in cash, a Honda Civic sedan, a Honda Click motorcycle, a gold necklace, three bank books, eight ATM cards, four mobile phones, two wallets, a designer handbag, a Giordano watch, a Sony Playstation and a digital camera.

Prapate and his relative Prajak Thayeng were arrested by Tah Chat Chai police last year. Prapate was acquitted, but Prajak was sentenced to life imprisonment, Col Sakchai said.

Following Sunday's arrest,

Prapate confessed to running drugs from Bangkok to Phuket in lots of 2,000 pills in return for payments ranging from 20,000 to 30,000 baht, he added.

Prapate normally sold in bulk. After his planned sale fell through, he was forced to keep the drugs at his girlfriend's home and try to sell them wholesale, it was explained.

Despite the drugs being found in Pongdanai's motorbike, Prapate denied that Pongdanai or Saowanee were involved.

Gen Decha said the case and other recent arrests indicate there is still a high demand for *ya bah* in Phuket.

There are currently about 40 outstanding warrants to arrest suspected dealers in Phuket, he added.

## Jintana Plaza ablaze – again

PATONG: Jintana Plaza on Patong's beach road caught fire on May 15, causing an estimated 1 million baht in damages.

It's the third time this year that fire has broken out at the complex.

Lt Naruwat Puthawiro said that Kathu Police Station received a call about 3:15 am reporting that a fire had broken out at the plaza.

"The fire [reportedly] started about 3:15 am and spread through tailors, souvenir shops and other vendor's stalls.

"It spread through 10 shop-houses in total. We still don't know how many small stalls inside were damaged," he told the *Gazette*.

"We are waiting for forensics tests to determine the cause of the fire and we are still not sure how much damage was caused, but we believe it's more than 1 million baht," he said.

Lt Naruwat pointed out that this was the third time that Jintana Plaza had caught fire this year.

"We are investigating whether the fires were started by short-circuits or by arson. Also, this fire started at night, just like the previous two fires," he said.

"Most of the shops are insured," Lt Naruwat added.

The last time Jintana Plaza caught fire was April 30.

– *Semacote Suganya*

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# Customs raids net B2.6m in fake goods

By Sompratch Saowakhon

PHUKET: In a week of raids starting on May 7, Phuket Customs seized counterfeit and allegedly smuggled goods valued at 2.6 million baht.

Many of the seized goods were sent to Phuket by parcel delivery services, arriving on the island by bus from Bangkok.

Goods seized included music CDs, movie and game CDs and DVDs, D&G shoulder bags, Levi's wallets, designer-label watches, hands-free sets for mobile phones, plastic air-powered handguns and rifles, and cheap copy Brembo "high-performance" car brake calipers.

Also seized was a Rover car, valued at about 400,000 baht.

Vichak Apirugnunchai, director of the Customs Department's Bangkok-based Investigation and Suppression Division, said, "We received an order to be on the lookout for pirated goods in Phuket, especially goods sent to Phuket by bus."

On May 7, Customs officers seized 250 watches and 148 sets of pirated high-performance brake calipers, with a total value of about 523,000 baht, at SP Express company on Thepkasattri Rd Soi 7 in Rasada.

The next day, 25 fake plas-



LOST: The pile of goods seized by Customs officers.

tic guns, valued at about 62,500 baht, were seized at the Central Tour company office on Dibuk Rd, in Phuket City.

On May 9, also in Phuket City, officers seized 5,350 pirated DVDs at Kaochareon Express Delivery Co Ltd on Ong Sim Pai Rd. The DVDs were valued at about 1,337,500 baht.

On May 12, officers seized 260 pirated shoulder bags, valued at 390,000 baht, at the Speed Express office located in Soi Sunthorn Uthit, off Chao Fa West Rd.

On May 13, Customs officers seized a Rover car parked on Komarapat Rd in Phuket City,

just one street away from Phuket City Police Station.

"It is possible that the car was smuggled in to be sold without paying import duty," said Chief Inspector Tawal Rodjit, also of the Investigation and Suppression Division.

## Four more elections to be held in Phuket

PHUKET: The Phuket Election Committee (PEC) is gearing up for four more local elections set to take place over the next three months.

On May 15, PEC Director Supap Akkam said his agency is preparing for elections for the Karon, Patong and Kathu municipalities (*tessabaan*) as well as the Pa Khlok Tambon Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*) in Thalung. The dates are as follows:

Karon Municipality: Term ended May 1. Election day is June 8.

## Violent muggings return to Rawai

By Chris Husted

RAWAI: A foreign man was shot in the leg and stabbed in the stomach in a motorbike mugging at about 4 am on May 12.

His attackers made off with his wallet, containing 300 baht.

The man, who asked to be identified only as "Dave", told the *Gazette* that he was returning from a late night out at a Nai Harn bar when he was attacked.

"I had turned right [onto the road toward Rawai Beach] and rode about 50 meters when I came around the curve and was attacked," he said.

"I had no time to react. I was shot in the [lower] right leg and stabbed in the side; then they robbed me," he explained.

"I was lucky," he added. "I got on my bike and rode about 200 meters when I saw an ambulance already attending to another man who was also attacked, maybe just 10 minutes earlier," he said.

Both men were taken to

Bangkok Hospital Phuket, Dave said.

However, Dave was transferred to Vachira Phuket Hospital about six hours later. "I am okay, now. We will have to see if there are complications. The knife 'touched' my liver and my intestines," he said.

"This is stupid - crazy. Just for 300 baht," he added.

The attack was reminiscent of the spate of violent muggings that gripped the Rawai-Nai Harn area last year.

Chalong Police Superintendent Col Samarn Chainarong told the *Gazette* that, with the arrival of the low season about a month ago, he has ordered his 10 patrol officers to step up surveillance in known risk areas after midnight.

Muggers in Rawai like to use motorcycles to make a quick getaway and often commit more than one attack a night, he said.

To minimize the risk of falling victim, tourists should avoid traveling alone in known risk areas after dark, he said.

## Phone ban nets six on first day

PHUKET: Traffic Police on May 20 fined six motorists for driving while using mobile phones on the first day of the ban being enforced on the island.

Phuket Provincial Police Deputy Commander Col Chalit Thintanee said that three car drivers and two motorcycle riders were fined in Phuket City and one car driver was fined in Thalung.

"In Phuket City, we set up a checkpoint at the intersection near Satee Phuket School and Traffic Police on motorcycles were told to keep an eye out while on patrol around the island."

"We also have 48 CCTV cameras around the island, which we will use."

"We will capture the image

of the driver using his phone and send a copy of the photo and the fine to be paid to the registered address of the owner of the car," he explained.

"So far, none of those charged have contested the fine," he added.



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In 1981, about 250,000 rai (400 square kilometers) of Phang Nga Bay was designated as a marine national park. Its boundaries stretch from Muang Phang Nga District to the coast at Takua Tung District and contains more than 42 large and small islands.

The park is the largest area of original primary mangrove forest remaining in Thailand and is protected by regulations forbidding any kind of destruction or encroachment of the natural habitat that supports rare species of plants, animals and marine life, which in turn attract hundreds of thousands of tourists each year.

Protection is provided by a team of park rangers authorized to arrest people for encroachment and poaching, along with a system for collecting park fees from tour operators. Despite this, local eco-tour operators are becoming more concerned with the destruction of the natural environment, reporting unrestricted poaching, deforestation and environmentally damaging tourism.

Ao Phang Nga National Park Assistant Chief Worapoj Lomlim told the *Gazette* that about 200,000 foreign and Thai tourists visit the park each year, adding that there are 33 registered tour companies operating in the bay, the majority of them being large tour companies and about 40% of them local boat operators. About 80 people are employed by the national park, he said.

Some outspoken eco-tour operators say insufficient government-allocated resources and apathy toward marine park management are allowing incidences of poaching, land encroachment and pollution to continue with little or no enforcement of the regulations meant to protect the marine park.

# A Bay on the brink

**P**hang Nga Bay, with its limestone karsts and stunning islands, is touted as a magical place and a must-see site for the region's visitors. But some are warning that a lack of environmental protection is threatening to turn the magic into a disappearing act for much of the area's fragile ecosystems and the wildlife that lives within it. Prompted by the report of a macaque shooting in full view of tourists, the *Gazette's* Nick Davies and Janyaporn Morel investigate the state of the bay.

An incident of poaching in the bay was recently brought to the *Gazette's* attention, when a group of tourists who were on an expedition with John Gray's Sea Canoe witnessed the shooting of a macaque, a protected primate, at Koh Panak by a group of three men.

Witnesses in the group, including children and a pair of Scandinavian journalists, said the trio, one carrying a rifle, arrived at the island's beach in an unmarked longtail boat and proceeded to shoot and bludgeon the primate to death – in full view of the group of tourists who were in a boat about 30 meters from the beach – and carried the macaque's carcass back to their boat.

K. Worapoj told the *Gazette* that he had been informed of the macaque killing and had requested co-operation from nearby Klong Kian community members in keeping a vigil against poaching in the area.

The macaque killing was

also brought up at a recent Phuket Marine Biological Center (PMBC) meeting at which K. Worapoj was present. At the meeting he advised people who witness such incidents to collect evidence, ideally photographs, and send them to the national park authorities so they could be properly investigated.

**Slash & Burn.** Dave Williams, director of Paddle Asia, takes tourists on sea canoe tours in the northeast of Phang Nga Bay. While on paddle tours, his groups have observed large areas of forest on fire on Koh Yao Yai. Mr Williams claims that trees are being cleared through slash-and-burn techniques, despite Koh Yao Yai being part of the marine national park.

"There are always fires on Koh Yao Yai. Traveling around the island, you'll see a lot of places that have been completely stripped of trees and vegetation. Much of it has been burned away. I thought it was illegal to clear-cut mountain tops. The top soil will most certainly end up in the bay, and from there, make its way to killing the little-remaining coral," said Mr Williams.

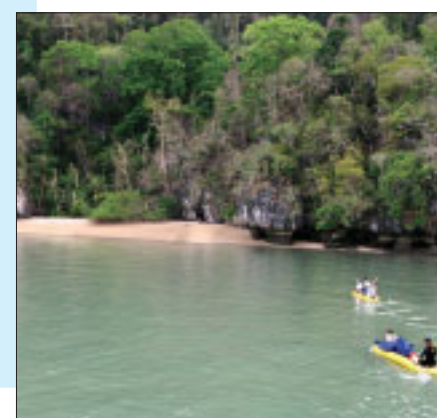
Phang Nga Governor



**ABOVE:** Small fish – food for kingfishers – cannot survive the levels of pollution in the popular tourist areas. Photo: John Gray

**RIGHT:** The beach at Koh Panak where tourists saw a macaque being shot and stoned to death. Photo: Antti Helin

**FAR RIGHT:** A jet-skier speeding round Phang Nga Bay. Photo: John Gray



Wichai Praisangob confirmed that about 400 rai of Pru Nai forest on Koh Yao Yai was encroached upon recently and that the names of about 20 people had been listed for involvement in the encroachment. "We are going to charge those people soon. We can't let this incident pass without doing anything; they must be severely punished," he said.

According to John Gray, the volume of marine rubbish and oil pollution from motorboats in the bay, especially around the coves in Koh Penak, is increasing. "Speedboat oils, plastic bags and Styrofoam are pervasive. The higher the tourist count, the uglier these sites become," he said.

In response, K. Worapoj

said, "We are always asking for help from tourists and tour operators to keep the area clean. The larger boats have trash bins on board and they are not allowed to leave trash on the islands. They must take any rubbish back to the mainland with them," he said.

"The real garbage problem is from Koh Panyee as there is a community living there. When the tide rises, the garbage is washed away from the community and into the open water. The central government and the provincial authorities have been made aware of this and the park is working hard to educate locals on how to keep the area clean," he added.

"We run programs to educate students, local people and tour operators in environment conservation. At Koh Panyee, for example, there is a joint project underway between the school

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Tourists watch as protected forest is destroyed by fire on Koh Yao Yai.  
Photo: Dave Williams



and the garbage bank to reduce the amount of waste through recycling," he said, adding that local administration organizations collect trash, but only during certain periods.

**Speedboats and jet-skis.** The *Gazette* has been unable to establish whether there are any specific zoning laws or marine national park guidelines restricting the use of motorboats or jetskis in the Phang Nga Bay area,

which are a source of oil and noise pollution, especially longtail boats that are not fitted with mufflers.

John Gray said powered boats and even irresponsible kayaking are having damaging effects on the park's environment, along with a lack of carrying capacity restrictions to limit the number of boats or tourists that are allowed to visit areas at one time.

According to K. Worapoj,

every boat that operates within the national park must be registered with the Marine Office before then being registered and given approval by the park authorities to operate in the area.

When asked whether there are any restrictions on the number of boats allowed to operate at one time or if there are any anti-pollution regulations in place, K. Worapoj said, "We co-operate with the Marine Office in educating all tour operators and boat drivers in proper maintenance of their engines to reduce oil and noise pollution."

He added that people who see boats or jet-skis racing in the area can report what they have seen to the national park authorities if they suspect the boats are causing a disturbance or being operated illegally.

"Speedboats come so close to some of the islands that they have killed all the small fish there," Mr Gray said. "Kingfishers, which thrive on the small fish, are subsequently absent from places such as Koh Penak and Koh Hong, where many tourists

## WHO TO CALL

The following organizations can be contacted to report illegal and destructive activities in the Phang Nga Bay marine national park:

**Phang Nga Governor's Office**, P.O. Box 101 Phang Nga. Tel: 076-411401, 076-411525.

**Phang Nga Provincial Police Commander Boonkit Daan-anuphan**, P.O. Box 191 Phang Nga. Tel: 076-411366, 076-411328, 076-412188 (24 hours). Email: aophangnga\_np@hotmail.com

**Dr Somchai Bussarawit**, Chief of Marine Reference Collection and Phuket Aquarium, Phuket Marine Biological Center (PMBC). Tel. 083-1839963, 081-2720001.

**Ao Phang Nga National Park Assistant Chief Worapoj Lomlim**. Tel: 081-9781729, 076-411136, 076-412188.

**Phang Nga Provincial Information Center**. Email: phangnga@moi.go.th

are taken in speedboats.

"Sump holes, or *hong*, created after many years of tidal erosion are accessed through tidal sea caves often contain fragile mangrove trees that can be easily damaged by tourists standing on the roots or pushing them aside when kayaking through them," he explained.

"As far as I know, the mangroves in the *hong* never regenerate and they are dying as more and more tourists are taken to them without being properly guided.

"I don't blame the guides for this, as they are often unaware of the consequences of allowing tourists to climb on the mangroves. It should be the responsibility of the tour operators to ensure that their guides are properly trained in eco-friendly tourism," he added.

Both John Gray and Dave Williams have documented various incidents of animals, such as birds and primates in the park being killed for their meat, sometimes in full view of the rangers or even by the rangers themselves.

It is difficult to assess how widespread or frequent the poaching is and it raises questions as to the severity of the impact this may have on the ecosystem considering that poachers may be taking only what they need to eat.

Also, despite how tourists may feel witnessing this, it is a practice that has probably gone on for generations, long before the area was declared a national park.

And, according to the people who know the area, the number of primates seen in the park is rapidly diminishing.

With such a large area to patrol, it is also an almost impossible task for even the best-intentioned park rangers to always be in the right place at the right time to prevent or arrest people for committing offenses.

The root of the problem appears to be the sheer number of tourists who visit the park each year and the lack of eco-friendly-tourism instruction that they and their guides receive.

It is estimated by some in the region's tourism industry that at least 50% of the 5.5 million tourists came through Phuket International Airport last year had visited Phang Nga Bay Marine National Park at least once – a far higher figure than the 200,000 reported by the park authorities.

When it's not even clear as to the number of people using the park on any given day, law enforcement within and pro-active environmental protection of this natural treasure seem very distant dreams indeed.

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## Queer News

# Local shooters take aim at park pokers

BANGKOK: The world of Thai clay-pigeon shooting has been rocked by the daily desecration of one of the sport's club headquarters in Hua Mak.

Coinciding with a group of homosexual patrons using the range for open-air trysts, shooters have had to gingerly tread around a sea of discarded condoms.

While you may think that this reporter is exaggerating what could be a case of one or two discarded johnnies – a common enough sight in many urban areas in this day and age – to beef up a story on a slow news day, photos published in our Thai-language sister paper *Kom Chad Luek* attest to the true extent of the problem. In the interest of protecting the sensibilities of unsuspecting readers – and editors – the *Gazette* has opted to forgo printing the unsavory images.

A reporter from *Kom Chad Luek* headed to the shooting range, which belongs to the Sports Authority of Thailand (SAT) and serves as the headquarters for the Skeet and Trap Shooting Association of Thailand, after receiving a tip-off of the nightly rendezvous at the range.

On reaching the range, the reporter was greeted with the sight of fish in a pond next to the range happily nibbling away on the many floating condoms that had been thrown in.

Under a bo tree next to the clay-pigeon trap, there were condoms scattered around with abandon, many of them looking fresh, as if they had only recently been used.

One clay-pigeon enthusiast, who asked for his name not to be revealed, said that every evening

when shooting was done for the day, about 10 to 15 gay men would begin to gather around the range.

Some would mess around on the bridge along the edge of the pond, while others would wander to the adjacent park, all the while making noise and bothering others wanting to use the facilities. Park workers tried to chase them away, but the unruly revelers refused to leave, the shooter added.

Every morning, following the nocturnal romps, condoms are strewn around the range, the man

continued. Sometimes, when people are shooting, they step on full used condoms, which really puts them off their shots and makes them lose concentration, the interviewee lamented, before calling on authorities to quickly sort out the mess.

Wirawan Phojanwaraphong of SAT said that the shooting range was the responsibility of the Skeet and Trap Shooting Association of Thailand and that sometimes they may not look after it as well as they might. From now on, they will increase security on

the range and dig a moat to prevent unauthorized people gaining access.

K. Wirarawan added that the shooting range is not the only SAT venue facing this problem. "Apart from the shooting range, the area around Rajamangala National Stadium is also being used for illicit sex. We are now cracking down on it, though. If any unauthorized people are caught there after 6pm they will immediately be charged with trespassing," she said.

Source: *Kom Chad Luek*

## No phones here, officer

A woman cradles her pet dog with one arm while waiting for the light to change at the Vachira Phuket Hospital intersection. The new law banning the use of mobile phones while driving seems to have had some effect – unfortunately it is still impossible to legislate common sense.



**Bookings  
now open  
for PIMEX  
2008 trade  
show**

KOH KAEW: Bookings are now open for exhibitors to join PIMEX 2008, Phuket's marine and lifestyle showcase event to be held at Royal Phuket Marina from December 4-7.

Concurrent with the Phuket King's Cup Regatta and other early-season events, PIMEX 2008 is expected to attract record numbers of exhibitors and visitors.

This year more than 2,000 square meters of air-conditioned exhibition hall will be available overlooking and adjacent to berthing for up to 35 boats of all different sizes.

Floor plans and in-water plans for 2008 are now on line.

Twelve yachts have already been booked into the in-water display and more than 10 companies have indicated their attendance.

The event's organizers strongly recommend booking early for best choice in location and maximum exposure through the event.

The marketing campaign begins in earnest in July 2008 with advertising in all the major regional publications.

Media partners include *Asia Pacific Boating*, *China Boating*, *Luxury Properties*, *Asia Spa*, *CNN Traveller*, *Tiger Tales*, *Time Out Singapore*, *Millionaire Asia* and the *Phuket Gazette*.

Last year, the show was featured prominently on CNN Mainsail and similar coverage is expected this year.

For further information about PIMEX 2008, email [info@phuketboatshow.com](mailto:info@phuketboatshow.com) or visit [www.phuketboatshow.com](http://www.phuketboatshow.com)

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In a survey conducted by the Family Network Foundation, nearly 40% of Bangkok residents said they had lost respect for monks after reading reports about their misbehavior and nearly 6% said they had lost faith in Buddhism altogether.

The survey, carried out from May 7 to 12, questioned 466 people. The study was conducted to see how relevant Buddhism is in Thai families today and to gauge people's reactions to reports of bad behavior by monks.

"Some people say they don't want to undertake religious activities because they've lost faith in monks," said Surin Kij-nitchee of the Thai Health Promotion Foundation.

In a survey of 1,233 youths aged 13 to 25 years by the Bangkok University Research Institute, 55.6% didn't know that Visakha Bucha marks Buddha's birthday, enlightenment and nirvana.

However, more than 90% said they thought teaching of Buddhism was important and 84% said they had relied on monks' advice when facing problems.

Yet more than 90% agreed that Thai youths today had drifted away from spirituality and that hanging out with friends, playing games and visiting entertainment venues was more interesting.

**Greedy guardians.** Police in Ang Thong province on May 16 arrested Phlaiwan Chaichana and her husband Sathit Mitmarta for forcing their two daughters to beg for them. The couple spent the money on a new pickup truck and luxury items.

The girls, 15 and five years old, are now in government care.

Police found the suspects waiting in their pickup near a market after a tip-off by local residents. Coins amounting to 15,000 baht were found hidden in the vehicle.

Sathit told police they once sold balloons at local fairs, but found they could earn much more begging, so he had taken the elder girl out of school and sent her out to beg at local fairs in several Central provinces.

The elder girl told police she had been begging since about age eight and wanted to go back to school.

Both parents have been

# Monk misdeeds eroding Thailand's spirituality



## PEDAL POWER

Trishaw riders in Samut Prakan province are now earning up to 300 baht a day as more passengers opt for the man-powered transport over increasingly expensive motorcycle taxis and tuk-tuks.

who works at a pub in Bangkok. Terrance gave Chalee 2,000 for each boy, but Chalee deducted 1,000 baht each, they said.

Terrance declined to talk to police, saying he would consult his lawyer first.

At 7 pm the following day, police arrested 41-year-old Dee Christopher for allegedly buying sex service from an 11-year-old boy found with him at his rented house, also in Banglamung district.

The boy told police that Christopher picked him up while he was walking in a soi and he was given 500 baht in exchange for sex.

**Made to be broken.** A recent survey by the Abac Poll Research Center into morals and life found that 87% of respondents admit to breaking laws or social conventions.

In all, seven out of every 10 motorists admitted to breaking road rules. The poll discovered the worst road-code violators were teenagers, people aged in their 20s and people aged over 60.

In other areas of life, 37% admitted to queue jumping and 45% to breaking their own resolutions. Some 36% said they needed the law to keep them in line.

On a more positive note, 60% or respondents said they were responsible. The same number wanted to be better people, while more than half wanted to improve their communities.

The survey was conducted over seven months and quizzed 6,933 people in 18 provinces.

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

charged with forcing minors to beg.

**Gambling on theft.** Police arrested a former insurance-company manager for allegedly embezzling nearly 50 million baht to bet on football matches.

Police arrested suspect Surasak Seutrong, 41, in Bangkok's Bang Khen District on May 15.

His former company complained in November that Surasak had withdrawn 49 million from his bank account and fled.

Police believe the suspect had slowly embezzled the money to bet on football matches until he was so deep in debt he could no longer cover up his crimes. He then fled to live with a relative in Bang Khen.

**Coastal Karens.** Amid cries of "human zoo", a group of long-neck Karen hilltribe women a few weeks ago moved to the coastal province of Chonburi, where they are becoming a popular tourist attraction.

A 50-year-old woman with

two daughters are among 13 Karen families who have traveled from the North to live in the new settlement in Sattahip district.

She said the 3,000 baht her family received monthly for living there was the main reason for the move; otherwise, she prefers the cooler weather in Chiang Mai.

Located near a famous temple, the new village welcomes tourists who pay entrance fees: 25 for Thais and 250 baht for foreigners. The long-neck women make extra money by selling handmade souvenirs to tourists.

Despite criticism from activists and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Sattahip District Chief Narong Thirachantarangkoon defended the settlement.

With their highland identification cards, the Karen are al-

lowed to travel freely throughout the country, he said.

"This is not human trafficking. The Karen people voluntarily come here. They also get better pay. The wages are higher here than in Chiang Mai," he said.

**Pattaya plight.** In apparently unrelated cases, two British men were arrested in Pattaya for child molestation within a two-day period.

Michael Terrance, 58, was arrested at 7:30 pm on May 17 at a rented mansion in Banglamung district with eight teenage boys ranging from 14 to 18 years old.

He had already had sex with one of the boys, while the seven others were waiting for him in the living room when the house was raided, police said.

The boys told police that they were delivered to Terrance by Chalee Kengthanyakorn, 45,

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The violence in Yala, Pattani and Narathiwat is giving local people sleepless nights and recurring nightmares, leading to severe mental problems, according to a recent report by the Public Health Ministry.

The chief of Department of Mental Health, Dr Somchai Chakrabhand, said tests had been conducted in the three provinces to monitor the mental health of people living in the area.

The report shows that 36% had recurring nightmares, 25% could not sleep properly and 19% were permanently scarred.

Many were left confused, uncomfortable, had breathing difficulties, felt angry, wanted to hurt other people or commit suicide.

Narathiwat residents were reported as those suffering the most, followed by Pattani and Yala provinces. Some 44% of Narathiwat residents suffer from severe mental problems, according to the report.

The Public Health Ministry recently set up mental health rehabilitation centers at 35 community hospitals in the three provinces to help the people.

**Heinous crime.** An elderly couple and their disabled daughter were stabbed to death in a burglary in Surat Thani's Khian Sa district on May 12.

Rubber planters Pramoon Phuangrat, 72, and his wife Phayong Phuangrat, 71, were found dead in the bedroom of their house in Village 6, Tambon Ban Set, with multiple stab wounds.

In the other bedroom of the two-bedroom house, police found the body of the couple's daughter, Pranee Phuangrat, 33, disabled after suffering from polio as a child. She also had stab wounds.

Police said that the window of the kitchen had been forced open and a bottle of fish sauce was smashed on the floor.

The killer intended to burgle

# Living with terror takes its toll on mental health

Teachers in Pattani's Nong Chik District assemble a guarded convoy to get to schools located inside a government 'red zone' — where insurgent activity is greatest.



the house in silence, but woke up the sleeping occupants by breaking the fish sauce. When confronted, he then used a kitchen knife to kill them, police believe.

Five bahtweight in gold jewelry was missing from the house, police said.

Col Shinawatra Premsanga, superintendent of Khian Sa Police Station, said that he believes the attacker acted alone and was likely to have known the victims, so had to kill them to silence them. Col Shinawatra added that he believes the mo-

tive of the attack to be robbery.

**Oil price problems.** With the start of the new school year, teachers in the Deep South are concerned that rising oil prices will force cutbacks in the teacher-protection units that shepherded them safely to and from school in the past.

Sa-nguan Intharak, chairman of the Narathiwat Teachers' Association, said that many association members feared for their safety prior to the re-opening of schools on May 16.

"Now the problem I'm hearing most about from my colleagues is high gas prices," K. Sa-nguan said.

"Some teacher-protection units that used to collect teach-

ers to take them to school are complaining that their budgets no longer cover the price of gasoline for their vehicles.

"I want to call on the Education Department and military authorities to fix this problem before any tragedies occur. They should start with schools that are in the most dangerous areas," he said.

In the run up to the new term, insurgents had been circulating leaflets saying that they would kill government officers, K. Sa-nguan added.

High gasoline prices and the growing differential between retail prices in Thailand and Malaysia have seen an increase in smuggling in the area.

