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## 'Young Turks' win city election

By Siripansa Somboon

PHUKET CITY: The provincial capital's first directly-elected mayor is a woman. Somjai Suwannasuppana led the *Khon Noom* (Young Turks) Party to a narrow victory in the Phuket City Municipality poll on April 4.

K. Somjai, previously second on the party ticket behind long-serving mayor Phummisak Hongsyok, polled 11,986 votes, narrowly defeating Prawat Suwannadithakul, of the *Chao Baan Sarng San* (Creative) Party, who polled 10,580 votes.

The margin of 1,406 votes was smaller than in the last election contested by the two parties.

A total of 44,411 people were eligible to cast ballots but only 24,902 – 56% – voted, with 1,442 spoiled ballots and 894 people ticking the “neither” box on their ballot slips.

For the first time, Phuket City voters also elected six councillors to each of four constituencies, with the *Khon Noom* Party taking 14 of the total 24 council seats.

The other 10 seats went to the *Chao Baan Sarng San* Party. Previously, as a town, Phuket City elected only 18 councillors.



Somjai Suwannasuppana was elected the first mayor of Phuket City, which was recently promoted from town to city status.

Kittipong Thiengkunagrit, Director of the Phuket Election Commission (PEC), said that although there had been no complaints of irregularities so far, it would be several days before the PEC could confirm the results.

A third would-be mayoral candidate, Thanapong Khodom, 53, of the *Pattana Baan*

*Rao* (Develop Our Home) Party, was disqualified from standing because he had not lived in Phuket City for the past year and had not paid taxes in accordance with the rules.

Despite this setback, 24 members of K. Thanapong's party ran for election. None was successful.

## Mob slams slow police action over shooting

By Dhirarat Boonkongaen

CHERNG TALAY: In the latest flare-up in an ongoing gang war between youths from Bang Tao and neighboring Baan Don, some 100 teenagers blocked the main road intersection in Tambon Cherg Talay for seven hours on April 2.

The mob was protesting the “unfair” arrests of two Bang Tao teenagers during a brawl earlier the same day in Thalang, and about the repeated failure of police to apprehend a leader of the Baan Don gang.

The mob blocked the intersection outside the Cherg Talay Police Station from 8 pm to 3 am. They demanded to know what action the police had taken over an incident on January 21 when an 18-year-old from Bang Tao was shot in the leg.

Decha Salay, Chief of Moo 1, Bang Tao, told the *Gazette*, “The teenagers from Bang Tao and Baan Don often fight. A bad boy called Kwang shot a Bang Tao teenager [in January], but the police still have not arrested him.”

“The gangs met again during the military service lottery drawing at Phranaang Saang  
 Continued on page 2

## Dulwich to open college on Samui next year

KOH SAMUI: David Cook, Headmaster of Dulwich International College (DIC), has announced that the international school will open a new campus on Koh Samui next year.

At a meeting of property developers and agents on Koh Samui on April 2, Mr Cook said that DIC had concluded the purchase of 65 rai of land with 300 meters of road frontage in the southwest of the island.

The construction of the new college is expected to be completed by June 2005, with the first students starting lessons two months later. Applications are already being accepted.

The new school, which will have capacity for 400 students, will offer classes for children aged from three to 13 years old (kindergarten to year 8).

Graduates from the school will, DIC hopes, continue their education as boarders in Phuket.

An Outdoor Education Centre (OEC) is also planned. This center will include teaching facilities for outdoor, geographic, scientific and environmental education, as well as facilities for training students in pursuits such as kayaking, climbing, sailing, orienteering, and team-building.

The OEC will be used by students from both Phuket and Samui campuses.

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For more details, see page 36

## Blackout schedule for April

PHUKET: The Phuket Provincial Electricity Authority (PPEA) has announced its April schedule of blackouts to allow upgrading of high-voltage lines. All blackouts will be from 9 am to 4 pm.

April 20, **Phuket City/Kuku:** Rassadanusorn Rd and Phu Yai Baan Rd, from Thepkrasattri Rd to the junction of Phu Yai Baan Rd and Amphur Rd, including Baan Kuku, Soi Bussabong Nursery School, Moo Baan Eka-sin Villa, Soi Ma Klin, Soi Ma Kam, Moo Baan Rassada, Moo Baan City Home and Moo Baan Suwannakarn.

April 21, **Phuket City:** Thepkrasattri Rd, east side, from the PPEA substation to Satee Phuket School, including Soi Patchanee, Moo Baan Thepkrasattri, Soi Boonyarak, Soi Siang Tai and Chumporn Rd.

Also, Damrong Rd, north side, from Satee Phuket School to Phuket Provincial Prison.

April 22, **Kathu:** Prince of Songkla University, including Soi Mor Or Kathu.

April 23, **Chalong:** Soi Kan Eang.

April 28, **Rawai:** Saiyuan Rd, from Wiset Rd to Nai Harn Beach, including Baan Saiyuan, Soi Samakee 1, 2 and 3, Soi Saiyuan 1, Soi Ruam Nanachart, Soi Kok Yang, Soi Kok Makham and Soi Naya.

April 29, **Kathu:** Phra Phuket Kaew Rd, from Bang Tong intersection (Caltex gas station) to Soi Bang Tong, including Moo Baan Bang Tong.

# Phromthep eyesore ordered demolished

By Siripansa Somboon

RAWAI: Visitors going to Laem Phromthep recently to watch the sun set have been getting more than they bargained for.

At the top of the stairs leading up from the carpark, and blocking the view, is a large, unfinished stone monument.

But now it has been decided that the unsightly new monument, built at a cost of 200,000 baht as part of a central-government-funded two-million-baht upgrade of the area, will be demolished.

The stone edifice was supposed to be sculpted with the name "Laem Promthep" in large letters, so that tourists could be photographed in front of it.

But complaints about the ugliness of the monument and the fact that the contractor took longer to complete the project than was specified in its contract have resulted in a decision by the the Rawai Tambon Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*) to demolish it.

*OrBorTor* Chairman Aroon Soros told the *Gazette* that it is hoped a new monument will be erected a short distance away.

The same contractor, who already faces a financial penalty for not completing the original monument on schedule, will build the new one free.



Rawai OrBorTor has ordered that the monument at Laem Phromthep, which cost 200,000 baht to build, be demolished.

## Gambling tops crime figures

PHUKET: Gambling once again topped the crime statistics in Phuket, with 251 arrests between March 1 and 25.

The police figures show that other common crimes included illegal immigration, with 192 people held, and possession or use of illegal narcotics, with 49 arrests and 168 *ya bah* (methamphetamine) tablets seized.

Violent crimes included two murders, with one arrest; nine cases of attempted murder;

three rapes; and 12 cases of bodily harm.

Ten people were arrested on prostitution-related charges, while three were held for illegal possession of weapons.

Police received 47 complaints of offenses relating to property, including 32 cases of theft, nine of vandalism, two snatchings, one robbery, two motorbike thefts and one car theft. There were 12 cases of embezzlement and six of fraud.

## Mob slams police inaction on shooting

From page 1

School in Thalang, and once again they fought.

"Someone called the police, but when the officers arrived they just grabbed the closest teenagers, handcuffed them and handed them over to the Cherg Talay Police." The two were released soon after.

K. Decha said that although Kwang was involved in the fight, he had once again escaped arrest. Frustration at the inability of the police to apprehend Kwang had been the main reason for the protest, K. Decha explained.

The mob made three demands: a progress report on the investigation into the shooting; the arrest of Kwang; and the transfer of the Thalang officers who arrested the two teenagers.

Around midnight, Vice-Governor Pongpow Kettong and Phuket Provincial Police Chief Pol Maj Gen Veerayuth Sittimalic arrived to negotiate with the mob.

Gen Veerayuth told the *Gazette*, "The two kids were released soon after their arrest, once the police had ascertained they had not been doing anything wrong.

"The crowd just wanted police to take action over the shooting by Kwang, because they believed officers were not doing anything about the case.

"I have repeatedly told the police in Cherg Talay that it is a sensitive area that requires officers who can build relations with the local people. The police know this already," he said.

Pol Lt Col Suwat Kaewprom, Deputy Superintendent of Cherg Talay Police Station, said, "Officers will arrest Kwang as soon as possible, along with other teenagers involved in fighting."

## Queer News

### Now what's bugging her?

SUPHAN BURI: Shoppers at the Tesco-Lotus outlet got quite a shock when a pregnant girl opened a spray can of Baygon insecticide and began spraying it into her ears and mouth. It was later learned that the girl thought she had insects in her ears and was trying to kill them.

Police were notified of incident at 9:30 pm on March 23 and rushed to the scene.

There they found the girl, heavy with child, standing in the Thai energy drink section, bawling her eyes out. Next to her was a can of the popular insecticide Baygon Green.

The girl was later identified by police as 19-year-old Sasitorn "Ann" Srikanya of Tambon Samnchai.

Before long, the poor girl was surrounded by a horde of police officials, doctors, social workers, store staff and other curious onlookers.

A social worker from the Ministry of Justice tried in vain for over an hour to convince the girl that her head was not infested with bugs.

But all of the attention just made the situation worse. Finally, the girl staged a bid for freedom by running into the parking lot, jumping onto her red Honda Dream and roaring off.

But she didn't get far. Although one might suspect from local driving habits that everybody in Thailand drives under the influence of Baygon, police singled out K. Ann by setting up a roadblock and forcing her off her vehicle.

The social workers then went back to their futile effort to convince her that she didn't have insects in her head, but gave up after 30 minutes and had the girl sent to Chaopayayom Hospital for treatment.

The subsequent investigation by police revealed that the deluded girl had visited several local clinics in the area asking doctors to remove the bugs from her ears before deciding to do the job herself.

Source: Kom Chad Luek



David Wiewel has been missing since March 26.

## Family offers B50,000 for help finding missing man

KATA: The family of missing dive instructor David Wiewel are offering a reward of 50,000 baht for information that leads to Mr Wiewel being found.

His brother Frank said, "We are living between hope and fear and the situation is particularly hard on David's mother. The uncertainty is terrible. Any kind of closure would give the family some peace of mind."

The 57-year-old Dutchman walked out of his home at 121/1, Koktanod Rd, Kata, at 8 am on March 26 and was last seen walking toward Kata Noi.

Anyone who has information on Mr Wiewel's possible whereabouts is asked to call his wife, K. Too, at Tel: 01-8943132 or 076-284026.

## Khao Lak Sofitel to open in May

KHAO LAK: French hotel management group Accor Hotels has announced its Sofitel Magic Lagoon Resort and Spa will officially open on May 1 and remain in operation throughout the May-November low season.

The luxury resort, formerly a Novotel property, has been expanded to 319 rooms and is billed as having the world's largest lagoon pool, covering more than 14,000 square meters.

# Confusion over new entertainment licenses

By Dhirarat Boonkongaen

PHUKET: About 30% of the entertainment venues on Phuket have not applied for any of the new entertainment service licenses, Wisut Romin, Deputy Secretary of the Phuket Provincial Administrative Office, has told the *Gazette*.

Owners of entertainment venues had until March 12 to apply, after which their existing licenses automatically became

void. Those who did apply are allowed to continue trading as before until their applications for new licenses are either approved or denied.

Entertainment venues fall into six main categories:

3(1): "Dancing places". This covers discotheques and *ram wong* (traditional Thai dancing) venues.

3(2): Tea shops. These no longer exist on Phuket.

3(3): Massage parlors.

3(4): Entertainment venues – places selling food (maybe) and alcohol and offering some form of entertainment.

3(5): Restaurants that provide entertainment and close after midnight (primarily upmarket venues with cultural shows).

3(6): Others as yet unimagined or not falling into the above categories.

In category 3(4), there are four sub-categories. These are:

3(4)a: A place providing a

show or other activities for customers' entertainment, and allowing staff to socialize with patrons;

3(4)b: A place providing equipment for patrons to sing, and allowing staff to socialize with patrons.

3(4)c: A place that has no dance floor but allows customers to dance on the premises.

3(4)d: Other places that have light or sound facilities, depending on Ministry rulings yet to be made.

Depending on the activities available in a venue in category 3(4), it may require two or more of the above licenses.

K. Wisut said that many businesses had not applied because of confusion over which of the new licenses to apply for, and worries over how much they would have to pay.

This is because the Ministry of Interior has yet to set the fees. It has until May 12 to do so, K. Wisut explained. "It is expected to set the fee [for each license] at up to 50,000 baht a year. Business owners will have to pay the fees on receipt of each license," K. Wisut explained.

Licenses to serve food and non-alcoholic beverages, alcohol and cigarettes are also required in addition to the new entertainment licenses. Amusements such as pool tables and video games, too, require licenses.

Before the recent amendments to the Entertainment Act came into effect, K. Wisut said, there were about 270 businesses on Phuket holding entertainment licenses of one sort or another.

The new licenses will be issued by May 12 and will run until December 31.

"The aim of the new regulations is to make it more difficult for people in the entertainment business," K. Wisut explained.

# Songkran rules 'will be strictly enforced'

By Gategaeo Phetsawang

PHUKET: In an effort to prevent the annual surge in road accidents during the Songkran holiday, the Superintendent of Phuket City Police Station, Pol Col Paween Pongsirin, has announced that new rules restricting water-play to special zones will be strictly enforced across the island during the April 9-18 holiday period.

Col Paween said that the new rules will limit Songkran revelry to certain zones, none of which are along major roads.

Under the new rules, water fights will be restricted to four zones in Phuket, one in each district: Saphan Hin in Muang District; Nai Yang Beach in Thalang; all of Patong Municipality in Kathu and all of Tambon Rawai. Other venues, such as public parks, may be added

Col Paween threatened to throw the book at people who throw water at moving vehicles, and added that throwing water with ice in it, dyed water or powder is also prohibited.

Promising to prosecute violators, he cited three sections of the Penal Code referring to petty offenses:

Section 372, which refers to causing a disturbance in a public



Pol Col Pawee issued a reminder that parents are now liable for offenses committed by their children.

place, and which carries a fine of up to 500 baht;

Section 389, which covers causing "a hard substance to fall on any place in a manner likely to cause harm, trouble or nuisance" or causing "a filthy thing to dirty... a person or thing" and which carries a penalty of up to 1,000 baht and/or a month in jail;

Section 397, which covers "bullying" other people or caus-

ing them to be "ashamed or troubled", and which carries the same penalties as Section 389.

Citing provisions of the National Culture Act and Highway Transport Act, Col Paween said violators would also be prosecuted under the civil code.

He said police will set up roadblocks from 2 pm to 10 pm and give sobriety tests to drivers. Managers or owners of shops caught selling alcohol to under-18s will also be charged, he said.

Under Section 26 of the controversial Child Protection Act of 2003, parents are now liable to be prosecuted for crimes committed by their children.

"Parents who allow their children to break the law are subject to a maximum penalty of a 30,000 baht fine, three months in jail, or both," he warned.

Appealing to reason over the holiday, he said, "We have to consider if we want [to indulge in] temporary pleasure at the risk of [causing] the tragedy of injured people, road accidents and other damage."



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# A FAIRER



"Abuses have become part of the police forces' culture. A new culture must be built."

Pol Lt Gen Somsak Buppasuwan has set out five ways in which police must improve. He explained them as follows:

1. Work with a conscience and believe that the public are the No. 1 priority. Aim to make everywhere peaceful.
2. Stop bad, socially unacceptable behavior. Improve officers' personalities and the way they interact with people. Be fair and impartial always.
3. Improve the professional abilities of police. [Gen Somsak noted, "We continue to train officers in crime prevention, detection and traffic control."]
4. Let the public be involved in police work – for example, include the public in planning for anti-crime campaigns. Listen to their ideas. [Gen Somsak cited the recently formed Police-Public Committees (*KorKorTorRor*) in each province as good forums for this.] Allow ordinary people to make suggestions – each police station should have a suggestion box.
5. Work in a transparent way so that people can check what officers are doing. If people want information, give it to them, unless it is classified or secret.

Gen Somsak said that to succeed in these five areas, police should also change their personality in five specific ways:

1. Smile and look lively;
2. Speak and behave politely;
3. Help people;
4. Be energetic and work hard;
5. Be virtuous.

Pol Lt Gen Somsak Buppasuwan, Commander for the past six months of Police Region 8, says that the image of the Royal Thai Police (RTP) has not grown worse in the past few years – it was poor to start with.

"We have to accept that there have been many complaints about the RTP. This is because [abuses] have been going on for so long that they became part of the organization's culture," Gen Somsak, 59, explained.

"All these abuses must stop and a new culture must be built. PM Thaksin has given us one year [until the end of 2004]. If things do not improve to the Prime Minister's satisfaction, he has said that he will take over management of the police force and may even radically restructure it," Gen Somsak added.

"I will be checking next month [May] and if I think the situation is not improving fast enough, I will first put pressure on the superintendents of each police station to take swift action, or face a transfer.

"Any officer who does not seem to be making an effort to improve will be sent for 'special training'," Gen Somsak warned.

He said that the main thrust of current policy is to encourage officers to change their way of thinking so that they become both "honorable" and efficient, satisfying the public with their performance.

The police have been told to focus on five specific areas of improvement in their operating methods (*see panel, left*), and five ways to improve their personalities.

"The police have to stop behaving badly, being rude, bullying people and extorting money from the public," Gen Somsak added. "Any officer who behaves like this will be fired."

"During April, a special

At the beginning of March, Pol Lt Gen Somsak Buppasuwan, the Commander of Police Region 8, which covers Phuket and six other provinces, warned his officers that they must reform or face dire consequences. "It's time to re-engineer the entire Royal Thai Police system," Gen Somsak said. "We have to change. We are perceived as the worst organization in Thailand, and people hate us." The general said that Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra had given the whole police force a year to turn around its negative image. The *Gazette's* Sangkhae Leelanapaporn and Gategao Phetsawang asked Gen Somsak and senior officers in Phuket why police have such a poor public image and what is being done to answer the Prime Minister's wake-up call.

team will inspect each police station. They will do this in two ways. "First, they will check whether officers understand our policy and are really complying with it. Second, they will ask members of the public who have had dealings with the police – for example, those who have filed complaints, or defendants or witnesses – whether service has improved and whether they are happy with the service received," Gen Somsak added.

But local police commanders are quick to assure the public that they and their men have been making progress toward improving themselves and their image.

The Provincial Police Commander, Maj Gen Veerayuth Sittimalic, said that, in his view, the police are "the most advanced state organization" in Thailand when it comes to developing human resources and officials' behavior. Compared with the past, he said, the police generate fewer complaints and are "closer to people's hearts these days".

He noted, however, that it is hard for the police to get a 100% approval rating. "Our main duty," he explained, "is to ensure people do everything according to the law. Most of the people

who comment [adversely] are affected by our work [in upholding the law] while no one else wants to come forward and openly praise us."

This theme is repeated by the superintendents of Phuket's police stations: that the police don't deserve their poor reputation – that they are criticized unfairly by bad people whose plans are thwarted, or by people who are dissatisfied with judgments made by the police to settle disputes.

The Superintendent of Phuket Town Police Station, Pol Col Paween Pongsirin, remarked, "Although we do good things every day, only a few people praise us."

Col Paween admitted there have been and still are bad cops – he has arrested some of them on charges of murder, corruption and theft.

In one case, an officer he arrested for hiring a hitman to kill someone else was sentenced to death, a sentence that was upheld right through the appeals process.

But this, he stressed, does not mean all police are bad. "The police work 24 hours a day," he said. "We handle massive numbers of cases. An officer may perform well in [dozens] of cases, but just one mistake can pull him down. Critics usually seize on one mistake by one person, then blame the entire police force."

He appeared frustrated by the continuing inability of the RTP to shake its poor reputation. "People feel positive about some professions – for example, doctors because they see doctors as saving lives. We may work as hard as doctors but people don't [seem to feel] the same about us."

Gen Veerayuth said that most complaints these days center on two problems: "People complain about the traffic police because officers charge them with traffic offenses. They also complain about police investigators working too slowly.

"But these complaints are different from the past, when people complained that the traffic police extracted bribes."

Evaluating the results of the past six months, he said, "We have found that the traffic police have improved. They enforce the laws appropriately, fairly and correctly.

"We emphasize public relations and cooperation through meeting people and listening to their problems," he said. "We have a provincial police oversight committee and committees to evaluate the performance of each police station.

"Now we are inviting people to join committees in each community to check police work and to liaise between villagers and police.

"I'm confident that the work of the police will satisfy people. Listening to people's opinions, they seem to be pleased about what we have done so far."

Pol Col Chalit Kaewyarat, the popular Superintendent of Chalong Police Station, believes that many people complained in the past because the police did not have a "service mentality".

"People came to the police station because they were unhappy about something, but sometimes the officers they talked to were not willing to help with advice or explanation because they believed this was not their responsibility to do so," he said.

"I have regular meetings at which I reinforce the point that

"A form of 'immediate karma' will ensure that any police officers who do something good will receive rewards, while anyone behaving badly will receive bad things."

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# COP?

police officers can help people or at least make suggestions.

"The mentality of each police officer is different; that is why we are trying to teach them and change their mentality so that they are more service-oriented."