"Manop", a smuggler in Songkhla's Sathingphra district, said that as diesel is now retailing for 36 to 37 baht a liter in Thailand, many businesses are turning to diesel smuggled in from Malaysia, where it retails at about

15.5 baht a liter.

Manop said that he buys smuggled fuel in loads of 2,000 liters at 28 baht a liter from a large agent in Haad Yai. He then sells it to businesses — mainly trucking companies and shrimp farmers who need diesel to power aerators for their ponds — at 31 to 32 baht a liter.

The fuel-smuggling trade is also adding to official corruption in the region, Manop said.

Every month he must budget 25,000 to 30,000 baht to pay off officials to look the other way, he added.

"Despite government crackdowns, high prices continue to attract people to smuggling. Even though it can be many hundreds of kilometers from the source of the fuel in Malaysia, people still manage to transport it here.

"To do this, we have to rely on connections and people with influence. With the economy in the area struggling, the income from smuggling is far higher than other businesses," said Manop.

**Police rescue 85 pangolins.** Police in Prachuap Khiri Khan on May 16 rescued 85 pangolins being smuggled from Haad Yai to Bangkok.

Acting on a tip-off, police stopped a Toyota Fortuner at an intersection in Pran Buri district at 7:30 am. They found 85 pangolins hidden inside 30 plastic crates.

Police arrested three men in the vehicle. They were identified as Uthai Polwiangchan, 34, the driver, Kong Nanon, 29 and Chaiya Thabanthan, 30.

The trio said they were hired by a man in Haad Yai to deliver the animals to a customer on Rama II Rd in Bangkok.

The pangolins will be released to a forest reserve.

*Around the South news round-up is sourced from Kom Chad Luek, daily Xpress and The Nation newspapers.*

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# Old Takuapa fades from tourist map

I can't stand the rain... If you live in Khao Lak, you may have had this old Tina Turner song buzzing through your head during the first weeks of May. Torrential rain and strong winds caused flooding and minor damage all over Khao Lak.

There has not been a single day without downpours lasting hours. Occasionally, it even rains throughout the night. On Petchkasem Rd, an electric pole fell down recently, resulting in a half-day-long blackout.

As usual, there have been several collisions between pickups and SUVs resulting in some upturned vehicles in ditches.

A brand-new black Isuzu pickup truck ended up folded around a tree, with both the driver and the front-seat passenger killed instantly.

Several roads were flooded in Old Takuapa, with homeowners trying in vain to fight off incoming water with sandbags, shovels and brooms.

Most houses in the old town were flooded knee deep. This was nothing new to the residents there, as this part of Takuapa floods often due to the nearby river and an ineffective drainage system.

No wonder houses are being abandoned, causing this historical area of Phang Nga to wilt away. Many of the old Sino-Portuguese shophouses have already collapsed.

Most of the young residents of Old Takuapa have left to find jobs or open businesses in Khao Lak or Phuket.

Tourists are a rare species here, even though this historical part of Takuapa provides an abundance of inspirational motives for photographers and painters.

Driving through, one senses an atmosphere of sadness. The first settlers came to Takuapa in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC.

Then, centuries later, when the tin-mining business flourished, the town became one of the most important harbors on Thailand's west coast.

Many Khao Lak-based tour



With the rains signaling an early arrival of this year's low season, an increasing number of properties in Khao Lak are being put on the market.

operators have now removed visits to Old Takuapa from their tour programs, although some upmarket resorts, such as the Sarojin at Laem Pakarang, now offer half-day trips to Old Takuapa in an effort to raise public awareness.

It would be a good idea if local authorities invested in preservation and promotion of this valuable part of Thai history before it disappears forever.

**Don't give up.** While in past years the high season in Khao Lak extended into May with calm seas and the sun shining into the middle of the month, this year the low-season weather started before the beginning of April.

Tourists disappeared in the first week of April due to the Easter holidays ending early this year.

It was an eerie feeling to drive through an almost deserted central Khao Lak in April, a time when the town should have been full of tourists. Khao Lak busi-

nesses are facing a seven-month-long low season.

While a few Khao Lak-based operators, such as Richard Doring of [www.khaolak.de](http://www.khaolak.de), took

action in creating a special low-season program, most operators sat back and began complaining.

Lamenting and self-pity seem to be top of the agenda in

Khao Lak at the moment. Many operators are on the verge of giving up and moving away while many businesses are for sale. It's sad and – at least in my opinion – silly to give up now because we have come so far.

Khao Lak has a great future; the ongoing construction of upmarket resorts, private homes and shopping plazas proves this.

Peter Gabriel once sang, *In this proud land we grew up strong, we were wanted all along; I was taught to fight, taught to win, I never thought I could fail.*

This song reflects the sentiment of present-day Khao Lak.

We made it through the tsunami and the aftermath, we have rebuilt Khao Lak – and now you're giving up because this low season is 30 days longer than usual? You must be kidding me.

Franky Gun is an expat writer, artist, designer, scuba instructor and businessman who left Germany in 1991 to live in Thailand. He moved to Khao Lak in 2001 and since calls Khao Lak his home. Franky can be contacted via email to: [avalon@loxinfo.co.th](mailto:avalon@loxinfo.co.th)



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By Anne Powell

**W**ith the second monthly Art Extravaganza Against Global Warming at Yoonique Music Stone Café drawing large crowds earlier this month, local artists are gaining support and momentum for increased awareness on how to better look after the environment.

Yoonique, with its friendly, laid-back atmosphere, is known among locals and musicians as a nucleus of traditional and contemporary art and live music with regular open jam nights giving local musicians a platform to share their talents.

The monthly gathering of artists, musicians and vendors has a village art fair atmosphere. It was conceived by the venue's owner, K. Yoon, as a way of bringing together people with a passion for art and music, and who care for the environment.

Artists and vendors of knick-knacks, paintings, sketches, postcards, clothes and handmade jewelry sell their wares while musicians take to the stage with traditional and contemporary live musical performances.

"The concept of the event is that like-minded people come together in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere, to share ideas on how to better care for the environment. We also encourage people to join the planning of tree-planting sessions and beach cleanups," K. Yoon said.

"We need to wake up the world and learn from how our ancestors understood and looked after the world around them. I just want Phuket to always be a place where our children and their children can enjoy an abundant natural environment. If we continue to take whatever we want without replacing it, there will be nothing left for them," he added.

The musicians and artists who perform at the monthly gatherings all share the common theme in their work of celebrating tradition, respect for nature and the call for people to come together to look after it.

Seeing the litter and piles of garbage along the roadsides in Nai Harn, one of K. Yoon's plans with the funds raised during the monthly events is to supply trash cans around Nai Harn lake area and employ someone to pick up the litter in the area.



The musicians and artists who perform at the monthly gatherings, including Bunjob 'Job' Polain of Job 2 Do (inset), all share the common theme in their work of celebrating tradition, respect for nature and the call for people to come together to look after it.

# Music – a Yoonique way of going 'green'

"As we have only had two gatherings so far, the costs of setting up the performance area, such as constructing the stage and generating the necessary publicity, have left little over for these projects, but we aim to make more progress as the monthly gatherings continue," he said.

"We have already done several beach cleanups and tree-planting sessions, though, so at least people are starting to see us out there, doing something to look after the environment," he added.

As well as artists and musi-

cians voicing their concerns at the venue, there are several booklets and information sheets available that have been provided by environmental awareness organizations and concerned individuals.

"We can't just wait for large organizations to take the lead in looking after the environment. Sometimes we just need a lead to inspire us," K Yoon said.

The next Environmental Awareness event will be on May 30. It will feature an art and craft market starting mid-afternoon with handmade products, followed by musical performances of clas-

sical Thai music, jam sessions for budding musicians and performances by Phuket Ska Band and reggae crowd-puller Job 2 Do.

K. Yoon welcomes any suggestions and support. He can be contacted by calling 086-6838166 or 076-388431.

## What goes around...

For information on recycling and how to contribute, Wongpanit Recycling Center has two depots in Phuket.

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Separated metal, glass and paper can also be dropped off at local municipality offices, where items are collected and re-sold for recycling.



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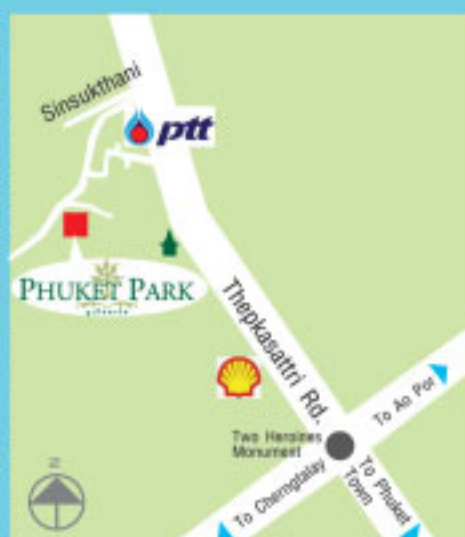
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# Old dame keeps her decorum

Who'd want to be Paris Hilton's pooch? The number of times that minuscule mutt gets its privates squashed whenever she picks it up is nobody's business.

Ms Hilton, it seems, thinks she's above the law as she's been known to drive while sozzled.

She should take a leaf out of a real movie star's book: act regal, at all times welcome strangers and have a refined taste in food and wine.

The star in question? Panwa House in Cape Panwa Hotel, of course.

The house is chock-a-bloc full of antique furniture, turn-of-the-century literature, ancient board games and even has real Bakelite light switches – it's a living time warp where movie-makers sporadically shoot soapy love affairs, period pieces and even a thriller or two.

Just approaching this grand old dame of the celluloid is in it-

self a captivating experience.

The gentle sound of *kim* music drifts along the breeze and the mansion's lights are a luminous magnet in the gathering dusk.

But I'm getting ahead of myself.

The tram ride down the hill to the beach perfectly sets the tone for the evening with its eccentric squeaks, belches and electrical fartings, and the stroll along the strand itself through the palms is just about as romantic as it gets.

Panwa House serves up Thai cuisine with aplomb. The silk-clad staff adds a nice touch as do brass cutlery and carpets along with a wide wooden stairway and clunky Chinese furniture.

It all lends to the sense that you're dining at your great aunt's place. You know the one... She moved to Phuket in her early twenties, married a rich tin-mine mogul and bought a mansion on the beach after he moved on up



Approaching this grand old dame of the celluloid is a captivating experience. The gentle sound of *kim* music drifts along the breeze and the mansion's lights are a luminous magnet.

to the Great Tin Mine in the Sky. She's not here tonight but left a message for us to make ourselves at home and we do, sitting

outside in rattan chairs on the checkered-tiled terrace.

A waiter aims an industrial-sized fan at us and the temperature drops to a pleasantly cool level, albeit with a wind factor akin to sitting atop a 747 at 15,000 feet.

This place sails as close to the rocks of decadence as one can safely get and the atmosphere – probably due to the décor – is best described as elegantly wasted.

Comparing a restaurant with an INXS song may appear a wee bit shallow but, hey, it's just that sitting in such elegant surroundings, getting wasted on vodka martinis is remarkably evocative.

After aperitifs we order a NZ Pinotage Matua 2003 and while the food arrives, swap banter about the house's history. Apparently it played the part of the British Embassy in Bangkok in a TV mini-series called *Tsunami: The Aftermath* and was nominated for a Emmy. Or was it the mini-series that was nominated?

No-one's quite sure but I hope there were no shots out of the front windows as the embassy would then have had rather incongruous views over southern Phang Nga Bay, not Wireless Rd.

The little fella gets himself a *khao phad gai* with a fried egg over the top, *sans* French fries... (140 baht), while we kick off with *yam talay* and *yam nua* (150 baht each) along with deep-fried crab legs (160 baht) that are so good we immediately order another batch while the chef is hot.

The salads are fine with a hint of spiciness, but the star of the evening ascends in the form of an oh-my-God-just-great beef *massaman* curry (180 baht).

I'd love to know how the chef made the beef that soft and yielding. Does he bash it with a rolling pin or what?

Any way that he does it, the *massaman* at Panwa is a veritable explosion of tastes, as is the crab meat in black pepper; so spicy it makes us thankful for the fan's wind tunnel effect.

The wine has been an affable companion and as it's finished there are no two ways about it; ice cream and Irish coffee it is to finish off.

It's been, well, an experience dining at Panwa House. However, the ride up to the hotel brings us back to the Real World.

Rather disappointingly, the Nissan pickup hasn't morphed into a 1930 Silver Phantom and Patong hasn't reverted to a banana plantation.

Still, if you want a genuine whiff of Phuket's more aristocratic past, there's no better place than Panwa House. Remember to give my love to great aunt.

Panwa House at the Cape Panwa Hotel, Sakdidee Rd, Cape Panwa. Open 6:30pm to 11pm, closed Mondays. Tel: 076-391123.

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## Happily Ever After

### Recent weddings in Phuket

Hathairat Promnurakkit and Kittipoj Wimonphan were married at the Phuket Ballroom of the Royal Phuket City Hotel on May 13.



Siriporn Panyadee and Jerome Preston Phelps were married at Phuket Ballroom of the Royal Phuket City Hotel on May 9.



Terry Chong and Kathleen Leung from Hong Kong were married at Laguna Phuket's Chapel-on-the-Lagoon on March 8.

# Floyd now calls Phuket home

By Nick Davies

After a more than a year spent flying between Phuket and the UK since opening Floyd's Brasserie in 2007, Keith Floyd has decided to make Phuket his permanent home.

Renowned for his enthusiastic, boisterous approach to introducing international cuisine to the masses through television shows and cookbooks, the legendary British chef has decided to settle in Phuket.

A household name in the UK, Keith has laid his pen to rest after writing 32 cookbooks, many of which have accompanied his string of continental cook shows.

Keith decided to make Phuket his permanent home so that he can continue running Floyd's Brasserie at the Burasari Resort, Patong, and finalize plans for a new Floyd's Brasserie in Singapore.

"I plan to use Phuket as a base from which to operate. At the moment, we are actively researching the possibility of opening a new Floyd's restaurant in Singapore. Being based here will enable me to easily go back and forth," he said.

At 64 years old, Keith's obsession with food is as fiery as ever, as those who have ever worked with him will attest to. Britons will miss his television shows and books, which began with the program *Floyd on Fish* way back in 1984.

From then on, Keith's ca-

reer as a celebrity chef took off, leading him to cook on every continent before eventually choosing Phuket in 2007 to establish his first brasserie.

"The new restaurant in Singapore will be very much a Floyd thing, similar to the one in Phuket. Seafood will be one of the main focuses. It's surprising that, even though Singapore is surrounded by sea, there are very few seafood restaurants, so I want the new Floyd's to play a major part in bringing innovative seafood cuisine to the country," he said.

Last year, many *Gazette* readers were concerned for Keith's wellbeing when he was admitted to hospital after returning to the UK for a series of stage performances.

"I was simply overworked and wasn't eating properly. I was doing stage shows in a different city each night and spending a lot of time traveling on trains. The shows were in the evening, so by the time I'd finished, there was never anywhere open to get a decent meal and I was pretty much on my own. It all became too much," he said.

Keith cites this as one of the main reasons for deciding to make Phuket his home. "The lifestyle is so much easier here and the people I work with here are so attentive, always making sure I'm all right, asking if I've eaten," he added.

His relationship with the British tabloids has always been a point of concern for Keith and speculation about the state of his

health was rife with rumors.

"The *Sun* has always been quite good to me in a cheeky way. One time, I was making a TV commercial and was doing a national book-promotion tour, visiting all the radio stations.

"The *Sun* wanted to serialize parts of the book so I told them that the only time I could meet them was after a meal with some associates at a Chinese restaurant.

"We drank mineral water the whole way through the meal – not a drop of alcohol – but when the article came out in the paper, they had put little bottles of wine all over the page.

"Even though the article was inaccurate, it wasn't really scurrilous or vindictive, so I didn't mind," he said.

Other publications have taken a more derogatory approach. "A journalist for the *Daily Mail* once listed me as one of Briton's top 10 worst husbands, asking readers, 'Who in their right mind would marry this bloke?'" said Keith.

Despite making 26 TV series with accompanying books – virtually exhausting the foods that could be tagged on the end of "Floyd on..." – and more than 120 TV commercials, Keith is adamant about being just another ordinary person with a post-war era upbringing in Sommerset, in the Southwest of England.

He recounted a British supermarket incident as typical of the way the public expects TV personalities to always behave the way they do on screen.

"I was waiting at the checkout counter with a can of baked beans, Heinz tomato soup and Marmite in my basket.

"The woman behind me in the queue took a look in my basket, then looked at me and said, indignantly, 'Well, I'm not going to watch you anymore if that's the kind of food you eat,' to which I replied, 'Look, I'm the same as you. I don't eat quails eggs stuffed with lark's tongue every day of the week. Like you, I sometimes enjoy simple things like scrambled eggs on toast.'"

One of Keith's favorite traditional British foods is faggots, which causes a little confusion when explained to Americans. "When I was young, Wednesday was always faggots-and-peas day. I still love them to this day," he said.

To Brits, faggots are large meatballs in gravy; in France, they are considered a delicacy, rather than the derogatory American term.

"Whenever it was my birthday, my mother would make fag-

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Keith Floyd returns to Floyd's Brasserie at Burasari Resort in Patong, and now calls Phuket home.

gots and mushy peas for me. However old I was on my birthday, my mother would prepare that many faggots, so the older I got, the more faggots I'd have to eat, even when I was in my thirties," he said.

"I was once being interviewed on an American talk show and my birthday was coming up soon. The presenter asked me if I was doing anything special for my birthday and I said, 'Well, I'm going to be 43 years old, so the only thing I know is that I'm going to be having 43 faggots,'" he added.

Asked if he played the role of cook when he was young, Keith recounted stories of growing up in the countryside, where everyone in the family played a part in preparing meals, leading a traditional hunter-gatherer lifestyle, picking fruits and vegetables, and storing food on marble shelves in a walk-in larder.

"My parents would go to bed at about 10 pm. Once they were asleep, my sister and I would often go down to the kitchen and raid the larder for whatever we could find.

For example, we might find some tomatoes, hollow them out, fill them with bread crumbs and butter and put some cheese on top, then bake them in the oven.

The point is, we were immersed in that kind of lifestyle, where obtaining and preparing food was a big part of the day," said Keith.

As Keith closes the final chapter on his books and cooking shows, he seems glad to be leaving behind the world of TV-chef stardom.

Twenty years ago, *Floyd on Fish* spearheaded a revolution in the way cooking shows were shot and produced.

Keith's knowledge of fine foods and his infectious enthusiasm were the magical ingredients for a long-standing career in front of the camera.

Keith thinks that the standard of cook-show hosts has dropped in recent years.

He dislikes the way producers pick chefs whose looks and manic behavior in front of the camera are more important than their experience.

"I am convinced that while many of the people are watching these TV cookery programs, they are sitting there with a microwave meal on their laps.

I'm not at all convinced that these television programs have done anything at all to improve the abilities of the majority of the viewers," he said.

Keith, you can cook for the *Gazette* anytime.



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## This week



**BLESSED BROADCAST:** Thanarat Kittayakarn (4<sup>th</sup> from right), better known as DJ Man from 89 FM, is ordained as a monk at Wat Wichit Songkhram in Phuket City on May 7. His monk name is Phra Worayano. Among those pictured with him are Nantina Kaewchaiyo, managing director of Pro-Add Group (left); Sompong Kittayakarn (3<sup>rd</sup> from right); his father; and Atchara Raethong, chief of Phuket Provincial Public Relations.



**BROTHERS IN ARMS:** Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) Chief Administrator Manop Leelasuthanond takes part in the *Budhabutr* (youth Buddhism training camp) project at Wat Ketho in Kathu with students from Kathu Wittaya School. More than 300 students attended the three-day event from May 2 to 4. The training was one of 10 camps being held for more than 1,000 students and teachers from Phuket schools, who will be taught about Buddhism.



**KATA COLLECTION:** Kata Beach Resort General Manager Andrew Swatdipakdi (center) and Harin Sukavat (2<sup>nd</sup> from left), Managing Director of Hae-ra & Siam Creative Arts Co Ltd, welcome Rawai Art Village artisans Suriyan Kosanae, also known as 'Mr White Man' or 'Romadon' (left); Apinan Sarochwong (right) and Kittipong Panmuang (2<sup>nd</sup> from right) at the opening of their exhibition at Kata Beach Resort on May 13. The exhibition is on until June 13.



**WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS:** The PADI Project Aware Marine Environmental Award was recently awarded to Kon-Tiki Thailand dive center for its efforts in protecting coral reefs. Pictured are, from left, Danny Dwyer, marketing and sales manager of PADI Asia Pacific; Michael Wallentin, manager of Kon-Tiki Krabi; Peter Abrahamsson, manager of Kon-Tiki Lanta; and Henrik Nimb, vice-president of PADI Asia Pacific.



**COME TOGETHER:** Veeranat Limprastr (3<sup>rd</sup> from left), GM of Mercure Patong Phuket, recently hosted the first Phuket Accor GMs Meeting at Mercure Patong Phuket. Pictured are, from left, Raphael Hirsch, GM of Ibis Patong Phuket; Thomas Koh, GM of Novotel Phuket Resort; Blandine Cressard, GM of Novotel Panwa Resort; Erwann Mahem, Executive GM of Ibis Erawan Group; and Herve Duprat, GM of All Seasons Resort Nai Harn.



**ANGELS:** Staff from Bangkok Hospital Phuket set up a mobile health clinic with BSC Cosmetology for health checks and eye tests at Robinson Ocean Jungceylon on May 10.

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# Get your rocks off in Patong

The previous After Dark column generated almost island-wide confusion about the message contained within the words. In the spirit of spring-time clarification, that the review was critical of the DJ and not the venue.

To make it plain, there's nothing wrong with White Box – it's one of the hippest nightspots on the island – but Cut Killer didn't do justice to his reputation. He played it safe – and nobody really enjoys playing it safe. For a venue into which so much effort has been put into creating a cutting-edge concept, Cut Killer wasn't able to deliver the goods on a similar level.

Moving on, there have been a few noteworthy rumblings in Phuket's nightlife scene. A quick mention goes to Club Lime, who celebrated their first birthday on May 9. Phuket's socialites and those to be seen at the scene were out in force to see DJ Nakadia, returning with her minimal beats. Either people didn't realize there was a free bar or else Phuket's clubbers actually prefer to pay for their drinks.

While Club Lime may have been packed, a disappointing crowd of about 80 people showed up for DJ Nakadia's debut gig at club 808 in Bangkok the following night.

Back on Phuket, Rock City recently made the bold move of opening a second venue, this time on Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd, at the end of Soi Bangla.

For those who have never been to Rock City, the concept is simple. Two Swedish guys, named George and Fred, decided to take Phuket's music scene into their own hands and make the ultimate

Rock City's Metallica tribute band, led by Jim Wallenberg (inset) are one of the most popular bands at the venue.



rock club. George first visited Phuket about 20 years ago, but it wasn't until about seven years ago that he set up camp here. Whenever his friends would come to visit him, they'd ask George to take them out, but there was nowhere to go. The music scene for rock purists was non-existent.

And so Rock City, on the beach road in Patong, was born and now the venue features daily bursts of Metallica, AC/DC, Bon Jovi and pretty much every bastion of rock 'n' roll you can imagine – and Bryan Adams.

If you're wondering what gives George the right to moan about the local music scene, it's because he was a member of Swedish big-hair band Nasty

Idols, who had a string of hits across Europe and in Japan. Although George's hair isn't quite as big as it once was, he is still living the rock 'n' roll dream.

Testimony to Rock City's success is the huge tourist following the place has. Travelers in need of a dose of nostalgia usually find their way to Rock City, where much drinking ensues and the more boisterous patrons take their shirts off and shout/scream/sing along.

Rock City 2 is more of the same. The venue is a near carbon copy of the original. The music is based in one large room, with a stage before a number of tables and a bar at the back right of the club. The main room is about the same size as the original Rock City. From the back of the room, the acoustics sound odd,

so take the plunge and sit as close to the front as your eardrums will allow.

Rock City 2 has yet to achieve the popularity of its bigger brother, but the venue is still busy with a blend of tourists and locals. Perhaps the most interesting aspect of both Rock City venues is the clubs' appeal to Thai girls who love nothing more than rock beats.

The music at Rock City 2 is similar to that at Rock City 1, but the bands have a slightly more youthful appearance. One of the bands in particular looked as if they had come straight from school as they covered Green Day and other contemporary rock acts.

Stealing the show on the night the *Gazette* showed up was the tomboy fronting one of the

bands. Many Asian singers try, and fail, to mimic the vocal talent of Amy Lee, frontwoman of Evanescence, usually resulting in some of of karaoke disaster. Not this tomboy, however, who had the vocals locked down.

The atmosphere at Rock City is the same whatever night of the week you go. The only difference is in the number of people there. Perhaps this is why Rock City is so successful; because night in, night out, they deliver a tried and tested formula.

The drinks aren't the cheapest in Patong as Rock City is catering mostly to a holidaying audience, but at about 160 baht and upwards for a pint of beer, it could be worse.

The throwback to the '80s is a consistent theme at Rock City. At times, you'll wonder if you're actually in Thailand or if you've somehow been transported back to your student days. For these reasons, it's difficult to fault Rock City because the club has always been upfront about exactly what it offers. There's no pretense about the place. It's raw, rugged and you can drink shooters out of test tubes.

With such a popular venue, it would be refreshing to see a few more local bands singing their own material.

You can't, however, fault the musicians at Rock City. George handpicks them and selects only musicians in it for the love of rock – sellouts need not apply.

Phuket's music scene is still a far cry from what you'd expect it to be, given the large number of people on the island, but with places such as Rock City, there are at least a few people standing up for live music.

If you want to get your rocks off online, visit [www.rockcity.cc](http://www.rockcity.cc)

## AFTER DARK

By Matt Crook

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By Sompratch Saowakhon

**W**ith the introduction of a new law banning mobile phone use while driving, a common sight will soon be lone drivers holding animated conversations, seemingly with themselves, as they chat away on their hands-free hardware.

Mobile phone accessory stores are doing brisk business as drivers play safe and stock up on Bluetooth and other hands-free mobile phone devices for cars.

Although it is safer for drivers to pull over and stop if they

are going to use a mobile phone in the car, there is no shortage of gizmos available for those who can't keep off the phone when they're on the road.

Many new car models come equipped with Bluetooth hardware that will automatically sync with your mobile phone and allow you to talk.

You don't need to buy a new car, however, to get that "Hey,

I'm insane!" look that others see as you appear to be gabbing to yourself.

Here's a look at the devices available to turn your car into a hands-free phone booth, requiring minimal, any-idiot-can-do-it installation:



The Bluetooth wireless earpiece.

The cheapest, but not necessarily the safest option, ranging from 150 to 400 baht, is a set of earphones and a microphone on a single wire that plugs into most phones.

Even the cheapest models will have a plug for these. The wires, though, could actually increase the danger of using a phone while driving if they be-

come entangled.

These days, most mobile phones have a built-in hands free option, which simply boosts the speaker volume and receiver's sensitivity so that conversations can be held without having to put the phone against your ear.

For this to be effective, the phone is best kept in a cradle mounted somewhere on the dashboard. There are many kinds of cradles on the market. The most versatile can be angled and use a sucker pad that can fix the cradle to glass or plastic.

The next step up is a

Bluetooth hands-free device that plugs into the car's universal adapter, or cigarette lighter. The unit communicates with your phone and has buttons for answering and ending calls, plus a compact speaker unit and a microphone.



The sun-visor clip.

More pricey units will allow you to store numbers for dialing at the touch of a single button and will have a rotational arm so you can angle the unit for your ideal speaking position.

Similar alternatives run off their own power and can be attached to the rear-view mirror of sun visors for easy reach. Some even have an LED display showing caller ID.

The most popular Bluetooth accessory, which has quickly become a fashion statement, is the range of wireless earpieces that hang off or fit into one ear and come in various colors, patterns, shapes and sizes.

The more you pay, the more ergonomic and lighter they come. Even though it's impossible to see your own ear, some of the earpieces can display caller ID.

These fashion statements range in price from 1,000 to more than 3,000 baht with sleek designs for men and cute ones for women.

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May - June 2008



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# Honda opens with an extravaganza

By Natcha Yuttaworawit

**H**onda Anupas Vividhakarn on May 14 held the grand opening of its new service center on Chao Fa West Rd, claimed to be the largest Honda showroom in Asia, with a flurry of stars, dignitaries and local business people.

Managing Director Montri Hongsyok was joined by some 700 guests in celebrating the opening of the center, which cost 400 million baht to build.

Among the guests were Phuket Vice-Governor Worapoj Ratthasima and Jirada Deechaiya, director of Radio Thailand Phuket, as well as a bevy of Thai actors and actresses from the stage show *Peranakan the Musical*, parts of which was performed on the night.

Performing on stage was Channel 7 actor Cee Siwat Chotchaicharin, known for his roles in the 2005 Thai movie *Ghost of Mae Nak* and in the current soap opera *Rerai Luk Sao Pah*.

Alongside him were MTV Thailand VJ Nattapol "Tye" Liyavanija, who stars in the Channel 3 soap opera *Nang Sao Pah Kee Rew*, and Channel 7 TV star Jui Warattaya Nilkuha.

Emcees on the night were Channel V Thailand VJ and MCOT news anchor Ekachai Waritcharaporn and Nadia Nimitwanich, of the popular Channel 9 show *Dao Krajai*.

Guests were treated to drinks and local food with a Chinese twist.

For more motor-minded folks, the event also coincided with the Phuket launch of the new Honda Accord.



Channel 7 TV star Jui Warattaya Nilkuha (left) performs a scene from the stage show *Peranakan the Musical*.



The new Accord makes its Phuket splash.



Cee Siwat Chotchaicharin (left) and MTV Thailand VJ Nattapol "Tye" Liyavanija (right)





# 1,001 Arabian delights

Stepping into the Baray Spa at Sawasdee Village resort in Kata is to be transported into the bejeweled palaces of the sultans of ancient Arabia.

Many spas around the island aim to turn a spa session into an experience, but few do it so artfully – or as beautifully – as Baray Spa. Lacking a coveted beachfront location, the spa design, rather than connecting its patrons to the outside world, creates a magical world into which they can escape.

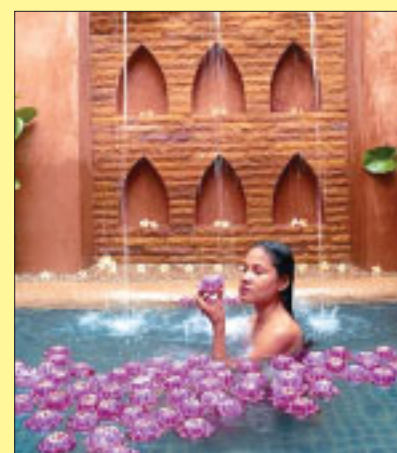
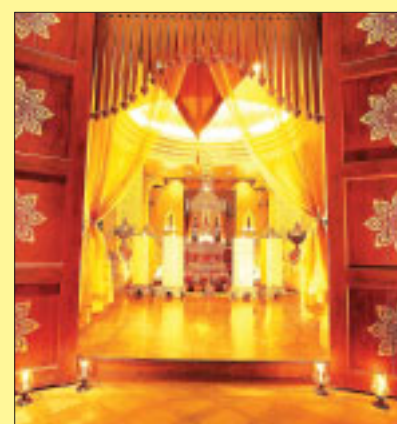
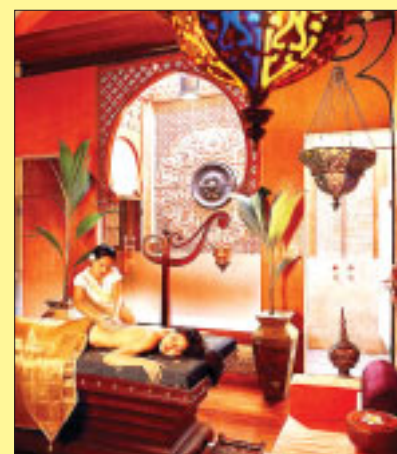
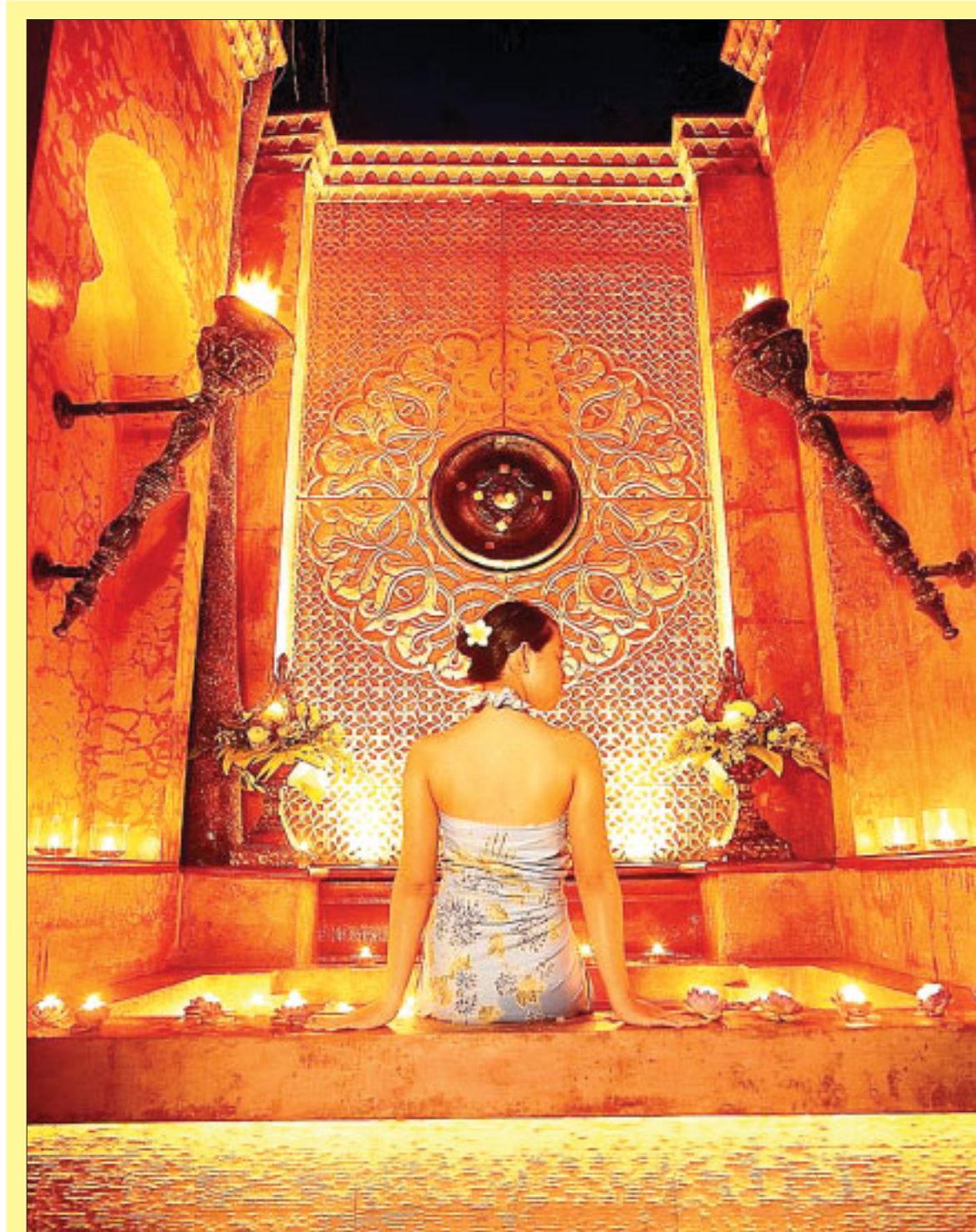
Set on two rai within the 41-room resort complex, the spa features four outdoor massage rooms and four indoor, air-conditioned rooms. Every treatment room has a double bed, outdoor shower, waterfall, sauna room and toilet, as well as a daybed with built-in foot baths set beside it.

Swathed in silks with golden touches throughout, the spa's interior is a mix of Thai and Arabian influences – neither of which are known for their subtlety. No expense was spared: intricate window and door frame carvings, chandeliers, fresh flowers, waterfalls and numerous design accessories are brought together to create spaces of pure indulgence.

And, yes, there are even golden lanterns throughout that evoke the tale of Aladdin, though it's not certain if a genie is lurking inside any of them.

All of the design details are unique, explained Warayut Hor-kaew, Sawasdee Village's managing director, who was a contractor for more than 20 years. "We have a small factory with 40 staff to create the art decorations in wood and resin for our property. We made the lanterns and furniture, almost everything, by ourselves so we are certain our decor items here are the only ones in the world," he added.

A computerized control system, meanwhile, provides a 21<sup>st</sup> century flourish to the ancient luxury design. Everything from



The Baray Spa has pulled out all the stops in creating a luxurious, Thai-Arabian oasis.

the air temperature, lighting, Jacuzzi jets, sauna, the water system for foot baths and the music are controlled by computer, allowing the spa to tailor the full treatment experience to each of its customers' desires.

Though one could wallow in the spa's exquisite design all day,

it is the treatments that people come here for, of course.

The spa menu of some 20 pages describes not only the individual spa sessions, but gives tips on wellness of body and mind including of the properties of each ingredient used in massage and other treatments.

The services of the spa include of seven types of massage

## Spa MAGIC

By Sangkhae Leelanaporn  
Baray Spa

plus scrubs, reflexology, firming and facials.

The signature treatment here is the Kesa Release Massage that has been developed from traditional Indian techniques.

The massage, applied to the upper part of the body and shoulders, is ideal for relieving stress and nourishing the scalp.

Another popular session here is called Vichy Shower, or wet room, which is recommended as a pre-massage treatment.

A Vichy shower uses multiple jets to apply alternating hot and cold water that helps stimulate the circulation and boots the immune system. This treatment costs 500 baht for 15 minutes.

It feels a bit like lying in bed out in the open during a monsoon shower, but the outcome is a healthy and refreshing one.

Prices range from 1,200 baht for a 45-minute body scrub with 45 minutes to 5,500 baht for a 3.5-hour spa package.

This month, the spa is offering a Spa Romance Package for couples. For 12,000 baht, couples are given a 4.5-hour spa extravaganza that includes a candlelit Thai set dinner, a bottle of red or white wine and a spa gift set.

Mystical dreams of starlit desert nights are free.


Baray Spa, open daily from 10 am to 10 pm, at Sawasdee Village, 38 Katekwan Rd, Kata. Tel: 076-330870. Website: [www.phuketsawasdee.com](http://www.phuketsawasdee.com)




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## EVENTS CALENDAR

## Upcoming events on the island

**Until May 30. Boathouse Gallery presents 'Islands' by Laura Baum.**

Mom Tri's Boathouse at Kata Beach presents "Islands" by Laura Baum, accomplished American painter of ethereal landscapes.

Laura was a student of Chinese artist Diane Kan, disciple of the revered master Chang Dai Chien (1899-1983). The materials Laura uses lend depth and light to her paintings.

The gold- or silver-leaf boards with a thin layer of rice paper from Japan and the stone and mineral colors, such as malachite and lapis lazuli, bring a surprising power to the images.

The exhibition is open daily between 9 am and 9 pm until May 30.

Contact Lisa Sol for more information. Tel: 076-330015, 081-9152668. Email: pr@boathousephuket.com Website: www.boathousephuket.com

**May 24 & 25. BIS Flying Fish Tawan Cruises Challenge Phuket 2008.**

The BIS Flying Fish Swim Club Phuket, together with Tawan Cruises, will be hosting the inaugural Tawan Cruises Challenge Phuket 2008.

This international meet will bring together about 500 swimmers aged 18 and under from around Asia. Competing in this event is by invitation only and will be held over two days at BIS Phuket.

Contact Denise Goetz. Tel: 089-8687248. Email: denise@flyingfishphuket.com Website: www.flyingfishphuket.com

**May 25. Mac (and PC) Group Therapy - Chalong.**

Is your Internet connection driving you nuts? Ready to throw your PC out the, uh, window? Need advice on where to buy a computer, or get one repaired? Join *For Dummies...* author Woody Leonhard for his weekly Group Therapy sessions from 10 am to midday. They're FREE.

Novices most welcome - no experience necessary. Bring your questions, bring your computer, bring your mother-in-law and your worry beads, and let's see if we can sort things out.

For directions to Sandwich Shoppe Chalong, see the website. Sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette* and Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppes. From 10 am until midday at the Sandwich Shoppe in Chalong.

Contact Woody Leonhard. Tel: 089-1960940. Email: woody@KhunWoody.com Website: www.KhunWoody.com

**May 26-29. Phuket Celebrity Golf Tour and Gala Dinner.**

Play golf with top football, snooker and entertainment celebrities from the UK.

On May 29, there will be a celebrity gala dinner, with two hours of live entertainment with



**NO BUSINESS LIKE SHOWBUSINESS:** Catch the guys and gals from Phuket Dance Academy in a special one-off performance at Royal Phuket Marina.

**Showbiz****June 7**

Dance Performance by Phuket Dance Academy at Royal Phuket City Hotel.

The performance will start at 5 pm.

Adults: 500 baht; children under 12 years old: 250 baht.

Contact Linda Cumming for additional information. Tel: 081-8937749. Email: linda@lindacumming.com

the celebrities, along with a charity auction of world-class memorabilia and a four-course meal.

For more information contact Jeff Ogden. Email: jsogden@talisman-energy.com

**May 29-30. KTO Junior Challenge Golf Tournament.**

The KTO Junior Challenge, presented by Richmond Group Thailand, will take place on May 29 and 30 at the Laguna Phuket Golf Club in Phuket.

Entry Fee is US\$220 per player, including caddy fees. Registration is now closed.

For more information contact Pamela Wigglesworth. Email: ktochallenge@kids-tee-off.com Website: www.kids-tee-off.com/tour\_home.htm

**May 30-June 1. Overgaard Phuket International Rugby 10s.**

Marking a decade of international rugby on Phuket, this year's Rugby 10s tournament will be played at Karon Municipal Stadium.

For more information, contact Patrick Cotter by email: at phuketrugby@gmail.com

Alternatively, visit the Phuket Vagabonds website at: www.phuketvagabondsrfc.com

**June 1. PC Group Therapy - Patong.**

From 10 am until midday at the Sandwich Shoppe in Patong.

**June 6. Bands' Night @ The Watermark.**

And the beat goes on... Watermark presents the next of its Fab Fridays live music nights - first Friday of each month.

On June 6: pop-folk duo Steel & Pillows, followed by adrenalin-junkies and The Foreign Community. Closing with DJ set by eVolutions.

Fancy some Talking Heads, The Killers, Amy Winehouse, Jack Johnson, Radiohead, U2 or Portishead?

Come early - the venue fills up from 6pm. So dust off your dancing shoes.

Happy hour: 5-7pm. 50 baht Heinekens. 2-4-1 cocktails.

**June 8. Meet the Dogs Sunday Brunch by Soi Dog Foundation.**

Meet some of the special dogs from the Soi Dog Shelter, all of who are looking for new homes.

Hosted by your MC Gary, this event at Babylon Beach Club in Bang Tao will be loads of fun for all, including a raffle and auction.

Tickets are 750 baht and include a buffet lunch, water and soft drinks. Places are limited.

For more information contact Cristy. Tel: 085-4734636. Email: cristy@soidog-foundation.org Website: www.soidog-foundation.org

**June 8. PC Group Therapy - Laguna.**

As always, from 10 am until midday at the Sandwich Shoppe in Laguna.

**June 15. Laguna Phuket International Marathon.**

Soi Dog Foundation together with Kamala Lawn Bowls Club presents Barefoot Bowling from 3 pm to 6 pm. Beginners welcome. 400 baht per person including bowls and tuition. Buffet at 150 baht per person. Booking essential.

First prize for the winning team is dinner for four at The Chedi and a one-year free membership to the bowls club (worth 6,000 baht). There will also be a raffle.

For more info and tickets contact Cristy. Tel: 084-054 4367. Email: cristy@soidog-foundation.org Website: www.soidog-foundation.org

**June 15. PC Group Therapy - Chalong.**

From 10 am until midday at the Sandwich Shoppe in Chalong.

**July 18. Buddhist Lent Day (Public Holiday).**

Khao Pansa marks the beginning of the annual three-month Rains Retreat during which Buddhist monks customarily stay at a temple to study and meditate.

**June 22. TriBallistic Malaiwana Triathlon.**

Race three of four in the TriBallistic Malaiwana Triathlon series will be held at Indigo Pearl Resort on Sunday June 22. registration will be at 6 am, with the first race beginning at 7 am.

There are three race classes: Adult sprint (swim 750m, ride 20km, run 5km)

Splash 'n' dash (swim 50m, ride 3km, run 750m)

Junior (swim 200m, ride 6km, run 1.5km)

Medals will be awarded for all finishers.

Registration is available online at www.triballisticclub.com or contact Shaun Boulter for more information. Tel: 089-5902014. Email: tri@triballisticclub.com Alternatively email jittima@indigo-pearl.com

**June 22. PC Group Therapy - Patong.**

From 10 am until midday at the Sandwich Shoppe in Patong.

**June 29. Mac Group Therapy - Chalong.**

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www.paulpoole.co.th

# SICHUAN CHINA DISASTER

# HELP NOW!

The staff and management of Hung Fat's Restaurant in Kalim are deeply concerned with the situation in China that exists today in the wake of the recent natural disaster that has affected the Sichuan Province.

In keeping with the aspirations, goals, and world vision of our parent company the Baan Rim Pa Group and our "Citizens of the World" belief, we have decided today to make a substantial contribution to the well being of this province in China.

Our restaurant has six chefs from the Chengdu area whose families thankfully were not injured in this disaster, but many of their friends and neighbors were.

We believe the whole world should stand up and be counted upon to change the plight of those most affected by this natural disaster. You and others can help.

With your help, these citizens of China can recover from this monumental cataclysm in their lives.

**HELP IS NEEDED NOW.** Your contribution can make the difference.

Thank you



Hung Fat's Restaurant  
Staff and Management



Phuket Island  
THAILAND

Suggested donation links:

Mercy Corps <http://www.mercycorps.org> Oxfam Hong Kong <http://www.oxfam.org.hk/>  
International Red Cross and Red Crescent <http://www.ifrc.org/what/disasters/response/sichuan-earthquake/index.asp>  
The Amity Foundation <http://www.amityfoundation.org>





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Puzzles

The BIG Crossword

Spot the Difference



Can you find the seven differences between the two cartoons below? And can you find them faster than the rest of the family?  
Solution on the next page.



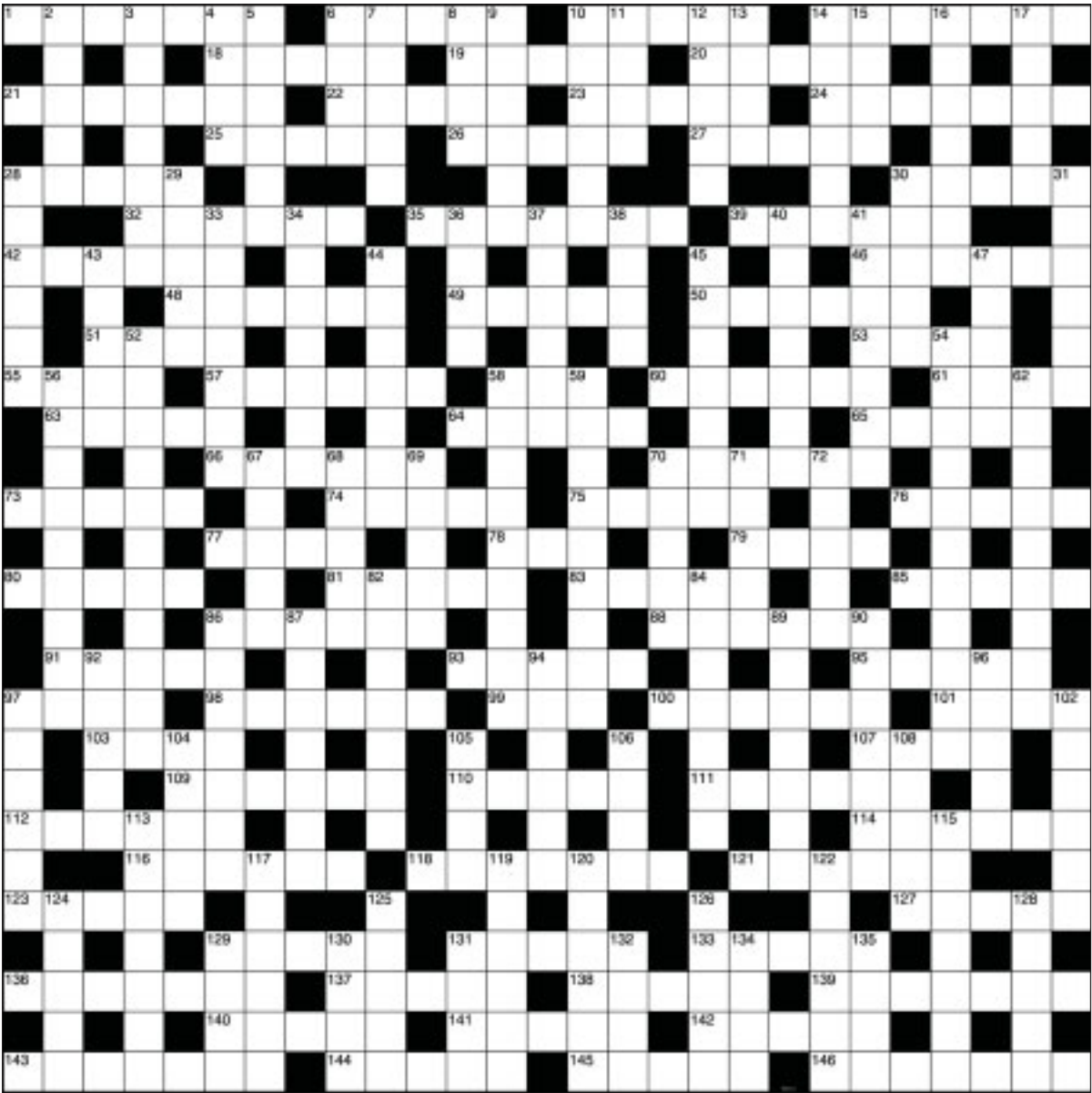
su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

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

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



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Across

1. Perspired

6. Glossy

10. Islam text

14. Soothing

18. State (opinion)

19. Seeped out

20. Underground stem

21. Diabetic’s prep

22. Starts to confide, ...up

23. Risk

24. Amalgamations

25. Milk coffee style

26. Closes

27. Peruvian mammal

28. Steers

30. Suppress

32. Picture stands

35. Colored bands

39. Exhaust supply (3,3)

42. Fireplace

46. Volcanic rock

48. Violet antiseptic

49. Arches

50. Stingier

51. AD,...Domini

53. Wound with knife

55. Abate

57. Frozen polar cover

58. Dangerous sea current

60. Large prawns

61. Valley

63. Rule

64. Spay

65. Golfer,... Woods

66. Chatterbox

70. Golden age

73. Power

74. Thick sweet liquid

75. Family of lions

76. Actor, John...

Down

77. Japanese mountain

78. Poet, Edgar Allan...

79. Fabled whale,...Dick

80. Sing softly

81. US naval port, San...

83. Neither...nor those

85. Spear

86. Slightest

88. Retitle

91. Concise

93. Creep stealthily

95. Purpose

97. Dinner or lunch

98. Lively

99. Israeli city,...Aviv

100. Tennis star, Andre...

101. Xmas carol, The First...

103. Printing error

107. Price labels

109. Bawdy

110. First, second,...

111. Of inches & feet

112. More loving

114. Geometric shapes

116. Begudge

118. Whirling (of water)

121. Passe (3,3)

123. Occupied

127. Enclosed areas

129. Pale mauve

131. Comic

133. From Eire

136. Hearing range

137. Screened (movie) again

138. Fluid measure

139. Keep watch on

140. Commenced

141. Achievements

142. Fetes

143. Blurred

Across

144. Cried (of cat)

145. Greek storyteller

146. Restrained (dog)

Down

2. Flinch

3. Ripped apart, torn...

4. Nasty

5. Give (blood)

6. Kilted Celt

7. Social outcast

8. Immense periods

9. Correct Jewish food

10. Maintained pace

11. Dedicatory verses

12. Aslant

13. ...& void

14. Actor, Jack...

15. Fertilizer compound

16. Timber cabins (3,4)

17. Standards

28. Pakistan city

29. Shiny fabric

30. Two pints

31. Hired assassins (3,3)

33. Driving (away)

34. Dallies

36. Job

37. Baghdad natives

38. Simple

40. Without weapons

41. Fatness

43. Humble (oneself)

44. Escape vehicle,...car

45. Slapped

47. Stroll

52. Friendly to people next door

54. Exasperating

56. Determine (dispute)

58. Reassign

59. Everlasting

Across

62. Get rid of

67. Tell off

68. Pop song’s flip (1-4)

69. Salute

70. Renter

71. Arabian republic

72. Snapshots book

82. Isles

84. Beach bird

86. Autobiography

87. Sketched anew

89. Weapons store

90. Tomb inscription

92. Devoured

94. Spookily

96. Facial features

97. Square peg in round hole

102. Bereavements

104. Pimp

105. Horse-breeding farm

106. Paradise garden

108. Assortment

113. Garbed

115. Sloping letters

117. Amended

119. Spoke monotonously

120. Philippines

celebrity,...Marcos

122. Bleak

124. Needless warning, false...

125. Section of drama

126. Zodiac sign

128. Sent mad,...up wall

129. Part of ear

130. Type of lily

131. Green gemstone

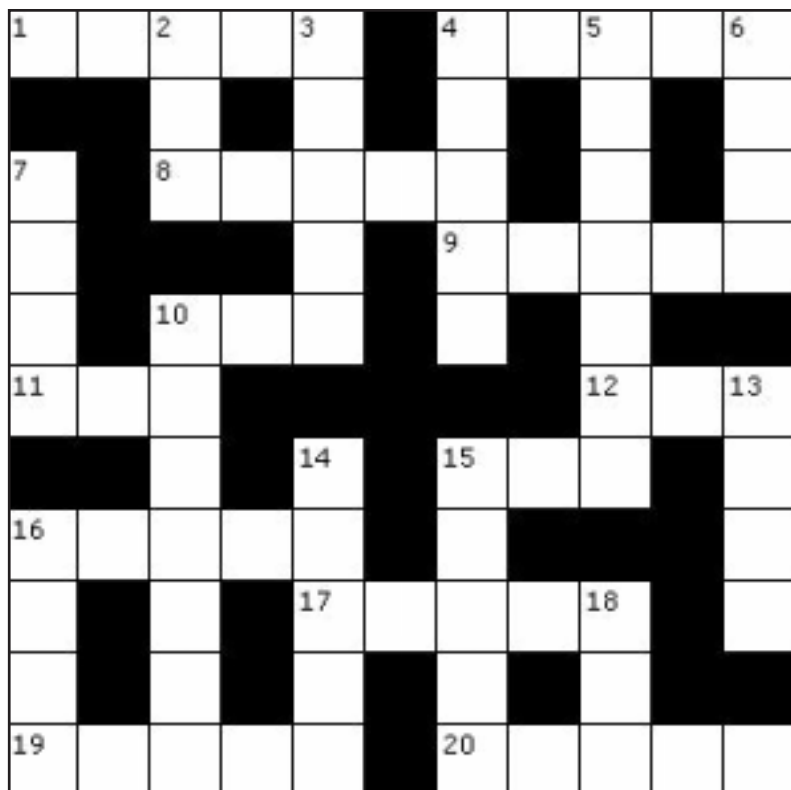
132. Expand (of dough)

134. Gather (crops)

135. Fire-fighter’s apparatus

Answers on next page





## Quick Crossword

### Across

1. Endangered animal
4. Happy
8. Vehicle
9. Something more
10. File a lawsuit
11. Stitch
12. Period
15. Used for hearing
16. Brand of camera
17. Asian country
19. Demanding
20. Used for brewing beer

### Down

2. Catch a fish with this
3. Slight
4. Batman's enemy
5. Animal skin
6. Relaxation exercise
7. Low sound
10. Cheat
13. Unit of area
14. Have fun
15. Void
16. Metal money
18. Basketball league

*Solution below*

## Get your brain in gear with The Monster Quiz



1. What does the name "Beijing" mean?
2. What does "Nanjing" mean?
3. In what year did the Boxer Rebellion end?
4. Who wrote the 1970 hit song *The Boxer*?
5. On which classic album did this song feature?
6. Whose album last week landed No 1 on Billboard's album chart in the US?
7. How many No 1 albums has this artist had?
8. What trophy is contested in the Phuket International Rugby 10s?
9. In which year did he die?
10. Who won the Phuket 10s that year?
11. Which team won the FA Cup that year?
12. Where was that team originally located?
13. Who established the Naval facility there in the 1500s?
14. Which team won the FA Cup this year?
15. What is that city's historical claim to shipping fame?
16. At 170 meters tall, which structure was completed there in 2005?
17. What is special about the floor of the observation deck of the tower?
18. Which building in Dubai is of similar design?
19. How tall is that structure?
20. Which hotel is resident in that building?