Before being put in command, Col Chalit was second in command at the Chalong Police Station. "In the past," he said, "I heard complaints that the police were too slow in getting to the scene of a crime, and I heard that when people went to the police station, they didn't get satisfactory service."

"But now I no longer hear such complaints. Of course," he joked, "this may be because people are reluctant to complain to my face. We may think we are doing well, while the whole town is cursing us behind our backs," he added with a laugh.

**Pol Col Chalit Tintanee**, as Superintendent of Kathu Police Station, reigns over the sometimes chaotic world of Patong. He said he believes that the only people who complain about the police are the ones who are arrested or whose businesses are raided for contravening the law.

He said, "There is no longer any bad behavior by the police because, if people think something is wrong, they can complaint direct to the RTP headquarters in Bangkok, or to the central government."

There are many organizations keeping an eye on the work of the police, including both government bodies and NGOs."

He explained that he always stresses to his officers that a form of "immediate karma" will ensure that any of them who do something good would receive

rewards, while anyone behaving badly will receive bad things in return, such as pay cuts, transfers or dismissal.

Asked whether the Kathu Police have managed to shake off their image as extortionists and bribe-takers, Col Chalit answered, "Yes. This is the new generation, not the old one. People now have the right to report misbehavior by police to many organizations."

*Gazette* sources in Patong say the situation has improved significantly in the past year and that requests for "contributions" from local businesses are now rare and are relatively easy to fend off.

Another hotspot for police in Phuket is Cherng Talay, where local people have a reputation for assembling "mobs" to put pressure on police whenever they feel a member of their community has been treated unfairly.

**Pol Lt Col Suwat Kaewprom**, Deputy Superintendent of Cherng Talay Police Station, said that there are two types of people who complain about police, "Law breakers don't like the police who arrest them even though those officers use their authority correctly. Ordinary people also don't like those police officers who use their powers incorrectly."

Col Suwat, too, says that matters have improved significantly in recent times. "In the past, police and other government officials would sometimes brag about their powers."

Now, however, the system is more transparent and as a result, government officers have to serve people.

"Villagers in Cherng Talay



**LESS STRONG-ARM AND MORE SMILE, PLEASE:** Building an honorable reputation to replace one of corruption, ill-will and lassitude may be a long road for the Royal Thai Police.

are different from people in the cities," he said. "Most of them are Muslim, so on Fridays we usually talk to villagers when we are free, to build better relations."

As was demonstrated by yet another mob in Cherng Talay on April 2 (see page 3), building relations is not easy.

"In general, we are able to build links with the older generation who are more accepting of the reasons we give them for the things we do," said Col Suwat. "But teenagers are more impetuous and it's hard to get them to understand."

He explained that the protest on April 2 resulted from a misunderstanding between the police and the teenagers.

"The officers [from Thalang] intended to perform their duty," he said, but there had been a misunderstanding and the wrong youths were arrested. As soon as the mistake was discovered, the youth were released.

"Community leaders have

told us that some parents are unable to control their children. The Thalang District Chief and I will invite leaders from each community in Thalang to discussions with the aim of solving the problems caused by teenagers, because they are too common, and give the district a bad image.

"First we will ask each community whether it has any teenagers who often cause problems, such as fighting or staging protests. Then we will talk to the teenagers and make them under-

stand that they must change their behavior."

But Col Suwat said that, in the end, it is impossible to please all of the people all of the time. "People tend to want the police always to do what pleases them personally," he said.

Whether this analysis accords with Prime Minister Thaksin's reformist zeal remains to be seen. Until the end of this year, Phuket's police, along with the entire RTP, will remain on probation.

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By Rittiwat Suwannarattaphum

If you are going to fly a kite, then it's much more fun to fly a big one. The *Wow Kwai*, or Buffalo Kite, is just about the biggest around. It's much more than a toy, requiring two hands to fly, and even then, it's hard to handle.

Outhaivut "Ou" Suwvanet, 33, makes *Wow Kwai* kites in Phuket and says that although the origins of this traditional Thai kite may have been lost, its aerial performance still manages to enrapture many southern people.

"*Wow Kwai* are flown mostly in the South," he said. "Perhaps they symbolize ideas about being a bird."

K. Ou told the *Gazette* that he was initiated into the world of kite-flying while on a trip to Bangkok.

"I was out walking with my friends," he said. "When we went to the Sanam Luang park I saw many people with their kites."

He was inspired and when he came back to Phuket it was not long before he was making and selling kites, as well as having fun with them, with Wat Thepmit being his favorite spot.

"Whenever people see my kites in the air, they come and ask what it costs to buy them."

He said the kites were priced as low as 100 baht for the smallest *Wow Nok* size and up to 3,500 baht for the large ones, *Wow Kwai* size.

Each *Wow Kwai* appears to have horns (*khao*), head (*hua*) and tail (*hang*) like those on a buffalo, with the addition of wings (*peek*), which are used to balance the kite.

"A *Wow Kwai* needs two



Kite-maker Outhaivut Suwvanet with a *Wow Kwai*, or Buffalo Kite.

your kite," he said. "In Phuket, the winds usually gust during the monsoon season but are steadier around December and January.

"The *Wow Kwai* can be modified to fly in strong or soft winds. You also have to stand in the right position, otherwise your kite can get ripped."

Kites can also fight in the air, the aim being to cut the tail on the rival kite.

K. Ou said that these days, some youngsters prefer to spend their time with hand-held computer games, computers or even gambling. He would like to see more teenagers come to enjoy the pleasure of kite-flying.

"Over the past three years, only three kite contests have been organized," he said. "We need more competitions to spark a new kite era. The skills

of kite-making need to be passed on. Perhaps a club with free membership would attract some youngsters to try the *Wow Kwai* and other kites."

For more information, contact Outhaivut Suwvanet at Tel: 076-220720 or at 49/3 Chao Fa East Rd. Wichit. Email. arm\_sandy@hotmail.com

## Forget those video games – it's time to go fly a kite

hands to control and ward off rival kites," K. Ou said. "It also produces a mooing sound, like a buffalo or cow, especially when flying in strong winds," he added with a laugh.

It takes about two weeks to create a large kite, K. Ou said, and a kite-maker needs to be patient and meticulous. Balance, shape, frame and even kite-pull-

ing style must be taken into account.

"The heart of this kite is the wings," he said. "It would be unbalanced if the wings weren't made properly."

Bamboo is the main ingredient in making the *Wow Kwai* frame and K. Ou uses *Pai Sri Sook*, or Prosperous Bamboo, which he rates more highly than

other varieties or artificial materials. Decorated paper sets the style for the kind of look that the kite-flier wants.

A big kite can take two people to get airborne, with one person holding the kite while the other pulls on the cord to raise it into the air.

"Discerning wind movements helps to get the best out of

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SINGHA NEW LOOK

# PM Thaksin issues holy orders

Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra has ordered the National Buddhism Office to launch a new campaign to encourage Buddhist parents to take their children to a temple every Sunday.

Deputy Prime Minister Wissanu Krea-Ngam said PM Thaksin intended to lead the way to spiritual enlightenment by visiting temples with his own children, including daughter Paethongtan, who recently started a vacation job flipping burgers at McDonald's.

PM Thaksin also hopes monks might be encouraged to do some work if the public began visiting temples in droves. "Now they just rest. They will soon have to get up and prepare sermons or restore the temples," Deputy PM Wissanu quoted the Prime Minister as saying.

**Not my responsibility:** A poll by Rajabhat Suan Dusit Institute indicates that about 60% of Thai people are opposed to a new law that allows police to punish parents for offenses committed by their children.

Pol Maj Gen Pongsapat Pongcharoen said parents of young instigators could be punished if their underage children were arrested for sexual harassment, illegal road racing or drinking alcohol.

Parents can face up to three months in jail and a maximum fine of 30,000 baht for their children's transgressions.

In an attempt to allay public concern, Gen Pongsapat said the new law would not violate parents' rights because investigations would first be conducted to determine whether parents had encouraged their children to flout the law, or had failed to warn them against committing offenses.

**Party poopers:** The Cabinet has decided to leave the three-day Songkran holiday at just three days, despite proposals by some government ministers that either pre-festival Monday or post-festival Friday be declared an extra holiday to allow a longer holiday for bureaucrats.

Deputy PM Wissanu Krea-Ngam said supervisors will have

to manage leave before and after the festival so that their offices can function normally.

The problem is that it may be tempting for bureaucrats to take leave on Monday, April 12, and/or Friday, April 16, making a holiday of nine consecutive days, although there is no rule against this.

Since the Cabinet did not make April 12 or April 16 a holiday, bureaucrats are expected to report to work on those dates. Those who want to take extra days off will have to obtain consent from their department heads.

**Healthcare, Deep South style:** With violence in the deep South posing an increasing threat to government health workers, Public Health Minister Sudarat Keyuraphan has ordered health officials to hire security guards and stay in their offices.

She told an assembly of more than a thousand health workers from Yala, Pattani and Narathiwat provinces that their safety had to come first, otherwise there would be no one left to care for the public.

People eligible for guard work could include police officers and villagers. The ministry would reimburse the provinces as soon as possible for the cost of hiring the guards, she said.

As violence in the region has spiraled, hospitals have seen a drain in personnel. K. Sudarat said that only five of about 1,000 newly graduated doctors this year had expressed a willingness to work in the five southern provinces, despite the ministry offering incentive packages.

**Planning a crime?** The Insurance Department has announced that, with effect from April 1,



Thailand's Culture Ministry kept a watchful eye on presenters at the 25<sup>th</sup> Bangkok International Motor Show 2004. Culture Minister Anurak Jureemas said that although the Ministry had received complaints about scantily-clad young girls, filing indecency charges against the show organizers would probably backfire, serving as a publicity boost for the exhibition.

defendants in accident-related criminal cases may use special insurance policies to pay bail.

Pojanee Thanawaranit, Director-General of the department, said that the "freedom insurance" project was born out of cooperation between the judiciary, the Royal Thai Police, the Ministry of Commerce Ministry and the Association of Disaster Insurance Providers

She said that 51 insurance firms had joined the project. Participating insurance firms will issue a certificate to policy-hold-

ers that police or the courts will accept as bail pending legal prosecution.

"We are not encouraging people to commit crimes, simply providing a guarantee in case of accidents. People can be arrested and prosecuted because of accidents," K. Pojanee explained.

**Rice pollution:** The Natural Resources and Environment Ministry announced draft measures aimed at curbing air pollution caused by 40,000 rice mills across the country.

Under the draft, rice mills will be required to install emission control systems in order to limit particles released into the atmosphere.

About 400 large rice mills will be required to stop using rice husks as fuel for their boilers. Husks cause excessive smoke, containing particle volumes that exceed environmental standards.

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

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# War that will have no winners

**K**hao Lak's residents are gearing up again for the next low season as the big crowds of tourists are quickly disappearing. Occasionally, groups of tourists are still seen, but it is definitely much quieter now.

There will be a last, but much smaller, wave of mostly German tourists coming in April, as Easter holidays give families with kids in school yet another chance for a tropical getaway before summertime.

However, a long and tough low season will come and it is apparent that some of the smaller businesses, especially tailor shops and some dive operators, will not survive until November.

In this "low season is imminent" panic, yet another price war has started.

Last year, a similar price war in Khao Lak was fought by some scuba diving operators for scuba courses and day trips. This year the same thing is happening in Khao Lak's live-aboard diving industry.

In an attempt to reel in the last few remaining customers, some live-aboard operators have dropped prices for a four-day-four-night live-aboard safari to the Similans to an unbelievable 9,000 baht, including equipment and national park fees.

Anyone whose brain has not been completely fried by the tropical sun will realize that it is impossible to make a profit on such low prices.

To run a professional dive shop one needs at least one boat



An anemone fish photographed in waters around the Similan Islands.

Franky Gun, who took this photograph, writes: "Sadly, the Similans are becoming a budget destination and will inevitably suffer from the negative effects that come with drastic price reductions and greater volumes of visitors."

"Divers who want to preserve high levels of quality and professionalism in the Phuket and Khao Lak dive industry should avoid the cheap operators. Badly maintained boats will eventually sink, and outdated, badly maintained scuba equipment may cause life-threatening problems."

"Divers are strongly urged to keep these things in mind. Go for quality, not quantity."

that fulfills all necessary safety and comfort requirements, along with pickup trucks and/or a minibus, air compressors, office

space, classrooms, several sets of scuba equipment, proper licenses and company registrations, plus professional drivers, and boat and office staff. And then there are the taxes, the costs of promotion and other overheads.

We are talking about an investment of at least 5 to 6 million baht just to get

started. The big payments come later, in the low season, when boats go the shipyard for servicing and refitting, and engines,

gearboxes, generators and other equipment has to be overhauled.

So what is the point in selling four-day live-aboard scuba safaris for a ridiculous 2,250 baht a day, less than the price for a standard day trip? Whatever the answer, the damage is being done and is reflected in the falling quality of service and materials offered by many of the medium-sized dive operators.

The weird thing is that although prices of everything worldwide are rising year by year, diving in Thailand keeps getting cheaper and cheaper. Where this downward spiral will lead is obvious: a permanent ecological scar due to masses of less experienced and perhaps less caring budget divers in the water – and severe damage to the financial viability of dive companies.

With unprofitable prices will come badly maintained equipment and boats as well as unmotivated and underpaid staff. Accidents at sea are bound to happen. Two live-aboard boats, the *Atlantis X* and the *Lazy Shark* are already doing duty as wreck dive sites on the seabed near the Similans. There are countless other close calls that mostly go unreported.

Recently, in one of the best-selling German travel guides for Thailand, one of Khao Lak's dive shops was referred to as a "dive operator for plebeians". This is definitely not good advertising for diving around Khao Lak.

The only hope for Khao Lak's diving industry are the operators who keep everything at a professional level while charging reasonable and fair prices, regardless of price wars.

We should thank the remaining professional dive operators for their efforts to assure quality and professionalism for diving guests in Khao Lak.

**Khao Lak fight club:** A shadow fell over Khao Lak's nightlife when a brawl involving some 40 Thai youngsters shook the very foundations of the Rise Club on

Bang Niang Beach during the second weekend of March.

A few broken noses, tables and chairs later, police broke up the mayhem and took some of the brawlers into custody.

**Suburbia comes to Khao Lak:**

With most of Khao Lak's beachfront property already occupied by hotels, resorts, private houses and rows of shop-houses, construction in the area is now spreading into the hinterland.

Huge areas of what were previously rubber plantations have been flattened and filled with red dirt in preparation for construction.

One of the latest housing developments, Khao Lak Homeplace, next to the new fresh market between Bang Niang and Khukkak, covers an area of about 400 Rai. Four designs of house will be built in long rows on small land plots, with the houses standing very close to one another, much like the Phuket Villa developments. The first phase of the project will consist of about 120 houses.

Even though such developments are milestones for the growth of Khao Lak, it is sad to see how more and more of Khao Lak's forest is disappearing.

Recently, in one of the best selling German travel guides for Thailand, one of Khao Lak's dive shops was referred to as a "dive operator for plebeians". This is definitely not good advertising for diving around Khao Lak.



**ANDAMAN COASTING**  
By Franky Gun

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# This week



**ON THE JOB TRAINING:** *Gazette* desk editor Stephen Fein (seated) and reporter Dhirarat Boonkongsan (right) explain the editorial process to Rittiwat Suwannarattaphum (left) and Athairat Muangkong, trainees from Rajabhat Institute Phuket on a two-month internship with the paper.



**GETTING STUCK IN:** Phuket Arcadia Beach Resort and Spa chef Christophe Weidemann, shows Dulwich International College kindergarten pupils some of the secrets of bread making during a recent visit by the students to the hotel, as part of a class project on food production.



**ALL GOOD CHUMS:** Neil "Go Clean Your Back Wheels" Rickards (striped polo shirt) of The Islander bar and restaurant in Rawai enjoys his birthday celebration with family and friends.



**MEMBERS ONLY:** Six sporty members of the Club Asia staff show off the latest fashions in fitness wear during a recent members' evening.



**A CUSHY JOB:** Acushnet/Cobra Thailand and Gift and Golf, represented by Managing Director Boonsin Leelavichitchai (right), were joint sponsors of a driver demonstration day at Laguna Phuket.



**UNITED WE STAND:** Ma Wei Pin (center), IUF Secretary for the Asia-Pacific region, flanked by local union representatives Sanan Sriprom (left) and Vijit Dasantad show their solidarity at a recent seminar held at the ST Hotel in Phuket City. More than 80 delegates from Thailand and other Asian countries attended the meeting.

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# Uplifting art from grim ashes of war

Many young painters give up after a few years, when they realize just how difficult it is to eke out a living using only brush, canvas and easel, and of course, their talent.

But 72-year-old artist Suchan Yu has been painting for more than half a century, his arrival in Phuket only the latest chapter in a life that has been marked by war, poverty and a pursuit for freedom and self-expression.

Born in Osaka in 1932, Suchan's father was a sculptor who had to support six children through the Second World War in Imperial Japan. Although many know of the destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in the latter stages of the conflict, far fewer are aware of the fire-bombing of Osaka.

Suchan witnessed the destruction of his home city through

## Another life

By Stephen Fein

a child's eyes. In a single raid that lasted most of the night of March 13, 1945, he saw Osaka reduced to cinders as raids by more than 300 B-29 bombers left approximately 64 square kilometers of the city in a smoldering ruin. But for Suchan, the physical destruction was only half of the Japan's wartime tragedy.

"At that time, I remember how they trained the young teenagers to give their lives for Japan," he said. "One guy I knew went to a special school where they trained people to be *kami-*

*kaze*. When he came back from the war alive, he killed himself out of shame for having lived.

"There is really something wrong with a society that trains their children to kill themselves, and I still see elements of this way of thinking, even among modern Japanese youth."

"It was a confusing time. We had to study English, even though our 'enemy' spoke English. I couldn't understand that. 'Why do I need to study the language of a bad people?' I asked myself.

"So I started skipping classes and spent most of my time sketching or drawing," he reminisced. It was a decision that changed his life.

His parents decided that if they stayed in Osaka then they, like countless others, would also die, so the family managed to flee to present-day South Korea.

Suchan has never returned to Osaka, or any other part of Japan. He said the memories of the bombing are just too overwhelming for him to return, and that the conformity of thought in Japanese society is just too stifling for someone like himself, who values freedom of thought and expression above all else.

In Korea, Suchan went to art school and sold his paintings at the American Military Exchange, or PX, in Seoul. He became friends with a military dentist, who encouraged him to try and go to America to further his studies in art.

"The dentist's sister lived in Chicago and she had a lot of contacts, including a friend who was a Congressman. They encouraged me to apply to the Chicago Art Institute. I sent them a life-size painting of John F. Kennedy [former US President] because I always liked him.

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Suchan Yu and some of his impressionistic artworks. Memories of the war have been doused by aquatic imagery.



“They told me they liked my work, but that I needed to study technique more. They offered me a scholarship, but I had to take the TOEFL test [Test of English as a Foreign Language].

“But when I was younger I hated English, so of course I couldn’t pass. That made me very angry at myself,” he said.

In 1968, Suchan left Korea and began traveling around Southeast Asia. Again, he found buyers for his art among the American military, and spent time in wartime Vietnam. During the late 1960s, the abstract and often surreal nature of Suchan’s work seemed to appeal to the many disillusioned American GIs

he met. Near the end of the 1960s, Suchan told a contact in the American military that he wanted to go to Europe, and an officer set him up in selling his work with the PX in Munich.

He spent 10 years in Europe and eventually ended up in Spain, his favorite country.

“I met a lot of interesting people in Spain. There were many artists and musicians there and they were always trying to push the frontiers of art,” he said.

The experience so transformed Suchan that for the first time he stopped painting altogether.

Falling into an increasingly nomadic existence, even by his

own standards, he took off on a hitchhiking tour around the continent that lasted about three years.

Finally, he found himself flat broke and he decided to begin painting again – simply to survive. But, he said, the experience had changed him, and he had become refreshed and had a new approach and inspiration for painting.

The next step in Suchan’s life journey was to Australia, where he traveled in 1990, hoping to be inspired by the continent’s seascapes and aquatic life – an interest which still features in many of his paintings today.

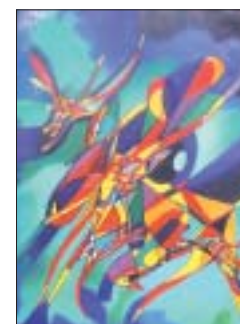
One of his newly-com-

pleted works, which he calls *Underwater Ballet*, is an abstract and colorful vision of composite human forms in an aquatic environment. The work took him over a year to complete.

“I can finish some paintings in a few weeks, but others can take

years,” he explained. Although he always works in oil, Suchan is a versatile painter who is just as comfortable in realism as he is in the abstract, as demonstrated by his lifelike depiction of a breaching whale.

Everybody reaches Phuket



by a different path, but few have been as long and as winding as Suchan Yu’s.

Suchan would like to find an investor to help him make prints of *Underwater Ballet* for export, and is also looking for a local place to display his works in rotation and sell them on a commission basis.

Suchan Yu lives at 411 Somboon Apartments on Soi Phuton, opposite the Jui Tui Chinese Shrine, in Phuket City. To contact him call Tel: 076-219866 (ext 411) or 01-2731809.

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**ARIES** (March 21-April 20): If you're feeling swamped by bills but it's the dry season for income, it could be time to get some down to earth financial advice. Certain Arians have been spending far too freely since the beginning of the year and will receive a wake-up call this week. Try to see this in a positive light. You now have a good opportunity to balance the books.



**TAURUS** (April 21-May 21): Curb your instincts to take on too much, or there is danger of burn-out. Taurus who find it hard to say No when asked to take on extra duties must adopt a non-committal policy, allowing them to consider whether they have enough fuel to do everything. Your energy levels will be running low. Practice taking life easier and you will achieve more.



**In The Stars**

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21): The stars are shining with opportunities. At least one will be staring you in the face this weekend. The downside is that to profit, you are likely to have to deal with someone who isn't exactly your cup of tea. Success is guaranteed if you put your natural charm to good use, but if your hackles are raised nothing will be achieved.



**CANCER** (June 22-July 23): Someone offers a generous hand of friendship this weekend, but your suspicions are raised. A third party can offer enlightenment as to the motives of your new acquaintance, so don't hesitate to dig a little deeper. Your attitude at the mo-



ment should be that not everything that glitters is gold. Your luck in financial matters will peak on Wednesday, the time for financial agreements.

**LEO** (July 24-August 22): Your partner's fractious mood is just a passing gust of hot air this weekend. It may take all the patience you have, but maintaining a cool heart is the best way to soothe the atmosphere. By Monday, your tactful approach will have smoothed over any creases in the relationship and all should be hearts and orchids again. Circumstances that have been inhibiting progress at work will lift on Thursday.

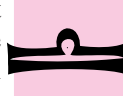


**VIRGO** (August 23-September 23): Someone you thought you'd

never see again pops up out of the blue. This appearance may not be as pleasing to others around you. Do what it takes to ensure no noses are pushed out of joint. You will receive an announcement that has impact on your working life, and you may have to deal with what is clearly an unethical move. Wear the color aquamarine to promote inner clarity.



**LIBRA** (September 24-October 23): Take care not to reveal all your best-laid plans. It would be far more prudent to wait until you are sitting in the seat of power when there will be no barriers to success. The spotlight is shining on romance as a slightly quirky someone enters



your life. Don't waste too much time trying to analyze why you are attracted. Just enjoy it.

**SCORPIO** (October 24-November 22): There will be a change in your circle of friends as a couple of new additions join the crew. Through these introductions, you will realize that there's a much bigger world beyond the island and travel plans could be jump-started into motion. Your inspiration runs freely. Even if a money-making scheme doesn't seem to have much future, a little fine tuning is all that's needed. The number 1 has special meaning.



**SAGITTARIUS** (November 23-December 21): Your problems are getting out of perspective. Some Sagittarians seem determined to turn a termite mound into a limestone cliff and are worrying needlessly. Try using up some of this negative energy in physical exercise and focus on all the things that are going smoothly. Taking stock of what you actually have, rather than what you don't have, will cast a brighter light. Wear the color tangerine to encourage positive contemplation.



**CAPRICORN** (December 22-January 20): Your reputation as a lounge lizard is growing. Smooth-talking Capricorns have been noticed around town and will be basking in admiration this weekend. Family communication is subject to crossed wires on Monday or Tuesday. You are advised to have a heart-to-heart conversation with the person concerned. With the facts at your fingertips, you should be able to reach agreement easily and avoid a falling out.



**AQUARIUS** (January 21-February 19): There won't be enough hours in a day for Aquarians to do everything this week. You will have to streamline your agenda and filter through all the tasks and appointments. Prioritize and devote quality time to what is really important - if this means seeing less of your partner, make an effort to compromise by planning a trip in the near future. Taurus has some revealing news on Wednesday. The number 7 could bring you something special.



**PISCES** (February 20-March 20): Expecting a commitment from someone who's obviously as free as a bird is cramping your progress at the moment. Besotted Pisceans who are aiming for the moon need to get real and set their sights on a more realistic target. If you're desperate to change your single status, start thinking carefully about what you really want from a relationship. A slow-moving business deal finally picks up speed but make sure you hold on tight.



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# We need water that's fit to drink

**W**e are fortunate that we have had rain in March. The gardens in front of houses are still green, especially the one in front of my house.

We have about 5-6 million cubic meters of water at government reservoirs, including Bang Wad Dam and tin mine reservoirs. Phuket Provincial Irrigation Office has confirmed that this is enough to last until the end of the dry season.

However, we will not ignore this issue. We are going ahead with building the Bang Neaw Dum Dam reservoir, which will cost about 396 million baht and take three years to complete. Officers are now acquiring the land needed to build the dam. The main purpose of this dam will be to sup-

ply the top end of the island.

I have asked for the Irrigation Department in Bangkok to give the construction company the complete plans for the project. Previously, the government had the plans drawn up at the same time as the contractor started work. This created many problems and led to wasted money.

The government also plans to build a third reservoir at Klong Kata in Moo 5 Chalong, at a cost of about 280 million baht.

Three reservoirs will be enough to cover all of Phuket.

Although these projects will take time, we should start considering other factors right now, including re-using wastewater and improving water quality. Many residents in Phuket City are complaining that piped water smells, is dirty and even



## THE GOVERNOR'S LETTER

carries sediment. Our water supply should be drinkable.

Following the previous War on Drugs campaign, we have started a new campaign to demolish drug networks. It began on March 8 and will continue until June 5.

This time, we are targeting specific areas where people involved with drugs congregate, in-

cluding industrial areas, entertainment areas, schools and housing areas. We are targeting groups of people, such as officials involved with drugs, and big and small drug dealers.

Government officers will seek out main drug dealers, and press minor dealers and drug-users for information. Officers will arrest them and confiscate their possessions.

The aim is to give rehabilitated drug addicts enough time and distance from drugs to remain independent. If we can't control drugs, they will return.

The government will also coordinate with schools to hold summer camps for students to make sure that they are kept occupied during the holidays, to keep them from becoming involved with drugs.

There is less *ya bah* (meth-

amphetamine) in Phuket now. Addicts are now turning to cannabis and other harmful substances.

Cannabis is used by Thais and foreigners. I would like to warn foreigners that although some countries allow people to use cannabis, it is illegal in Thailand.

People with information about drug dealers or people using drugs should contact me (at Tel: 076-211001 during government office hours) and I will inform the police, or they should notify the Phuket Against Drugs Center at Tel: 1688 (hotline) or 076-210159.

Governor Udomsak Usawarangkura

# Contracts the foundation of investment security

**N**ot registering your business contracts with the appropriate authorities is an unwise path to tread. Here is another cautionary tale from that particular rocky road.

Mr A, a regular visitor to Thailand, eventually found the right woman and settled down. In time, he decided to invest in Thailand, and with his girlfriend, bought – and registered in her name – a plot of land.

Their plan was to erect a four-story building on the land, conduct business, and perhaps sell the entire parcel at a profit in the future. Nothing uncommon there.

After some time, and having invested a considerable sum in the project, Mr A decided to secure his interests. He consulted a law firm and was told how to avoid possible heavy losses. A number of options were discussed.

Mr A's girlfriend thought such precautions were unnecessary, but Mr A got his way and they signed a loan agreement



## LAYING DOWN THE LAW With Friedrich 'Sam' Fauma

showing that he had invested the money.

He wanted to register this loan agreement at the Land Department, which would have made it impossible for her to mortgage the land. However, she refused to go along with this.

The loan agreement stipulated that all land title documents were to be kept at the law firm's office or at Mr A's residence. The girlfriend objected to this stipulation and refused to hand over the documents. Mr A agreed to wait a little longer in an effort to persuade her.

He had continued to invest in the project by giving his girlfriend money for the construction. He then learned that she

had run out of money, and at this point he refused to invest further until all contracts had been signed and properly registered.

It might be thought that this was a good bargaining tool, but thanks to her refusal to register the loan on the land, his girlfriend still had another option – she could take out a bank loan to finish construction. This she duly did.

Mr A was still jetting in and out of Thailand and when he returned here, close to the end of building, he found his girlfriend's family had moved in.

He began to get the feeling that he was no longer wanted in the house or in the business venture. Matters came to a head when he was treated badly by a member of his girlfriend's family. He moved out, but not before he took all the documents relating to the land and development he could find.

Mr A now sees why he had been advised to have all paperwork signed and registered to protect his interests in the

project. The lessons are:

- If the lease agreement had been registered, Mr A would have been the party remaining in the house, with all rights to the land and buildings, and he would have been able to conduct business from them for the 30 years of the lease;

- If the loan agreement had been registered, the land would not now be in danger of being seized by the bank that provided the loan.

As suggested in previous columns, your first investment should always be in making – and registering – proper contracts. The charges and fees for carrying this out should be viewed as a small investment essential to securing a far larger one.

*This column is compiled from the collective experience of the partners in the International Law Office, Phuket Town. Tel: 076-222191-5. Fax: 076-222196. Email: interlaw@loxinfo.co.th.*

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What on earth is After Dark doing in a Thai country pub? There are a million of them on the island and they are all the same, right?

Wrong. Settled along the Laguna approach road, there is a nest of wooden bars with names like Miss You and In Lov'. Most of them are karaoke places, playing the typical mish-mash of sentimental old tosh to a half dead cha-cha beat.

However, one of these bars stands out. The name of the bar is All Times, owned by the utterly charming brothers Lek and Deng.

Lek worked in Japan for 10 years and is quite proud that he speaks hardly any Japanese. Deng is a graphic designer who worked for top advertising agencies in Bangkok before returning home to Thalang.

Lek says he missed the food and the music. Deng was sick of the traffic. "I have always liked my life *tammachat* (natural) and love to be surrounded by natural materials and features," hence the bar is wood and has a very *tammachat* décor.

A few antiques adorn the walls, including a perfect bakelite radio from the '50s. Wicked.

The music played every weekend is Thai country, with a fair share of the political stuff by

## After DARK

by Sam Vines

# Times, gents, please



All Times bar musicians need no prompting.

Carabao, played to a high standard by the bar's three resident musicians. They are more than willing to let anyone get up and jam.

They are a patient and enthusiastic audience for anyone willing to have a go. K. Bohm, from Supanburi, works at Laguna, K. Mikohm, from Isaan, works at the Dusit, and K. Somchoke, from Haad Yai, is a full-time musician. "For that read 'unemployed'," joked Lek.

Somchoke's playing is excellent as befits a man from

Haad Yai. For my money, they have the best musicians in Thailand. Malaysian radio plays there, which broadens their musical horizons.

If you want to see the local music played competently and with real passion, treat yourselves to a visit at the weekends. There is usually a singsong going on.

The guys will occasionally put on a Western music DVD, especially if a farang customer comes in. Typically they used to put on *Hotel California* from the

*Hell Freezes Over* DVD – until I told them, "STOP IT NOW".

Deng boasts about 20% Western customers and I cannot disagree with this figure. More interestingly, he claims that the gender split is 70% female to 30% male.

"What about lady boys?" I asked. "Oh no," replied Deng very earnestly, and he was about to elaborate, until I told him I was joking.

Virtually all their trade is from the surrounding area. Have you ever wondered how Laguna hotel staff spent their enormous tips? It's on beer, here.

Every weekend, the place is filled with people having a great time. This is the sign of a good bar, and it is not down to décor, or all the bars around would be full.

A good bar requires passion from the owners and excellent service. Despite its humble roots, this bar has service standards as good as any of the hotels in the area.

"I guess we benefit from the standards set by the hotels up here," said Lek. Because of the nature of their trade, the standard of English spoken by its Thai cus-

tomers is outstanding, too.

One night, I got chatting to a couple of older receptionists from one of the hotels. I spent a happy hour or so having the songs translated for me.

It should have been fascinating. However, it turns out that all the songs sung by guys are either about their mother, not having money, or having to go away and missing someone.

All the girly songs are about *mia nois* (mistresses) and cheating husbands – all of them. They left before the guy singing the Karabow stuff came on, so I can't comment about that.

One thing I can say is that it is excellent drinking music, in the same way as Irish traditional music. It seeps in, and within minutes, you are tapping coins on the table.

The food is whisky-soaking Thai snacks, and the garlic pork is superb.


Outside the bar is an immaculate gold VW Beetle, with sparkling chrome and a perfect interior. This is Lek's passion.


He has restored the car to original condition and as a result he has risen in the ranks of the Thai VW Beetle owners club. To his immense pride, they have even held several events at the bar.


This month, the brothers will be splashing out to upgrade the interior. They told me they have been recruiting many "beautiful lady staff." The music program will be extended to seven nights a week, too.

They also tend to open later than other bars. Ultimately, though, this is a bar built on the personalities of the owners and there is no need to improve on their characters. They remain open, friendly, and ideal hosts.

Should you wish to visit All Times, drive past the top of the Laguna approach road, heading towards the monument and away from Surin. The bar is on the right, about 200 yards past the Laguna road junction.







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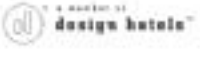
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# KIDS THE FUN PAGE FOR ALL THE FAMILY

## Hidden Words

Hidden in the grid below are at least 20 words connected with newspapers. The words may read vertically, horizontally or diagonally. They may also read right-to-left or down-to-up. See if you can find more than your family or friends. Score: More than 10, good; more than 15, very good; 20 or more, excellent.

C	W	M	P	R	N	T	V	S	N	R	R	P	T	C
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## Get your brain in gear with The Monster Quiz



- At what event would one find an accoucheuse?
- Fortran, the name of a computer language, is short for what?
- Roughly how many Kerguelen Islands are there?
- In what activity might an orange stick be used?
- New Guinea's Sarera Bay used to be known by what name?
- The author of *The Shoulder of Shasta* is better known for which work?
- If something is pandurate, what shape is it?
- The Esquiline, Ciminal and Caelian are all what?
- Into which sea does the River Tiber flow?
- How many catties are there in a picul?
- What color is orpiment?
- Which famous dancer's name was really Virginia McMath?
- What word can mean 'a piece of cloth', 'a cut made along a whale's body', and 'to eat voraciously'?
- Of which plant family is marjoram a member?
- Whose motto is "Legio Patria Nostra"?
- What is the term for painting in watercolor on wet plaster?
- How often does a quadrennial event take place?
- In Norse mythology, what is the name of the final battle between good and evil?
- Who won the best director Oscar in 1967?
- For which movie?

Answers next week.

## Never a Cross Word!

### Across

- Container for water or wine.
- It's around the pupil.
- Cereal.
- Hot air will make it rise.
- Black rock.
- Pig's home.
- Color of the Left.
- Fruity accompaniment for a cocktail.
- Ascorbic acid, for example.
- Code of life.
- Filth.
- Soldiers' or Frenchmen's headgear.

### Down

- Hope's buddy.
- Deteriorate.
- Tibia's nearest relative.
- Nature's alarm clock?
- Sent to the bottom.
- Beer.
- Ghost.
- Opportunity.
- Way around town.
- Very keen.
- Ostrich relative.
- A female deer.

Solution next week.

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## Brain Buster!!

Q. Mr Dodgers and the children in the neighborhood are raking leaves at Mr Dodger's house. They have three piles of leaves in the back yard, and seven piles of leaves in the front yard. When Mr Dodgers and the children put all the piles together, how many piles of leaves will they have?

A One

### ANSWERS TO LAST WEEK'S MONSTER QUIZ

- Spencer Williams; 2. Alpha rhythm; 3. Powerscourt; 4. Founding Ikea; 5. Sir Harold Alexander; 6. Kohoutek; 7. Silhouette; 8. Sandstone; 9. 13-18 mph; 10. Ganges; 11. Praseodymium; 12. Brian Boru (Boramhe); 13. Fishing; 14. Chuck Norris; 15. Oscar Wilde; 16. Alan Freed; 17. Cleft palate; 18. Bhutan; 19. Djibouti; 20. Northern Territory, Australia.

### Solution to last week's Crossword

W		E	E	L		A				
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# HEARD & scene

The *Gazette's* **Rittiwat Suwannarattaphum** and **Athairat Muangkong** went out and about and asked:  
*"If you could change one thing about your boss, what would it be and why?"*



**Name:** Sascha Babic  
**Age:** 22  
**From:** Germany  
**Job:** Banker

I would change my boss's choice of wardrobe. My boss is obese and wears mini-skirts that reveal her over-sized thighs. She probably thinks it is seductive but doesn't know that her pig-like shape is becoming the talk of the town. New clothes, with long sleeves and pants, would be welcome.



**Name:** Narit Hemhong  
**Age:** 24  
**From:** Phuket  
**Job:** Taxi driver

I would change my boss's face. Despite being wealthy and having a BMW, his face looks like a rabbit with a toothy smile. Sometimes, I want to keep him at my house and feed him. Carrots must be his favorite food. Whenever I think this, I realize that changing his face must be my first concern.



**Name:** Robert Cargo  
**Age:** 41  
**From:** USA  
**Job:** Head teacher

I would change my boss's rather annoying accent. It's perhaps because he is English. I come from Alabama, and it's a little too hard to understand him. So I would give him a very strong Southern accent and teach him to use phrases like "Y'all". Then I could perhaps understand him better.



**Name:** Sheilah Mercer  
**Age:** 37  
**From:** USA  
**Job:** Teacher

I would change my boss's teeth. I think he has a dental problem because with two broken teeth in his mouth, his smile make him look like a pumpkin at Halloween. I would take him to a dental clinic for treatment to improve his smile and nobody would taunt him on Halloween.



**Name:** Nithairat Thepphor  
**Age:** 20  
**From:** Phuket  
**Job:** Hairdresser

I would help my boss gain weight. She is quite thin and is trying several weight-gain supplements, but is still too slim. I would help her put on another 100 kilograms and transform her into an inflatable raft. She could do well in water sports and also help life guards when they are tired.

## Surviving life on Soi Chaos

One lesson I am always learning and always forgetting in Bangkok is that it doesn't pay to complain, because things can get worse – and often do.

Consider the following case.

Some time ago, I complained in the Letters section of *The Nation* that a pile driver had smashed up the soi I live on, leaving it looking like a war zone.

For nearly five months, residents stumbled and tripped over jagged pieces of concrete every time we tried to get out to the main road.

We appreciated the restoration of Third-World ambience,



which many of us had nostalgically been pining for; but we thought the city ought to give our soi a new name befitting its ravaged condition – Soi Rubble, perhaps, or Soi Sarajevo, or Soi Baghdad.

Somebody must have read that letter, because a week or so ago, an excavator showed up at the end of our soi. With great gusto, it proceeded to rip up the concrete even more thoroughly, tearing out great chunks of earth and exposing to the light of day the sewer that lurked beneath.

We soon realized that the city was installing sewer pipes to prevent flooding during the rainy season.

While applauding the city's concern for our welfare, we noted a certain lack of foresight. Cars could not get in or out. Whenever we wished to exit our soi, we had to follow a narrow pathway on either side of the open sewer – a pathway choked with rocks, mud, and sand.

The stretch where the steam shovel was industriously chuffing away was especially treacherous. It contained hazards simi-



lar to those encountered by climbers of Mount Everest when negotiating the Khumbu Icefall. I called it the Death Zone.

It is a credit to the city's tender concern for the welfare of pedestrians that I never had to cross the Death Zone unassisted. The lad running the excavator and assorted hangers-on always helped by pointing at the least unstable rocks to step on and urging me on with cheerful cries of, "You! You! You!"

Athletic residents with the climbing skills of Reinhold Messner managed to scramble over the rubble and squeeze past the excavator with little difficulty. Less agile souls, including small children, the elderly, the infirm, and me, took the risk of

tripping over a loose rock and (a) tumbling backward or forward onto the rocks and mud; (b) tumbling leftward and bashing their heads against the adjacent wall; (c) tumbling rightward and forward and falling into the clashing gears of the excavator; or (d) tumbling rightward and backward into the fetid depths of the sewer.

That last possibility would be a gruesome way to end one's career in the Land of Smiles. But the purveyors of the new two million-baht Thailand Elite card could profit from such an incident. Picture an advertisement showing a foreigner floundering helplessly in the gory waters of an open sewer, with a headline trumpeting: "This could happen

to YOU if you don't buy the prestigious THAILAND ELITE card."

Much to the relief of all residents, the situation eventually improved. Cars still can't move in or out, but the city has finally cleared a path which pedestrians can navigate with relative impunity.

Unfortunately, it has also dealt a fatal blow to Thai culture in our soi. The vendors who sell noodles, sausages, fried chicken, and fruit have fled. And the ultimate desecration has been wrought.

At one point, a *somtam* wagon – the very epitome of Thai culture – lay empty, abandoned, and forlorn beside the sewer. But the Culture Ministry must have taken swift action to redress this sacrilege, for it has now disappeared.

Estimates of the time it will take to complete the work and repave our soi range from 15 days to a month. Past experience suggests that such estimates tend to be wildly optimistic.