*Answers below*

# Puzzle Solutions

### Solution to this week's Quick Crossword



## Monster Quiz Answers

1. Northern Capital; 2. Southern Capital; 3. 1901; 4. Paul Simon and Art Garfunkel; 5. Bridge Over Troubled Water; 6. Neil Diamond; 7. One; 8. Clive Williamson Memorial trophy; 9. 2002; 10. Cruiser Rams; 11. Arsenal; 12. Woolwich, London; 13. Henry VIII; 14. Portsmouth; 15. It is home to the world's oldest dry dock; 16. Spinnaker Tower; 17. It is the largest glass floor in Europe; 18. Burj Al Arab; 19. 321 meters; 20. Jumeirah.

### Solution to this week's Sudoku puzzle

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

### Solution to this week's BIG Crossword

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

### Solution to this week's Cartoon Puzzle





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# When Chinese met Siamese

The influence of Chinese culture in Phuket is everywhere, from the celebration of the Vegetarian Festival to the numerous shrines and Chinese communities dotted around the island. The Sino-influenced buildings in Phuket City bear testimony to a long history and association with the Chinese, who came to Phuket looking for jobs and business opportunities in the 19th century.

The Chinese first arrived in Phuket in April 1855 when the Bowring Treaty was signed between Siam and Great Britain, opening up the borders of Siam to free trade with British merchants.

The treaty was a breakthrough for the Europeans after similar trade negotiations with other nations had failed.

The Bowring Treaty opened up Siamese ports to foreign trade. Before the treaty, the tin trade was the only means of subsistence for the local population.

The treaty changed that. The Europeans had perfected a technique of coating ferrous metals with tin, in order to prevent corrosion, so global demand for tin was at an all-time high.

British traders gained access to Phuket's tin supply making tin prices in Phuket surge. The island's fledgling tin industry expanded with increased investment and production rates increased to meet export demands.

The expansion of the mining industry brought an influx of foreign migrants to the island.

A large number of immigrants from China were from the Southern Chinese province of Hokkien.

Immigration was encouraged by the local Phuket government. Siamese governors had an obligation to send

their provincial taxes to the central government, which often placed heavy demand on funds.

There were often tax-fund targets to be met. It was the responsibility of provincial governors to arrange for the funds to be sent back to Bangkok. Due to the significant increase in trade in Phuket, the demands placed on its annual tax fund increased likewise.

Tin mines run by Siamese entrepreneurs were often small and inefficient.

To meet heavy tax demands, the governor of Phuket decided that the only way to increase the island's tin production was to pursue an open-door policy with regards to the immigration of foreign laborers.

Increasing the number migrant workers would provide sufficient manpower to operate the tin mines efficiently. Chinese merchants and entrepreneurs from Penang were also invited to invest in Phuket's mining industry.

Potential laborers began to migrate to Phuket en masse. Immigration of Chinese laborers was welcomed by the provincial government. Not only did the laborers provide much-needed manpower, but the provincial government relied on migrants for additional tax revenue. Taxes were levied on many of the businesses that were popular among migrants, including gambling venues and alcohol vendors.

As the number of Chinese immigrants further increased, migrant organizations were formed, in order to give workers union power and protection.

These organizations later became known as angyi. By 1867, there were two major angyi groups in Phuket, both in fierce conflict with each other over issues such as access to mining resources.

Members of these two angyi would often clash in the street leading to violent riots. The governor, finding it beyond his power to keep the peace, sought help from the central government in Bangkok.

The riots were put down by military reinforcements.

After several riots, the Siamese government appeased the angyi by granting angyi leaders official titles and officially recognizing their organizations.

Certain angyi members were given the right to voice their opinions directly to the provincial governor.

Such appeasement policies, it was hoped, would prevent social tension among immigrants. The angyi were given the right to participate in local politics, marking the beginning of their influence in Phuket's political affairs.

**Increasing the number migrant workers would provide sufficient manpower to operate the tin mines efficiently.**

## LOOKING BACK

By Anand Singh

There's a new religion that has been creating quite a stir lately. It's called Enchiladism, because its followers believe that the universe is shaped like an enchilada, which is slowly being unrolled by a deity in the form of a giant panda named Bob.

Einstein believed that the universe was expanding, not unrolling, which just goes to show how much *he* knew. To be fair, though, I don't know how anybody could expect Einstein to be right all the time with a haircut like that.

Einstein's error was caused by his pathetic dependence on the inexact science of mathematics, instead of going with what made him feel good. Enchiladism's founder, the prophet Pancho Mendoza, always went with what made him feel good. That is how he happened to discover the truths of Enchiladism in a burst of enlightenment after several bottles of tequila, three hits of LSD and a dozen snorts of cocaine, in the back room of a beer hall in Durango, Mexico, on a sweltering July afternoon in 1984.

Skeptics have raised questions about Bob. They want to know what he'll do with the uni-

verse once he finishes unrolling it.

Alas, we don't know. Theologians have been wrestling with this question ever since Prophet Pancho received his revelation on that holy afternoon in 1984. It has given rise to three schools of Enchiladist eschatology.

The Big Gulp theory holds that Bob will eat the universe and we'll all be dead. The Big Roll-back theory claims that Bob will inspect his handiwork and roll it back up. In that case, we'll also be dead. The Big Bamboo theory says that Bob will lose interest and amble off to some other dimension to find some bamboo shoots, which are what he *really* likes to eat.

Skeptics scoff at the idea of a panda unrolling an enchilada, but don't forget: Bob is a deity. Deities can do some remarkable things and it's a good idea not to

question them, because they're bigger than we are. Check out the Book of Job if you don't believe me.

The area where this amazing new religion really shines is in its theory of the afterlife.

This is a highly elaborate and sophisticated doctrine that makes other religions look primitive by comparison. It holds that unbelievers will go to hell, but that believers will ascend to a heavenly paradise called Salsa, where each of them will be given 365 virgins to enjoy for all eternity.

That's one virgin for each day of the year, with an extra thrown in as a bonus on leap years.

Critics have complained that this is a smutty-sensualist's paradise that glorifies sexual promiscuity. But there's a catch. For every major sin that the believer

committed during his lifetime, one virgin will be deducted from his total stash.

This wise dictum ensures that believers will behave with impeccable morality during their earthly sojourn.

Critics also ask if these virgins are wizened 96-year-old hags. The answer is no. They are all young and obscenely beautiful, putting contemporary sex goddesses such as Paris Hilton, Jessica Alba and Angelina Jolie to shame.

Well, then, the critics cavil, what happens after the believer has run through the whole lot? Is he then stuck with 365 used-up

virgins for the rest of eternity or is he issued a new batch?

The answer is that he is stuck with the same batch, but they have self-renewing hymens to ensure their perpetual virginity.

Feminists, who rarely share the male obsession with virgins, have demanded to know what rewards women will receive in the afterlife.

They'll be glad to learn that each female believer will receive 365 supremely handsome toy boys, all eclipsing Brad Pitt, Tom Cruise and George Clooney in manly beauty.

Enchiladism not only satisfies feminist objections, it also champions a concept of gender equality that no other religion can beat.

But the critics don't know when to quit. In 1985, heretics claimed that Prophet Pancho's inspiring vision of the afterlife occurred because somebody slipped Viagra into his tequila.

This abominable lie was quickly scotched by the execution of the blasphemers. Enchiladists do not permit error to flourish.

There is also much to be written about Enchiladist amulets, but that must await a future column.

*S. Tsow can be flamed at [stsow@yahoo.com](mailto:stsow@yahoo.com), but not while he's working on his marketing plan for Enchiladist amulets.*

# The answer to life, the universe and everything – enchiladas



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# Doyle returns to comic form

There's a pattern among some writers: they write slim comic novels in their youth and hefty dramatic novels as they grow older. Evelyn Waugh and VS Naipaul are two examples. A third is Roddy Doyle, author of the hilarious Dublin trilogy: *The Van*, *The Commitments* and *The Snapper*.

He followed up with his Booker Prize-winning masterpiece, *Paddy Clarke Ha Ha Ha*, the story of the dissolution of a marriage as seen by through the eyes of the young son. Then he made a disastrous detour in magic realism with *A Star Called Henry* about Dublin during the 1916 revolution. A pair of dramatic novels about an abused wife are heartfelt but lack the flash of his earlier work.

Now Doyle is back in comic form with *The Deportees* (Viking, New York, 2007, 242p), a collection of eight stories focused on the lives of the "new Irish", the Nigerians and Poles and other foreigners who've come to settle in Ireland since its EU boom days. Where Ireland had once been a place to flee from to all quarters of the globe, one in 10 residents is now foreign-born.

The change began in the mid-1990s, Doyle writes in his Forward, "I went to

bed in one country and woke up in a different one. That was how it felt, for a while. I'd written a novel, *The Van*, in 1990, about an unemployed plasterer. Five or six years later, there was no such thing as an unemployed plasterer. A few years on, all the plasterers seemed to be from Eastern Europe."

Doyle's new comic vitality is on glorious display in his first story: "Guess Who's Coming For the Dinner".

It opens: "Larry Linnane liked having daughters. He got great value out of them, great crack... Screaming, roaring, flinging each other down the stairs, tearing each other's hair out. The best of friends in other words."

For a Sunday dinner, Larry sits down with his wife Mona, four daughters Stephanie, Tracy, Vanessa and Nicole and Ben, Stephanie's guest. Ben is Nigerian. He is polite, educated, well-dressed and utterly befuddled by the savage Irish humor around the dinner table, the screaming invective and casual obscenities. It's a tour de force of family dynamics.

The title story "The Deportees" brings us back to Jimmy Rabbitte, the hero of *The Commitments*. In that novel the young Jimmy puts together an Irish soul



## Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt

band only to have it fall apart in a silly squabble. Now he's middle-aged, married for nine years, with a pregnant wife and three kids.

He decides to put together another band, *The Deportees*, this one composed of Nigerians, Poles, Russians and Romanians, with kick-off songs by Woody Guthrie. Again, the dialog is lightning quick, the plot turns deft, the comedy outrageous.

Not all these stories work. "57% Irish" is a science fiction formula story about a young scholar who devises a test of "Irishness" meant to deport foreigners but who sabotages the whole scheme to

make sure his Russian girlfriend stays in the country.

But he's back on track in "New Boy", getting inside the head of a Nigerian refugee kid's during his first day in an Irish school, struggling with the language and school bullies. Having watched his school-teacher father gunned down by soldiers, he's not much fazed by bullies and ends up sharing an outlaw's laugh with them.

In "Black Hoodie", an Irish teenager teams up with a Nigerian girl and a school-mate in a wheelchair, to pull off shoplifting scams for a school project. While the couple are tailed by security guards, the guy in the wheelchair scoops up everything in sight.

"Home to Harlem" is a story of an Irish grad student named Declan who travels to New York to search for the black American soldier who got his grandmother pregnant in Scotland during WWII.

The final story, "I Understand", follows an illegal Polish worker as he holds down two jobs while dodging police and extortionists. His life of danger wins him an Irish girlfriend.

The narrative tone throughout the book is warm, genial, sympathetic – a nice antidote to the coldness of middle age.

# More on restaurant language

If ever there was a more useless mundan [sic] what you call a job telling people that have no lives and are probably as boring a person as you are, you nut case kook.

An anonymous reader  
Oakland, Michigan

### Barbara replies:

Such is the level of eloquence and clarity of some of my critics. Well, okay, I'm being unfair – such is the level of one reader who evidently disliked a recent column about annoying expressions we hear from restaurant employees.

In that column, I offered employees equal time to complain about annoying things that restaurant patrons say. A few of them took that as an opportunity to attack the patrons who'd reported expressions that bother them.

I don't get that. Isn't the customer "always right"? If responding to a patron's request with "no problem" or asking someone who has walked in alone "Just one?" tends to bug people, why not be glad to know that and start saying something else?

Then, too, I received a number of variants on "I don't give a fried chicken about grammar" and "What do you really expect from a server who makes \$2.65 an hour? If we had PhDs in English, we would be college professors, not servers."

These comments also miss the point, I think. None of the annoyed patrons were talking about servers' education and grammar. The language they didn't like struck them as flippant,

Welcome to Word Court, where Barbara Wallraff unravels some of the mystery that shrouds the English language, debunking confusing usage and clearing away the clutter that stops clear understanding – all by answering reader's questions.

insensitive or crude. Whether or not it was intended that way, that's how it struck them.

Well, guess what? Restaurant employees don't like to be treated insensitively or crudely either.

One wrote me: "You know what I can't stand? People who have a half-hour lunch or are just in a rush, but they put their hand in your face as they proceed to talk on their cell phone, when we are trying to help make their lunch quick and easy. Then when they are ready, we get treated like we have ignored them."

Another server wrote, "I can't tell you how many times we hear 'Give me another ...' or 'I want a ...'." And another: "Please" and "thank you" are forgotten commodities for servers. Patrons snap their fingers, lift coffee cups from across the room, allow their children to run through restaurant aisles and leave huge messes on the floor.

We smile and tolerate all of this for a tip that is at your discretion."

Yet another pleaded, "Is it too hard to be friendly and respectful to a waitress?"

One more point that restaurant employees made again and again is this: "We truly want the customer to be happy. So when we ask you if everything is all right, please let us know. Letting us know when you are at the register puts everyone in a tough spot."

Obviously, many restaurant employees are articulate, smart and caring. But even capable people with the best of intentions sometimes say things that annoy other people. To repeat myself from the earlier column, it's a two-way street. If all of us try a

little harder not to be annoying, someday we should all have less to be annoyed about.



Barbara Wallraff is a weekly syndicated columnist for *King Features* and a contributing editor and words columnist at *The Atlantic Monthly*, where she has worked since 1983.



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## Fires highlight everyday dangers

The most recent in a long series of late-night fires along the beach road in Patong highlights yet again the need for improved fire-prevention measures in the congested, poorly planned pedestrian market areas fronting the sidewalk along much of the road.

The latest fire at Jintana Plaza was not only the third blaze there this year, but the second within just 15 days (see News pages).

A fire broke out in the same complex in the early morning of April 30, destroying goods worth an estimated 10 million baht, according to one Thai-language newspaper.

Such conflagrations are hardly limited to Jintana Plaza, of course. In September last year, a similar blaze destroyed 10 vendors' shops located inside a shophouse along the beach road between Soi Kebsup and the Holiday Inn Patong.

Like the fire that gutted the nearby Crocodile Disco in 2006, all of these fires along the beach road broke out in the early morning hours, well after they had closed for business. Most of the fires were attributed to "electrical shorts", even though the shops should not have been drawing much, if any, electrical current at the time.

Other similarities include the danger and difficulty firefighters have had to confront when trying to extinguish these fires across the hideous tangles of live power-supply cables that line the beach road.

These dangerous eyesores mar the already-degraded scenery along the beach road, large sections of which offer no sea views at all thanks to post-tsunami "commercial redevelopment" of the area.

Despite numerous requests by Patong Municipality over the years for central government assistance in burying the cables, the golden opportunity was lost when, after the tsunami, no government ministry would help fund the work.

Although Patong Municipality had properly reserved a two-meter-wide area along road for the project, the opportunity was overlooked when the Tourism Authority of Thailand in 2005 began its 194.7-million-baht redevelopment along the Patong beachfront.

That project focused far more on cosmetic improvements than safety concerns. This is evidenced not only by the continued dangerous state of the power cables, but also the attractive, but slippery, paving stones that now cover the sidewalk and pose a hazard to pedestrians in the rainy season. Fortunately, these late-night fires in Patong have not cost any lives – yet.

However, the sad fact remains that the streets of Patong continue to pose multiple hazards to tourists – even those smart enough to exercise extreme caution.

– The Editor

Do you have an opinion you want to share?  
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## 3rd Fire Sale This Year.. Making Ashes of Themselves Again!?!?



## 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.

### There are always two sides to a story

This kind of case [the mugging in Rawai] happens so often in beach areas where farang think they can get away with being drunk and making noise.

There are always two sides: one, someone just hates him; or two, it was a real criminal. Bad luck for Dave, he might die for only 300 baht.

By the way, I can't accept that the way police always stress that tourists should be careful. It's not only tourists, but everybody.

On the media side, when anything happens to farang, it is always news, but when the victim is Thai nobody hears anything. The *Phuket Gazette* is the only English language paper produced to great standards; if you want to report news, you should cover all people – not just tourists.

I'd prefer to see the *Phuket Gazette* as it was about 10 years ago: leisure-lifestyle, what's happening (good things), new businesses, events. What will the tourists will think when they see all this violent news?

I know that you might want to say "news is news", but as one of Phuket's representatives, you should help to create a joyful and relaxing environment, not a New York City theme!

Tarin Tachthongchan  
Phuket

### A good cause – bar none

I would like to thank all the people who have donated towards a bench seat in honor of Daniel

Leroy Jackson, who passed away on April 15.

The bench will be placed at the 4th hole at Loch Palm Golf Club.

I would especially like to thank the person who stole one of the collection jars from a well-known bar in Rawai.

Nicholas Cottrell  
Rawai

### Tourist opts out

I have traveled to Phuket on holiday since 2002, spending close to four months a year in Phuket. I will not return to Phuket until the attackers in Rawai are caught, however.

This has been going on long enough. I will spend my money in a country that protects its tourists and citizens.

I was staying at the Atsumi health spa in the low season of 2003 and had a gold chain snatched.

When I reported it to the police, they had more interest in my girlfriend then they did in catching the culprit. They then charged me 300 baht for the police report.

At least at my home in the USA the police try to help you and they definitely don't charge you for the police report.

Come on Thailand, you can do better than this!

Khun Jeffrey  
USA

### Where are the police?

For quite a while the presence of any police control has been missing across the whole island. Only helmet controls appear to be in place at night. After dark, there

is usually only one man, either reading or watching TV, at the Kathu checkpoint.

Years ago, one could read in the *Gazette* that Phuket did not have enough staff for patrols. The control of Rawai's main roads should be easy and needs only a bit of patience.

Or is another chief needed to solve these repeated crimes in the same area?

Kurt Rotman  
Phuket

### What on earth did they talk about?

After reading 'Suspect in Patong 7-Eleven shooting surrenders to police' [*Gazette* online, May 19], I couldn't help but wonder why a murder suspect would want to meet the Mayor of Patong before handing himself in to the police?

Alternatively, why would Mayor Pian Keesin grant an audience with a motorcycle-taxi driver murder suspect?

What would they discuss? What terms or conditions could possibly be applied to his surrender?

Of course, the suspect [Chainart Yuyen] is innocent until proven guilty in a court of law, so what's left to negotiate?

I found this to be an interesting development indeed. I shall be watching this one with interest. Will you, too, *Gazette*? Or will this case, like so many others, disappear into the dark chasm of Phuket's unpublished murderous history into which the tourism and property moguls prefer to sweep such unsavory developments?

Eagle eye  
Patong

Letters conveying views and suggestions are published here. Those seeking comment from government officials and/or business owners are published in *Issues & Answers* at www.phuketgazette.net.



# Mangrove forest buffer zones will save Phuket lives

This month, another natural disaster tragically struck the Irrawaddy Delta in Burma. In the wake of the destruction and rising death toll caused by Cyclone Nargis, we at Mangrove Action Project (MAP) are again calling for the re-establishment of mangrove buffer zones to serve as coastal greenbelts along affected coastal zones to mitigate the effects of future disasters.

The force of the cyclone could have been greatly lessened. Loss of life and property damage could have been somewhat averted if healthy mangrove forests had been conserved and restored along the coastline of the Irrawaddy Delta.

I have heard that the Irrawaddy Delta was formerly a lush, biodiverse wetland of extensive inter-tidal forests. Much mangrove loss initially occurred under British colonial rule in order to clear space for rice production.

The Delta was once called "the rice bowl of the world". Since that time, mangrove loss has continued – during World War II to satisfy military demands and, more recently, for fuel and unsustainable development, such as industrial shrimp-and-fish aquaculture and urban expansion.

The result is that these natural protective buffers have been removed, leaving the areas exposed and vulnerable to the waves and wind.

One news report I read stated that, according to Bur-

## FIRST PERSON

**A**lfredo Quarto is the executive director of Mangrove Action Project, a group whose mission is to assist and educate in methods for protecting mangrove forests.

He says that the tsunami in 2004 and Cyclone Nargis in Burma highlight the need to re-establish mangrove forests to act as buffer zones to soften the blow of future large-scale natural disasters.

Alfredo outlines why re-establishment is so important and how Phuket can put the wheels in motion.



mese researchers, during a period of 75 years (1924-1999), 83% of the mangroves of the Irrawaddy were destroyed.

Today, nearly half the world's human population is concentrated along coastal areas. These important zones support an array of other life dependent upon healthy coastal wetlands. With climate change affecting the rate of sea-level rise, coastal wetlands, such as mangroves, play a pivotal role in protecting coastlines from erosion and acting as buffers against hurricane winds and storm surges.

When mangroves are removed or degraded, the coastlines become vulnerable to Nature and are made more so by climate

change and the subsequent virulent storms.

Although the tsunami of 2004 resulted from an immense earthquake off the north coast of Sumatra, the high death toll can be partially attributed to a man-made disaster.

This unnatural disaster preceded the tsunami and was created partially by ignorance, yet also by greed and naivety, resulting in the clearing of the natural buffer zones once present along the same coastlines that were hardest hit by the tsunami.

Extensive mangrove forests, coral reefs, seagrass beds, sand dunes, peatlands and other natural features were once effective barriers to wind and

waves. These natural protective buffers were removed and the full force of the tsunami lashed the coastline, resulting in the high death tolls in Asia and East Africa.

Though no early warnings were issued for the 2004 tsunami or Cyclone Nargis, there had been cries of concern from mangrove ecologists, local communities and non-government organizations about the expansion of shrimp aquaculture, agriculture, tourism, charcoal production and other unsustainable industries along coastlines.

More than half the world's mangrove forests have been destroyed, leaving only about 15 million hectares. It is estimated that 150,000ha are lost each year.

We must re-establish the mangrove buffer zones that previously protected people and property from storms and tsunamis. Much time, effort and money has been spent by planting seedlings in the wrong places at the wrong times.

In many instances, seedlings raised in nurseries to be hand-planted in neat, regularly spaced rows, are often placed in inappropriate locations, such as mud flats or salt flats, where the present hydrology and soil conditions are all wrong and mangroves do not belong.

Such large-scale mangrove plantings are actually afforestation efforts, not restoration, and high failure rates ensue.

Most of these mangrove "restoration" projects are planting only one species, usually the rhizophora, or red mangrove, which is easy to plant and more commercially valuable for wood products. Those few projects that do succeed in establishing mangroves are more of a monoculture, rather than a healthy multi-species mangrove forest as naturally occurs in the tropics.

We at MAP believe that the

most effective method for successful, large-scale mangrove restoration is through ecological mangrove restoration (EMR), a six-step process that considers local hydrology and results in biodiverse, ecologically functioning ecosystems.

In Southeast Asia, there are huge areas of abandoned shrimp ponds that could be returned to mangroves by restoring the natural hydrology.

In promoting EMR, MAP staff, advisors and partners are aware of the importance of a multi-stakeholder approach with full community involvement in the entire process to ensure sustainability.

### Six steps to mangrove reforestation success

Work together with communities, organizations and local government to:

1. Understand the individual and community species' ecology of the naturally occurring mangrove species at the site, paying particular attention to patterns of reproduction, distribution and successful seedling establishment.

2. Understand the normal hydrology that controls the distribution, successful establishment and growth of targeted mangrove species.

3. Assess the modifications of the mangrove environment that occurred and that currently prevent natural secondary succession.

4. Select appropriate restoration areas, through application of steps 1 to 3, that are likely to succeed in rehabilitating a forest ecosystem and are cost effective. Consider the available labor to carry out the projects, including adequate monitoring of their progress towards meeting quantitative goals established before restoration. This step includes resolving land-ownership and land-use issues necessary for ensuring long-term access to, and conservation of, the site.

5. Design the restoration program at suitable sites, selected in step 4, to restore the appropriate hydrology and use natural volunteer mangrove recruitment for natural plant establishment.

6. Use actual planting of propagules or seedlings only after determining through steps 1 to 5 that natural recruitment will not provide the quantity of successfully established seedlings, rate of stabilization or rate of growth as required for project success.

For more information visit [www.mangroveactionproject.org](http://www.mangroveactionproject.org)

## Legally hiring a Burmese maid

We would like to have a young woman from Myanmar to work for us as a maid in our house in Phuket. Is this legal, and do you know of any agencies that can facilitate this kind of employment? Do I need a business visa to employ her? Or can my Thai girlfriend employ a maid from Myanmar?

STL  
Patong

**Nattaya Anudid, Chief of Phuket Provincial Employment Office, replies:**

No employment agencies that we know of offer staff from Myanmar. You will have to find a Burmese person who already has a work permit and is willing to leave her current employer to work for you as a maid.