In the interim, I'm not going to complain, because this experience has taught me how far that's going to get me.

Instead, we residents wish to thank the city for restoring the Third-World ambience we so ardently longed for. We thank them too for imparting a taste of adventure to our drab lives. But we'd like to have our vendors back, and we'd still like to have our soi renamed.

Soi Chaos would do just fine.

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# Jaded expat chases snakes and losers

**P**rostitution, sex-change surgery, heroin, ya bah (methamphetamine) smuggling, antiquities theft, the jade trade, Thai boxing, Karen and Khmer refugees, the Russian mafia, hungry ghosts, traffic jams and Buddhist philosophy – yet another outsider has written a novel about Bangkok.

But the trick to reading John Burdett's *Bangkok 8* (Alfred A Knopf, New York, 2003, 318pp) is not to take it too seriously. This is the type of wacky, off-the-wall, over-the-top crime novel that

Carl Hiaasen writes about Miami. Hiaasen has fittingly contributed a back cover blurb: "*Bangkok 8* is one of the most startling and provocative mysteries that I've read in years."

The stereotypical jaded Bangkok expat novel always features a jaded expat as the narrator. The original and courageous approach that Burdett takes is to make his narrator a Thai police inspector.

Sonchai Jitpleecheep is the son of a retired Patpong hooker. "Sons of whores learn about manhood from our mothers, especially *farang* manhood," he writes.

"For my mother the *farang* was a Discovery Channel of exotic foreign travel, cuisine so mysteriously bland you had to concentrate to taste it, and above all a great experiment in psycho-sexual manipulation which she perfected to a form of high art, eventually achieving through an almost imperceptible alternation of tone the kind of cash bonus that in lesser practitioners would have required at least a tantrum."

Sonchai has come to the police force in a roundabout way. When he and his best friend Pichai get involved in the ya bah trade, they murder their boss, then seek sanctuary as monks in an out-of-the-way wat.

After years of strenuous meditation, the abbot sends them back to the world as cops, his younger brother being the notorious Colonel Vikorn of Bangkok District 8: "The Colonel owns the military bearing,

strong jaw and frank, unblinking eyes of a truly accomplished crook."

Colonel Vikorn has assigned the incorruptible partners, Sonchai and Pichai, to tail the Mercedes Benz of a huge

black American marine and his tall, stunning black paramour. They lose him, then find him in a slum.

The car doors have been jammed shut and he is covered with a dozen ya-bah-addled cobras, a giant python trying to engulf his head. The woman has vanished with a motorcycle gang.

Pichai wrenches open the door to the driver's seat and is bitten in the eye by an enraged cobra. He dies and Sonchai swears revenge.

From this event, the plot thrusts upward and outward like a wild bramble bush, taking the reader to Khao San Rd, Patpong, Nana Plaza, Soi Cowboy, Lumpini Boxing Stadium, the Emporium, River City, the Oriental Hotel, an elegant sex change hospital and a typical under-the-bridge slum.

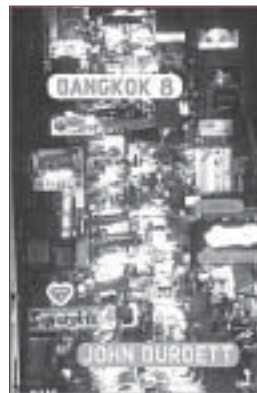
Burdett frequently misspells street names, dates the Asian economic crisis to 1998 and the Buddha's birth to the third century BC, but, through Sonchai's voice, he's also capable of some astute observations about Thai history and culture.

Addressing the mass migration from the countryside to Bangkok, he writes: "Men with iron muscles and the dogged heroism of unmechanized agricultural labor, women with bodies ravaged by continual pregnancies, they possessed in full measure all the guts, all the enthusiasm, all the naivete, all the hope, all the desperation necessary to make it in the big city. The only thing they left out of account was time, of which they knew very little apart from the rhythms of nature ... Stress? Its urban version was strange, alien, insidious and something they had no way of dealing with. Ya bah was a poison who's time had come."

The conclusion to the mad-cap labyrinthine plot is apt, funny, and mind-boggling.

## Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt



# The Google search for BILLIONS



One of Google's most powerful features, the News search engine, constantly monitors thousands of news sources worldwide.

**I**t's not easy being the biggest, baddest search engine around. Eight years ago, Google (then called BackRub) amounted to little more than a simple idea: if a lot of Web sites point to a particular Web page, chances are good that the page being pointed to contains information that many people would find interesting.

Stanford grad students Larry Page and Sergey Brinn, BackRub's founders, scrimped together enough money to build a working prototype in a Stanford dorm room. By 1998, the (ahem!) PageRank system was generating a lot of interest on campus: students could actually find the stuff they wanted without slogging through endless lists of categories.

In September, 1998, Page and Brinn opened a real office with a cool US\$1,000,000 initial capital. Truth be told, the "office" was in a garage, which came with a washing machine, dryer, and hot tub. They blew all the money on computers.

Any day now – if it hasn't happened already – Google will, no doubt, launch an initial public offering that should bring in something between US\$12 billion and \$20 billion. Yes, that's 20 billion with a "b" – quite likely, the largest IPO (initial public offering) in history.

Google has gone from one of the most admired companies on the Web to one of the most vilified, and the PageRank system, which tries to assign a number predicting the relevance of a page to a specific query, has been demonized in terms rarely heard since the Spanish Inquisition.

But Google still makes money. Insiders say the company grosses about a billion dollars a year, and the profit margin hovers around 30%. Google's spiders have indexed 4,300,000,000 pages, feeding 200,000,000 searches a day.

Numbers like that attract attention, not all of it good for Googlies. In mid-February, Yahoo! cut Google loose. After spending millions of dollars on alternative search engines, including Inktomi and AltaVista, the Yahoo! folks finally figured they could give Google a shove.

Since a large percentage – some say up to half – of all Web searches originate with Yahoo!, Google is in for some interesting times.

But the most interesting competitor hails from Redmond. (You thought any different?) Microsoft President Steve Ballmer says that failing to keep up with Internet search technology is Microsoft's "biggest mistake in years."

While anyone who has a nodding acquaintance with Microsoft's predatory monopolistic practices might take issue with SteveB's sense of priorities, Microsoft's search capabilities currently stink. They always have.

Of course, the big boys at Microsoft never admit to any shortcoming unless there's a buck

about to be made, and in this case it's easy to see where the 'Softies are headed. Microsoft unleashed a massive wave of spiders in February, and they're busy at this moment devouring, indexing, and regurgitating every page on the Web.

It seems likely at this point that Microsoft will introduce its new Google-busting search technology in tandem with the next version of Microsoft Network.

The beta test version of MSN, released in February, had the hooks for the search engine (beta.search.msn.com), and the new, improved MSN Search should become a real product in the next few months.

MSN Newsbot (which indexes news sources) and MSN Blogbot (which searches diary-like blogs) should be available this year. MSN Answerbot, a natural-language search engine which is often compared to Ask Jeeves, is due early next year.

Microsoft has also stated that Longhorn – the next version of Windows, which will probably appear in 2006 – will include integrated Web searching.

If you think you're seeing a re-run of the Netscape debacle, where Microsoft leveraged its monopoly for desktop operating systems into a monopoly on Internet browsers, you may be right.

It's a strange world indeed when Microsoft can get hit with a 500 million Euro fine for bundling a media player with Windows, and not skip a beat with plans to bundle Web searching into Windows.

When all is said and done, I use Google dozens of times a day. Every Windows user should download and install the new Google Toolbar (toolbar.google.com), then poke around the edges of the toolbar to see how Google can search for up-to-the-nanosecond news, look for images, and help you find answers to all sorts of questions in the newsgroups.

Google has many tricks up its sleeve. For example, if you want to find the status of your UPS or FedEx delivery, just type the package number (digits only) in the Google search bar and hit Enter. The search bar's a stock ticker: type a symbol such as MSFT or SCBSET. It's a calculator: type 123\*456 in the Google bar and your answer appears.

It converts: try 26 inches in centimeters or 5 liters in gallons or 3 oz in kg. To get a feel for some of the esoteric services Google provides, click the "more" button on the main page.

– Woody Leonhard

Woody Leonhard has written a number of books in the "...for Dummies" series on computing. Contact him by email to: woody@khunwoody.com

**The Phuket Gazette**  
- Since 1994 -

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## An arresting development: police brush up their image

The confessions coming from the top ranks of the police in Phuket and from their regional boss, Pol Lt Gen Somsak Buppasuwan, are revealing, even startling.

When the general in charge of police in seven provinces says that abuses "have been going on for so long that they have become part of the [police] culture," and warns that police "have to stop behaving badly, being rude, bullying people and extorting money," it is an encouraging sign that reform may be truly under way.

As our report on pages 4 and 5 demonstrates, many police officers feel that they are being unfairly castigated for abuses that may have occurred in the past but which have now been rectified, or are at least being seriously addressed.

To some extent, their disappointment is justified. For example, as little as five years ago, it was an open secret that businesses in Patong, were expected to pay 5,000 baht a month to the local police if they did not want "problems". The only businesses exempted from extortion were those with heavy-duty connections.

The *Gazette* received grumbles from other parts of the island as well. For example, in Kata, in the run-up to holidays such as Songkran or the Western New Year, businesses would routinely put aside a couple of thousand baht for officers looking for contributions to the annual police ball.

Such abuses seem to be less common these days. Though the police are still criticized, most of the complaints now seem to come when officers crack down on the inalienable rights of citizens to drive like escapees from a lunatic asylum, or about the lack of speed in investigating crimes.

While the critics who lament that they can no longer break the road laws deserve to be ignored, what can certainly be improved is the ability of the police to investigate crimes and put perpetrators in jail.

The main point is that the number of people complaining that police behave like thugs and gangsters – in other words, like the very people they are supposed to put in jail – has dropped significantly. At least, that's what the police say.

But persuading the public that this is a permanent change will take time. As has been noted by Warren Buffet, the world's leading stock investor, "It takes 20 years to build a reputation and five minutes to ruin it. If you think about that, you'll do things differently."

– The Editor



## Letters

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

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

### Mob rule no way to run an island

On the evening of Friday, April 2, a mob at the busy Cherng Talay intersection leading to Laguna blocked the road and was not dispersed by police.

As a Laguna resident for many years, I pay a premium to enjoy the peaceful side of Phuket. The intersection where most tourists enter and leave the Laguna complex was suddenly closed by a determined mob of hundreds.

Police did nothing to ensure that busloads of tourists could make their way to Phuket Fantasea and other prepaid destinations.

I tried to reason with several youths who were blocking a bus. Some understood that Cherng Talay residents must have a respectful attitude toward all tourists.

A few understood my plea and tried to remove the barriers. But after minor scuffles, a handful of elders, with too much of their night already poured from the whiskey bottle, blocked the bus and its concerned tourists.

One elder garbled in English to tell me that Cherng Talay was not for tourists and I had best go home. He was proud that he and his mob could force a line of buses and tour cars to make a U-turn.

Phuket's most noticeable ills are not about land titles or zoning, or even the closing time of entertainment venues. Law and order and public safety is the first obligation of good governance.

Phuket's marketability is at

risk if these unchecked mob incidents are witnessed by too many top-end tourists.

Losing Confidence  
Cherng Talay

### Konrad Stalin should be sent packing

When, oh when, will the *Gazette* realize that expats on the island don't really want to be preached to by beer-guzzling bar flies.

I refer to the sycophantic drivel that is a source of free breakfasts and T-shirts for your Konrad Stalin. When will you recognize that he is just using your organ to fill his extremely large belly with free offerings?

Surely we don't want to hear the ravings of a bar fly who is obsessed with Teteley's teabags, pork pies and ginger nuts. Local news would be a better option.

May I suggest that he finds a friend who travels regularly back to Britain, pay him hard cash and ask for a handcarry of teabags and biscuits. Hopefully, this will silence the drivel.

John Lock  
Rawai

### Recycling is simple: Feed on the seaweed

I find intriguing the comment by Namphet Chatpunyanon, Deputy Director of Patong Municipality's Environmental Health Office, that some foreigners were tempted to eat the seaweed that recently washed up on Patong Beach.

It's a shame that the kelp is not edible, otherwise we would have a perfect recycling approach to the town's environmental

problems: 1. Dump raw sewage into the bay; 2. Wait for sewage to turn into seaweed; 3. Eat the seaweed.

It might sound a bit fanciful, but it makes more sense than, say, building an expensive sewage treatment plant – and not turning it on.

Somchai H.  
Samkong

*Ed. Note: Phunsak Naksena, Patong's Chief Administrative Assistant (and acting leader of the municipality until the Phuket Election Commission confirms the results of the last municipal poll) told the Gazette that the second sewage treatment plant, built at a cost of 295 million baht, is due to go into operation around June.*

### Time for some action

I wasn't able to attend the *Gazette-Nation* zoning seminar but I hope many people were there and voiced their opinions.

My biggest complaint about Phuket is the noise from the traffic. Some of the trucks sound like small aircraft, and many of the drivers never shift out of low gear, which causes them to make even more noise.

Everyone talks about the problems but nothing is ever done. I have news clippings from 1993 about things that are still being discussed, such as jet-skis.

They will still be mangling people when you and I are being pushed to the beach in our wheelchairs.

Hope some good does come from the zoning meeting.

Joan Groat  
Phuket

## The Phuket Gazette

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

# Toplessness debate misses point

**H**ow dare they? What on earth are they thinking about? Have they no shame or self-esteem? I am, of course, referring to the numerous overweight thong-clad Westerners, of all three sexes, who for some reason or another inflict upon the rest of us the vision of their unsightly white masses of fat trailing behind them along the powder-soft sand that is Patong Beach.

In some cases it looks as if it's "off with the baggy shorts and on with the thong". One problem is that the previous tan from last summer has left a large area of white skin from just above the knees to the waist.

How silly it looks to have this white space covered in only the smallest piece of material floss. And by the way, yes, your bum does look enormous hanging out of this type of garment.

Perhaps it's a fashion that has been set by the beautiful people, whose every action and fashion statements are so closely monitored and recorded by the paparazzi and published in celebrity magazines, encouraging ordinary non-jet-set people to think that they too will look beautiful if they wear the same garment.

This is a serious misconception. You will not look beautiful – especially if you are 10 kilos overweight.

It's okay to copy the trends for beanies, baggy shorts and tattoos, but *not* the thong. You wouldn't believe so from its con-

**The Gazette's letter pages have been filled recently with the debate over topless tourists on the beaches of Phuket.**

**While some correspondents urged the authorities to cart the offenders off to the slammer, or at least fine them for contravening Thai law, others felt that the police approach of turning a blind eye was more appropriate.**

**Derek Conbeer, a regular part-time resident of the island, feels that they are all missing the point: that the biggest problem is with the thong.**

**He proposes some solutions to the aesthetic problems of this skimpy piece of beachwear.**

## FIRST PERSON



struction, but wearing the thong is more complicated than following other trends.

Weight is a factor. Fact: if you have 25% of your whole body weight focused in your backside, wearing a thong will not enhance your appearance and may even cause harm to others.

On that basis, should thongs be sold with a health warning? Should designers and manufacturers be made more responsible for providing thongs indiscriminately to any member of the public?

Or could prospective wearers be required to pass an annual

test and obtain a medical certificate from a doctor? The test would not just be a physical one, as there are responsibilities involved with being the owner of a thong.

A whole new area of education and evening classes could develop – subjects such as maintaining your thong; appropriate movements whilst wearing a thong; and how to avoid bottom prints will need to be studied.

The fact is that it is embarrassing for the onlooker when a thonged person lurches forward and downwards to catch a Frisbee. Similarly, an uncomfortable

situation arises when a strap breaks or when there are tell-tale red patches on the cheeks from sitting down for too long.

It's even worse when a deep, grooved ring mark is produced by sitting down on a seat of convenience, and you unwittingly announce your last resting place as you confidently stroll along the shore.

I am tempted to say that age is also a factor, but where do you draw the line with respect to age? I have seen mature ladies perfectly at ease and passing the visually-pleasing test in the booty department, and I have seen girls under 25 failing this section of the test miserably.

So "visually pleasing" could eliminate an age criterion, but how to test this objectively? Back to the doctor? No. Why should he have all the fun?

Instead, impromptu panels of so-called experts should be set up on the beach. These would give passing thong wearers a score out of 10.

To keep everything fair, the old Olympic scoring system could be employed whereby the top and bottom marks (so to speak) are eliminated and the average is found of the others.

Now we could set a standard score. Thong wearers scoring below this mark will be required to cover up immediately and leave the beach, thus ensuring the greatest ridicule and embarrassment, teaching them a lesson they won't forget and dis-

suaing them from doing it again.

There should be no shortage of volunteers for this duty. This scientific technique has been employed by many observational psychologists as well as many male supporters at rugby matches and other macho sporting events.

Thongs, or sometimes just jockey-type swimwear pulled up wedgie-style, seem to be particularly popular on the section of Patong Beach near the disused police observation tower that dominates the center of the beach.

The wearing of a thong there appears to be the equivalent of the uplift bra in the heterosexual world. The attributes that the wearers have are on display and their willingness to share them is taken for granted.

Perhaps, like the bra, there should be a version which is under-wired to help lift (though, please, not to separate) sagging, wrinkled flesh.

This idea could be extended into the front section of the garment as many of the pouches and paunches on display could certainly do with some help in the elevation department.

The thong may not be a direct affront to Thai law, but let's have a little self-assessment before opting to parade your bottom along the beach. Ask yourself a few questions, think about how other people may answer them on your behalf, and at least take a look in the mirror.

## Less than perfect service at Big C checkout counter

I have been living on Phuket for about three years and I have been doing all my weekly shopping at Big C. In the past five weeks, I have been short-changed three times.

Each time it has been a very

### Are there public showers in Karon?

I like to take a shower after I go swimming at Karon. Are there any public showers in Karon as there are in Patong? I can't seem to find them.

Somchai H. Samkong

**An officer of Karon Municipality, who asked that his name not to be used, replies:**

There are public toilets and showers near the Andaman Seaview Hotel and Karon Municipal Stadium, on Patak Rd, set back on a dirt road to the north of the stadium, at the south end of Karon Beach. They are open daily from 8 am to 8 pm. The cost of a shower is 10 baht.

small amount, always less than one baht.

I don't care about the money; it's the principle. On one occasion, both staff at the checkout went red when they saw me check the receipt, which makes me think that I was short-changed intentionally. When I politely pointed out to them that I had been short-changed, they didn't offer to correct their mistake.

With two people at the checkout both checking my change, there is no excuse for short-changing me three out of five times. I could have gone to the Customer Service desk, but I reasoned that the checkout staff would continue doing the same thing.

Also, it seems that checkout staff *wai* all Thai customers, but few offer *farang* either a *wai* or a "Thank you."

I wanted to get the names of the staff but on their name tags the names were printed in Thai only. Could staff names be printed in English, too? Thank you.

Jeffrey Deveau Chalong

**Nida Kaewnerth, Assistant General Manager of Big C in Phuket, replies:**

Big C store policy on change is that every *satang* must be given to the customer.

Any customers given the wrong change should report the problem to the Customer Service counter and show the receipt. Each receipt shows the name of the employee who handled the money, the counter number and the time of the transaction, which makes it easy for us to follow up.

Similarly, customers should report any other problems to the Customer Service counter.

It is store policy that staff *wai* and say "Thank you for shopping at Big C" to every customer, whether Thai or foreign, and even to customers younger than the staff member serving them.

I will suggest to our human resources department that staff names be printed in Latin characters on their name tags. There should be no problem doing this.

Thank you very much for your comments. We aim to improve.

## Issues & ANSWERS

**Want to know how to get something done? Can't understand some of the dafter things that seem to go on in Phuket? Want to pitch an idea to Phuket's authorities or institutions? Then this is the forum for you. Submit your queries or suggestions to us and we'll ask the appropriate people to respond to them.**

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

## Five-year driving licenses

I am a foreigner who has lived in Thailand for four years on a non-immigrant type-O visa. I renew my Thai driving license every year, but a foreign friend of mine was recently issued a driving license that is valid for five years. Has the law changed recently?

Torino Krabi

**Supharp Baimiden, Driving License Issuing Officer, Phuket Provincial Transportation Office (PPTO), replies:**

A new law that came into effect last August allows us to issue licenses valid for five years. This is because we no longer is-

sue licenses that are valid for life.

After people pass the driving test, they are issued licenses that are valid for only one year. But when they renew the following year, they may be issued licenses valid for five years.

The documents required to apply for a driving license remain unchanged, but a five-year license costs five times the fee for a one-year license. Hence, the fee for a five-year car license is 525 baht and a five-year motorbike license costs 275 baht.

For more information call the PPTO at Tel: 076-214930 (ext 1) during government office hours.

## What's in a name?

Some people have asked if *Stool Pigeon* isn't a rather poor choice of name. After all isn't a "stool pigeon" a fink, a rat, a dummy and a snitch? According to noted British etymologist Michael Quinion, however, "When the phrase first appeared, in the US in the 1830s or thereabouts, it meant a person used as a decoy to entice criminals into a trap. In that sense, it's not far from the French *agent provocateur*." That, hopefully, is an accurate assessment of this

### Stool Pigeon



column. Another inspiration for the name was the character Cosmo, from the comic strip *Shoe*. Cosmo is a bespectacled, disheveled old bird, usually seen in front of a computer screen surrounded by a stack of unorganized papers – or on a bar stool.

Anyway, for readers with information to supply, but who don't want to go "on the record" just say so explicitly in your emails and your confidentiality is ensured.



Let there be light: windows appear at Shark/Star Wars/Star World/Star Club. The outside has now been repainted a delightful puce color.

# Shark, Croc add bite to Bangla

The huge nightclub opposite Rock Hard at the top of Soi Bangla is gearing up for another grand reopening after a major overhaul in an effort to bring it back to the popularity it once enjoyed as Patong's premier party place, The Shark.

Formerly Star Wars then Star World, the club will re-open as Star Club on or around April 24. Plans to have the venue up and running before Songkran ran into some minor construction delays.

Star Club plans an opening night extravaganza featuring a line-up of as many as 15 top Thai song and dance sensations. After that, it plans to present more top Thai acts every month.

When renovations are complete, the club will be a Bangkok-style disco with a dance floor and stage. The club will continue to be operated by the management

of Tiger Entertainment Complex.

Remarkably, as the choice of entertainment would indicate, the target market is not foreigners, but young, upwardly-mobile Thais – nor is it intended to compete with some of the neighboring venues around the intersection with Rat-U-Thit-200 Pi Rd as a pick-up joint for freelancers.

**New trend?** A female reader reports from the field: "I recently met a sex tourist on a night out in Patong. Now, sex tourists in Patong are not an unusual sight, except that this one was: a) a young woman; and b) Thai. She sat down next to me in a pub and we started talking. She mentioned she was visiting Phuket for five days from Bangkok. I asked her what she had been up to.

"Drinking and screwing!" she said. 'Screwing who?' I asked. 'Screwing anyone, Thai, farang, whatever. I just wanna

screw!' The bonus for her is that she probably found all her screws for free. [note: the term she used to describe the reason for her visit was slightly more descriptive than 'screw.']

"Now, I'm sure there's a sociological study in the making there, but I'm probably not equipped with the skills to do it. A real 'turning of the tables' phenomenon.

"Sorry, I didn't get her mobile number for any prospective 'researchers' who might be interested in exploring this further."

**Beware of biters:** Now open along Soi Bangla is Crocodile Disco. To get there, just walk the gauntlet to the end of Soi Katoey. Formerly Rock World, the venue is reported to have undergone an extensive refurbishment in line with its new reptilian theme. There is no specific target audi-

ence, and partygoers of all persuasions were invited to its grand opening last week.

**Therein lies the rub:** Have you ever wondered why an oil massage is twice as much as a traditional Thai massage? After all, don't both involve the services of a single masseuse over the same period of time? Does the price of the oil really justify the extra cost?

In Phuket City, the going rate is 200 baht an hour for a traditional Thai massage and 500 baht an hour for an oil massage.

Massage prices in Patong, like everything else, are higher. Why?

One masseuse in Phuket City, who happens to be an expert at both techniques, told Stool Pigeon that the cost of the oil didn't affect the price.

The real reason, she explained, is that oil massage is all

done with the hands, whereas traditional massage allows the use of elbows, knees and feet (sounds like Thai boxing when you put it that way).

As a result, an oil massage takes a lot more energy from the masseuse, who therefore can't perform too many, the way a traditional masseuse can.

The masseuse also mentioned that because oil massage is done with the customer essentially naked, extra combat pay was justified.

*Send all correspondence to stoolpigeon@phuketgazette.net. No mudslinging, malicious gossip or blatant self-promotion, please, though we will be happy to publish special events like new venue openings, birthday parties, etc. Amusing anecdotes, reports of the latest scams, jokes, astute observations and interesting photos are all welcome.*

## Inside you, small surgery is beautiful

There can't be too many of us who do not receive a couple of (hundred) spam emails every day telling us that, ahem, size matters.

Most of us do want a bigger car, house, bank balance or pension fund. The world's smallest anything – boat, aircraft, poodle, whatever – often receives a polite round of applause or a laugh. Big is beautiful.

Or is it?

Who cares for a computer the size of an apartment, or is your laptop just a tad more convenient? How about mobile phones? Remember the housebrick-sized thing of the '80s that came with a shoulder-strap? Would you swap that for your speck-of-dust-with-an-aerial?

In 1959, Nobel Prize physics laureate Prof Richard P. Feynman gave what was to become a classic talk to the American Physical Society at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech) that remains the impetus behind a new industrial revolution.

He introduced the concept of nanotechnology to the world and with it, submicroscopic surgery.

Feynman referred to a conversation he and a friend had that it would be interesting in surgery if you could "swallow" the surgeon (oh, do grow up!). Take heart disease; a miniaturized, mechanical surgeon is put inside the blood vessel and it goes into the heart and looks around.

It finds out which valve is the faulty one and takes a scalpel and slices it out. Other small machines might be permanently incorporated in the body to assist some inadequately-functioning organ.

The result? Isaac Asimov wrote a novel in 1966 called *The Fantastic Voyage* about a team of surgeons and submariners who are miniaturized and injected into a scientist to perform a critical operation. Raquel Welch starred in a film



**HEALTH  
WATCH**  
Phuket Hospital

adaptation of it the same year. Over 40 years later, microsurgery is routinely performed, but we haven't achieved what the good professor – who died in 1988 – foresaw.

However, robots are used in some operations because they are less prone to tremors, something that all surgeons – no matter how good – have. They are more

accurate; they don't get fatigued or stressed; they don't get drunk and, excepting HAL 9000, they don't become emotionally involved.

C-3PO won't be bumbling his way into an operating theater any time soon but Da Vinci – a US\$1million robot surgeon – is being used in Britain and the US to assist, particularly in "keyhole surgery".

Last year, John Cast was one of the first people in Britain to undergo robotic keyhole surgery for a heart bypass operation. The entire operation, called Totally

Endoscopic Robotic Coronary Artery Bypass was performed through four pencil-sized incisions in Cast's chest. A normal bypass operation requires the ribs to be cracked open.

The surgeon guided the robot from a console a few feet away, although they could have been continents apart. Mr Cast left hospital after just four days' stay.

Keyhole surgery and the miniaturization of surgical apparatus are routinely applied to other conditions the treatment of which was itself almost the stuff of Mr Asimov's books.

Patients undergoing microlumbar discectomy, the latest word in treatment for a prolapsed lumbar intervertebral disc, are up and walking within 12 hours and have a one-inch scar as a reminder. The "open" surgery it replaces leaves an eight-inch scar and associated risks.

Patients tend to recover better and faster after surgery using micro-cameras, micro-drills and micro-scalpels. Costs are reduced in scale too, but the day of a "micro-amount bill" has yet to dawn.

# Cashing in on Phuket

By Dhirarat Boonkongsan

PHUKET CITY: The Phuket branch of Thanachart Bank, which opened last month, is the first of eight new branches set to open around the island and in the region.

Thanachart's presence in Phuket dates back to 1989, although full banking services were not offered then. The bank did, however, provide advice on stock market business and transactions, as well as issue personal and business loans.

The new branch – opposite the QSI entry on the bypass road – sits on land bought in 1999, just as Asia was beginning to recover from the economic meltdown that clipped the claws of Asia's "tiger economies".

Thanachart Phuket Branch Vice-President Phoonsin Sinthanaphat, who operates the Phuket branch, admitted to the

*Gazette* that the financial crisis was taken as a wake-up call.

"We found that the structure of our financial business sector was weak, and realized the need for stronger management practices and rationalization.

"Consequently, we combined our five areas of business – banking, stock-market trading, life insurance, accident insurance, and other financial services – under one management.

"We are very competitive because our separate businesses support and complement each other," he said.

"Phuket has grown very fast and has – with Phang Nga and Krabi – a golden opportunity to establish itself as a truly international area. Lots of businesses [serving the tourism industry and expatriate community] have popped up in these areas in the last few years, and many of them required a loan to start.

"This is obviously an area of great interest to us, and I estimate that we (Thanachart) hold around 50% of all business loans held on the island."

K. Phoonsin explained that Thanachart is licensed by the Bank of Thailand to transfer funds into Thailand for business investment purposes, as well as provide foreign exchange services. Thanachart Bank Phuket will introduce its full range of services before the end of 2004.

Inducements and promotions to attract new clients will be ushered in later, over the next two years. Thanachart Bank is to open in Phuket City center, Patong, Kata, Karon, and Cherng Talay, as well as at the untested waters of the Central and Jungceylon retail developments.

According to K. Phoonsin, the sub-branches will provide fundamental services, such as cash deposit and withdrawal,

while raising Thanachart Bank's profile within the community – a community he hopes is keen to take out loans.

K. Phoonsin claims that more than 10,000 loans have been made by Thanachart Bank in the Phuket-Phang Nga-Krabi area alone.

"One of the main strengths of Thanachart is our professional and knowledgeable staff, most of whom are local people who understand the lifestyle and culture of the provinces in which they work," he said.

The Bank of Thailand now permits non-banking financial institutions to become banks if their investments bases are broad.

K. Phoonsin said that while Thanachart – which claims to be the leading loan provider in Thailand – has amalgamated its separate enterprises, the emphasis remains on its loans division.

## ON THE MOVE

Bill Owen, 53, has been appointed Director of Oriental Leisure Company.



He has a degree in economics from London University. Before joining Oriental Leisure, he was the owner/director of The Travel Company, Phuket,

for 10 years. He was also a manager of Tropic Asia Tours for four years and worked for two years with Diethlem Events at a senior managerial level.

**Paiboon Ploysri**, 32, from Phuket, has been appointed managing director of Cil Con, a construction consultancy.



He has an MBA from Mahidol University and an engineering degree from Kasem Bundit University in Bangkok. Before moving to Phuket, he worked as General Manager of Udon Toys in Udon Thani for one year.

**Padej Chantasorn**, 48, from Bangkok, has been appointed



Events and Public Relations Director of the Samui Peninsula Resort on Koh Samui. He graduated from Mahidol University in Bangkok with a degree in science and spent five years as Executive Secretary to the General Manager at the Royal Paradise Hotel in Patong.

He has a degree in science and spent five years as Executive Secretary to the General Manager at the Royal Paradise Hotel in Patong.

*Been promoted? Made a career change? Know someone who has? Let us know by email to [onthemove@phuketgazette.net](mailto:onthemove@phuketgazette.net).*

## In Malaysia, foreigners are encouraged to own up to two properties Home buyers can jump the border

One of the fundamentals of personal financial planning is home ownership. In Thailand, unless expats are prepared to live in a condominium, this is simply not possible.

Many people have discovered other ways of home ownership but they all have disadvantages compared to outright title. An alternative is Malaysia.

The Malaysian government realized that it was to their economic advantage to attract retirees and they introduced a scheme several years ago, called the "Silver-Haired Program".

This has now been superseded by another program, "Malaysia: My Second Home".

It allows those who qualify to retire in Malaysia to own up to two properties, in their own name. Those who are too young to retire can also own property.

I decided to travel to Malaysia to investigate the program in greater depth and to speak to expats and others.

My travel took me to the states of Sarawak and Sabah, in Borneo – "Eastern Malaysia" as the Malaysians call it.

The first stop was Kuching, the capital of Sarawak. It has a population of about half a million and is divided by the Sarawak River.

In contrast to peninsular – or Western – Malaysia, the ethnic mix of the population is 40% Chinese, 30% Malay, 25% local tribes and 5% Eurasian or Western.

From contacts in Phuket, I had received introduction to local Chinese and expats residents

in Kuching and I followed a recommendation to stay at the Hilton. An excellent recommendation it was – the Hilton is a superb hotel, with a friendly staff and management.

Kuching has a variety of suburbs, English is widely spoken and residents speak the language fluently. For those contemplating property purchase, prices for a substantial free-standing house in an affluent suburb start at about 4,000,000 baht.



## MONEY TALKS

By Richard Watson

I was taken to one upmarket development called Kasuma. This is a mixture of condos and individual housing, all situated around an attractive artificial lake.

This development also has its own golf course and borders the Sarawak River on one side. Land in this development is still for sale.

I looked at another development, which is still in its infancy. It consists only of individual residential blocks, no condos. On the banks of a tributary of the Sarawak River, it is called River Dale. On the opposite bank is a nature conservation area of pristine jungle.

Through conversations I had with expats, both working and retired, of various nationalities, I found all without exception liked living in Sarawak.

The consensus was that Kuching was slow but the locals

were friendly and honest. Crime is also low, but for those with cultural interests, Kuching would be a disappointment. The expat community is small but growing.

There is definitely no "Patong" there. Medical facilities are excellent and one of the private hospitals has formal links to the Mayo clinic in New York.

Details of the "Malaysia: My Second Home" project are available on the official website at <http://www.tourism.gov.my/my2ndhome/2ndhome.htm>

When Sarawak agreed to become part of Malaysia about 40 years ago, they intended to keep some level of independence. Even now, everyone entering Sarawak – and this includes Malaysians from other states – is given a one-month visa, which can be extended twice.

With the "Malaysia: My Second Home" program, Sarawak has introduced some changes. The visa is for a three-year period – annual renewal is not necessary.

The equivalent of 1.5 million baht must be lodged in a fixed account for three years or the applicant, if married, must have an income of 100,000 baht a month, or 70,000 baht if single.

A medical certificate issued in Sarawak, with local medical insurance, is a necessity. Applicants must be at least 50 years old but wives have no age limits.

Medical insurance is not required where the applicant is too old to qualify. Minimum investment in property is 3,000,000 million. For foreigners, mortgage finance is available for up to 60% of the purchase price.

Sabah's capital, Kota Kinabalu, was a disappointment. I had expected more progress since my last visit 10 years ago.

However, the location is excellent, with a number of offshore islands and clean seawater. Property is cheap and foreigners can buy land, houses or condos. I did not find the locals nearly as friendly as in Sarawak.

Malaysia has made an intelligent decision in allowing the sale of residential property to foreigners and it's a viable alternative to Thailand.

*Richard Watson runs Global Portfolios Co Ltd, a Phuket-based personal financial planning service. He can be reached at Tel and Fax: 076-381997, Mobile: 01-0814611. Email: [imm@loxinfo.co.th](mailto:imm@loxinfo.co.th).*

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# Beam and Boat keep winning in the family



'Beam' and 'Boat' Dilokpat: the pair swim 80 lengths of the pool every day.

Two rising stars in the local swimming scene have much more in common than just aquatic speed and skill: they are brother and sister.

Wicha "Boat" Dilokpat, 12, and his sister Pinjida "Beam", 11, have been entering – and winning – swimming competitions since the 1994 Ranong Games. They both managed to get off to flying start by winning their individual classes and haven't looked back since.

Sporting prowess was almost guaranteed for these two aquatic stars; their father, Narongleark Dilokpat, is a former Thai rugby squad player and currently the vice-president of the Phuket Swimming Club at Saphan Hin.

K. Narongleark is also coach to his

children. The *Gazette* spoke with them recently at the end of yet another training session.

"In my opinion, Beam is very talented and has learned her craft very fast," said K. Narongleark. "She has adapted her style intelligently. Boat is a very strong and determined swimmer – they both are."

Boat added that he and his sister swim 80 lengths of the Saphan Hin pool every day, taking two to three hours to complete the four kilometers.

"But school work is our priority, especially during exam time," he added.

One aspect of K. Narongleark's training program is to have his children train and race against older children.

To illustrate this, Boat is set to

compete in the under-19s class at the National Youth Sport Games in Sukhothai later this year. When asked how he felt about competing out of his age group – though not his depth – he just smiled and said, "I'm not worried about taking on older swimmers because I've been training against them for years."

And the true secret to being a winner? Boat told the *Gazette*, "You must practice and work hard, be patient and, more than anything, put your heart into it. You must have a fighter's heart."

Anyone interested in joining the Phuket Swimming Club should contact K. Narongleark Dilokpat at Tel: 076-211624 or 01-6912713.

## What kind of designs do you have on a yacht?

It's important to remember that all areas of design involve compromise and trade-offs. The intended usage of the yacht will dictate the nature of these trade-offs.

After usage has been quantified, the prime factors are price, accommodation and maintenance considerations.

The following items will indicate trade-offs necessary to ensure the yacht's performance meets the basic parameters required:

**Length** indicates the ultimate speed of the vessel.

**Beam** indicates the plan resistance of the hull.

**Displacement** indicates the resistance to movement.

**Sail Area** indicates the available power of the yacht.

Remember that displacement is the most accurate measure of the "size" of a yacht, for operational considerations.

Common options for construction materials are:

**TIMBER** – Traditional materials have the advantage of being readily repairable, although, depending on the method, timber yachts can be fairly expensive to build and time-consuming to maintain.

**GRP (Fiberglass)** – Now probably the most widely accepted building material. Depending on method, it is robust and easily repaired. Maintenance levels are relatively low and inexpensive.

**STEEL** – Fairly cheap to build and very strong. Is very heavy and requires considerable care in installation of electrical equipment to limit electrolysis.

**ALUMINUM** – Fairly cheap and not as strong as steel, so requires more internal reinforcement, but not as heavy. Prone to electrolysis.

**FERRO CEMENT** – Fairly cheap and easy to maintain, but boats are generally pretty heavy.

The yacht's performance will relate directly to the characteristics of the hull and its appendages.

Hull Wetted Surface is the amount of hull surface in contact with the water, and it contributes proportionately to drag, which will vary with displacement.

Stability is the resistance to heeling (leaning over), so it affects leeway and on-board comfort, and is dependant on two basic characteristics of the yacht:

ballast and form stability.

Ballast is the weight carried below the center of gravity to assist with stability. External ballast is generally carried in the keel, while internal ballast is usually secured inside the hull's bottom.

Form stability is the design resistance of the hull to the "heeling" pressure of the sails.

A long, narrow boat has relatively low form stability while a relatively wide boat has a lot.

While keels provide stability, in most cases they also significantly affect performance.

A long keel running the length of the yacht will help directional stability and enable the yacht to have a relatively lower draft but will increase wetted area, make the yacht relatively less maneuverable, and, by virtue of the ballast being carried higher up, less stable or heavier.

A fin keel is deeper and reduces wetted area and weight because the ballast is concentrated deeper and more efficiently, but it will require more

attention on the helm and need more water in which to operate.

Lift keels can be of a fin keel nature or can operate from an aperture in a long keel.

There functions vary from ability to reduce operational depth required, to providing a trailerable option.

Twin bilge keels are an option that enables yachts to operate in reduced depths and to stand un-assisted in drying situations, providing the bottom is firm enough.

I won't get into the various types of bulbed or winged or water-ballast keels here, except to say that each of them has value in certain circumstances.

Once the power required for the sail plan has been ascertained, the design must be decided.

Having two masts and correspondingly more sails will reduce the size of each sail, making them easier to handle. However, this must be considered against the inherent inefficiencies and complexities of the additional rigging and control equipment required.

The equipment level will depend on both usage and number of crew available. The diver-

sity and quality of equipment available make it possible for large yachts to be handled by small crews – providing the owner can afford it.

For cruising yachts, the following factors will be of primary consideration:

The proposed range, crew and nature of the vessel's activities will indicate the performance characteristics, space and quality of accommodation required.

This in turn will indicate the size parameters of the vessel.

**Length:** Distance of and time available for the yacht's longest passage.

**Beam-Displacement:** Increases in beam and displacement add to accommodation for crew, stores and equipment but adds resistance to movement.

**Draft:** Will be determined by the requirement to navigate in relatively shallow water.

**Sail-Rig Configuration:** Must be handled easily by the available crew.

**Equipment Level:** Must ensure the yacht can be handled easily by the available crew.

*Sailing queries or news may be sent to Yachtpro by email to rob@sailing-thailand.com.*



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KARON: Pity the players in the American Express Private Bank Invitational Cricket Sixes who leave the island minus their balls.

Such were the dimensions of the oval – Karon Municipal Stadium – that big-hitters saw their balls flying for six onto, or straight over, the grandstand roof. Other balls disappeared northwards into the coconut trees, prompting one wag to suggest that wild monkeys be trained in the art of ball retrieval in advance of next year's Sixes tournament.

And a 2005 tournament there will be, following the success of the inaugural three-day event held on April 1-3.

A downpour the previous night did little to affect the condition of the wicket. The humidity was thankfully much reduced, too, although all spectators and players made sure that dehydration was the least of their worries.

Surrey Vagrants took the honors in the "Bowl" Division final through impressive team play and a high rate of sixes against the Warratah Stockton team, which included former Australian Test player Trevor Chappell.

The Vagrants also took a

## Whackers go wild as Sixes arrive



Ouch, that hurt: Paul "Prich" Prichard clobbers another ball.

raft of awards, including Best Bowler, shared among Cameron Eve of New South Wales, Franklyn Hinds of the Cayman Islands, and Paul Prichard, ex-Essex skipper. "Prich" was also awarded Man of the Tournament, Highest Score and Best Player prizes.