You will need to bring her to the Phuket Provincial Employ-

ment Office to register her as your employee.

Your Thai girlfriend can hire her. She will need to come to our office with the Burmese person she wants to register as her maid.

She must also provide copies of her Thai ID card and census registration.

The PPEO is currently not allowed to issue any more new work permits for Burmese as our quota has already been filled.

## Russian-Finnish TV channels

I would like to know if there is any satellite company in Phuket that offers channels from Russia and Finland?

Noel Aasa  
Cherng Talay

**The Gazette replies:**

There are three cable TV providers in Phuket, but none of these offer content in Russian or Finnish at the moment. Their contact details are as follows:

KPP Cable TV, 156/28-29 Phang Nga Rd, Phuket City, Tel: 076-355922-4.

P Southern or Phuket Cable TV, 32/1-2 Thung Ka Rd, Phuket City. Tel: 076-258448, 076-225727. Fax: 076-258363.

True Visions Cable TV, 183/20 Phang Nga Rd, Phuket City. Tel: 076-232151. Fax: 076-232-156. Website: [www.truevisionstv.com](http://www.truevisionstv.com)

## Issues & ANSWERS

Send your questions at [www.phuketgazette.net/issuesanswers/submitissue.asp](http://www.phuketgazette.net/issuesanswers/submitissue.asp)



**M**isinformation is abundant when it comes to health and fitness and you will always come across pseudo-experts who have all of the correct information – or not. Let's take a look at some of the more common issues that generate conflicting advice for fitness enthusiasts.

**Muscle turns to fat when you stop doing weights: false.**

Lean body mass or muscle cannot change to fat tissue. If you suddenly stop exercising you must in turn reduce your caloric intake. Continuing to eat the same quantity of food will result in increased deposits of fat inside your fat cells.

A taught and toned body may slowly begin to be covered by this fat, therefore appearing to have changed to fat. If you could peel away the layer of fat, you would see the toned muscle.

**Females can't do weights because they will become big and muscle-bound: false.**

Resistance training should be performed by everybody, male and female.

Tailored strength-training programs will strengthen muscles, connective tissue and skeletal bones, helping to ward off conditions such as osteoporosis, arthritis and other degenerative conditions that can affect musculoskeletal tissue as people age.

# Fitness myths: the naked truth

## FIT FOR LIFE

By Nick Dobyn

From our mid-30s our muscles begin to slowly decondition and lose density and, therefore, strength.

This slows down our metabolism, which means that even if we consume the same number of calories, we will slowly deposit fat around areas such as our tummies, hips and thighs.

Working on your strength in the gym will slow this process so that you can hang on to your muscle tissue for longer. There are also cosmetic benefits to regular weight training.

Back to the issue of weights and fe-

males: compared with males, females produce less testosterone and human-growth hormone – two hormones that allow muscles to grow and increase in strength.

The only way women will ever become as big as men is through injections of artificial derivatives of these hormones or if women genetically possess large quantities of both along with the right muscle tissue that has the potential for muscle growth.

**When exercising, no pain means no gain: false.**

This old saying should be, "no brain, no gain". Exercising does not have to be painful to be productive.

Pain is the body's natural protective mechanism to stop damage. However, there is good pain and bad pain.

Bad pain is damage to joints or con-

nective tissue; good pain is the normal discomfort associated with pushing the body out of its comfort zone.

In order to progressively overload the body to improve strength and cardiovascular fitness, we must experience a certain degree of discomfort, or good pain.

However, before you train like this, always consult a qualified trainer who will put the "brain" into your program and structure your training so that you don't experience bad pain.

Regular fitness training will make you feel better, look better and improve your health: true.

*Nick Dobyn is the manager of Phuket Personal Trainers Co Ltd, a Rawai-based personal fitness consultancy. Call 086-2514801 or email Nick at nick@phuketfitness.net*

### In The Stars

by Isla Star

## Trust your instincts, Gemini – your cash is set to flow

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21): Your creative talents are strongly highlighted until the middle of next month. Those celebrating a birthday will discover a unique way to boost their bank balances during the year. Scorpio has the right attitude to provide constructive support, but another Gemini is likely to let you down. Where romance is concerned, Leo would like the chance to share some private time.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 23): It could be difficult proving your point during the coming days, but if you are sure of your facts, justice will prevail. Capricorn will need convincing, but will eventually get the point. Wednesday is best for bureaucratic appointments. This weekend, some light-hearted flirtation could lead to more than you bargained for.

**LEO** (July 24-August 22): Leos who are doubtful whether to follow up a hot tip will be reassured by what they hear this weekend. Aries has the right experience to give sensible advice. An extra monetary bonus is forecast to arrive before the end of the month. Delay making large purchases until June has begun. Wear strawberry red to encourage a romantic introduction.

**VIRGO** (August 23-September 23): If you're bored, you'll be keen to break away from your routine next week. This weekend, an offer to travel could lead to an exciting challenge. Personal finances remain a sore subject, but you are likely to find ways of further economizing on your outgoings. Wear the color silver to encourage your thoughts to flow more imaginatively.

**LIBRA** (September 24-October 23): Pisces asks for help this weekend and this could mean that Libra has to make last minute changes to plans. On Monday, you discover there was some truth to rumors spread on the work grapevine recently. Promotion is highlighted during the coming weeks, but you should be prepared to ask for appropriate rewards for extra responsibility. Cupid is poised to encourage a romantic meeting with Scorpio.

**SCORPIO** (October 24-November 22): Single Scorpions will enjoy a romantic surprise this weekend. Work matters require tactful handling next week as problems in communication are forecast. Talk is cheap, so have all proposals and agreements in writing. Tuesday is best for making a conciliatory gesture towards an estranged Aquarian friend. The color lavender can encourage calm emotions.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 23-December 21): Those with too

much spare time won't be able to resist setting the cat among the mynah birds this weekend. However, spreading rumors will not endear others to you and could cause an unwelcome rift in a long-term friendship. Alleviate boredom with new leisure pursuits; Cancer has an interesting idea to share. Where romance is concerned, meeting an alluring Aquarian before the end of the month is forecast.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22-January 20): A business proposition that has been stagnant for weeks receives a fresh boost of energy. Those who are prepared to move quickly will see a good opportunity before others have chance to jump on it. Your ability to hold tactful discussions comes in useful when an irritable colleague tries to make waves. The number 7 is lucky on Wednesday.

**AQUARIUS** (January 21-February 19): After splashing out too much cash recently, you may have to lay low this week. Think

of economical ways of having fun at home. Leo would appreciate an invitation to share a romantic dinner this weekend. On Tuesday, you learn something to your advantage concerning financial management. Wear pearl gray to encourage quiet contemplation.

**PISCES** (February 20-March 20): A dreamy mood is forecast for the final week of May and this could cause obvious details to be ignored. Delays in business are forecast, but progress will speed up in June. Your luck in love is set to improve as Cupid has a match in mind. Resist temptation when an apparent bargain is seen this weekend; a better option is around the corner. The number 5 comes alive on Thursday.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 20): A fulfilling week lies ahead for most of you. Your recent hard work is about to pay off and there are signs that business will boom during the coming weeks. Your help is appreciated by a friend this weekend and future collaboration is highlighted. Where potential romance with Taurus is concerned, it is advisable to play a waiting game until you are sure of compatibility. The color seaweed green encourages patience.

**TAURUS** (April 21-May 21): Those who have been frustrated by a colleague's hot-headed approach to work will be reassured by an honest conversation early next week. Your creative talents continue to burn and Aquarius is ready to show how impressed they are. Travel plans get off to a flying start when you receive an unexpected cash bonus at the end of May. The scent of roses encourages optimism in love.

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I keep reading press releases and newspaper reports about Thailand's head-long leap into the future of the Internet. Frankly, I'm a bit confused.

I read that TT&T "plans to invest up to 6 billion baht rolling out WiMax services nationwide this year."

That was May 2006. Right now, TT&T is in bankruptcy and just announced that it has to cut its R&D budget from 300 million to 200 million baht.

Its total revenue in 2007 hit 7.3 billion baht. That's revenue, not profit – TT&T hasn't turned a profit in years.

In February this year, I read that United Information Highway, in conjunction with CAT, ran a test from a boat off Le Meridien Phuket Beach Resort "with initial downlink speeds of 10 megabits per second and uplink speeds of three megabits per second."

That report spawned some great photos of a sailboat off Phuket, but the speed test seems ephemeral: I've never seen real international download speeds anywhere in Phuket over 2 megabits per second.

However, in March, Dr Mun Patanotai, Thailand's new Minister of Information and Communications Technology, was quoted as saying, "I want both the TOT and CAT to hold talks with Advanced Info Service, DTAC and True Move about a joint wireless broadband system," an HSDPA system, to be operational within a year.

In April, AIS announced that it was starting WiMax testing on Silom Rd in Bangkok and at Mae Fah Luang University in Chiang Rai. CAT announced that it had tested WiMax in Chiang Mai using ZTE and Motorola equipment, and that it would spend 500 million baht to roll out a nationwide WiMax network.

One problem. WiMax and HSDPA are utterly different – totally incompatible – systems.

WiMax requires completely new technology, new towers, new receivers. HSDPA can be grafted onto the existing mobile phone network, using existing towers, but requiring a substantial investment to upgrade hardware.

Are you confused yet? Permit me to sort through what we know for sure, what's been announced and what's likely to happen here in Phuket.

What we're seeing is a battle among Goliaths – big-name hardware providers such as Motorola and Intel – fishing for contracts with CAT, TOT, TT&T, AIS, DTAC, True and others. Each company has its own reasons for announcing victories. Each had its fair share of miserable failures.

# The future of Internet access in Thailand



At speeds three to five times faster than a EV-DO "Air Card", HSDPA – when it finally arrives in Phuket – could turn wireless Internet access on its ear.

Last week in the US, Sprint, Comcast, Intel, Time Warner, Google and Bright House Networks announced a new US\$3 billion (100 billion baht) WiMax venture called Clearwire.

WiMax is big business in the US, but I think HSDPA will prevail in Thailand.

The other loser? I don't think that EV-DO (the "Air Card"), currently the only fast wireless network on the island, will last more than a few years.

Technologically, EV-DO isn't improving very quickly; WiMax and HSDPA run much faster.

Financially, I believe that CAT will make more in the long term, and reduce its overhead, by switching to HSDPA.

I only hope that CAT will give its current EV-DO customers a good upgrade path.

The Goliaths are vying for a lucrative goal: Internet access revenue.

As profit margins for traditional landlines shrink, the mobile-phone market grows saturated, and revenue from long-distance

calls drops through the floor (can anyone out there say "Skype"?), all of the phone companies are looking for the Next Best Thing to keep their coffers full.

With one exception, demand for phone services in Thailand has peaked, slowed

way down, or started a steep downward spiral. The exception? Internet access, of course.

The phone companies know that Phuketers – rumored to be uniformly rich – have no qualms paying exorbitant prices for big data pipes.

When a typical Internet line costs 10 times as much as a voice line, and a nominally fast Internet line costs twice as much in Phuket as it does in Europe, or five times as much as in Japan or Hong Kong, the baht signs start flashing in the Goliaths' eyes.

If I were a gambling man, and I'm not, I would bet that five years from now there will be three technologies that will dominate the Internet market in Phuket. And I bet that two ballyhooed technologies are headed to oblivion.

Number 1. ADSL as we know it will continue to be the wired connection of choice for most people on the island. Why? Money.

Right now, some people with voice phone lines can't get ADSL. As the technology improves – and it's improving fast – almost everyone with a voice line will be able to get ADSL, competition will make it relatively cheap, and the (theoretical) speed will increase significantly.

Number 2. Fiber to the Home (FTTH, or to the Office) should appear in a limited number of locations late this year or early next year.

I expect the technology to suffer all sorts of teething pains – think of the problems you have now with your copper phone line and multiply by 10 – and it's going to cost a lot.

But Phuket's going to be the poster boy for all of Thailand, so FTTH will work, sooner or later. There's a lot of money riding on the experiment.

FTTH won't eclipse ADSL in the near future, but five years down the road you're going to want fiber, not a phone line.

Number 3. I expect HSDPA wireless broadband to, uh, edge out its competitors here in Phuket.

Two reasons. First, Phuket already has an extensive mobile phone system that HSDPA "3G" technology can be grafted onto.

Second, the current ICT Minister likes HSDPA and he's bound to make it easier for the Goliaths to get approval to set up HSDPA networks.

The likely loser? I'd be very surprised if WiMax makes it out of the starting gate in Phuket.

Woody ([www.AskWoody.com](http://www.AskWoody.com)) has written several dozen computer books, including a bunch "For Dummies." He's also a Contributing Editor at Windows Secrets Newsletter, a Microsoft MVP, and a bagel fanatic.

I don't think that EV-DO (the "Air Card"), currently the only reasonably fast wireless network on the island, will last more than a few years.

## KHUN WOODY'S COMPUTER



**PC GROUP THERAPY**  
Join Woody and other Windows victims at his Sunday morning PC Group Therapy sessions, co-sponsored by the Phuket Gazette.  
On May 25, we'll have a MAC-centric session, also at Sandwich Shoppe Chalong, for those of the Apple persuasion.  
And on June 1 we'll be back at Sandwich Shoppe Patong (near Andaman Beach Suites). Sessions are designed to help everybody – even (especially!) complete computer novices – and they're absolutely free. Driving instructions at [www.khunwoody.com](http://www.khunwoody.com)

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# CASH: The ultimate safe haven

Many countries are going to look back at 2008 and 2009 as years of recession, or as years with economic growth so slow that it felt like a recession. Investors are unlikely to escape without a few financial bruises.

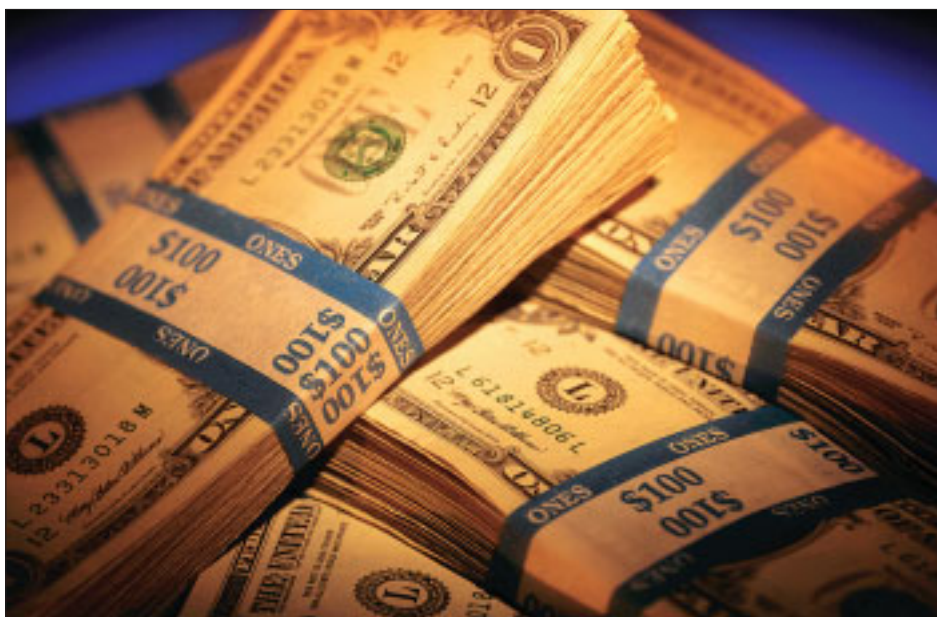
However, there are some strategies that are worthy of some consideration. Here are some examples:

There is always cash. The good part of having cash on deposit is that it is unlikely that the investor will make a loss. The bad part is that in real (inflation-adjusted) terms in most countries the investor does not manage to maintain the true buying power of the invested cash.

That feature aside, deposits in cash can be made in different ways. The traditional way is to place money on deposit with a bank for a pre-selected period, but in countries such as Thailand interest rates are so low that it is impossible to make a real return (after inflation) on cash deposits.

Many Thai banks – and this extends to most countries – offer their clients an alternative: Money Market Funds (MMF). These funds are widely used throughout the world and in some places they are the standard place to “park” cash.

In France, for example, a



Cash and cash equivalent investments can help ease the pain through times of economic woe.

Fear of the bad publicity of being caught holding “commercial paper” of dubious quality and the possibility that the bank would have had to compensate depositors for any losses together have con-

tributed to higher standards in money market fund assets.

Alternatives to MMFs, such as short-dated bonds, do exist and are often suitable.

However, many investors find that their individual savings are too small to meet the requirements of banks or stockbrokers.

There are types of inflation-linked bonds available, depending on the currency. It is essential for investors to understand the “fine print” – how these bonds work, who issues them and whether there is a withholding tax.

It is common for governments to withhold 15% to 30% of interest earned. This tax is deducted automatically at source. Almost without exception it is impossible to reclaim this tax.

Moving away from pure cash investments, the alternatives cover a wide spectrum. One of the more adventurous asset classes is commodity funds.

This is an area that can cause painful losses, but some basic ground rules can reduce risks. Investors in commodity funds must know what is actually meant by commodities: in some cases it will include commodities such as oil, gold or wheat, but it may also include foreign exchange, stock market index futures and interest rates.

These are not necessarily bad additions. In fact, by diversification, they can reduce risk. What is critically important is that the fund is able to go “long” and “short”.

In other words, the fund can invest hoping to profit from rising prices and from the opposite, falling prices.

Trade in these funds can be either “black box” computer driven, also known as “emotionless trading” or the traditional “hands-on” variety. Sometimes there is a mixture of approaches inside one fund. No particular method is superior or inferior.

One of the best features of this type of fund is that it opens investors to new areas of investment they would normally not consider. In these uncertain times that can be a great advantage. Recent spikes in the prices of en-

ergy and food prices can result in substantial gains without the investor having any detailed knowledge of the rice or oil or related markets.

However, if markets grow tired of ever-increasing prices and huge losses start to be made, investment funds that can ben-

efit from falling prices can certainly boost an investor’s profits.

It is not necessary for an investor to know whether prices are going to rise or fall; the fund can make these decisions.

Through the years, this column has mentioned investments in Ground Rents and University Student Accommodation as being worthy of consideration.

Well, how have these two areas reacted to credit crunches and other crises? They have behaved perfectly and are still very profitable.

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) Website: [www.global-portfolios.com](http://www.global-portfolios.com)



## MONEY TALKS

By Richard G Watson

### VITAL STATISTICS: COMPANY REGISTRATIONS JUMP 59%

Type	April '06	April '07	April '08	% change
Limited company registrations	155	80	84	5.00%
Limited partnership registrations	20	24	17	-29.17%
Limited companies changed	320	284	313	10.21%
Limited partnerships changed	29	21	34	61.90%
Companies deregistered	14	8	17	112.50%
Partnerships deregistered	5	5	3	-40.00%

Source: Phuket Provincial Business Development Office

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## ON THE MOVE



**Dunyaphark Kronsang**, from Saraburi, has been named Chief Registrar of the Tourist Business and Guide Registration Office, Southern branch: Region 2.

K. Dunyaphark has a law degree and has experience in legal work for the Bureau of Internal Revenue, Ministry of Finance.

K. Dunyaphark also works as a lecturer on the Nongkhai campus of Khon Kaen University.



**Prutthaya Na Songkhla** has been appointed Assistant Director of Sales of Centara Hotels & Resorts. K. Prutthaya is responsible for corporate, government and MICE (meetings, incentives, conventions and exhibitions) clients for Centara properties in Phuket, Samui, Haad Yai, Chiang Mai and Mae Sot.

She has a bachelor of arts, majoring in English, and 17 years' sales experience.



**Chaiwat Inkaew** has been appointed Landscaping Manager at Indigo Pearl Resort.

K. Chaiwat has a degree in landscape technology from the Department of Landscape Technology & the Environment at Maejo University in Chiang Mai. Before joining Indigo Pearl, he was the Landscape & Ground Department Manager at The Evason Phuket Resort & Six Senses Spa.

By Marque Rome

PHUKET: Since being founded in 1986, Thailand's Siam Winery has become one of the world's wine-making powerhouses. The company's Spy Wine Coolers – the top-selling alcoholic beverage among Thai women with more than 90 million bottles sold annually – are ubiquitous in Thailand. The company distributes its products to 20 countries, including the UK, where the Wine Coolers are in a popular niche.

Siam Winery's governing philosophy is, says Kim Wachtveitl, the company's director of business development, to develop wines that suit Thai tastes. The traditional European paradigm embraces wines of different quality and type – dry wines at dinner, sweet wines after, flavored or sparkling wines for any time.

But Thailand is different.

First, Thai food is generally spicy. Second, much of the market is not sophisticated enough to bother with the subtle distinctions that pepper your average wine aficionado's palate. Thai wine-drinkers want a beverage to drink throughout the day, with or without food. Moreover, the Thai market is develop-

# Siam Winery rolls out wine tailored for Thais

ing in its own way and is ready for real wine as a supplement to coolers, which are largely made from fruit other than grapes.

Mr Wachtveitl talked to the *Gazette* at Merlin Beach Resort during the company's introduction of E & J Gallo's Peter Vella line of Californian wines, for which a ballroom was hired.

**'Siam Winery's governing philosophy is to develop wines that suit Thai tastes.'**  
– Kim Wachtveitl, the company's director of business development

Vella himself, Gallo's vice-president of wine making and senior winemaker – for 45 years one of the most influential forces in world wine making – was on hand. The event

was attended by more than 100 people – mostly retailers, nearly all Thais.

"This product is aimed in Thailand at the domestic market," said Mr Wachtveitl. Wine is shipped in bulk to Thailand and bottled by Siam Winery.

Famous for consistency and

technological brilliance, Gallo was for 50 years the world's largest wine maker. It still operates the largest winery in California's Central Valley, the Livingston plant outside Modesto. The plant produces more than 350 million liters annually, second among world wine producers in terms of volume. Gallo remains the most well-known name in the world's largest wine market – the US.

A marketing experiment last year by researchers from Cornell University, Mr Wachtveitl's alma mater, shows name recognition's potent influence. Two groups of diners were presented free glasses of wine with dinner, the bottles of which were placed on each table. Half were labeled "Noah's California Wine", half "Noah's North Dakota Wine".

Labeling was otherwise the same. Despite the differing appellations, the wine was identical. Diners with California labels enjoyed their wine the most. They also said their food was more delicious, from which it was con-

cluded that the popularity of one product rubs off onto others.

In Thailand, neither California wine nor Gallo are potent icons. The partnership with Siam Winery is thus a boon to Gallo, which will benefit from Spy's mass appeal. But Siam Winery won't benefit from Gallo name recognition except by building the brand itself.

The company hopes this will be easy owing to Peter Vella's special style of wine making. His Cabernet Sauvignon blend and Chardonnay-based offering are notably "fruit forward", as Vella says, without the astringency and sourness of most dry wines.

The wine includes apple, which allows a significant reduction in the tax levied on the wine as it includes fruit.

Vella's wines are noted for their soft drinking qualities – exactly what the Thai market de-

mands. Vella holds patents on reduced alcohol technology so it's no surprise he favors lower alcohol levels of about 11%.

He also employs flavor mapping to craft wines. Layers of tasting identify the necessary sweetness, acid, oak and tannins for a given blend. "Then we grow the grapes to do it," he said.

Vella's Classic Red and Classic White – 299 baht each – are crafted to suit Thai tastes.

Anecdotal evidence suggests Vella may be onto something. Phuket resident Uli Niepergall encountered a box version of Vella's burgundy while in Langkawi. He liked it, but was surprised by his Thai wife, whose alcohol consumption is limited to an occasional glass of "not too sour" red wine. She liked it, too, and urged him to stop giving it away to visitors.



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## Junior golfers prepare for KTO challenge

**BANG TAO:** The KTO Junior Golf Challenge, presented by Richmond Group Thailand, will take place at Laguna Phuket Golf Club on May 29 and 30.

There are 10 categories in this international 36-hole junior tournament, which is open to boys and girls aged from six to 17 years old who hold a current recognized handicap card or certificate of competence for children aged eight years old and under.

The format will be stroke play and tee markers will be adjusted to make the Max Wexler-designed course age and gender appropriate according to USGA guidelines.

Junior players from Thailand will be competing against their peers from countries including Malaysia, Singapore and the Philippines.

Many families are expected to include the junior golf tournament as part of their family holidays. Registration is now closed and walk-in registrations will not be accepted.

Partners for the event include Laguna Phuket Golf Club and Tourism Authority of Thailand, with media partnerships coming from *Asian Golf Monthly* and the *Phuket Gazette*.

For more information about KTO, contact Kids Tee Off. Email: [ktchallenge@kids-tee-off.com](mailto:ktchallenge@kids-tee-off.com) Website: [www.kids-tee-off.com/tour\\_home.htm](http://www.kids-tee-off.com/tour_home.htm)

# Off-season seafaring – and keeping your dinner down

By Ben Reymenants

Phuket's divers have seen small glimpses of the destruction caused by Cyclone Nargis, which ravaged parts of Burma recently. Beaches around Phuket have been partially reshaped. Many old trees have died and there have been power cuts, flooded streets and a premature closing of the Similan Islands Marine National Park.

With the last liveaboard coming in, low season has officially begun on the west coast. Most dive operators have pulled their boats out of the water for a full service, compressors are in the workshops for overhaul and scuba tanks are being cleaned and tested, all to prepare for storage and a fresh start in September.

If you are a dive instructor, you are probably on your way to a long-deserved holiday back home, visiting family and friends or checking out other remote places on the globe.

If you are still here, it means you have learned to appreciate the relative calmness of monsoon season. If this is your first off-season in Thailand, strap in for five months of peace, tranquility – and some excellent diving.

I won't romanticize it; there are times when you'll need a strong stomach to go out to the islands, but it is well worth it. With less fishing and less diving, the reefs and fish life are given a chance to repopulate.

Shore diving is usually limited because bad visibility and strong surf making entry and exit



Monsoon season can be extremely rewarding – for divers and fish alike.

a dangerous and inelegant ballet.

The diving around Phuket, however, is still exciting. Racha Yai and Racha Noi can be visited daily and you may even catch a glimpse of a rare pelagic sea creature. Sightings of marlin, whale shark and manta ray are not uncommon.

There are some great dive spots between Phuket and Phi Phi. The King Cruiser wreck has an abundance of fish life. Anemone Reef and Shark Point are always a good score with their variety of colorful anemones and the occasional leopard shark dozing on a sandy patch.

If the bad weather really hits you on your holiday or day off, your diveboat will be able to find a reasonably cozy shelter behind Koh Dok Mai, where there is an amazing wall full of small creatures.

Diving in the low season is more relaxing. Diveboats are less crowded that usual, crews are

more chilled out and there are fewer divers all trying to catch a glimpse of that mantis shrimp.

You may even find special deals on dive packages.

Sensitive stomach? Scared of the boat ride? Here's a few tips when you have a few hours of rough monsoon-season sailing ahead of you:

Eat a solid breakfast that will give you enough carbs until lunch, preferably easy to digest. This means no bacon dripping with oil. Instead, have oatmeal, crusty toast or any other cereal product that will leave your stomach feeling full.

Hydrate well before you go on board. At least one liter of mineral water will prevent motion sickness.

Taking medicine helps in most cases, but if you're feeling unwell, it is already too late. Medication, such as Dramamine tablets (dimenhydrat), works well, but may make things worse when you're already hanging over the railing. Take them an hour before boarding. Scopolamine patches applied to the skin do a reasonable job as well.