Dulwich International College kept the local end up and beat the Green Man team in the Spoon category.

One of the most startling sights was the Lamma Cricket Club player, and incidentally, the only woman taking part, who produced a string of wides before managing to bowl out a luckless batsman with the slowest ball of the whole three days. He swiped at the ball frantically before it trickled to the wicket and gently displaced the bails. By design or accident, it was a memorable and well-applauded dismissal.

Another abiding memory is that of the teams from India and Pakistan enjoying their own *entente cordiale* and each others' company as their national sides dealt with diplomacy in the best way: on the oval.

India, with Atul Wassan at the helm, and the Pakistani Airline

Pilots Association, were a credit to the event.

Crowds for this first-time event appeared to be a little on the low side, although a host of people wandered in for a beer or two, to be replaced by others.

– Andy Johnstone

## DARTS In-Between on top

In-Between emerged as the only undefeated team after two weeks of play in the Patong Darts League with a solid 7-2 win at Happy Days.

**Patong Darts League Table:** In-Between 6; Champs

4; Piccadilly 4; Valhalla 4; Amigos 3; Didi's 3; Offshore 3; Happy Days 2; Football Crazy 1; Shakers 0. **March 30 results (home team first):** Didi's\* 6, Offshore 3; Happy Days 2, In-Between\* 7; Piccadilly\* 2, Amigos 7; Shakers 4, Champs\* 5; Valhalla 5, Football Crazy\* 4. (\*beer leg win.)

## GOLF Early bird wins

Graham Blake was first off the tee at Loch Palm in the monthly Phuket Expat Golf Society (PEGS) tournament – and set the pace with a 78, good enough to win the low gross trophy. New president, Merv Baines fired a net 70 to take the net trophy. Division A of the stableford tournament was won by Michael Kirby, with 35 points. Mark Whetton won Division B with 41 points.

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That American icon, the Ford Mustang, turns 40 this month, yet it is still a sought-after muscle car that millions desire.

Most of you will have seen the legendary car chase through the streets of San Francisco involving Steve McQueen in a 1968 Fastback Mustang GT in *Bullitt*, but it was actually four years earlier, in April 1964, that the Mustang first appeared.

Ford began looking for a vehicle that would attract a younger generation of buyers in 1957. A famed figure, Lee Iacocca, can claim much of the responsibility for the Mustang, though it was not until 1961 that he became vice-president of Ford.

At one of his focus groups, organized to appraise a new design, 52 couples were asked what they thought of the Mustang. Almost all said they liked the styling, but thought it was somewhat impractical, with insufficient room for Mom and Dad and two kids, as well as the groceries. However, when told it would sell for \$2,368 they quickly changed their minds.

The Mustang name was chosen from dozens of names from the animal kingdom, including Cheetah, Colt, Puma and Bronco. Contrary to popular belief, it was not named after the Army's P51 warplane but, as Iacocca put it, "because it had the excitement of wide open spaces and was as American as hell".

The familiar Mustang logo was adapted from an illustration of a horse in Frederic Remington's *Great Pictures of the Old West*.

On the April 20, 1964, covers of both *Time* and *Newsweek*, there were pictures of the new car and of Iacocca. In his autobiography, Iacocca said: "The twin cover stories had the effect of two giant commercials."

The Mustang went on display across the nation and the public's enthusiasm for this

For the Mustang, the car that became an icon,

# LIFE BEGINS AT 40



A SIMPLE BEAST: The original Mustang.



MIDDLE-AGED BUT ALL MUSCLE: Bill Ford (actually William Clay Ford III) with the Mustang 2005.

sporting Ford was overwhelming. Over the first weekend, the company accepted 22,542 orders.

One dealer in Chicago had to lock the doors of his Mustangs to prevent people simply sitting inside.

A truck driver in Seattle felt compelled to drive through the window of a Ford dealership so

overcome was he with the excitement of the new car.

Mustang mania spawned imitations from rivals, including the Chevrolet Camaro and the long-forgotten AMC

Javelin, but originally the Mustang was scheduled to be a mid-powered two-seater.

Fortunately, Iacocca's business sense prevailed over his initial enthusiasm and he ordered the car be redrawn with a front engine and room for four.

Using many components from the existing Falcon, the Mustang came with a choice of five engines, from a 101bhp (74kW) straight six to a 4.2-liter V8 producing 271bhp (199kW). It had six different transmissions, three suspension options and three wheel sizes.



By Jeff Heselwood

Within five months of its auspicious launch, the Ford Mustang had become the third most popular car in the United States.

Within 18 months, half a million had been delivered and by June 1967 the tally off the production line had risen to 1.5 million.

The car underwent modifications over the years, most notably when Carroll Shelby got his hands on one and produced the fantastic Shelby Mustang.

Standard versions were fitted with ever more powerful engines. The best and most spectacular was the 375bhp (276kW) 429-cubic-inch Boss Mustang. Only 852 of this model were ever produced.

For 2005, there is a new Mustang, fully updated but adhering to the original's heart and soul: a 300bhp (220kW), 24-valve V8 drives the rear wheels and makes the new Mustang the most affordable motor in the world with this level of performance.

With performance, though, has to come safety, and the latest car has a stout safety cage, optional side airbags to complement the front bags and a computer-designed front structure to deal with offset impacts.

The new Mustang will be built at Flat Rock, Michigan, just a few miles from its birthplace at Dearborn on the Rouge River.

Ford and legions of fans worldwide will celebrate the Mustang's 40th birthday on April 17 in Nashville, Tennessee at a huge party hosted by the Mustang Club of America.

Iacocca may have fallen from grace at Ford (he was fired by Henry Ford II in August 1978) but his legacy lives on in one of the world's best known and most loved muscle cars.

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

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# Drinking the health of Spa Cuisine

**W**ith so many spas sprouting up, it seems appropriate to comment on wines to accompany Spa Cuisine. Sadly, it is just about impossible to track down genuine Spa Cuisine on the island, despite the sizeable number of spas supplying food to guests.

Spa Cuisine relies upon organically grown produce and the freshest ingredients for its indulgent flavor. Heavy spices or flavorings and processed foods like refined sugar and oils are avoided.

Spa Cuisine originated in 19th century Europe when therapeutic spas were in fashion and the meals served at spas of the time emphasized vegetarian cooking. They were some of the first efforts to mimic Asian peoples' understanding of the restorative power of diet. Not surprisingly, most Spa Cuisine exhibits Asian derivation and demonstrates the wisdom of healthy eating, taken from Eastern cultures.

According to Watermark Restaurant manager Stuart Bird, Spa Cuisine is food that is light, fresh, and healthy – with beneficial nutritional value.

This means steering away from red meat and dairy products. With its substantial steaks and decadent desserts, Watermark is certainly not a spa restaurant, but it does highlight several menu items derived from Spa Cuisine.

Rare grilled tuna with soy mirin dressing; Pumpkin papaya salad and chilled soba noodles; Crab, avocado and pickled cucumber salad with crispy wonton skins and tom yam mayonnaise are classic examples of Spa Cuisine from the Watermark menu.

Because wine is a healthful beverage and naturally enhances food's flavor, it is a logical accompaniment to Spa Cuisine. Look to fresh, light and lively wines for the best pairings. Sparkling wine in its many forms always makes an effort-



By Steven Roberto

less match. So do lighter, un-oaked white wines like riesling, pinot grigio, roero arneis and pinot blanc.

The lack of oak and its associated heaviness, derived from wood tannin, allows the pure varietal character and lightness of these wines to shine through.

Lower alcohol levels and lively acidity found in wines from cooler climates complete the refreshing picture you imagine when setting out to pair a wine with Spa Cuisine.

Some say wine assumes the personality of those who make it, so it should come as no surprise that societies where health and connectedness to the natural harmony of life are respected produce the best wines for Spa Cuisine.

Foremost are the clean and green New Zealand wines, sauvignon blanc, pinot blanc and riesling – perfect for a healthful lunchtime treat. The fresh and invigorating wines of mountainous Northern Italy, like friuli and alto adige, come a close second. Delicate German and Austrian dry riesling make a perfect substitute. For reds, stick to pinot noir and lighter un-oaked versions of dolcetto or barbera d'asti.

Now, where is that spa ...

*Steven Roberto is a winemaker and restaurant consultant from California. He is the Wine and Beverage Director for the award-winning Baan Rim Pa restaurant in Patong. Email: stevenroberto@lycos.com*

One of the many impressive things about Sala Rim Talay Seafood Market Restaurant at the JW Marriott Hotel along Mai Khao Beach in Thalang is the beachside setting.

The hotel at night is a multi-level expanse of reflecting pools, tiled walkways lined with tropical plants, and ceramic bowls from which large flames leap into the night air.

The whole atmosphere is more like the tribal council pavilion used in *Survivor Thailand* than your typical Phuket seafood establishment.

To the relaxing sounds of a Thai music trio, we first set about selecting the evening's wine. We immediately noticed the much-touted PB Valley Khao Yai Reserve chenin blanc.

Although we had had some bad experiences with Thai wines in the past, we recalled that this was one of the wineries highlighted at the Apec summit last October. If it's good enough for Thaksin, Putin and Bush, we reasoned, it's should be good enough for us, too.

And it was. Not much later, our appetizers arrived, four dishes of Asian Tapas: vegetable samosa, deep fried shrimp, fried fish balls and pickled vegetables, served with four sauces and tortilla bread.

After that, we decided to try two of the well-known Thai seafood dishes: *yum woon sen* (seafood salad) and – perhaps inevitably – *tom yum goong*.

Both dishes were technically close to perfection, with generous chunks of fresh, tender shrimp and just the right balance of seasonings, with one exception: there was not enough chili. That was our own fault, of course. Thai chefs automatically tone down spiciness when cooking for foreigners unless instructed to do otherwise.

Once over that minor speed bump, the meal really took off. Selecting our own fish from the attractive display at the restaurant's main entrance, we ordered three dishes: *plaa kapong neung manao* (white seabass steamed in lime) at 55 baht a 100gm; steamed mussels in Thai herbs at 70 baht a 100 gm; and



SUMPTUOUS SALA: Thai food and wine fit for all the presidents.

# Survivors find a taste of perfection

enormous tiger prawns, stir fried with cashew nuts.

All three were cooked to perfection – not as easily done with steamed dishes as many think.

All of this was heartily washed down by our second bottle of the versatile chenin blanc – good value at just 1,150 baht a bottle because it is not subject to the crippling taxes imposed on foreign wines.

Although already surfeited, we decided to sample some of the offerings on Sala Rim Thai's impressive dessert menu – not as an act of gluttony, but in the spirit of professionalism.

The first was a "crème brulée tasting"; four small dishes of a different tropical flavors: coconut, ginger, mango and banana.

For fans of this very rich dish, this has got to be one of the best on the island, flowing perfectly with the restaurant's dark, rich house coffee.

The other dessert, a large

ice-cream cookie, was light, creamy vanilla sandwiched between two enormous, homemade chocolate chip cookies of the "chewy" variety. At less than 150 baht each, both desserts are exceptionally good value.

As we wobbled back out to the car across the surreal surroundings of the Marriott lobby, we decided, on our next trip, to arrive around dusk, enjoy the sunset and try out more of Sala Rim Thai's superb desserts – followed by cognac and Cuban cigars, of course.

*Sala Rim Talay Seafood Market is part of the JW Marriott Phuket Resort and Spa, on Mai Khao Beach in Thalang. Daily 11 am to 10 pm Tel: 076-338000 ext 3461 or fax: 076-348348.*

## On the menu with Stephen Fein

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Gardening

with Bloomin' Bert

Americans are a strange lot. They live in the most powerful nation on the planet, and yet an extraordinarily large number of them seem to have "issues" that they need to mull over with a therapist. They want to "get to know themselves" and contact their inner beings.

The mussaenda is probably an American, but doesn't know it. It's most likely in denial. This plant has "issues". The problem is it really doesn't know what color it is - it simply can't decide. Perhaps several thousand dollars' worth of therapy might encourage this confused little plant to come to terms with its identity. But probably not.

It has a number of alternative names, from Lady Flowers to the Virgin Tree. In Thai, it's known as *donya*. There are hundreds of hybrids of the mussaenda, but all have the common theme of the rather pale, hairy, boring looking leaves topped off by a huge splash of color that seems to come from nowhere.

The colored areas aren't even the flowers, which is where the plant's identity crisis comes in. These extra-brightly colored areas are just colored leaves that want to grab a bit of attention. It's almost as if they're in competition with each other. If these were '70s disco dancers, they'd be comparing medallion sizes.

The colorful bracts come in dozens of hues, but are mainly shades of red or white. My Thai is far from proficient, but many of us can figure out that in Thai, they're *donya daeng* or *donya khao*. The flowers themselves are much less showy, and are small, often yellow, white or orange, flowers at the center of each bract. This system of colored bracts is the same color-producing system used by other tropical plants such as heliconia and bougainvillea.



Picture courtesy of Tropical Plants Library Online

## Psychoanalysis for plants (no shrinking violets)

The varieties are often named after famous ladies from this corner of the globe. There's even a famous cultivar named after Imelda Marcos, the "Dona Imelda".

The mussaenda can be a rather small shrub, or large to 30 feet, like a small tree. Some commercial nurseries often train mussaenda to be tree-like in form, so that they can be used for landscaping. Their natural habit is to produce many stems and it's a bit of a rambler.

This is one that needs a firm hand when it comes to pruning. Like their namesake, give them an inch, and the lady flower will take a mile. It will quickly become straggly unless it's pruned quite ruthlessly. This will help to shape it, as well as produce lots more branch tips where flowers form, which produces more color bracts.

All it will ask of you is a fair bit of drainage, along with consistently moist soil, without being "claggy". (I think I just invented that word). Sandy soil

is fine. It will enjoy full sun to part shade, but the best bract color will appear if it gets plenty of sun. It's a bit of a balancing act because the Phuket sun at this time of the year is probably a bit much.

There are many plants that will stop you in your tracks for a closer look. Many plants display color so vivid that you'd almost imagine that they'd been tampered with by some manic painter who only had Day-Glo colors in his paintbox. The heliconia and bougainvillea are a couple that stand out here. Unfortunately, the mussaenda isn't one of them. Walk past this and you'll be decidedly underwhelmed. The colors are washed out.

Perhaps this is really the source of the plant's problems. It's not an identity crisis, or not being in touch with its inner feelings at all. It probably feels that it just can't compete with the likes of the bougainvillea.

What it really needs to come to terms with is the fact that it really does have issues.

Home of the Week

# Class from bottom up

This large, immaculate family house is situated in Chaofatane Village in a quiet location at the back of the secure estate, with a river running behind the property.

Built by an American in 2001 to the highest US and European building codes, its double brick cavity walls give top-notch insulation. The footings are 23x12-meter concrete pilings topped with "pie-caps" and reinforced concrete beams, exceeding the most stringent Thai building regulations. This house is built to last.

The owner has spared no expense with the materials used in the construction, and this can be seen in the high-quality internal fixtures and fittings. The land covers 440 sqm, while the internal living area is 292 sqm.

The accommodation consists of four bedrooms, each with ensuite bathrooms and balconies. There are two fully equipped kitchens, one Western model inside and one Thai-style outside. Adjoining the inside kitchen is a bathroom with shower and toilet. The entrance hall leads to a spacious living area and includes dining area, kitchen with breakfast bar, entertainment area and office-study.

The living area leads out to a large covered patio-cum-terrace which overlooks the river and tropical gardens, with a relaxing therapy spa to the side.

The double garage will accommodate two large cars and

motorbikes. A workroom and large laundry run off the main kitchen.

The internal finish includes lavish bathrooms in marble, a solid teak stairway, tiled floors and stone walls. The landing windows are beveled plate glass, allowing natural light.

There is air-conditioning and fans throughout and the interior is tastefully decorated. Utilities include a water filtration system, solar power, three-phase electricity, telephone, hot water and village mains water, and UBC TV.

The exterior of the house is finished in hand-cut stone with a paved patio and concrete driveway. Landscaped, tropical gardens surround the property, with a perimeter wall and decorated iron railings. A remote-controlled main gate provides extra security. The land title is Chanote.

This house represents exceptional value and it is virtually maintenance free. It is close to Phuket City, Tesco-Lotus, schools, hospitals.

**Location:** Chalong  
**Price:** 9.5 million baht

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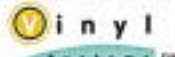
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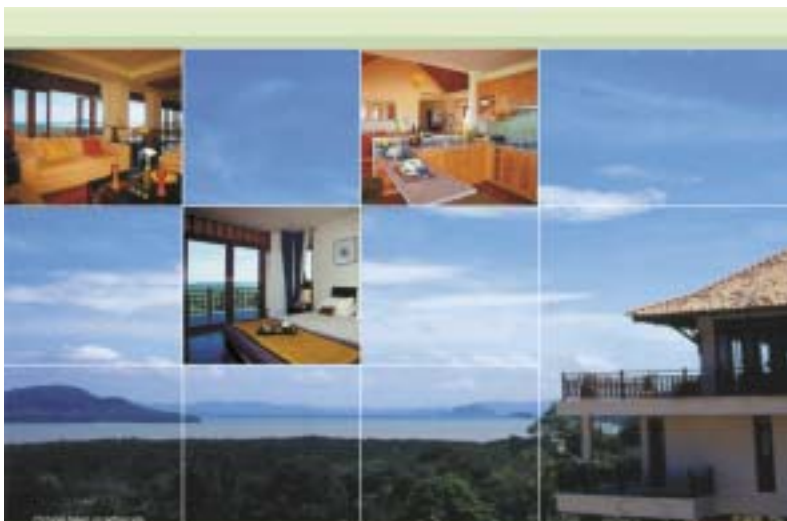
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Every prospective property buyer on Phuket should have a list of questions to ask. Some may seem trivial or obvious, but all are relevant.

**Q. Can non-Thais own property – land and houses – in Thailand?**

A. Foreign nationals may not own land freehold in Thailand, but they can register long-term leaseholds over land and own, outright, all improvements (houses or other buildings) on the land. Long-term leaseholds can be, and typically are, structured to be tantamount to freehold ownership. A property can also be owned indirectly through control of a Thai corporation that owns property.

**Q. What property taxes are applied in Thailand?**

A. Property tax, or “rates”, do not exist as such in Thailand, if the property is being used for private residential purposes only. However if the building is being used for commercial purposes, then a “structure usage tax” is assessed. The assessment is calculated as 12.5% of the notional rental value of the property. This notional value is significantly below the market rental value of the property.

If you are referring taxes on

# 7 QUESTIONS

## And the answers every land-buyer needs to know

the sale or purchase of property, then there are four different taxes: transfer fees at 2%; stamp duty at 0.5%; business tax of 3.3%; and income tax (the Thai equivalent to capital gains tax), a variable rate.

Which of these categories will be applied depends on the details of the transaction, the vendor and the duration of ownership.

It is also significant to note that most of the fees are calculated relative to the government’s “tax assessment value” of the property. Again, this value is well below the actual market value.

The precise methods of calculation are complex, but expect

the total fees and taxes to work out to be approximately 2%-3% of the property market value for residential sales. These charges are often split between buyer and seller.

**Q. What about rental options?**

A. Rent-to-buy deals are uncommon in Thailand, although some vendors may be willing to negotiate on an individual basis.

An owner is allowed to rent out their property as are, typically, long-term lessors although they must first check their lease before proceeding.

Larger developments often provide a rental management service for clients who have bought

properties that they then wish to let. There may be some restrictions as to the format of the letting, such as that all lettings must be done through the management company.

An individual development will have its own rules, and each should be reviewed individually.

**Q. How secure is my investment?**

A. So long as you have taken all the usual and sensible precautions, practiced due diligence, and had a lawyer prepare a solid contract lease agreement, there is no reason why an investment in Thailand should not be as secure as one elsewhere in the world.

**Q. What about zoning restrictions?**

A. Zoning, the governing of building development, usage and population density within prescribed areas, is something of a hot issue on the island at the moment. (see Gazette April 3)

From the perspective of someone wishing to construct a

single house, significant restrictions apply in only two categories: buildings on hillsides may not exceed eight meters in height; and buildings on land less than 50m from the seashore may not exceed one story in height, nor may they cover more than 25% of the the land parcel.

**Q. What about the standards of management and construction?**

A. These do vary. Some of the construction on the island is basic, while at the top end, build quality now equals or exceeds standards found in the best developments in the West.

Property management schemes can be reviewed similarly. Again, evaluate each company or project on an individual basis.

**Q. Do I have the option of designing my own house?**

A. Yes, but there may be restrictions on how and what one may build. An individual plot of land may be subject only to general building codes.

Buy into a development, and there will usually be style and construction guidelines, together with minimum standards and time frames to be observed.

Controls within a development, while in some degree restrictive to the individual, generally have advantages in as much as they will offer the whole community protection, and serve you well with regard to long-term capital protection.

More details on this and other property ownership issues can be found within the various Gazette Property articles at <http://www.phuketland.com/gaz/index.htm>.