If you're not fond of chemicals, try an anti-seasickness wristband. They're elastic armbands with a small plastic

button on the inside, pushing on your medial nerve. This is believed to calm down your central nervous system. Another non-chemical prevention – something I learned from Thai sailors – is ginger. Raw ginger tastes soapy, so you could go for capsules or tea instead.

Try not to take caffeine-containing drinks such as coffee or cola. They will stimulate your central nervous system and make things even worse. For obvious reasons, avoid alcohol until after you completed your dive.


Make sure all the things you need are packed systematically, so you don't need to turn your dive bag upside down on a dive deck. Try to limit setting up your gear to the periods when you are still navigating out of Chalong Harbor or when you're approaching the dive site and are in the shelter of the island.

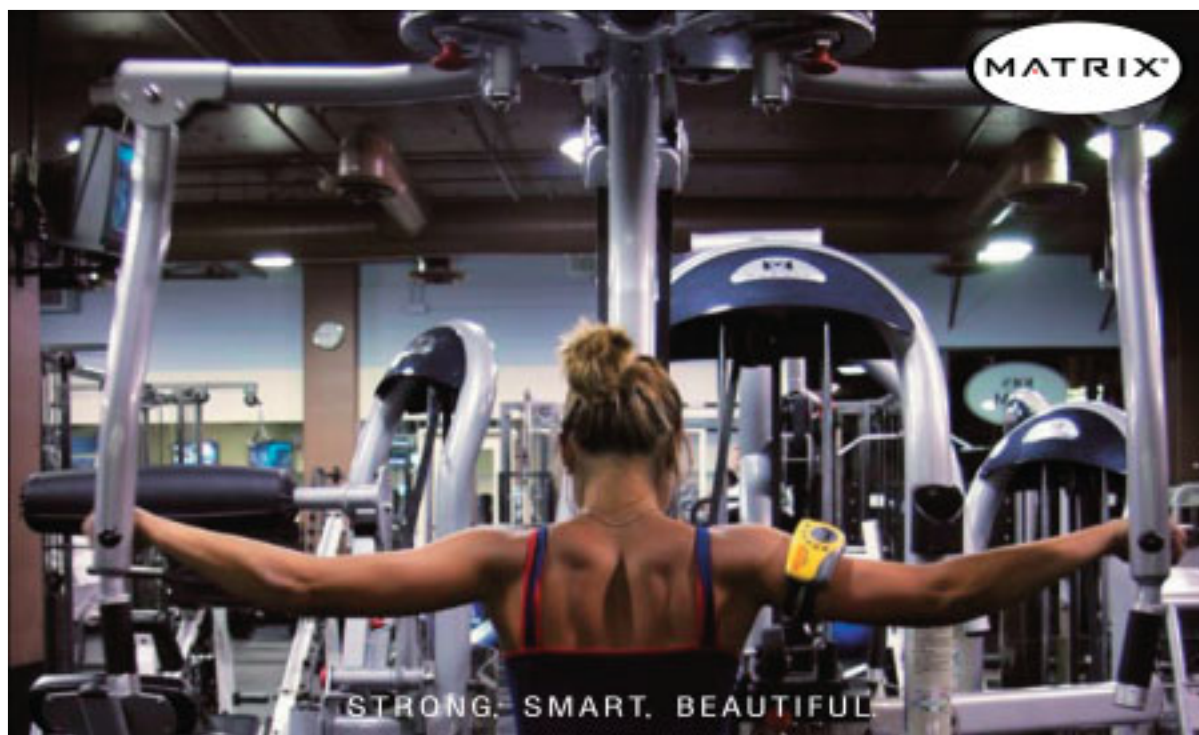
The best place on board to for avoiding seasickness is in the center of the boat towards the back, where there movement is least. If you're already feeding the fish with your stomach contents, try to look toward the horizon. Also, make sure you're not in the exhaust fumes of the boat – don't spoil the toilet or dive deck for the rest of the divers: overboard is best.

If you feel something coming, don't try fight it, it will come out sooner or later. Just make sure you are in the right place when it does.

If you've arrived at the dive site, the next best thing to do is to jump into the water. Other divers will testify that being submerged is the best cure for seasickness. It is the magic medicine. As soon as you put your head under water, even as a snorkeler, you'll feel great again.

If you do become sick, make sure to stay hydrated. Dehydration is one of the primary causes for decompression sickness in divers.

  
**Beneath the SURFACE**  
By Sylvie Yaffe



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# Phuket fighters win Asian titles

By Matt Crook

RAWAI: A team of mixed martial arts (MMA) fighters representing Phuket's Tiger Muay Thai took part in the Pan Asian Grappling Games on May 3 and 4, winning 19 individual medals and the all-round team trophy, with 81 points, ahead of second-place Team Fabricio, with 62 points.

A 5,000-strong crowd gathered at the Mall of Asia in Bay City, the Philippines, on both days to see 300 of the regions top grapplers in action, with 12 countries represented.

After winning individual and team titles in the Southeast Grappling Games 2007 and 2008, as well as the Singapore Grappling Games 2008, this marked the latest in a string of success stories for Tiger Muay Thai.

Tiger Muay Thai have now won 44 individual medals and three team championships in the past 12 months.

Grapplers faced off in "Gi" (with uniform) and "No Gi" (without) competition in a variety of weight divisions, with Tiger Muay Thai winning five golds in No Gi and two in Gi.



The winning team from Tiger Muay Thai pose with events staff at the Pan Asian Games in the Philippines. From left are Anthony Heung, Jason Saggo, Mike Hutchison, Ray Elbe, Wade Henderson, Johnny Khunstadtler, Michael St Claire, Cody Stevens and Mauricio Pontali.

Ray Elbe led the way, winning gold in the over-76kg men's advanced division, with Wade Henderson picking up a bronze in the same category.

After winning his medal, Elbe left to catch a flight to the Abu Dhabi BJJ (Brazilian jujitsu) Games, where he won a bronze medal against some seasoned BJJ fighters.

Purple-belt Ray stood toe to

toe with brown and black belts.

Other results by Tiger Muay Thai fighters competing at the Pan Asian Grappling Games:

**Men's basic over-85kg:** Johnny Kumstatter (gold), Michael St. Claire (silver).

**Men's basic absolute:** Mike St Claire (gold), Johnny Kumstatter (silver).

**Men's Intermediate 62.1-69kg:** Cody Stevens (gold).

**Men's intermediate 76.1-85kg:** Jason Saggo (gold), Cody Stevens (silver), Mike Hutchison (bronze).

**Men's intermediate absolute:** Jason Saggo (gold), Cody Stevens (silver).

**Men's advanced under 76kg:** Mauricio Pontalti (silver).

**Men's advanced absolute:** Mauricio Pontalti (gold), Wade Henderson (bronze).

## Phuket stun Pattaya in annual golf tourney

PATTAYA: In their annual golf outing to Pattaya, the Phuket Expat Golf Society (Pegs) out-classed the Pattaya Sports Club (PSC) on April 28 to 30, beating them by 21.5 points to 10.5 points.

Every year, for more than 10 years, both golf associations have traveled to their opponents' home turf to play a three-day, Ryder Cup-style golf tournament – and every year, the home team has won the event.

This year was the first time

that the visiting team returned home with the trophy.

Sixteen of Pegs' finest went to do battle, playing "better ball" on the first day, "scramble" on day two and singles match-play on the final day.

Pegs started well, winning seven of eight points available on day one.

This was followed by a 5-3 win on day two. Day three continued with success for Pegs, as the Phuket side secured 9.5

points to PSC's 6.5 to take the title.

PSC were gracious hosts, although they tried their best to waylay the Phuket players by entertaining them well into the early hours of the morning with frequent visits to popular nightspots in Pattaya.

However, team captain Peter Davies led his team to a deserved victory and ensured that all players managed to return to their hotels in time for each day's play.

PSC will arrive in Phuket in October to try and win the trophy back.

In other Pegs news, under the direction of newly elected President Liam Stewart, in addition to the normal end-of-the-month tournaments (this month at Blue Canyon on May 29), there will be several additional events. The first will be a two-man better-ball competition at Phuket Country Club on May 14. For more information visit [www.expatgolf.com](http://www.expatgolf.com)

## TriBallistic returns to Indigo Pearl for Race 3

NAI YANG: Race three in the four-race TriBallistic Malaiwana Triathlon Series will on June 22 see participants returning to Indigo Pearl Resort at Nai Yang, the site of the first event in this season's series.

Registration will be at 6 am, with the first race set to kick off at 7 am.

Medals will be awarded to all finishers, with prizes for the top three in each event.

Racers will be split into three categories:

Adult Sprint (swim 750m, cycle 20km, run 5km).

Splash 'n' Dash (swim 50m, cycle 3km, run 750m).

Junior (swim 200m, cycle 6km, run 1.5km).

All athletes will receive free refreshments and a race shirt.

Sports nutrition items and TriBallistic merchandise will be on sale on race day.

In case of rough seas, a duathlon (run and cycle) will be held in place of the full triathlon.

Online registration is now open.

Race 2 was held at the Bor Saen Resort and Spa in Phang Nga and race 4, scheduled for October 11, will also be held at Indigo Pearl.

For more information contact Shaun Boulter of TriBallistic. Tel: 089-5902014. Email: [tri@triballisticclub.com](mailto:tri@triballisticclub.com) Website: [www.triballisticclub.com](http://www.triballisticclub.com) Alternatively email [jittima@indigo-pearl.com](mailto:jittima@indigo-pearl.com)

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## Construction

by Janyaporn Morel

# B400m residential project a near sellout

PHUKET CITY: Construction of the the 400-million-baht Supalai City Resort project on Thep-krasattri Rd is set for completion by February next year.

Building of the eight-story condominium is now about 80% complete, with units expected to be ready for transfer of ownership by September.

Also being built are seven three-bedroom, two-story houses and 90 three-bedroom, three-story townhouses. The entire project is spread over 9.5 rai, with access to the house units via a different point to access to the condominium building.

The condominium block will house 168 one-bedroom and two-bedroom units, offering living areas from 27.5 square meters to 59sqm and priced from 900,000 to 2 million baht.

Atip Bijanonda, director and deputy managing director of Bangkok-based developer Supalai PCL, told the *Gazette* that construction of Phase 1 of the project, including the condominium building, two-story houses and 42 of the townhouses, should be completed by the beginning of 2009.

The remaining townhouses will be built in Phase 2, slated for completion in February 2009.

"The townhouses and the two-story houses in Phase 1 will be ready for transfer to buyers within two months. We aim to have the entire project finished early next year so that buyers can take advantage of the government's policy of reduced property-transfer tax," he said.

The eight-story condominium building of the Supalai City Resort project is about 80% complete.



The two-story houses are being built on areas of 200sqm to 240sqm and are priced from 3.89 million baht, while the townhouses are being built on 80sqm plots, with prices from 2.39 million baht.

"We have been selling units

[off plan] since January and have had a positive response from buyers. All of the two-story houses have been sold, 95% of the condominium units are sold and about 80% of the townhouses have been sold," added K. Atip.

## Living Land Capital unveils condo project

WICHIT: The Clover Phuket condominium project was formally launched in Wichit on May 10, with a celebration hosted by its developer Living Land Capital.

The project will comprise a seven-story building on 558 square meters of land off Kwang Rd. Work on the project, which began in January, is expected to be completed by August next year.

There will be 79 one- and two-bedroom condominium units and two retail units in the building.

The condominium units, which start at 1.57 million baht, will be from 33sqm to 78sqm.

Pictured at the project's launch is Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit (3<sup>rd</sup> from right), who received a souvenir from Living Land Managing Director Pathrlap Davivongsa. Also pictured are Living Land CEO Wanchai Subhaphayak (left), Executive Director Manop Kheawchaoom (2<sup>nd</sup> from left), Project Manager Praphon Traitippikul (2<sup>nd</sup> from right) and Executive Director Thavorn Suwanlaong (right).

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## Home of the Week

Cherng Talay

# Luxury villa has all the right views

This Thai-style, hillside pool villa with views of Surin and Bang Tao bays is part of a residential development conceived to resemble a boutique resort. The villa's three levels comprise eight bedrooms and several living, dining and entertainment areas spread over 1,564 square meters. Teak paneling features throughout.

Inside, the three levels are split into several more levels with communal areas and smaller private rooms set apart at varying heights. An inviting horizon pool runs the length of the front of the villa offering unobstructed views of the Andaman from the edge of the property's hillside vantage point. The 15-meter-long pool can be accessed from the rooms running the length of it and includes a kids' splash pool.

An outdoor covered dining area overlooks the pool. There is a sala placed at the outermost edge of the property to offer front-row seats as the sun sets.

The villa has been designed to make the most of the Andaman scenery with full-length windows and sliding glass doors taking up most of the wall space in all the



An outdoor covered dining area overlooks the pool. There is a sala placed at the outermost edge of the property to offer front-row seats as the sun sets.

rooms, allowing natural light to enter the property throughout.

The main downstairs living and dining area is spacious enough to entertain large groups of people. The adjoining kitchen comes fully equipped with Smeg

appliances and has a granite breakfast bar. There's a storage area behind the kitchen and a staff entrance for maids to come and go discreetly.

For live-in maids, there is a separate maid's room and utility

room, plus storage space for linen and other necessities. This area is also where fuse boxes and water pumps are hidden away but easily accessible for maintenance.

There are several commu-

nal areas, one equipped with a bar, each large enough to accommodate groups of guests for social occasions, while there are also plenty of nooks and crannies so individual family members can enjoy privacy when needed.

All bedrooms are fitted with his-and-hers wardrobes, with the addition of an open air shower area between two of the guest bedrooms. The master bedroom commands the best views with an expansive walk-in wardrobe and his-and-hers sinks in the en-suite, private-spa bathroom.

Moving downstairs, there is an office to one side and another bedroom to the other. The house has Wi-Fi Internet throughout. The office has a small guestroom, although the space could be used as private lounge or library.

The villa is located about a kilometer from Surin Beach and 30km from Phuket International Airport. It is on the market freehold with Chanote for 100 million baht.

For more information contact Phuket Land. Tel: 076-290509. Email: [bluebook@phuketland.com](mailto:bluebook@phuketland.com) Website: [www.phuketland.com](http://www.phuketland.com)

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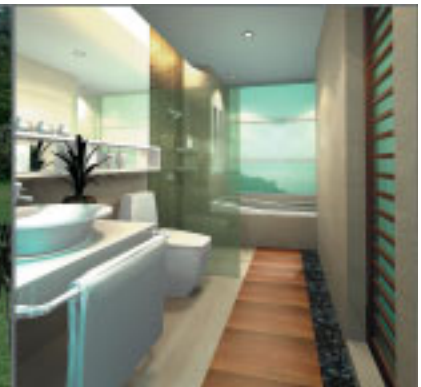
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## Design

by Suganya Semacote

# A warm welcome, times two

**T**he first impression is often the one that lasts, and a hotel lobby serves as both a welcoming place and a preview of what's to come during a guest's stay.

A lobby design by itself can lift the spirits and soothe weary travelers.

The Millennium Resort Patong Phuket has created two such places of refuge for its guests in its two wings next to the Jungceylon complex in Patong.

While both lobbies match the overall theme of a cool, contemporary urban resort, each one sets a slightly different mood for arriving guests.

The 197-room Beachside wing, which opened in January, welcomes people with a lobby in an earth-tone, modern style. The Lakeside wing, another 224 rooms, features a lobby that is cool, green and elegant.

"For the Lakeside we played with texture, while on the Beachside wing we played with color," said lead designer Somchai Tantipatthanawong of P49 in Bangkok.

As its name suggests, the Beachside wing reflects the colors of the beach, with sand-colored tones and splashes of blue. K. Somchai said that keeping it simple and modern was key, along with emphasis on space and comfort, since this wing often handles the arrival of groups.

The lobby for the Lakeside wing, open for about a year, is more intimate and extravagant, with reflective green tiles evoking the golden age of Sino-Portuguese architecture.

Visitors to the Lakeside wing are more individual travelers, so a large lobby space was



One hotel, two lobbies. The Millennium Resort Patong Phuket has created a lobby for each of its wings: one with a subtle beach theme, the other evoking the placid waters of a lake.

not necessary – however, the "wow factor" was still needed to impress these discerning guests, K. Somchai explained.

Formerly the Burasari resort, the Lakeside wing lobby was upgraded from a jungle style to one infused with peace and calm. "We wanted to make it like a reflective pond," said K. Somchai.

"We applied the concept of open air; the space is designed

openly within the structure with a reflective pond for an airy atmosphere and a relaxing, easy feel. We blended this with a soft Thai style.

"We applied Portuguese-style elements in the flooring of the lobby with black tiles and materials that are similar to Sino-Portuguese textures," he added. The columns in stacked aqua-toned glass add a touch of mod-

ern cool to the overall design.

All of the major materials are sourced locally, including the floor tiles made of cement resin.

While each lobby has its own unique style, both are an oasis for Millennium guests. Not simply places to pass through on the way to a guest room, these lobbies are escape hatches from the hustle and bustle of central Patong.



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## Gardening

by Bloomin' Bert

# Getting to grips with the sea hibiscus

Does anyone understand how any government works? I mean really understand? It's obvious to the general populace that the individuals in charge haven't a clue what they're doing. But aren't they supposed to make a bit more sense when they decide on policies and things?

In the West, we're used to baffling government decisions. We're used to inanities, such as spending UK£400,000 (that's 25 million baht) on a logo for the 2012 Olympics in London and ending up with four splodges that make up the word "ZOR".

It has emerged that the British government plans to deny what's supposed to be free healthcare to anyone it deems is not living a government-approved lifestyle. They say that patients will be handed "NHS Health Miles" cards that will earn them reward points for losing weight, giving up smoking, receiving immunizations or attending regular health screenings.

The worst part is that this sort of thing is already happening in the British healthcare system. People are already being denied access to medical procedures because they're smokers or because they're carrying a few extra pounds. I'd be stuffed.

Local governments are even more of a mystery. I don't think it really matters what country you are in – local government decisions just don't make any sense.

The logic applied in Phuket eludes me. It would appear that the powers-that-be on the island have decided that the road-widening projects we've all had to endure over the past few years are enough for now.

The four-lane runway, passed off as a superhighway, that leads to Rawai Beach was clearly necessary and doesn't encourage anyone to travel faster than they should. The old road



The sea hibiscus is native to the shores of the Pacific and Indian Oceans, but today appears throughout the tropical and subtropical regions of the world.

Photo by  
Hans Hillewaert.

tree for landscaping.

A common tree along the coast, the sea hibiscus is also sometimes found near water-courses, mangrove swamps and estuaries, often forming dense, impenetrable thickets and covering enormous areas. It can grow up to 10

meters tall and just as wide if not pruned.

The sea hibiscus is perfect for sandy and moist soil, although it will also grow well in drier conditions. Tolerant of brackish water and salt spray, this tree is ideal for coastal areas.

The trees have large heart-shaped leaves that are "hairy" underneath. These leaves are usually dark green, but there are varieties with variegated or purple foliage. The flowers, which are bright yellow with a crimson center, usually point down on the tree or slightly sideways.

The flowers are about 10 centimeters to 15cm wide when fully open. Like most hibiscus species, they usually last a day before falling off.

The sea hibiscus can be propagated from seeds or cuttings. Since the seeds are normally dispersed via water, they

benefit from soaking in warm, fresh water for 24 hours before planting. Filing the back of the seed with an emery board or sandpaper before soaking is also helpful.

After the soaking period, the seeds can be planted in moist coconut-husk compost. Seedlings will usually emerge in a week or two; give them plenty of light. The seedlings can reach between 60cm and 80cm in their first year and will grow quickly after that if planted in good soil and well hydrated.

Cuttings are the most sensible way to propagate the *hibiscus tiliaceus*, since plants grown from cuttings usually have the same look as the original plant. Cuttings appear to root faster if two or three leaves are left on.

The fast-growing sea hibiscus is best suited to landscaping, although it can be kept in containers if properly pruned. You could even try growing one as a bonsai.

The sea hibiscus prefers full sun but can be grown inside if placed by a window, although it may be difficult for flowers to bloom indoors.

I don't think I'll ever understand local governments. I do have a suggestion for the esteemed leaders that make decisions for the Nai Harn area. Perhaps they can contact the like-minded folk in Bournemouth and swap ideas. I can see it now on road signs at the southern end of the island: "Nai Harn – proudly twinned with Bournemouth".

just wasn't wide enough.

The brand-new, four-lane dual carriageway from Chao Fa West to Kathu was obviously money well spent. It doesn't matter that four lanes go down to one in the village at the other end, with speed bumps that bring you down to a crawl while you negotiate the bottlenecked traffic.

The trees and vegetation that used to be in middle of the road near the Darasamuth Intersection (by Central Festival Phuket) were unsightly and had to go.

They did exactly the same thing at Nai Harn Lake. What must have been millions of baht was spent on ripping out all the

old plantlife, including some spectacular trees, to be replaced by a sterile-looking path dotted with bargain-basement trees, many of which are now dead.

Nai Harn Lane now looks like a Bournemouth promenade. What were these people thinking? Maybe they just like the idea of bringing Bournemouth to Thailand.

Of all the areas they've meddled in, they could have been a lot more imaginative with the trees. A perfect option would have been the sea hibiscus. The official name is *hibiscus tiliaceus*, but I'll stick to sea hibiscus for now. Australians call it the cottonwood.

The sea hibiscus is native to the shores of the Pacific and Indian oceans, but today appears throughout the tropical and subtropical regions of the world, particularly in coastal areas. It is grown mainly as an ornamental

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Want advice on your garden?

Email Bloomin' Bert at:  
[bert@bloominbert.com](mailto:bert@bloominbert.com)



# Property Gazette

## Properties For Sale

### CHALONG VILLA



Convenient location in quiet soi off Chao Fa West Rd. 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, living room, laundry/kitchen and carport plus large covered outside area. Aircon, telephone, ADSL & cable TV installed. Only 3 years old and in superb condition - viewing essential. 2.6 million baht. Call or email for more details. Tel: 081-894 9668. Email: cantaneze@gmail.com

**PROPERTY: 540SQM**  
300m from Yanui beach, Rawai/  
Yanui. Tel: 084-8406775.

**THE HEIGHTS PHUKET**  
Unit C-8, 195sqm, 1 story, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Beautiful pool at your doorstep. 21 million baht (or best offer). Tel: 081-6144799.

**LAND, NAI HARN**  
With Chanote, fully developed, 40m above sea level, 1,250sqm, top view, construction permit. Tel: 087-2980200. Email: rvberger00@hotmail.com

**POOL VILLA**  
500m from Laguna, new, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 levels, sat TV, ADSL, fully furnished. 5.8 million baht. Tel: 084-8516121. Website: www.phukethome.ws

### KOH SAMUI LAND FOR SALE

2 rai with one house, six bungalows and 10 row houses. Ideal for rentals. Near beach. Chanote title. Asking price: 30 million baht. No agents! Tel: 087-2709093. Email: anut samantamit@gmail.com

### SEAVIEW LAND FOR SALE



3 rai, 3 ngan near Blue Canyon and Mission Hills golf clubs. 5 million baht per rai. Tel: 086-6123110.

### AO POR LAND FOR SALE



150 rai, Nor Sor 3 Gor, sea view. From 2.5 million baht per rai. No agents! Please contact by email: allservices29@gmail.com

**LAND IN AO NANG**  
4 rai in Ao Nang, Krabi. Chanote. 3.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 084-8502499.

**LUXURY PROPERTIES**  
for sale and rent in Phuket, Phang Nga. For details see: www.janepropertyphuket.com

**FOREIGN FREEHOLD**  
condominium in Rawai, 250m from the pier. 580,000 baht. Tel: 086-9408914. Email: chotip07@yahoo.com

**NEW TOWNHOUSE**  
in Than Thong 7 project. 2 stories, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. 19 sq wah. Central location on Chao Fa East Rd, opposite Villa California. 1.9 million baht. Tel: 087-2770978.

**LAND FOR SALE**  
10 mins drive across Sarasin Bridge. Chanote, 80 rai. Road and utilities access. Suitable for hotel or residential projects. 300m from beach. Only 3.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-5399269. Email: talayjan@yahoo.com

### KRABI SEAVIEW LAND



Krabi land for sale, 500m from Khong Muang Beach, seaview, 21-2-95 plots behind Sofitel Puketara Hotel. Very good location for business, 4 million baht per rai. No agents. Tel: 075-621004, 089-4889403.

### SUPER POOL VILLAS



4 unique, 3-bedroom homes available in a tranquil part of Chalong. 9.5 million baht. Tel: 085-7862869. Email: info@tharapropertyphuket.com

**BRAND-NEW CONDO**  
Great location near Tesco and Big C. Pool, gym, fully furnished with washer, dryer, fridge, aircon, TV, etc. 45sqm corner unit with 2 balconies. 2.5 million baht. Tel: 087-2770978. Email: koyangle99@hotmail.com

### NEW POOL-VILLA, RAWAI

400sqm. 3-4 bedrooms. 300m from Rawai Pier. Price: 7.5 million baht. Tel: 086-9408914. Email: chotip07@yahoo.com

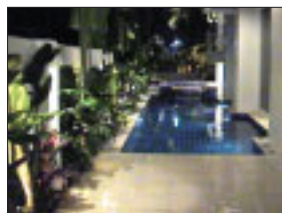
**URGENT REPOSSESSION SALE**  
New property in Rawai. Approx 350sqm of living space, plus swimming pool. Could be used as 3-bedroom house, two 2-bedroom houses or even 4 one-bedroom suites. Includes Thai limited company if required. Some finance may be available. 7 million baht or ono. contact Dave. Tel: 084-0639223, 084-6722725 (Scandinavian).

**INEXPENSIVE LAND**  
0.5 rai Chanote lots near Mission Hills golf course and airport. 10 minutes to Yacht Haven. 1.25 million baht, not negotiable. Contact at Tel: 086-9421930.

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### THE VILLA WHITE HOUSE



for sale (B27.5 million) or rent. The white house villa is one of the finest tropical pool villas in Patong. Best location for night life and touring Phuket. Located high on the hill above the Amari Coral Beach Resort at the south end of Patong. No agents! Email: png.phuket@gmail.com

**BANG TAO LAND**  
4 rai, 1 ngan, 18 sq wah in Bangdon at 2.2 million baht per rai. Contact Bruno. Tel: 080-7193785.

**KRABI LAND**  
10 rai, 20 minutes from Ao Nang, Krabi. Chanote title. 600,000 baht per rai. Tel: 084-8502499.

**PANORAMIC SEAVIEW LAND**  
Panoramic sea view. Chanote plots from 1 to 8.3 rai. Best Chalong location. 300m from new, 9-hole golf course. Wichit area. Tel: 081-8913740.

**PERFECT LAND**  
Nearly 2 rai at Ao Bang Tao. Very good location for business. Price: 18 million baht. No agents! Contact at Tel: 086-9442-065, or 087-689-9679. Email: tasuwan@hotmail.com

### SURIN BEACH LAND FOR SALE

1,016sqm: 6 million baht.  
996sqm: 5 million baht. 5 mins walk to Surin Beach. Tel: 081-8687676.

**10.5 RAI KOH YAO**  
On main road, 2 mins from pier, electricity, water. Ideal for business. 10 million baht. No brokers. Tel: 087-8821959.