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in Anuphas Golf Ville. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 48 sq wah. Price: 3 million baht. Tel: 01-8921256.

### LUXURY HOUSE



located on secure, private estate in Chalong. 3 stories, built on 960 sqm of land. Features 3 bedrooms with en-suite bathrooms, 2 kitchens, living room, dining room, double office/room, study room, staff quarters, covered double carport, lots of storage and a large garden. Tel: 076-249315, 09-7247211. Email: julien@phuketimmo.com

### FANTASTIC TEAK

Fantastic teak house in Kata. 2-bed, 3-bathroom bungalow, built 20 feet up, providing fantastic views. Tel: 076-398513, 07-2837161. Email: gibbo\_960@hotmail.com. Please see our website at: www.karonproperty.com

### LAGUNA APTS

Laguna Allamanda apartments and Sheraton island villas for sale at prices from 8 million baht. Please call for details. Tel: 01-8922113. Email: tasha@indigore.com. Indigo Real Estate Limited. Sound advice, premium properties.

### 4 RAI LAGUNA



4 rai just 250 meters from Laguna Beach, NorSor 3 Gor title. Price: 13 million baht. Private access, infrastructure ready. Would be great for development. Tel: 01-7371688, 01-397-3267.



### NATAI BEACH LAND

West Coast. 2.25 rai with 38 meters of ocean frontage at Natai Beach. Fully serviced and levelled. New boundary wall and building permits. Enjoy your sala 20 meters above high tide. 15 minutes from the airport. 25 million baht. Email: nick@indigore.com. Tel: 09-873-2042. Indigo Real Estate Limited. Sound advice, premium properties.

### PATONG BEACH

condos for sale. Prices from 700,000 baht. Tel: 01-536-6713. Email: tuddenham.group@virgin.net

### CENTRAL PATONG

Spacious, partly-furnished, 2-story house, with 3 air-conditioned bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, modern marble kitchen, carport and Chanote title, for sale. Quiet location, with pool, gym and 24-hour security. Price: 3 million baht. Tel: 06-2779149.

### CONDO FOR SALE

1-room Patong Beach apartment for sale. Cash sale for 450,000 baht or 150,000 baht deposit and 4 yearly payments of 100,000 baht. Tel: 09-4740207. Email: su\_kingsuwan@hotmail.com

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Lakewood Hills is another development from the developers of Lakewood Villas one of Phuket's most successful and profitable projects - with world-class facilities.

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**Ocean Front Property**

Located on the popular and exclusive west coast of Phuket, between Kamala and Patong Beach. The property is divided into two parcels, 5 Rai above main road, 10 Rai below. The steep terrain gives a unique and spectacular sunset ocean view. The lower parcel has a building permit issued. The owner wants to sell both parcels, individually or together.

Contact  
09-874 0176 or 07 264 1110  
Email: kamalaland@yahoo.com

### RAWAI LAND 4 SALE

Only 500 m from Rawai Beach, 18 rai at 2.5 million baht per rai. Please call for more info. Tel: 01-5388276.

### BEACH CONDO

Fully-furnished 8<sup>th</sup>-floor condo with fantastic view, freehold, and a bargain price of 1.6 million baht. Comprises 1 large living room, 1 bedroom, 1 toilet. Contact Khun Christian. Tel: 06-276-0258, 09-4740227. Email: thesonbusiness@hotmail.com

### PATONG CONDO

for sale. Opportunity to buy a vacant, freehold condo in Patong, with a mountain view and 300m from the beach. Comprises 1 bed, 1 living room, 2 balconies, 1 toilet. Price 1.05 million baht. Tel: 07-2738944. Email: chotip\_5@hotmail.com

### TAMAPRAO HOUSE



Furnished Tamaprao houses, built and designed to Swedish standards. Complete with pool, full marble finish and aircon. Close to golf course and airport. Prices from 2.5 million baht. Tel: 09-2002497. Please visit our website at: [www.phuketvillage.com](http://www.phuketvillage.com)

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# Property Gazette




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One of Phuket's finest homes is now priced to sell. PRICE: Offers over 39 million baht



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Great design, quality build, unbelievable views. finance available. PRICE: 12 million baht



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[www.phuketonerealestate.com](http://www.phuketonerealestate.com)

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**24 Million Baht**  
Magnificent 4 Bed overlooking the lake in L & H, Chalong Promotional VCD



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**3.5 Million Baht**  
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**3.5 Rai Chao Fa Rd close to the zoo All 10 Million Baht**  
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**LUXURY VILLA**  
in Patong. 250-sqm, 3-story villa in Patong with swimming pool and sea view. 10.5 million baht. Tel: 01-8928526.

Phase 1 SOLD OUT  
NOW SELLING  
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Sited at AO PO Bay

**1.25 RAI KAMALA**  
Panoramic views over Kamala valley, private location, 2km from beach. Price: 2.75 million baht. Tel: 01-737-4295, 01-8929524. Email: [stevebragg28@hotmail.com](mailto:stevebragg28@hotmail.com)

**GOLF COURSE LOTS**  
Exclusive lots available in a fully-serviced golf community. 1-rai lots bordering Mission Hills Golf Course, only 5 lots left, ocean views. Tel: 09-9725226. Email: [bgbphuket@yahoo.com](mailto:bgbphuket@yahoo.com)

**LAND IN PATONG**  
for sale. Excellent seaviews. Prices from 5.5 million baht/rai (3,450 baht/sqm). Please call for full details. Tel: 076-349050, 01-8957159, 09-2911112.

**CONDO UNIT 4 SALE**  
2 bedrooms condo 127 sqm, well furnished, spectacular view of Patong bay. Email or phone for details. Free hold. Tel: 076-340892, 01-737-8662. Email: [condoabc@phuket.ksc.co.th](mailto:condoabc@phuket.ksc.co.th). No brokers please.

**HOTEL PROPERTY FOR SALE**



Would you like to own a beautiful hotel and restaurant close to Karon Beach? Buy the entire company (4 buildings with 20 room hotel, restaurant and rental property) for 23.5 million baht OR buy the two main buildings (14 room hotel plus restaurant) for 15 million baht. The land is freehold Chanote and is ready for rapid company transfer to foreign ownership. For more info, visit [www.pocities.com/hotelinparadise/](http://www.pocities.com/hotelinparadise/)  
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**BEACHFRONT LAND**

**LAND FOR SALE**



4.5 rai Chalong Hill. 3 million baht per rai. Beautiful view. Please contact Blue Phuket Property. Tel: 09-7310283.

**AO POR BEACHFRONT**



Ao Por beachfront and sea-view land on hill for sale. 15 rai, 200m along beach. Includes big tree. Tel: 076-263366.

**65 RAI FOR SALE**  
65 rai with Chanote title for sale at Laem Phromthep. 3.5 million baht/rai. Tel: 09-867-2462. Email: [bluepktproperty@csloxinfo.com](mailto:bluepktproperty@csloxinfo.com)

**LAND FOR SALE**  
directly on Banyan Tree golf course. 1,050sqm/262.4 sq wah. Tel: 076-239864.

**Classified Advertisements**

Please use this form to write your classified advertisement.  
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Classified ads are charged per line. Each line is 60 baht, with a minimum of 4 lines (heading included) per ad.

All advertising must be paid for in advance.

**Deadline for Property Mart page: Friday 3 pm.**  
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**Agents for Classified Advertising**

**PHUKET**

**K.L. Mart**  
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**NAVA Language School**  
Phang Nga Rd, Phuket Town Tel: 076-232398/9

**Sin & Lee**  
Thalang Rd, Phuket Town Tel: 076-211230

**Taurus Travel**  
Aroonsom Plaza Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd, Patong Tel: 076 344521-2

**A la Carte**  
Kamala main road, Cherng Talay Tel: 076-278019

**PHANG NGA**

**Maew Internet Shop, Khao Lak**  
**Avalon Creative Group Co Ltd, Khao Lak**  
Tel: 076-420627  
Tel: 076-420539

# Property Gazette

**House for sale**

300 sqm duplex house in quiet area East of Chalong Bay 3 km from town 1.8 million baht. Call 01-8924311.

**SPECTACULAR VIEW**  
Apartment for long-term rent. Best views of Patong and Patong Beach. Fully furnished, 2 aircons, 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, TV, UBC, DVD. Tel: 09-5875653, 01-9035622.

**NEW HOME**  
with pool in Kamala. Available furnished or not. Minimum 6-month contract. 35,000 baht. Call after 4 pm. Tel: 076-385940.

**RAWAI CONDO**  
Fully-furnished 2-bedroom condo in Rawai with 2 bathrooms, pool, telephone, aircon and TV. Tel: 01-6067410.

**TOWNHOUSES**  
for rent. Situated in quiet area of Soi Sansabai Patong, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, furnished, UBC, aircon, telephone, short and long terms available. 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-341871, 01-5697616.

**HOUSE FOR RENT**  
in Kathu. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, living room, 2 aircons, furnished. 10,000 baht/month for long-term contract. Tel: 09-2909567. Please see our website at: www.brommathatsouse.com

**PATONG APARTMENTS**  
for long-term rent. 1 bedroom, 1 TV room, cable TV, aircon, some apartments with good seaview. 5,000-20,000 baht a month. Tel: 09-290-9567. Please see our website at: www.brommathaihouse.com

**PATONG CONDOS**  
Fully furnished 1- or 2-room Patong apartments with pool. 7,000 baht/month or 400 baht/day. Just 300 meters from the beach. Tel: 01-364-5419. Email: thesonbusiness@hotmail.com

**SUPERB KATA APT**  
Available from May 1: a superb, fully-equipped, one-bedroom apartment for rent on a quiet Kata hillside. Free satellite TV, aircon/fan, hot shower, microwave, towels, bed linen, etc. 12,000 baht a month or 120,000 baht for a year. Tel: 07-2675376. Email: anitawhooley@hotmail.com

**HOUSES FOR RENT**  
2 and 3 bedrooms, fully furnished, nice kitchens, aircons, luxurious and secure - nice places to live. Weekly and monthly rental welcome. Please call for more info. Tel: 09-6822954.

**PHUKET VILLA 5**  
3 bedrooms. Nice semi-furnished, 3-bed home with 2 aircons and 2 bathrooms, hot water, phone, fridge and small garden. Long-term lease, min 1 year, at 12,000 baht/month. Email: roymc9@optusnet.com.au

## Accommodation Available

**PATONG SEAVIEW**  
Apartment to rent by day or month. Kitchen, cable TV. 10 min to beach. 800 baht per day. Call 06-0268145.

**ROOMS FROM B300**  
Just a 10-min walk from the beach, all of our rooms are ground floor, have windows, have aircon or fans, en-suite hot shower, mini-fridge, white bed linen and are cleaned daily. 24-hour security, satellite TV, bar, and pool table, too. Call for pics and info. Tel: 076-342280, 01-9781956. Fax: 076-290383. Email: palm@phuket.ksc.co.th

**ROOMS TO LET**  
Rooms for rent in new complex. Fully furnished with aircon, free satellite TV, fridge, hot water, plus car parking, for 166 baht/day. Yes, it's true. 166 baht/day at Lake View Apartments. Tel: 076-202585, 09-1968449. Email: ketmaneeclayton61@hotmail.com

**PATONG LUXURY APT**  
Central Patong 1- & 2-bedroom apts. Email for info & photos. Email: suites247@yahoo.com

**PHUKET BEVERLY HILL**  
We offer Exclusive Residences at Beverly Hills in Patong. Beautiful Town House with Superb Ocean Views.  
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E-mail: sales@phuketislandrealestate.com  
Website: www.phuketislandrealestate.com

## Accommodation Wanted

**HOUSE WANTED LONG TERM**  
House with 2-3 bedrooms wanted for long-term rental. Preferred areas include Chalong, Kathu or close to Phuket Town. Price range around 15,000-20,000 baht a month. Can pay one year in advance for the right house and price. Tel: 01-8926251. Email: mrsouza@hotmail.com

## Building Services

repairs • maintenance  
renovation • building  
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woodwork • stonework  
metalwork • electrical  
plumbing • gardening  
pressure cleaning  
window cleaning

Tel: 076 324 400  
Mobile: 07 282 0200

## Household Products

**HOME FURNISHINGS**  
All your home furnishing needs - curtains and blinds, furniture and carpets - supplied with prompt service. Tel: 01-9035622

**90CM BUILT-IN OVEN**  
Brand new, originally packed, Siemens 90-cm built-in oven. Stainless steel, universal oven, electronic clock, easy clean system, all-glass door, liner, removable accessory rack, 2 side-mounted halogen lighting tubes, cooling fan, stainless steel front, professional handle. Tel: 01-8157440.

## Building Products

**DELUXE SUN AWNINGS**  
Sun awnings for your home, shopfront or boat. Built to last by Canvas Creations at Boat Lagoon. Contact us now for a free quote and measuring. Tel: 076-238946, 01-370-1600. Fax: 076-238946. Email: canvas@loxinfo.co.th

## Household Services

**FOR ALL YOUR WOODWORK**  
For your built-in-furniture and other woodwork, call us. We offer reasonable rates, professional work and excellent service. Contact Mr Bao, as above, for a free estimate. Tel: 076-284366, 01-693-5405. Email: shakti@loxinfo.co.th

## Household Products Needed

**HOUSEHOLD ITEMS**  
I need 2 wardrobes in good condition, plus 1 air conditioner in good condition, 1 combi microwave with grill, outdoor furniture, kitchen cabinets. Email: blueskies10000@hotmail.com

**FILL UP MY HOUSE**  
I will move to a new, empty home soon, and I need to get rid of the echo off my new walls. I need everything: indoor/outdoor furniture, TV/stereo/DVD, fridge/freezer, stove, fans, etc. Call me if you have good-quality items that I could use. Tel: 07-2679780.

## Property Services

**SPAS R US**  
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See the **Phuket Gazette Online** at [www.phuketgazette.net](http://www.phuketgazette.net)

**NEW HOUSE 4 SALE**  
Situated on a quiet Rawai cul-de-sac, this 190-sqm, 2-bed house with 2 en-suite bathrooms has 590sqm of land, a living area, large kitchen and patio. Price 3.8 million baht. Tel: 09-8672462. Email: bluepktproperty@csloxinfo.com

## Properties For Rent

**TIRED OF HOTELS**  
Chalong holiday villa for short-term rental, daily or weekly rates. Email or call for details. Tel: 09-7059734. Email: thaihomefromhome.co.uk

**DOWNTOWN SPACE**  
for rent. 48 sqm, high ceiling, on ground floor of a new complex on Montri Rd, with parking. Call Prasert. Tel: 01-9886020.

**OFFICE/SHOWROOM**  
Office and showroom space available at The Courtyard. Please call or email for more information. Tel: 076-263-992, 01-8934200. Or fax: 076-263993. Email: info@thecourtyard-phuket.com

**PATONG BEACH**  
condo for rent. Furnished bathroom, kitchen, aircon. From 500 baht a day. Contact for more information. Tel: 01-5366713. Website: www.phuketaccommodation.net

**PATONG BEACH**  
1 studio apartment, kitchen, fully furnished, 350m from beach. 500 baht/day, 9,000 baht/month. Tel: 07-273-8944. Midday-6 pm. Email: chotip\_5@hotmail.com

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*To ensure clarity, please email. Do not Fax!*

# Island Job Mart

## Mechanical/Electrical Engineer (Phuket Based)

- Thai nationals only, age over 28 years old
- Min 7 yrs in construction & design
- Degree in Engineering/license preferred
- Capabilities to include all building services
- Able to provide M&E design concepts
- Able to provide site services monitoring
- Good written and spoken English essential

Email resumé, photo, expected salary & tel no to: efsi@loxinfo.co.th



## SEA-Entertainment

is currently looking to recruit  
a receptionist/secretary, to start as soon as possible. Thai nationals only need apply.  
All applicants should be made by email to: ceo@phuketentertainment.com

**JUNIOR ACCOUNTANT**  
wanted. We are an expanding company seeking a junior accounts assistant. Requirements: Thai national, diploma/degree in accounting, own motorbike/car, preferably some work experience. Please send your CV to apply. Email: info@asiadebit.com

**5-STAR RESORT**  
New 5-star boutique resort in Phuket is seeking to employ the following positions: Chef de Partie, Baker and Pastry Chef, Commis, Cooks, stewards. Tel: 076-333031. Email: alistair@aspasiaphuket.com

**SPA THERAPIST**  
Chandara by Lucky Paradise Co Ltd, a new exclusive residence situated at Laem Singh Beach is now looking for energetic people to fill the position of Spa Therapist. Requirements: minimum 5 years' experience with certified spa therapist, pleasant personality and service minded, good communication and interpersonal skills, good command of English language is essential. Please send your CV and recent photo. Tel: 076-279550-1. Fax: 076-279092. Email: nsapple@loxinfo.co.th

**DIVING INSTRUCTOR**  
PADI diving instructor couple required for our dive center on Phi Phi island. Please contact for more info. Email: tgspg@hotmail.com

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Call Sam in our Bangkok office on 02-2312618 Mon-Fri between 1 pm and 8 pm or email your application to liners0303@yahoo.com

**SALES EXECUTIVE FOR PHUKET & SAMUI**  
CPK Plantation, the producer and distributor of Chateau de Loei wine, offers excellent employment opportunities for ambitious candidates who are interested in a secure and rewarding career with this dynamic company to be based in Phuket and Samui. Requirements: university graduate, male or female; excellent command of written and spoken English; sales experience in alcoholic beverage market an advantage; enthusiastic, confident and desire to succeed. Applications together with recent photograph and expected salary should be sent to: Sales & Marketing Director, 7/4 Soi Soonvijai, Petchaburi Rd, Bangkok 10320. Tel: 02-7180433. Fax: 02-7182403. Email: marketing@chateaudeloei.com

**SPA MANAGER**  
wanted. A new luxury spa is now looking for a qualified spa manager, min 5 years' experience. Good salary and benefits. Tel: 01-3708632.

**URGENTLY REQUIRED**  
Marketing officer. Must be able to use MS Office and communicate well in English. For more information and to apply, call Tel: 076-289122.

**COOK WANTED**  
The Yorkshire Inn Hotel is looking for a good cook in Thai and European food. Please contact for more information and to apply. Tel: 076-340904, 076-345258.

**HOUSEKEEPER**  
Trainee Housekeeper required. Must be able to speak some English, be willing to work in Kathu and able to ride a motorbike. Good wages and work conditions. Please call for more info or to apply. Tel: 076-323214, 01-8540061.

**OFFICE REP.**  
We are looking for a young female with a good personality and fair English to work as an Office Representative. Salary: 8,000 baht per month. Please contact for more details and application. Tel: 076-263737. Fax: 076-224113. Email: recruitment@bowentraining.com

**MINIBUS DRIVER**  
required. Must speak English and be experienced, safe driver. Work 3 days a week, 12-hour shifts. 6,000 baht a month. Tel: 076-340904, 076-345258.

**STAFF WANTED**  
Sales person needed for busy diving retail shop. Must have good English skills. Diving experience is preferred. Please contact for an interview. Tel: 076-281401-2 or 01-0794137. Fax: 076-281400. Email: sdephuk@loxinfo.co.th

**MANGOSTEEN**  
Restaurant. We are seeking people to fill the positions of waiter/waitress. Must have at least 3 years' experience and good command of English. Tel: 076-289399. Fax: 076-289389. Email: hajo@mangosteens-phuket.com

**ADVERTISING SALES**  
Expanding young media company seeks Thai nationals aged 22 and over with a good command of written and spoken English for advertising sales positions. Experience in sales is an advantage and must have own transport. Good commission offered. To apply please send resumé by fax or email. Fax: 076-282240. Email: info@footprints-asia.com

**HR MANAGER**  
The Mangosteen Resort & Spa is seeking a Human Resources Manager with at least 5 years' experience and excellent command of English language (Thai nationals only). Knowledge of Thai labor law is required. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-289399. Fax: 076-289389. Email: hajo@mangosteens-phuket.com

**ADMIN ASSISTANT**  
English-speaking Thai required for accounting, payroll and marketing duties. Please contact to apply. Tel: 076-333197, 07-8810750. Fax: 076-331021. Email: tigercom@phket.loxinfo.co.th

## The Phuket Gazette

the island's English-language newspaper

The *Phuket Gazette* seeks to fill the following positions:

**Desk Editor.** The successful candidate will be a computer-savvy, native English speaker with high-quality writing skills and a passion for clear, accurate English. The job entails editing, laying out and proofreading editorial, classifieds and display advertisements.

**Reporter.** The successful candidate will be a Thai national with initiative, an outgoing personality and plenty of curiosity about the world and how it works. Also essential are the ability to communicate in English, both spoken and written, and a car driver's license.

Applications should be submitted by email to [alasdair@phuketgazette.net](mailto:alasdair@phuketgazette.net)

## Employment Wanted

### MANAGEMENT

Mature and analytically-minded Canadian male, university educated with a career in hospitality management ranging from upscale hotels to new business start-up, as well as hospitality design and contracting, is looking for work within these given fields. If you are seeking an energetic and trustworthy individual who is capable of getting the job done, then please call or email to discuss. Tel: 09-833-3673. Email: gee5440@yahoo.com



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A luxurious serviced apartments in the perfect prime area "Langsuan" is looking for a qualified candidate to join the team in the position of...