**KHAO LAK: INVEST IN PROPERTY.** Land beside Sofitel Magic Lagoon Khao Lak. 5.5 rai (66mx136m), Chanote. 40 million baht total. Call Krit. Tel: 081-9804641.



### Chalong House Lake View

New detached house on 370sqm of land with Chanote title. 1-story, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, Jacuzzi and Western kitchen. Telephone line, internet ADSL, Cable TV.

**Price: 6.5 million baht**

Tel: 087-2709093 Email: png.phuket@gmail.com

### HOUSE IN AO NANG



Krabi. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, carport, one year old, near the sea, hill views. 7,500,000 baht. Tel: 084-8502499.

### PERFECT LAND FOR SALE

On the main road to Chermg Talay and Surin. 43 rai, 1 ngan, 85 sq wah. For sale by owner. 5.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-9562406. Email: phatsarar@gmail.com

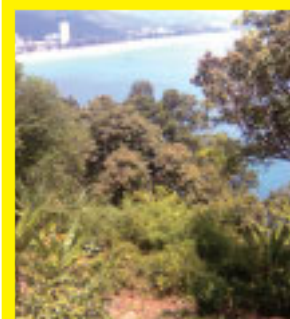
**1/2 RAI - NAI HARN**  
Best location, ready to build on. Residential area. Chanote. 4.1 million baht. No brokers. Tel: 087-8821959.

**KOH YAO YAI LAND**  
3.2 rai, sea view overlooking Phuket. Chanote. 2.2 million baht. Tel: 081-8928208.

**TOWNHOUSE**  
in Than Thong 3 project. 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom. 19 sq wah. Located near Khao Khad viewpoint. On Phattana Thongtin Rd. Fully furnished. Price: 1.2 million baht. Tel: 087-2770978.

**LAND FOR SALE**  
Manik-Bang Jo land. Chanote. 4 rai at 2.7 million baht per rai. Located in residential area and close to road. Tel: 081-539-9269. Email: talayjan@yahoo.com

### KARON SEAVIEW LAND FOR SALE



Located between Centara Karon Resort and Secret Cliff Resort. 10.5 rai with Chanote. Very good location for business (hotel & resort). Asking price 250 million baht. No agents! Tel: 087-2709093 or email: anutsamantamit@gmail.com

**HARMONY HOMES**  
4 unique executive townhomes at the 3rd fairway of Phuket Country Club. From 17 million baht. Tel: 081-958-3571. Email: sweetiebee2000@yahoo.com

**HOUSE FOR SALE**  
in Chalong. Bargain. 2 stories, 4 bedrooms. 3.2 million baht. Tel: 081-7475293.

**PATONG BEACH**  
Top sea view, 140-sqm apartment, fully furnished, swimming, pool, only 9.5 million baht negotiable. Owner wants to move to Europe. Tel: 087-8984338. Email: supaphon99@yahoo.com

**PERFECT LAND**  
for sale, 260sqm, perfect for house and pool. Ready to build. Kata Beach. Chanote. Price 2.5 million baht. Tel: 081-2714261 (Thai), 089-2905594 (Eng). Email: henryasia50@hotmail.com

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# Property Gazette

## FOREIGN FREEHOLD CONDO



For sale: Unit C1 at iThe Heightsi, Kata. 23 million baht. This 195-sqm, two-bedroom condo overlooking Kata Beach is offered with foreign freehold title. The condo is located in Raimon Land's iThe Heightsi development, which offers first-class design with fully fitted, 5-star European-style bathrooms, kitchens and living areas. The condo has outstanding sea views over Kata. Construction is currently well in progress and should be completed by Q3 2008. Tel: 081-8270257. Email: shaun@iles.vg For further details, please see the developer's website: [www.theheightsphuket.com](http://www.theheightsphuket.com)

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Tel: 081-2704291

## LAND: 13 RAI

20 minutes from Ao Nang, Krabi. Between hills with river. 1 million baht per rai. Tel: 084-8502499.

## LAND FOR SALE

11 rai in Pasak area located near Laguna Phuket. Only 2.8 million baht per rai (Nor Sor 3 Gor). Good-sized plot and no need for fill-soil. Tel: 081-5399269. Email: talayjan@yahoo.com

## PATONG HOUSE

Urgent sale! 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 sitting rooms and kitchen. 24 sq wah. Chanote. 4 million baht, negotiable. Tel: 084-3083262.

## SAIYUAN HOUSE FOR SALE



2-story house with additional living space in the attic. Sea view, 640sqm. 5 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, car park. Nice garden, big swimming pool. A few minutes to Nai Harn Beach. Tel: 084-8475700, 087-898-7642. Email: morn\_48@yahoo.com

## BANG WAD DAM, NICE PLOT



Nice plot overlooking natural lagoon behind Bang Wad Dam. Approx 26 rai, sloped land, access road, water and electricity. Good for residential project. 2.5 million baht per rai (negotiable). Tel: 081-5399269. Email: talayjan@yahoo.com

## KAMALA HOUSE

Excellent investment: house on large plot. 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, 2 parking spaces, separate maid's house, 120sqm living area. Land: 1,450sqm, Mountain view, peaceful location. 5-min drive to the beach. Architectural plans for full refurbishment 6.9 million baht. Tel: 076-385709, 081-252-7758. Email: gloverpete@hotmail.com

## DETACHED HOUSE FOR SALE

in Patong area. Fully furnished home with swimming pool, Jacuzzi, aircon and automatic gate. Tel: 081-5366732. Email: shoppingspeedy@hotmail.com

## GOLF VILLA, 8.7 MILLION BAHT



Loch Palm, Kathu. Modern style. Fully furnished. 3 bedrooms with en suite, Jacuzzi, TV, Wi-Fi and landscaped garden. Tel: 089-8961265. Email: seeyaagain@gmail.com

## KHAO KHAD, AO MAKHAM



Chanote. 16 rai with panoramic view near Ao Makham, towards Cape Panwa. Wide road-access directly to the site. 6 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-5399269 or Email: talayjan@yahoo.com

## FOREIGN FREEHOLD CONDO

Luxury, fully furnished, one bedroom, ground floor, pool-side condo. Located at the end of a quiet street in the heart of Patong. Within easy walking distance of restaurants, pubs, clubs, beach and Jungceylon shopping center. 65sqm. Price: 5.9 million baht. Tel: 087-8879070.

## LAND IN RAWAI

and Nai Harn. Many small and big plots, special. 1772sqm. Sea view, 5.9 million baht. Negotiable. Tel: 085-7955383.

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with green garden and garage for sale. €65,000, next to Wat Chalong. Tel: 084-840-6085.

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## BEAUTIFUL NAI YANG LAND



9.5 rai, beachfront. 5 mins to Phuket Airport. Asking price 120 million baht. Chanote title. Must see. No agents! Please contact at email: [allservices29@gmail.com](mailto:allservices29@gmail.com)

## COCONUT ISLAND LAND



for sale. 4.5 rai, Chanote, hill-side panoramic sea view, close to beach. 14 million baht. Please call K. Bouddha for more information. Tel: 089-2900484.

## LAND AND HOUSES

- House on Thalang Rd (old Phuket Town area).  
- House on Soi Soon-Utit, Yaowarat Rd.

- Land at Koh Sireh: 1 rai, 1 ngan, 66sq wah.

Contact Khun Joojee. Tel: 081-3979809, 081-970-0121.

## KRABI, NEAR AO NANG

New, luxury pool-villa. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, aircon, European kitchen, 7.25 million baht. Tel: 084-3224044. Email: [info@siamsol.com](mailto:info@siamsol.com) For details visit: [www.siamsol.com](http://www.siamsol.com)

## PHUKET PALACE BARGAIN

11<sup>th</sup> floor, sea view, upgraded, extras, freehold. 3.2 million baht. Tel: 085-5905460. Email: [coltat1962@yahoo.com](mailto:coltat1962@yahoo.com)

## PARICHART VILLAGE



35/20 Soi 1. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 aircon, some furniture, 50sq wah, garden. In Chalong area. For sale 4 million baht or long-term rent, must see. Contact Nina. Tel: 087-6899679 or [tasuwan@hotmail.com](mailto:tasuwan@hotmail.com). No agents!

## ON THE BEACH

2-bedroom apartment in North Patong. Foreign freehold, top floor, pool. 9.7 million baht. Tel: 086-2765117. Email for photos. Email: [jihshand@gmail.com](mailto:jihshand@gmail.com)

## BANG TAO HOUSE

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, living room, kitchen, big terrace, Jacuzzi, 9mx5m pool, 2 parking spaces, autogate, ADSL, 2 sat TVs, 5 aircons, fully furnished. 10.8 million baht. Tel: 084-8516121.

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## THARADON VILLE, NAI HARN

6 exclusive pool villas, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, swimming pool. Houses 236-268 sqm, land 363-582 sqm. Prices from 7.2 million baht. Tel: 076-245966, 085-7842004. Email: [hakan@tharadonestate.com](mailto:hakan@tharadonestate.com) [www.tharadonestate.com](http://www.tharadonestate.com)

## NEW HOTEL FOR SALE



Nanai Rd, Patong Beach, sea view, 384sqm. 50 rooms, swimming pool. Under construction. Nearly finished. Asking price: 230 million baht. Sale by owner. No agents! Tel: 087-2709093. Email: [anutsamantamit@gmail.com](mailto:anutsamantamit@gmail.com)

## LAND PLOT 2.3 MILLION BAHT

900sqm. Land plot with underground electricity and water in quiet secure community next to Mission Hills golf course. For sale at 2.3 million baht. No agents please. Tel: 081-2712825.

## LAND IN PHUKET CITY

165sq wah. Chanote land in Phuket City, located behind the Thepkrasattri Rd branch of Bangkok Bank. Price: 8.5 million baht. Tel: 081-968-2314.

## BAAN BENJAMAS

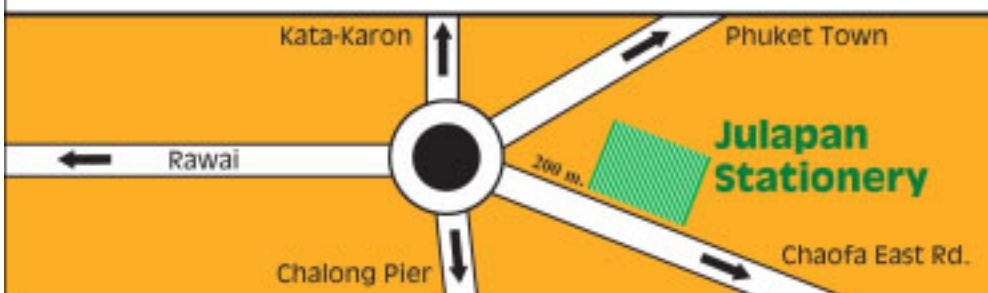
2-bedroom townhouse refurbished in 2006. Walking distance to Jungceylon and the beach. 5.3 million baht. Tel: 083-3941397.

## RAWAI POOL VILLA

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, living room, furnished, 4 aircon units, alarm. Sala, terrace on 2 levels, 8x4m pool, walled garden and parking. Chanote and company papers included. Tel: +45-24419447. Email: [bo@motto.dk](mailto:bo@motto.dk)

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# Property Gazette

## PANORAMIC SEA VIEW



Karon land for sale. 15 rai, Chanote title. Hillside, panoramic sea view, quiet area. Very good location for business. 15 million baht per rai. No agents! Please contact at email: allservices29@gmail.com

## LAST PLOT BYPASS RD

11 rai next to Leelavadee Resort Project. 16 million baht per rai. Please email for details. Agencies are welcome. Email: ek\_phuket@hotmail.com

## SEAVIEW GUESTHOUSE

in Patong. Must see. Great location. Contact Kevin. Tel: 084-7300190.

## TROPICAL POOL VILLA

in Chalong. Brand-new, spacious, 2-bedroom villa with deluxe kitchen and large living area. Priced to sell. Tel: 085-7932477.

## PATONG GUESTHOUSE

Located in Paradise Complex, Patong Beach. Furnished, 8 rooms, 4 floors. Available for sale freehold. 5.5 million baht. Tel: 076-290393, 086-588-8383. Email: sumalee1955@yahoo.com

## ABSOLUTE BEACHFRONT LAND



in Khao Lak, Phang Nga. 400 rai. 4 million baht per rai. Chanote. Separate plots at 6 million baht per rai. Urgent sale! Tel: 081-5399269. Email: talayjan@yahoo.com

## HOUSE & GARDEN (KOH KAEW)



For sale near Boat Lagoon. 371 sq.wah of land, 200sqm of house, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Good for home & office. Tel: 081-5699483. Email: jaidao@hotmail.com, jaidao@yahoo.com

## SEAVIEW SPA VILLA

Patong, large, fully furnished, private, pool, garden, spa, waterfall. Tel: 089-5908233.

## BANG TAO LAND

Nearly 2 rai with Chanote title at Ao Bang Tao. Very good location for business. Price: 16 million baht. Tel: 086-9442064, 087-689-9679. Email: tasuwan@hotmail.com

## SUPERB EXTENDED HOUSE



1km from Heroines Monument, 147sq wah. Nice area, room for swimming pool. Large sala and many extras. European kitchen, etc. 3 double bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, utility room, fully furnished. Top quality, must be viewed. 7.2 million baht inclusive. Tel: 087-9785804.

## ATTRACTIVE HOUSE

Secure, 3 bedrooms (2 en suite), 3 bathrooms, living room, kitchen/dining, study, laundry room, garage, ADSL and True TV fitted. Verandas, klong along back, fenced garden in secure Choafa Thani estate. Price 6.9 million baht. Tel: 084-8439579. Email: somlerdee@yahoo.com

## TOWNHOUSE

3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, Western kitchen, pool, furnished, Chalong. 6.7 million baht. Tel: 089-6468374, 086-5742815.

## BEAUTIFUL LAND, 1 RAI

Chanote title, quiet area, near Ton Sai Waterfall, road access, 3-phase electricity, good water: 2.2 million baht. Tel: 076-321062, 086-819 4373. Email: pojjana@swift-mail.com

## HILLSIDE LAND PATONG



Beautiful view over Patong town, bay and sea. Nearly 5 rai of tropical forest, 5 minutes to the north end of Patong Beach, very quiet area. Asking 9 million baht per rai. Tel: 085-6523533 (Eng), 085-7952533(Thai).

## SARIYA HOUSE



in Saiyuan. Spacious, open-plan, swimming pool, 2 en-suite bathrooms, modern kitchen, convection oven and fan. Nice garden with native plants. Parking space, perimeter wall, gate and water tank. 320sqm area. 6.2 million baht. Contact Miss Kob. Tel: 081-2733303. Email: info@sariyahouse.com

## RAWAIYA SUITES FROM B3.5M

Rawaiya Suites comprises luxury, fully furnished, 65-sqm, 1-bedroom units. 70% finished; to rent out next high season. Prices from B3.5m. Tel: 076-245966, 085-7842004. Email: hakan@tharadonestate.com For further details, please visit our website at: www.tharadonestate.com

## PATONG BEACH CONDO

Rare 14<sup>th</sup> floor location. Great sea views. 50sqm. Freehold or leasehold. 3.5 million baht. Call Daly. Tel: 087-0312154.

## NICE TOWNHOUSE

3-bedroom townhouse near Chalong with full aircon, phone, Internet and Chanote title. Price slashed to only 1.1 million baht for quick sale. Tel: 667-7-862468, 667-84-8494882. Email: phuketjon@csloxinfo.com Visit our website for more info: www.mistymountainsresort.com/house4sale.html

## PHANG NGA BAY VILLAS

Two boutique seaview villas for sale near Cape Yamu. Each with 4 bedrooms, gym, study, games room, 10-meter pool, lounge, Western kitchens, dining room, two rooms for maids. Tel: 076-283288, 081-2737326. Fax: 076-283288. Email: info@kykinternational.com For further information visit www.kykinternational.com

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## HEAVEN ON EARTH



5-bedroom, Thai-style villa in Phuket. Magnificent Phang Nga Bay view. 3 big bedrooms (en suite) with sea views. Private swimming pool. 730.8sqm land plot. Construction area approx 573sqm. Full security service. Located at Rommai Chailay Estate. 27 million baht. Tel: 081-7191705. Email: layan@loxinfo.co.th

## POOL VILLA FOR SALE OR RENT

4 bedrooms with terraces, 6 bathrooms, pool with Jacuzzi, living room, dining room, Western kitchen, maid's room, solar power, hot water, sala, BBQ, parking for 3 cars, electric gate. Nice tropical garden set on 1,600 sqm of land with more than 400sqm of living area. Price: 25 million baht. Special rate for short-term rental. Tel: 081-9707019. Email: nisaya19@yahoo.com

## LAST SEAVIEW LAND FOR SALE



This is the last seaview land available in Layan with big potential for a 5-star development. Land has Chanote title. The size is 13 rai, 3 ngan. The owner has reduced the price to 5 million baht per rai. Great opportunity. Contact for more details. Tel: 086-2726508.

## SEA VIEW KAMALA

Stunning view, 1km from beach, concrete road. Small plots, 1 rai to 30 rai. Chanote, road access and electricity. Behind Phuket FantaSea. From 6 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-3586555, 085-6667882. Fax: 076-911997. Email: palida@gatiematernity.com

## HOUSE IN KATHU

Delightful 2-story, 3-bedroom house at end of quiet cul-de-sac. 10 mins from BIS, Central, Patong. B6.8m ono. Tel: 081-9565650. Email: mailpete@hotmail.com For details, please visit our website: www.kathu-property.com

## FREEHOLD LAND & HOUSE

Thai-style house on more than 1 rai of land. Includes Thai company owned by foreigner. Landscaped, pool, fully furnished. Perfect for retirement in Phuket. Tel: 076-386064, 084-840 6751. Email: gary\_solah@yahoo.com.au

## NEW COMMERCIAL BUILDING

for sale. 3 stories near Loch Palm Golf Club. 3.9 million baht Tel: 084-3081853, 087-279-9500.

## NEW KATHU TOWNHOUSE

New 2-story, 2-bedroom, 2-bathroom townhouse in Phuket. Golden view, close to markets, Big C, Central etc. Lock-up gates with car space and security at project entrance. Great location. Some furniture included. A bargain at 1.8 million baht. No hagglers. Tel: 080-7197147. Email: pmoney@hotmail.com

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# Property Gazette

## Properties For Rent

### RAWAI BEACHFRONT



house for rent. 3 bedrooms, aircon, True TV, ADSL, furnished. 1-year contract. Contact Gina. Tel: 089-6499939.

### BL 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. Tel: 081-6923163.

### HOUSE IN KATHU

for rent or sale. House, garden, spa, carport, 200sqm, 2 bedrooms, 11 rooms, kitchen, garden with bar and spa. 32,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-8753862 (Thai), 089-9711820 (Eng). Email: wienerheurer@hotmail.com

### KARON 3-BEDROOM HOUSE

for rent. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, garden, pool, terrace, sea view. Access to fitness center, spa/wellness center, restaurants. Contact Glory for further details. Tel: 080-7007900. Email: glory@12buzz.com For info visit [www.property.12buzz.com/viewprofile.php?sel=rent\\_ad&id\\_ad=2359](http://www.property.12buzz.com/viewprofile.php?sel=rent_ad&id_ad=2359)

### BIG HOUSE FOR RENT OR SALE



1.5 km from Central Festival. Attached to Suanluang Public Park. 300sq wah. 5 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, 9 aircon. Pond in garden. Fully furnished. Fitness facilities. European kitchen. 2 living rooms. Contact Mongkon. Tel: 084-0628040.

### 5 BEDROOMS, WITH POOL, NEAR BIS

5 bedrooms, with indoor pool. 110,000 baht/month. Tel: 076-239839, 081-8779292. Email: prakaisriroj@hotmail.com

### NEW CHALONG HOME

2-bedroom, furnished home for rent. Phone line, True TV, aircon. Tel: 089-6521473.

### CHALONG HOUSE

for rent. 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, living room, kitchen & telephone line. Tel: 081-5379878, 089-7298472. Email: suwittrai@hotmail.com

### SEASON SPECIAL - OCEAN VIEW

Even though now is the iGreeni season in Phuket, it is still a great time to visit. So why not take advantage and book our 2-bedroom condo with sea views and get 15% off the marked rate. Check our website for details. Special rate available for bookings up to October 31. Please also ask for details on long-term rentals. Tel: +85-2-281-36093, +85-2-61004034. Fax: +85-2-28136083. Website: [www.phuket-patong-condo.com](http://www.phuket-patong-condo.com)

### NICE HOUSE



800 meters from Heroinesi Monument, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished, nice garden at corner. Fully fitted kitchen, 2 TVs with cable TV installed, 3 aircons, telephone line with ADSL. 21,000 baht/month for 2-year contract or 23,000 baht/month for 1-year contract. Tel: 081-8512280. Email: dennis.mo@hotmail.com

### SINGLE HOUSE FOR RENT



in Soi Baan Krang, Chalong. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, fully furnished and aircon. 25,000 baht per month. Tel: 084-8746270.

### POOL VILLA

near Laguna. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, sat TV, ADSL, fully furnished. Tel: 084-8516121.

### LAYAN, NEW 3-BEDROOM VILLA

Long/short-term (min 2 weeks). Quiet location, 3.4km/5 mins to Bang Tao Beach. 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms. 400sqm built-up area, 820sqm land, 44sqm pool, 18sqm sala. Fully furnished, security system, double carpark, maid's quarters, cable TV, ADSL, landscaped garden. Tel: 076-305812, 084-305-4333. Email: jurgeninphuket@gmail.com For further details, please see our website at [www.flickr.com/photos/22419624@N08/sets/72157604709618393/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/22419624@N08/sets/72157604709618393/)

### HOUSE



1.5km from Central Festival, 65 sq. wah, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 1 bathtub, hot water, fully furnished. Includes refrigerator, furniture, European kitchen, garden. Contact Mr Mongkon. Tel: 084-0628040.

### RAWAI RENTAL: BAAN SUAN POOL



1, 2 or 3 bedrooms. From 9,000 baht/month. 300m from Rawai Pier. Tel: 086-9408914. Email: chotip07@yahoo.com

### 2-BEDROOM HOUSE, LONG LEASE

2 aircon rooms, kitchen, furnished, cable TV. 1 year: 70,000 baht; 6 months: 40,000 baht. Tel: 080-7512813. Email: ampm\_net@hotmail.com

### NEW TOWNHOUSE

for rent. Near British International School. 3 bedrooms, fully furnished. Tel: 081-9241447.

### HOUSES FROM WELLTA

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### HOUSE AT CHALONG

for rent near Palai Beach. 2 or 3 bedrooms, aircon, fully furnished, phone line. Tel: 089-7288311.

### PHUKET CITY

In front of Tesco-Lotus in Royal Street arcade. 3-story shophouse is available long term. Ideal for office or shop. Tel: 081-8913740.

### KAMALA BEACHFRONT VILLAS

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### HOUSE FOR RENT



at Chalong in Land and Houses Park. New single house, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 240sqm. Tel: 081-5697068. Email: sirio@tisco.co.th

### 2-BEDROOM HOUSE IN KAMALA

200m from the beach. Kitchen, living room. 2 bedrooms, aircon. 20,000 baht per month in low season. Tel: 085-1587638. Email: pierre\_hammar@yahoo.se

### GUESTHOUSE, KATA

Build a guesthouse on 350sqm in Kata. 30 years rent free. Email: terence@hotmail.de

### POOL VILLA

in Bangjo. 10 minutes to Laguna, 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, swimming pool, fully furnished. 50,000 baht/month. Tel: 081-8976984 (Eng), 089-6995136 (Thai).

### BEACHFRONT, CHALONG

Large, new, 3-level house. Bay views, pool, furnished. 23,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-4706104.

### KAMALA LAKE HOUSE

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, on the lake, cable TV, phone, furnished. 17,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-8928208.

### PATONG BEACH CONDOTEL

Patong Beach Condotel. Nice apartment, 56sqm. 7th floor, 1 bedroom, kitchen, living room, aircon, cable TV, ADSL. Tel: 081-8913740.

### HOUSE FOR RENT

3 bedrooms, aircon, ADSL, cable TV, furnished. Heroinesi Monument area. 18,000 baht/month. Tel: 086-2778461. Email: brunuiviv@hotmail.com

### BIG HOUSE IN KATHU

5 bedrooms, 2 living rooms, 2 kitchens, 2 bathrooms, carport, terrace, aircon/fan, hot water, fully furnished, 2 telephone lines, Wi-Fi, pool. Long term: 25,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-8916632. Email: golfandview@gmx.de

### THE GREENHOUSE BUNGALOWS

Chalong. New 2-bedroom bungalows. Fully furnished, cool, quiet, close to all facilities. 12,000 baht/month. Contact K. John. Tel: 081-9791976.

### HOUSE/POOL VILLAS

Rawai, Nai Harn. Prices from 25,000/month. Tel: 081-6913029. Email: info@purimasproperty.com For further details please see our website at [www.purimasproperty.com](http://www.purimasproperty.com)

### NEW HOUSE FOR RENT OR SALE

300m from Heroinesi Monument. Rent: 25,000 baht/month. Sale: 3.7 million baht. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Tel: 087-2646808, 083-1743880.

### ANUPHAS GOLFVIEW HOUSE

for rent. 3 bedrooms, 2 toilets, 2 kitchens: European and Thai style. Aircon, cable TV, washing machine, walled garden, 24-hour security, furniture. 25,000 baht/month. Tel: 086-739-3220, 087-2667191.

### STUDIO APARTMENT IN KAMALA

Private kitchen aircon, True TV, ADSL, pool. 4,000 baht per week; 12,000 baht per month. Tel: 084-8500568.

### PALAI GREEN

2 Aircons, 2 bedrooms, hot shower, fully furnished, free cable TV, ADSL Internet. Near Chalong. 12,000/month. For more information call K. Nee. Tel: 081-8924311.

### PATONG TOWER CONDO

Fully furnished, parking, pool, sea view, mountain view, Top location. Tel: 084-6301770.

### HOUSE FOR RENT

25,000 baht/month. 74sqm, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished. 7km to Laguna. Tel: 076-245947, 086-9519198. Email: info@phuketsavetrip.com

### RAWAI, NAI HARN

Nice new luxury house for rent. 3-4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, nice, large swimming pool. No furniture. 45,000 baht/month. Minimum 1 year. Tel: 081-3971835.

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Small fibreglass speedboat with 15hp Yamaha outboard in good condition. 14ft long, newly restored and painted. 120,000 baht, including launch trailer. Can be viewed at Boat Lagoon. Please contact for additional information. Tel: 076-321203, 081-9681975. Email: [leonbowles@gmail.com](mailto:leonbowles@gmail.com)

### CHOLAMARK HYPERLON RIB

3.9 meters. In good condition. 15hp Yamaha engine. Price: 110,000 baht. Contact for info. Tel: 081-5399560. Email: [oyscove@loxinfo.co.th](mailto:oyscove@loxinfo.co.th)

### ESTATE SALE

24ft fiberglass and wood construction. 2.5-liter diesel in-board outboard. Many extras. Teak interior. Price: 500,000 baht. Tel: 076-388478, 083-5207308. Email: [gerybfoster@hotmail.com](mailto:gerybfoster@hotmail.com)

### 39FT JEANNEAU YACHT



for sale. Jeanneau sailing yacht 1990. 39ft long. Suncharm, ex-Sunsail. Fully equipped and well maintained. Moored at Yacht Haven. Ideal family cruiser. US\$60,000. Contact me for further information. Tel: + 65-97552285. Email: [paul.elliott@bakernet.com](mailto:paul.elliott@bakernet.com)

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- Bar Manager 1
- Bar Supervisor 1
- Bartender 1
- Activities Supervisor 2

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- Cashier, Gallery Shop 1
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info@adamasresortspa.com or 076-316 000 ext: 802

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- Pastry Chef
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- Villa Operations Manager (Knowledge job of Opera)
- Assistant Villa Operations Manager

All associates will enjoy a 5-working day week (average 45 hours per week)

Transport to and from Phuket Town will be provided.

Submit your CV with covering letter stating the position you are applying for and the reasons you would like to be part of Anantara to email address recruit\_phuket@anantara.com

Good Luck with your application!



### Dive Supply Co., Ltd

88/5 Patak Road, Chalong Bay, 83100 Phuket, Thailand  
Tel. +66-76-383414-6 Fax. +66-76-281525  
e-mail: info@divesupply.com  
www.Divesupply.com

### We are looking for:

#### English Teacher for our Dive Supply Staff (Must be Thai national)

#### Requirements:

1. Bachelor's degree in English and teaching certificate. Master's degree in English or Education preferred.
2. Degree from English-speaking country or lived in an English-speaking country preferred.
3. Minimum three years' teaching experience to include group instruction, from Basic English to advanced levels.
4. Able to teach bilingually in both English and Thai.
5. Able to translate brochures/letters.
6. Ability to work independently and develop strategic teaching plans.
7. Proficiency with Microsoft Office products.

#### Job Description:

- Teach our Thai Staff English in small groups
- Teach our foreign Staff and Managers Thai Language
- Independently prepare teaching plans/based on knowledge level of the students
- Other office and secretarial duties

Please send your application in English with photo to:  
gm@divesupply.com



## URGENTLY WANTED



- Chandlery Shop Manager 1 Position
- Manager Phuket Branch 1 Position
- Store Officer 1 Position

Thai national, good salary, bonus, commission, social security, living expenses

### Workplace Boat Mart

ติดต่อฝ่ายบุคคล 02-4292877-9

email: personnel@bangkokgreen.com www.sunnava.com

## British International School, Phuket

### Teaching Vacancy for Korean Teacher

The British International School, Phuket is a leading international day and boarding school (18 months - 18 years) offering a quality education to the international community of the Asia/Pacific region.

Position: Korean Teacher required to teach IB Korean A1, IGCSE (Cambridge University) Korean First Language and possibly other courses.

Commencement: August, 2008

Contract length: one year (with the possibility of renewal)

Qualifications: Applicants must have a minimum of a Bachelor's Degree and teaching certificate or Education Degree and a minimum of two years teaching experience.

Please e-mail a letter of application, Curriculum Vitae, recent photograph and contact details of 3 referees to: Headmaster@bcis.ac.th

The closing date for applications is 6 June 2008.

Further information about the school may be obtained from our website: www.bcis.ac.th



British International School, Phuket (BIS)  
59 Moo 2, Thepkasattri Rd, Koh Kaew, Muang, Phuket 83200 Thailand  
Tel: 076 238 711-20 Fax: 076 238 750 www.bcis.ac.th

## Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

### Reporter

The successful candidate will be a Thai national with initiative, an outgoing personality and plenty of experience about the world and how it works. Also essential are the ability to communicate in English, both spoken and written, and a car.

Good salary for the right candidate.

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV by email to editor@phuketgazette.net

### The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

367/2 Yaowarat Rd, T. Taladyai, A. Muang  
Phuket 83000 Tel: 076-236555

**HOUSE, CATS, PROPERTY SITTER**  
Near Cherng Talay, July 21 - August 12. Good pay for responsible person. Care for home and cats, supervise property worker. Tel: 084-8424581. Email: info@phukethorseresue.com

### SITE BUILDING SUPERVISOR

Development and construction company seeks foreigner to fill position of site building supervisor. Minimum experience required. Tel: 086-0626210. Email: patrick@oceanic-global.com

**GOOD COMMISSION**  
for Thai or foreigner with good English, computer skills and 2-3 years' experience in the property industry. Tel: 087-3877182.

### SPEECH, LANGUAGE THERAPIST

Regular 1-1 sessions required with a 4/5-year-old English child with delayed speech. Specialist experience essential. Email: mark\_higson@hotmail.com

### NIGHTSHIFT FRONT OFFICER

8,000 baht salary, age 22+, female, good education record. Tel: 076-261940, 081-296-3413. Fax: 076-261944. Email: prakaisriroj@hotmail.com

### TEACHING ASSISTANT

Thai female for pre-school class. Must speak English well. Tel: 076-282232, 084-3088110. Email: parryallen@aol.com

### MARKETING POSITION

Looking for keen hotel marketing manager. Freelance or full time. Tel: 076-239839, 081-2963413. Fax: 076-239838. Email: prakaisriroj@hotmail.com

### MASSAGE AND SPA

We are looking for a manager, cashier and massage lady. Must be service-minded. Please contact for more information to K. Pui. Tel: 085-7859239.

### TELEMARKETER

required. English speaking. Contact expats to make appointments. Good commissions of 20%. Tel: 089-8685143.



# Island Job Mart



**Due to recent expansion in our distribution channels, PGTV, the television production arm of the Phuket Gazette, is seeking to fill the following position:**

**Camera Operator:** Reporting to the Production Manager, the Camera Operator will be responsible for daily footage and news gathering for our daily program packages, and will coordinate with the TV news editor, producer and reporters.

Qualified candidates will be Thai nationals who can quickly develop a sense for our English-language shows; who have a real passion for TV production; and who enjoy being part of a dynamic team.

Attitude and interest level will be more important than experience as a camera operator. A driving license and basic English is required. Knowledge of video editing would be an advantage.

Interested parties should send a resumé, cover letter, photo, and video samples (if available) to [Jib@PhuketGazette.Net](mailto:Jib@PhuketGazette.Net), or hand deliver these documents to our studios at:

**The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd**  
367/2 Yaowarat Rd, T. Taladyai, A. Muang  
Phuket 83000 Tel: 076-236555



Outrigger Hotels and Resorts, one of the fastest growing hospitality companies in Asia Pacific, are expanding into Thailand.

## OUR MISSION

We will grow together as the leisure hospitality company of choice by providing:

- Our Employees an opportunity to be their best,
- Our Guests distinctive hospitality and value,
- Our Owners promised results.

Working as a family in harmony with the culture and environment of the places where we do business.

Please visit our website [www.outrigger.com](http://www.outrigger.com) and see the family values and commitment demonstrated by Outrigger as an employer of choice. If you would like to be part of this growing company here in Thailand then we look forward to hearing from you.

We are currently looking for Thai Nationals to fill the positions below and join our pre-opening office in Phuket.

- 1) **Human Resources Manager** - Conceptualize and implement recruitment plans, provide HR service and assistance to employees in matters related to employee benefits, payroll, compensation, employment, human resources administration, training and be integral in establishing these systems suitable to Thailand.
- 2) **Sales Manager** - An experienced sales professional with contacts in the local and international wholesale market.
- 3) **Public Relations Manager** - Position Outrigger properties in Phuket Thailand as a premier resort company and ensure Outrigger's family values and integration into the local culture are well publicized.

If you feel you have the necessary skills and experience to fulfill these positions, are interested in any of the above positions, and, would like more information please email to the below address, with your resume, recent photo and salary expectations: [oum.suksompong@outrigger.com](mailto:oum.suksompong@outrigger.com). A full job description can be given on request.



Would you like to be part of a professional team in a property sales and development agency?  
For our offices in Kata and Bangtao.  
Tropical Homes Real Estate requires motivated persons for the positions of

- **Office Manager**
- **Sales representative**

### Qualifications:

- Good command of spoken and written English
- Basic computer skills
- Previous experience in real estate would be an advantage
- Driving license essential
- Flexible
- Dynamic, energetic and pleasant personality
- Thai nationality

Please send CV, photo and expected salary to  
[info@tropical-homes.net](mailto:info@tropical-homes.net)  
Tel: 076-326125, Fax: 076-326126



A six-star resort-style development along the shores of Bang Tao Beach is currently seeking candidates.

## Operations Manager

The successful candidate should be in possession of these qualifications:

- Thai national.
- Bachelor's degree in any field.
- Experienced in resort set up and operation.
- Management capacity
- Fluent in spoken & written English.
- Ability to work under pressure.

## Project Admin Assistant

Successful candidates should be in possession of these qualifications:

- Thai national.
- Bachelor's degree in any field.
- Independent efficiency
- Fluent in spoken & written English.
- Ability to work under pressure.

The positions offer attractive packages. For an interview, please send resume and photograph to:  
[info@thepalmbeachclub.com](mailto:info@thepalmbeachclub.com)

## GST International Co., Ltd.

326 Prabamee Road, Patong, Kathu, Phuket 83150  
Tel: 076-310402-4  
Fax: 076-310405

## CALL CENTER OPERATOR

Requirements: Good command of spoken and written English. Computer skills. Able to work in shifts. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-257020. Fax: 076-257008. Email: [info@easylinkphuket.com](mailto:info@easylinkphuket.com)

## ENGLISH TEACHER REQUIRED

Seeking an English teacher with experience. Native speaker preferred. For more info contact K. Joojee at Tel: 081-3979809, 081-970-0121. Send CV by email: [joojee88@yahoo.com](mailto:joojee88@yahoo.com)

## CHARTER MANAGER

Elite Yachting is looking for an English- & German-speaking foreigner to lead the charter sales & administration department with an enthusiastic Thai team. Your core responsibilities are contact with clients by email, phone and direct, issuing charter contracts and invoices as well as arranging all administration. Sailing experience is not a must. Tel: 076-273476, 081-9786086. Fax: 076-273476. Email: [jurg@phuket-yachts.com](mailto:jurg@phuket-yachts.com)

## CLUB ASIA FITNESS

Phuket's leading fitness center requires sales staff, fitness instructor and personal trainer. Tel: 076-354027, 089-126-5671. Fax: 076-233384. For further details, please see our website at [www.clubasia-phuket.com](http://www.clubasia-phuket.com)

## RESTAURANT STAFF

for Black and White 24/7, Kathu. Contact K. Nat (Thai). Tel: 086-9432976.

## ENGLISH SPEAKING

lady for morning and afternoon help. Must have own car or motorbike. Tel: 086-745-8832. Email: [gregmackay67@hotmail.com](mailto:gregmackay67@hotmail.com)

## RESERVATIONS STAFF

Diethelm Travel is looking for highly qualified and service-minded operations staff. Good command of English and computer skills are required. Experience in tourism is a plus. Thai citizens only. Tel: 081-892-7714. Email: [max.t@th.diethelmtravel.com](mailto:max.t@th.diethelmtravel.com)

## Employment Wanted

## SALES MANAGER

Male, 42, Dutch national Sales Manager with 20+ years' sales experience. Fluent in Dutch and English, basic German. Tel: 087-0072366.

## WHO WANTS A CHEF?

Chef from Holland looking for a job in Phuket. For your Western Cuisine. Available direct. Tel: 087-9142632. Email: [kimbacardi@hotmail.com](mailto:kimbacardi@hotmail.com)

## SUCCESSFUL HOTELIER

Seeking mid-level to executive management position. Previous 250-room American hotel GM will guarantee you a profitable low season and a super high season. Tel: 085-7932477. Email: [garyteets@yahoo.com](mailto:garyteets@yahoo.com)

## SALES STAFF WANTED

English speaker. Experience in sales would be an advantage. We offer excellent benefits and commissions. Contact for more information. Call K. Kuno at 081-9685963, or email us at: [salesteam@bayproject.com](mailto:salesteam@bayproject.com) see or visit our website at [www.bayproject.com](http://www.bayproject.com)

## ASSISTANT SALES MANAGER

Wanted: Female aged 25-35 years. English speaker, self-motivated, car owner who likes fitness! Good salary, benefits, commission. Tel: 076-355040, 081-8239448. Fax: 076-355039. Please send CV to [cj@searaspports.com](mailto:cj@searaspports.com)

## JAPANESE GUEST RELATIONS

Marketing/tour leader required by resort. Degree in tourism or marketing required. Accommodation, basic salary plus performance bonus offered. Please email resumé, photo and date you can start work. Email: [bob@elephant-hills.com](mailto:bob@elephant-hills.com)

## NURSERY ASSISTANT

Female Thai national required Mon-Fri 8:30 am-4 pm. Enthusiasm and a love of children needed! 7,000 baht/month. 4 weeks paid holiday per year + Thai national holidays. Phone for interview. Tel: 089-9711813. Email: [info@abc-nurseryphuket.com](mailto:info@abc-nurseryphuket.com)

Looking for a job?  
Looking for a better quality candidate?  
Find more Recruitment Classifieds at [www.phuketgazette.net/](http://www.phuketgazette.net/)



# Tout, Trader & Trumpet

## Articles For Sale

### WATER DISPENSER

For both cold and warm water. Sale includes 2 five-gallon bottles. 1,000 baht. Tel: 076-323459, 089-7291113. Email: richard\_melen@hotmail.com

### SONY-ERICSSON K850I

5 MP camera, UMTS, quad-band, email, etc. Black/green, perfect condition (as new), warranty. Original, complete with box and receipt. Comes with free Bluetooth head-phone. Fixed price: 11,500 baht. Tel: 087-3892160. Email: jrm.dlrm@gmail.com

### SAMSUNG LCD TV

32-inch screen, about one year old. 17,000 baht. Call or email for more info. Tel: 089-9728544. Email: av58phuket@yahoo.com

### MATTRESSES FOR SALE

25 hotel mattresses, good condition. 1,500 baht each. Tel: 081-9684978.

### PRIVATE SALE

Gurios paintings, stereo, antique oriental carpets. Call Heyno. Please contact for more information. Tel: 080-1453483. Email: heinogeick@yahoo.com.sg

### SIERRA WIRELESS AIRCARD

4,000 baht, call after 2pm. Comes with CD software. Not for Vista; XP is okay. Tel: 076-296351, 081-0862772. Email: thewizardofrockandroll@gmail.com

### MULTIGYM

Large, four stations, excellent condition. Moving, so must sell quickly. All offers considered. Please contact for more information. Tel: 087-2752808. Email: lwa\_liz@hotmail.com

### MONGOOSE

Rockodile, 21-speed, 1 month old: 7,000 baht. Cold-drink fridge, 2ft x 5ft: 4,000 baht. Compaq desktop computer: 8,000 baht. Tel: 084-628-8450.

### OFFICE FURNITURE

Armchairs, chairs, desks, computer tables n all for sale at just half of their new price. Also have an aircon unit for sale. Only 10,000 baht. Tel: 076-346004, 087-2642598. Fax: 076-346004. Email: georgeslancry@hotmail.com

### LIKE-NEW 9-BALL POOL TABLE

Size: 4'x8'. Slate top, new felt, new set of balls, all accessories. Delivery & installation included. Price: 60,000 baht. Tel: 081-823-4627, 084-2901645. Fax: 076-264461. Email: ying@phuketpooltables.com

## Articles Wanted

### WANTED: TABLES & CHAIRS

Looking for donations of used tables and chairs for the new Family Dragon Boat Club at Ao Yon. Plastic is fine, new or used. All welcomed at the moment. Tel: 089-5878173. Email: info@phuketLP.com

## Bulletins

### REWARD 20,000 BAHT

My Mac G4 was stolen on May 9 from my home near Koh Samui. Serial # W855230 LSWZ. I am offering a reward of 10,000 baht to recover the Mac, and 10,000 baht to recover an ethnic jewelry collection. Tel: 081-894-3839. Email: donandinge@csloxinfo.com

## ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Mission Hospital  
Phuket City  
Wed and Sun 7 pm  
Bangkok Phuket Hospital  
Phuket City  
Fri 7 pm  
Patong Hospital Patong  
Mon, Tue, Wed, Sat, Sun  
at 7 pm and Fri at 8 pm  
Chalong Health  
Clinic-near Chalong Circle  
Tues 1 pm  
For Phuket info (English)  
call 081-9564031,  
081-8912895  
Scandinavian speaking Group  
Wat Karon School-Karon  
Tue and Sat 7 pm  
Tel 081-2732053 (Nor)  
087-2795636 (Nor)  
086-7458910 (Swe)  
For info on other Thailand  
AA meetings inquire  
at Tel: 02-2318300  
(for Thai language press 3)  
www.aathailand.org  
email info@aathailand.org  
phuketaa@yahoo.com

### SPONSOR

a needy child. The Phuket International Women's Club is a volunteer organization raising funds for educational scholarships. We rely on the goodwill of donors and sponsors n small and large. If you would like to put something back into the community in which you live, contact us to find out more about giving a prize or being a sponsor. Contact Carol (Tel: 087-4178860 or carol.fryer@piwc.info) or K. Sue (Tel: 087-2776948 or email: sue.amulphy@piwc.info).

### FORMING ARTISTS' COMMUNITY

International artist living in Phuket wishing to organize local artists and people interested in art to share work and ideas to better the community and each of us individually. Tel: 076-381937, 087-0716063. Fax: 076-381937. Email: tbokich@tbokich.com

### RED CORRECTION FILTER

Sea & Sea 4-inch (10cm) red correction filter in good condition. Free for someone who can use. Email: info@warmwaterdivers.com

### ITEMS STOLEN

Please contact me if you find or see either of the following electrical items, stolen from our home in Phuket recently:

- Motorola Krzr K1 GSM Fire Red Mobile Phone MSN# E70RGQ0V70  
- Sony Handycam DCR-DVD708 E35 No. 301.  
Thank you. Tel: 076-367-484, 085-8899930. Fax: 076-367484. Email: able@wcec-phuket.com

## Business Opportunities

### GUESTHOUSE B1.45 MILLION

Good lease, excellent condition. Prime retail space of 1,375sqm. Central Patong. Tel: 086-1588752.

### 80,000 FOR YOU

if you find me a buyer for my shophouse. Please visit www.katahouseforsale.com Tel: 087-8907561 (Thai) or 080-522136.

### RESTAURANT-BAR

Kata-Karon, Taina Rd. 40 seats, 2 private rooms, ADSL Internet. 15,000 baht monthly rent. Tel: 087-8925870.

### THAI COMPANY FOR SALE

Includes 4-bedroom luxury house and plot in the heritage development in Kathu. 16 million baht for all. Contact David. Tel: 081-8157170. Email: kawahigashi@yahoo.com

### RESTAURANT FOR SALE/RENT

New, nicely decorated restaurant, situated in Phuket City center. Fully equipped and ready to service customers. Partnership can be considered. Tel: 087-3839310. Email: pvioo26@hotmail.com

**BARS, GUESTHOUSE**  
Bangla, Nanai. Many business opportunities at www.janepropertyphuket.com

### PATONG TAILOR SHOP: B300,000

Tailor shop for sale in good location at Jungceylon Patong. Tel: 076-271110, 086-3287376. Email: sohailnoshad@hotmail.com

### RESTAURANT FOR SALE

Located at Nai Harn car park, 40 seats inside and outside. Good business for past 4 years. Comes with flat. Tel: 087-2980200. Email: rwberger00@hotmail.com

### SHOP FOR RENT

Rawai-Nai Harn. Good for business in growing area. ADSL, near main road. Tel: 083-3904176.

### BAMBOO VILLAGE BAR

for sale. Excellent location on main road, Rawai. 3 rooms with a/c. Kitchen, seats 50, fully equipped. 2.5 million baht. Tel: 087-2846911.

### GUESTHOUSE IN KATA

for sale. 3 rooms, kitchen. Offer a good price. Tel: 083-3381625.

### GREAT DEAL! BUSINESS SALES & RENTAL UNIT

- Hotel for sale: 3 rai, newly renovated boutique resort, great deal, best location in Patong.  
- Hotel for sale: 55 rooms on 5-rai plot, small luxury resort located in the quiet end of Patong. New construction, clean and great atmosphere.  
- Hotel for rent: best location in Phuket City.  
Please contact via email for an appointment. Email: allservices29@gmail.com

### ROOFTOP RESTAURANT

for rent on the top floor of Sinthavee Hotel, Phuket City. Convenient for a restaurant or bar. Also, a discotheque on the 2nd floor (with license). Please contact via by email: allservices29@gmail.com

### SALON & SPA

for lease or rent with all equipment included. In the basement of Fantasia in Phuket City. Tel: 086-5930086.

### BOOKS FOR SALE

Many language books and about 5,000 used books with bookshelves. Quick sale: 350,000 baht. Please contact to K. Pui. Tel: 084-1705552.

### PHI PHI

13-bedroom guesthouse for sale. Tel: 081-7475293.

## Agents for Classified Advertising

### PHUKET

#### Julapan Stationery

Chao Fa East Rd (next to Siam Commercial Bank)

Tel: 076-282254

#### Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe

Fisherman's Way Business Center, Chaofa East Rd

Tel: 076-282403

#### K.L. Mart

Patak Rd, Chalong

Tel: 076-280400/3

Fax: 076-280403

#### Earth Language School

Phang Nga Rd, Phuket City

Tel: 076-232398/9

Fax: 076-232398

#### Sin & Lee

Thalang Rd, Phuket City

Tel: 076-258369

Fax: 076-211230

#### Taurus Travel

Aroonsom Plaza Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd, Patong

Tel: 076-344521/2

Fax: 076-344523

#### 41 Minimart

Srisoontorn Rd, Cherng Talay

Tel/Fax: 076-324312

#### Deli Supermarket

Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd, Patong

Tel: 076-342275

Fax: 076-344314

#### Property Information Center [PIC]

2nd Fl, Central Festival (in front of Siam Commercial Bank)

**Live in Patong?**  
**Place your GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS at**  
**Taurus Travel**

**Simply write out your ad, pay and leave it with Khun Kai (076-344321-2)**

**GAZETTE CLASSADS - they work because they're PAID!**  
Hundreds of new ads in print every week, all published simultaneously - and FREE - in the Gazette Online!

**The Gazette is always on top in Google!**



# Tout, Trader & Trumpet

## NIGHTCLUB IN KATA CENTER



## KATA NIGHT BAZAAR 2.5 MILLION BAHT

- The only nightclub in Kata-Karon and Chalong area. No competition!
  - 3-story (mezzanine/balcony included), stock room, kitchen.
  - Disco is located in a government zoning area.
  - Top-brand sound, lighting, effects and visual equipment and systems, new with 2-year warranties.
  - Have government licence.
  - All materials, equipment, furniture, air conditioning and coolers are new with warranties.
  - 3rd floor has 4 newly furnished rooms with cable TV and air conditioning.
  - 2 rooms with balcony and gardens/city view (Kata).
  - 2 rooms without balcony and sea view.
- Tel: 087-6899679. Email: allservices29@gmail.com

## ELEGANT SHOPHOUSE

Bargain, 4-story shophouse with Chanote. There is a fully equipped restaurant on 1st and 2nd floors. Fully furnished apartment on 3rd and 4th floors. Value: 6.7 million baht. Now priced at only 5.5 million baht. Have to move out. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-8915602.

## MASSAGE SALON FOR SALE

in Saiyuan Rd. Includes new equipment, many repeat customers. 390,000 baht. 3 Thai massage beds, 2 oil massage beds, 2 foot massage chairs. Contact K. Bee. Tel: 089-5939105.

## RESTAURANT

Urgent. Rawai, long-term lease. Fully equipped. 1.3 million baht. Tel: 085-8843610.

## MASSAGE SALON

for sale in Patong. Brand-new. 120sqm. Great potential. Great deal. Contact Alex. Tel: 081-4954761.

## SEEK NANAI RD BUSINESS

We are looking for a suitable space to start our business on Nanai Rd, Patong. Minimum 50sqm is needed. Low rent. Tel: 080-5843619. Email: nanairoad@gmail.com

## STOP BAR FOR RENT/SALE

Newly set up in Soi Sea Dragon. Probably the most beautiful bar in Patong.

- 2 units.
- Top location near Soi Bangla.
- 12 small rooms.
- Top audio/video equipment (Bose, Behringer etc).
- Running as a go-go or open bar is possible.

Fully equipped. Contact for information. Tel: 084-848-3495 (K.Osi in German), 089-5903968 (K.Holger in English). Email: stop-bar@holgervolp.com Photos at www.holgervolp.com

## PATONG BAR FOR LEASE

3-year contract, 800,000 baht. Wz sound system plus equipment. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-8936848.

## GUESTHOUSE B1.45 MILLION

Good lease, excellent condition. Prime retail space of 1,375sqm. Central Patong. Tel: 086-1588752.

## THAI KARAOKE

Popular, high-class venue. Everything included. Best location, open 2 years. 750,000 baht. Tel: 084-8436400.

## BAR FOR SALE - NANAI RD

Bar with large kitchen, pool table, fully equipped and ready to run. Monthly rent only 7,000 baht. Price: 650,000 baht. Please contact Mark. Tel: 087-3822302. Email: m\_saundersuk@hotmail.com

## RESTAURANT FOR SALE

in Rawai, excellent location. 6 months old, teakwood furniture, fully equipped kitchen. 3+ 3-year lease with low rent. Over 1 million baht of assets. Urgent sale: only 1 million baht, including Co Ltd and rent paid until November 2008. Tel: 084-0603477. Email: attivi taphuket@hotmail.com

## Business Products & Services

**OSTEOPATH (UK)**  
Garnett Symonds DO.  
HMD. Tel: 081-6072343.  
www.garnettsymonds.com

## JEAB'S JUMPING CASTLES

8 models.  
For children's parties.  
Please contact for more information.  
Tel: 081-8939742.  
www.phuket jumpingcastles.com

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**Seahorse Interiors**  
DESIGNER FURNITURE PACKAGES  
Accessories, lamps, vases, cushions, urns, carpets, statues, tapestries, paintings, side tables, sculptures, bowls  
Please visit our new showroom, 300m west of the Heroines' Monument in the direction of Chergtlay  
Tel: 089-7294083  
info@seahorse-interiors.com  
www.seahorse-interiors.com

## TOURS IN PHUKET

Plan 2 cultural and jungle tours. Full-day trips with English-speaking guide. Entrance fees, return journey, transfers, set Thai meal and drinks included. Tel: 081-6911955. Email: plan2phuket@gmail.com

## VISA & LEGAL SERVICES



Company registration 2,229 baht; 1-year visa 7,900 baht; retirement visa 7,900 baht; work permit 7,900 baht; UK & US visa 19,999 baht. No more visa runs, get a 1-year visa for only 7,900 baht. Establish your Thai company today to buy land or start your business for only 2,229 baht. Property title search, sales contract and land registration. Thailand's largest legal service network. Always low prices by our licensed Thai lawyers.

Please contact for more information.  
Tel: 076-290376  
Email: info@siam-legal.com

## ROPE TRICKS

The art of Western cowboy performance with rope. Email: mikeroper2003@hotmail.com For further details, please see our website at: www.thai-cowboy-ropertricks.com

## PHUKET WEDDING SPECIALIST

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## VISA RUN

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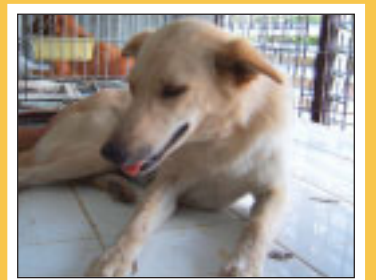
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