**ASSISTANT MANAGER**

- Male, age 25 - 35 years
- Willing to work long hours and split shift.
- Expatriate

Send your resume, recent photo and expected salary to :-

**General Manager**  
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# Tout, Trader & Trumpet

## Articles for Sale

**HANDMADE SILVER JEWELRY**  
Beautiful and unique, our charming handmade solid silver necklaces, bracelets and anklets are made by a locally-based designer. These highly desirable items are very reasonably priced between 1,000 and 3,000 baht. I can visit you in your home or office for personal viewing and selection. Please call for further details. Tel: 09-504-3307.

**LEAVING COUNTRY**  
Expat selling everything including oven, fridge, tools and kayak. Come and get an awesome deal before someone else does. Call for directions. Tel: 01-2715049. Email: mista\_p\_williams@yahoo.com

**PERSIAN RUGS**  
Handmade, 100% wool Persian rugs in 15 new styles from 5 different countries. I have agra, mahal, biejjar, jaipur, kazak, etc. Sizes up to 8x10ft. Prices from US\$ 200. Must be seen to appreciate. Tel: 01-8447549.

**HANDMADE SIGN**  
New to Thailand: home address sign handmade from exotic wood with a fiberglass finish. Price only 700 baht. Tel: 09-5944067.

**AUSTRALIAN OPAL**  
Quality, solid, Australian opal gemstone for quick sale. Valued at 80-90,000 baht but will sell for only 60,000 baht ono. Please contact for more details. Tel: 07-2744680. Email: harrykerylidis@yahoo.com.au

**ACOUSTIC GUITAR**  
Future semi-cutaway acoustic guitar with carry bag. Price: 3,000 baht. Tel: 06-2953965. Email: robinsbum@hotmail.com

**ITEMS FOR SALE**  
Deep freezer 5,000 baht, bamboo shelves 200 baht each, fridge 3,000 baht, motorbike Honda Wave 110, used only 1 year 25,000 baht and more, all these are in Trang. Tel: 09-7251661. Email: lumbalumba15@hotmail.com

**PADI ENCYCLOPEDIA**  
A must for all divemaster trainees and IDC candidates. Price: 800 baht or best offer. Please email me or call me, but please don't leave a message. Tel: 06-2768676. Email: sylvie\_yaffe@yahoo.com

**MOUNTAIN BIKES**  
2 well-maintained mountain bikes for sale (one alloy, one steel). They are in very good condition and fit for people 165cm to 178cm tall. Selling at only 7,000 baht for the alloy-frame and 4,500 baht for the steel frame. Tel: 076-292319. Email: Richi.s@bluemail.ch

**FURNITURE FOR SALE**  
Moving from Patong and have the following for sale: Sharp 29 inch TV w/VCD and TV cabinet; UBC satellite dish with receiver and card paid till 25 April '04; king-size bed with sheets, pillows and duvet covers; bedroom wardrobe and matching dressing table; Electrolux fridge/freezer; Samsung washing machine and spinner; electric kettle/toaster; rice cooker and oven-grill; pots, pans, dishes, cutlery, cooking utensils; desktop computer with speakers and Epson printer. All are in good condition. Good price for single sale. Tel: 09-873-5725. Email: danjock51@hotmail.com

**DIGITAL CAMERA**  
Sony Cyber-shot DSC-P12 for sale. Brand new, 1 photo taken. Tel: 09-7312938. Email: chris44@loxinfo.co.th

**CAMERA FOR SALE**  
Underwater camera for sale. Sea & Sea MX10 underwater camera with YS-40 strobe and hardbox for sale. All in very good condition. Price 10,000 baht ono. Tel: 07-2666432.

## Articles Wanted

**SWISS BALL WANTED**  
Would like to buy a Swiss ball or fit ball if anyone has an old one for sale or can steer me where to buy in Phuket. Tel: 09-9096219. Email: info@johngray-seacanoe.com

**TRAILER WANTED**  
Any kind of trailer to be pulled by a car, not only a boat trailer. Could be flat or a box or a car trailer. Please contact with details. Tel: 01-2734000. Email: bbonello@web.de


**MP3 PLAYER & MUSIC**  
wanted. I am looking for a MP3 player under 2,000 baht and some CDs of Britney Spears. Email: philip\_kicker@yahoo.co.uk

**A3 PAPER PRINTER**  
Digital printer for A3-size paper wanted. Prefer new, but would consider second-hand. Please contact with details. Tel: 01-8934200. Fax: 076-263993. Email: info@thecourtyard-phuket.com


## Boats & Marine



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Fax: 076-238974  
Email: insurance@thaimarine.com

**TAMAPRAO YACHT**  
for sale. Swedish-designed Tamaprao 36-foot fiberglass motor yacht with 2x200hp engines. Tel: 09-2002497.

**FIBERGLASS BOAT**  
Brand-new 36-foot center-console fiberglass speedboat for sale (without engines). Capacity: 25 passengers, ideal for commercial sight-seeing or scuba diving. Email: tgspg@hotmail.com

**EXCHANGE**  
World cruising yacht for land or house in Phuket, value around 3.3 million baht. Please phone for more information. Tel: 01-0891137. Email: rodrockets@hotmail.com

**BOAT FOR SALE**  
29-foot fiberglass motor yacht with Thai registration. 2 x 280hp Mercruiser engines. Price: 3.5 million baht ono. Please contact for more details. Tel: 076-239864. Email: hkmtkt@ksc.th.com

**URGENT SALE**  
Thai 40-foot sport fishing boat with a 300hp Hino diesel engine. Thai registered for charter. CB Radio, color fish finder, Zodiac, TV, etc. For sale: 400,000 baht ono. Email: thaihino-7@hotmail.com

**12M FISHING BOAT**  
Thai registered. 185hp Hino diesel engine, sonar and GPS. Tel: 07-8868938. Email: adamhalushka@hotmail.com

**BOAT TRAILER**  
for sale. Wooden trailer, less than 1 year old, suit 37-foot speedboat of up to 4 tons. Wheels need attention. Best offer can take it away. Tel: 076-254826, 01-8937027. Fax: 076-254827. Or Email: ianpotter@hotmail.com

**SAILBOAT**  
Fast, 25-ft fiberglass boat with Thai registration. Sleeps 4, toilet, pantry, full set of 5 like-new sails, 8hp outboard (like new), and hard-bottom inflatable dinghy with 3hp motor. Ready to go anywhere. Can be used as charter boat. US\$20,000. Tel: 06-9401860. Email: bigasail@samart.co.th

**SEARAY SD220**  
New Searay Sundeck 220, complete with trailer and accessories. Powered by 260hp, MPI Alpha I Mercruiser sterndrive. Smartcraft instrumentation and great looking boat features and amenities. Full warranty agreements for hull and engine. Fantastic boat for day use and watersports. Must see it to appreciate it. Tel: 076-239755, 01-9700583. Fax: 076-239756. Email: craigm@royalphuketmarina.com

**60FT BOAT FOR SALE**  
Thai-registered 60ft wooden fishing and dive boat with 40-person capacity. 12ft rubber dinghy with 15hp outboard, and aluminum boat with 40hp Yamaha outboard. Sale includes diving compressor tank and other items of dive gear. Tel: 074-731198.

**INFLATABLE BOAT**  
for sale. Nova Marine 450 Rib with a 50hp Mercury outboard, capable of 30 knots, in good working order. Imported to Thailand in June 2002. Call for more info. Tel: 01-18930272. Email: info@derani-yachts.com

**FLYBRIDGE CRUISER**  
Sleekly-styled family fly-bridge cruiser offering great layout and good lines. Powered by twin 150hp turbo diesels, she cruises at 25 knots with top speed of 30 knots. Thai registration. Asking price: US\$44,000 or the equivalent in Thai baht. Tel: 01-8924077. Email: franks@divesupply.com

**VITECH 72**  
1994 build. 4-cabin layout and spacious aft deck; large Detroit diesels (1,080hp each) and twin generators; large spacious engine room; nice cherry wood interior; presented in good condition. For further information, please see our website at: www.simpsonmarine.com or call Tel: 012-2971364, or email: simon.theseira@simpsonmarine.com

**30HP YAMAHA**  
9 months old, 25 hours running time. Perfect condition. Cost 95,000 baht new; will sell for 75,000 baht. Includes standard prop and Yamaha tank. Stainless-steel Solas prop also available, same age as engine. Cost 13,000 baht new; will sell for 9,500. Email: montykong@yahoo.com.hk

**GENERATOR & HULL**  
wanted. Secondhand 5hp portable diesel generator 220 vac. Must be in reasonable running condition. Secondhand speedboat hull in usable condition, with/without motor(s). Boston Whaler style would be good. Must be stable as it is for transport of materials. Hull speed should be minimum of 15 knots loaded. Tel: 06-2813502. Email: kds@loxinfo.co.th

**25FT FIBERGLASS BOAT**  
Fiberglass, inboard diesel, fishing boat. 105hp, fast, cheap to run, quiet and reliable. With trailer and Thai registration. Price: 270,000 baht. Please contact for further information. Tel: 01-8626954. Email: karom@libero.it

**HAYPALON DINGHY**  
3.5-meter Haypalon dinghy with fiberglass bottom for sale. 25hp Yamaha engine. Good condition. Must sell as I am leaving Thailand. Price only 100,000 baht. Tel: 077-375314, 06-0037368. Fax: 077-375314. Email: healingcircle@hotmail.com

**SPEEDBOAT FOR SALE**  
7.8 meters long. 2xYamaha 200hp V6 (completely refitted). Teak hull (completely rebuilt). Interior re-covered. Onboard toilet. Cool room. As new, price: 750,000 baht. Tel: 04-0568122, 01-8470655. Fax: 076-294108. Email: johan@phuket.ksc.co.th

## Bulletins

**FREE BOOKLET**  
The Murder of the Animals is the Death of Humans. The voice of the heart. Please order free booklet from The Word, POB5643, D-97006, Wuerzburg, Germany. Please see our website at www.universal-spirit.cc for further information. Email: hansgerodetti@yahoo.de

## Business Opportunities

**HOTEL PROPERTY FOR SALE**  
Would you like to own a hotel, restaurant and rental shop on Karon Beach? Easy foreign ownership, rapid company transfer. Please contact us for further information or see our website at www.geocities.com/hotelinparadise Tel: 01-6931136. Email: hotelinparadise@yahoo.com

**BAR/RESTAURANT**  
for sale. Two-story, 17-table bar and restaurant for sale in the best location near Robinson's. Monthly rent 12,000 baht. No key money. Price: 380,000 baht. Please call for more information. Tel: 01-9496092, 01-6931391. Email: pilar@loxinfo.co.th

**KAMALA BAR 4 SALE**  
Fully equipped Kamala bar for sale for 250,000 baht. Rent: 6,500 baht a month. Tel: 01-7374295, 01-8929524. Please contact for more information. Email: stevebragg28@hotmail.com

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shop for sale. Build your future with your own shop. For further details, please see our website at www.rangrong.com or Tel: 01-6893194. Email: 2810@mail.austria.com

**HANDICRAFT SHOP**  
Thai handicraft shop, with stock and lease, available. Any offer considered. Please contact for further information. Tel: 076-330376, 01-8951826. Email: faraway@phuket.ksc.co.th

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Issues & Answers

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# Tout, Trader & Trumpet



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### BAR FOR SALE

in Soi Crocodile, includes TV, fridge, 30 chairs, satellite TV, cool box, JBL speakers and any existing stock. Has 20 months left on contract. Good turnover and good profit margins. Price: 1.6 million baht negotiable. Tel: 076-292820, 01-8916842. Email: [davidhnelson@hotmail.com](mailto:davidhnelson@hotmail.com)

### PATONG PUB

and restaurant. Very well-located in the middle of a high-class hotel area. Good turnover, 110 seats, pool, darts, big screen, and fully equipped. Price: 3.2 million baht. Please call for details. Tel: 01-891-4381. Email: [savvadeeolivier@hotmail.com](mailto:savvadeeolivier@hotmail.com)

### 17-ROOM HOTEL

In a top location 80m from the beach, this 17-room hotel and restaurant is offered for sale at 11.7 million baht. Please contact for more details. Tel: 076-344305, 06-6848758. Email: [hfs@phuket1.de](mailto:hfs@phuket1.de)

### NAIL SALON

for lease. Located on main road in Patong area. Fully furnished and equipped. Two-year contract. 500,000 baht. Call Khun Jo for more details. Tel: 01-6383682 or 09-1164759.

### SOI EASY BARS

to rent. Monthly or daily from 1,500 baht/day, no key money. Includes electricity and water. Contact Nengo or visit the Kangaroo bar. Tel: 01-4772512.

### RESORT FOR SALE

A 12-bungalow resort including swimming pool, restaurant and bar, satellite TV on Koh Lanta with a 10-year lease offered at 4.5 million baht, price negotiable. Annual rent only 65,000 baht and very good high season business. Serious enquiries only please. See website at [www.papillonlanta.com](http://www.papillonlanta.com) for further information. Tel: 09-6403432. Email: [mail@papillonlanta.com](mailto:mail@papillonlanta.com)

### FARANG

restaurant to take over. Including equipment and many items. Tel: 06-2705064.

### FOR SALE

Nice bar and restaurant in Rawai, good location. For more information, please call. Tel: 06-2810205.

### BAR & RESTAURANT

for sale. Near Robinson department store in Phuket City. 2 floors, 2 aircons, 17 tables. Rent: 12,000 baht/month for one-year contract. Foreigners are welcome. Asking price: 270,000 baht. Tel: 01-6931391.

### PULLING UP STAKES

Selling Thai business license, plus real estate, at fraction of value. Please contact for more details. Email: [ken@adventure1.com](mailto:ken@adventure1.com)

### KATA BAR

Bar in Kata Center entertainment area for sale. Very good location. 800,000 baht. Rent is 6,000 baht/month. Tel: 07-8814415.

## Business Services

### VISA RUN TO RANONG

1,299 baht. Includes visa stamp fee, insurance, trip by boat and minibus (both in good condition), and lunch with soft drinks. Daily trip starts at 7 am at KFC at Tesco-Lotus supercenter. Please contact us for reservation. Tel: 076-289201 or 01-5352637. For further information, please visit our website: [www.phuketdir.com/expressvisaextension](http://www.phuketdir.com/expressvisaextension)

### CONSTRUCTION

Phuket Construction. Top notch local builder, 10 years' experience, excellent English. Call Noi. Tel: 07-2698492.

### LUXURY VISA RUN

to Ranong every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, starting at 8 am from The Yorkshire Inn Hotel, in Soi Sansabai, Patong. Air-conditioned minibus with surround music, TV, snacks and drinks. Price: 1,200 baht, including Burmese visa fee and boat crossing. Please book early. Tel: 076-340904 or 076-345258.

### OFFICE RENTAL

Office Xpress provides offices with high-speed Internet access for 5,900 baht/month. Tel: 076-282403. Email: [sales@officeexpress.org](mailto:sales@officeexpress.org)

### CARIBBEAN BANK

account. Can be opened using your real name or anonymously. Operative within 2 working days and major credit cards, business or private, are available. Fax USA: 001-1-43-54174354. Email: [caribbean@financier.com](mailto:caribbean@financier.com)

### AAA STORAGE

Safe and secure building, fully insured. We store motorbikes, electronics, furniture, boxes, etc. We sell padlocks and cardboard boxes. Contact Jesse. Tel: 06-7428743.

### HEALTHY HERBALIFE

Weight control, healthy nutrition, use it and earn money. Tel: 07-8054344. Email: [aafitform@hotmail.com](mailto:aafitform@hotmail.com)

## Computers

### ADSL MODEM

ADSL USB modem (BIPAC-701 C2) and ADSL splitter for sale. 4,000 baht. Never been used, still in the box. Please contact Khun Goy. Tel: 076-342636, 09-6451050. Email: [hoiclang@hotmail.com](mailto:hoiclang@hotmail.com)

### IBM FOR SALE

If you looking for a perfect computer then you are on the right track. For sale: imported IBM 205 8430 IBM Server 2.0 MHz. 1 Gigabyte RAM, DVD RDW, DVD, extra Rage XL PCI video card 120MB RAM, NEC LCD 1850E. Logitech cordless keyboard. Tel: 076-383813, 07-882 2597. Email: [euro-art-gallery@planet.nl](mailto:euro-art-gallery@planet.nl)



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### COMPUTER REPAIRS

Computer repairs, call-out services, upgrades, sales and tuition by UK technician. Please contact for more information. Tel: 09-4735080.

## Personal Services

### LEARN THAI AT HOME

From easy conversation to far more advanced learning. Coursework, cassettes and home-study materials provided by Joy, a charming Thai lady and ready to help. Please contact for a chat. Tel: 01-7971497. Email: [churee77@hotmail.com](mailto:churee77@hotmail.com)

### TEACHER AVAILABLE

School teacher with a degree in modern languages - English, Italian and French - available for summer courses and tuition. Tel: 01-2716990.

### MAKEUP STYLIST

Makeup stylist available to show you the right way to use cosmetics for weddings, parties and other special occasions. Tel: 076-280363, 01-933 4121.

## Personal Services Wanted

### NEED TRUCK DRIVER

to drive to Srisaket on April 20, deliver motorbike with 3 people and small amount of personal items. Fee: 8,000 baht plus fuel. Email: [dbradyh@yahoo.com](mailto:dbradyh@yahoo.com)

## Personals

### BACKGAMMON

players wanted for some exciting games. Please call or fax for more details. Tel: 076-386113 or 01-577 8443. Fax: 076-386114.

### FEMALE PENPAL

I'm looking for a female penpal. I'm 37 and live in Holland. Email: [sanor@ilse.nl](mailto:sanor@ilse.nl)

### 34-YEAR-OLD

European is looking for an Asian lady for life in Thailand or London. See my website: [www.misterjohny.com](http://www.misterjohny.com)

### NEW GAY MEN

We are two young and shy, but very attractive English males who have recently discovered that we are gay. Seeking energetic older men for friendship, good times, and fun and games. We are on Phi Phi Island. Call Matt 06-9516230 or Joni 05-167 1438 to meet.

### LOOKING FOR LOVE

A very handsome French gentleman - 39 years old, 1.85m tall, 80kg, blue eyes and blond hair - living in Canada, is looking for a romantic, well-educated and intelligent rare Asian dream beauty (model look) who wishes that a man will discover her soul and personality hidden behind her great and sexy beauty. I just came back from a long trip in Asia and will return this summer. If you wish to share a sincere friendship and a serious long-term relationship, please send a photo with your reply. Email: [neptune1964@hotmail.com](mailto:neptune1964@hotmail.com)

### LONELY BI GUY

Good looking Englishman, 27, seeks male or female for friendship and fun, and likes to roleplay. Sponge or stone. Tel: 09-7268471.

### SEEKING PENPAL

A female friend to correspond with. I'm from USA. Email: [rbowhunter@yahoo.com](mailto:rbowhunter@yahoo.com)

## Pets

### ROTTWEILLERS

seeking home. We are forced to move to another house and need to find someone suitable to adopt our two kind and intelligent Rottweillers. A male of 7 years and a female of 4 years. These well-trained dogs (Phuket Dogs School) are looking for a home with someone who will give them the care and affection they deserve. They are the perfect solution as a security guard of a large property. Absolutely not dangerous with people who take care of them properly. We do not ask for money. If interested, please contact me, Wunnida. Tel: 076-381792, 06-6895837. Email: [giancarl@turbo.cscoms.com](mailto:giancarl@turbo.cscoms.com)

### ABUSED PUPPY

needs home. Dumped at a hotel taxi stand and rescued from abuse by the drivers, this gorgeous girl puppy needs a loving home. Black with symmetrical tan markings; approx 5 weeks of age. Shows very good personality towards people and other dogs. Vaccination and spaying will be done free of charge. Please contact for details. Tel: 09-8959965. Email: [margot@loxinfo.co.th](mailto:margot@loxinfo.co.th)

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### OPEL KADETT

1800cc 4-door saloon, alloy wheels, steel gray, fuel injection, electric windows, power steering, good aircon, 1993, excellent condition, superb acceleration on Phuket hills. 120,000 baht. Tel: 07-279-7407. Email: anitawhooley@hotmail.com

### VOLVO 460 GLT

Very good condition, 5 years old, ABS, automatic. Perfect, safe, family car. 320,000 baht ono. Tel: 01-8933462. Email: tempthai@yahoo.com

## VOLVO 940GL



Manual. Serviced only by Volvo. 1993, low mileage, excellent condition. Silver color. Price: 299,000 baht. Tel: 076-240612. Email: interval@loxinfo.co.th

## TOYOTA ALTIS 1.8 LITER

Toyota Corolla Altis Model 1.8G WTi VSC (top of range). New in September 27, 2001, metallic silver, CD player/radio, aircon, one owner, first-class condition. 720,000 baht. Tel: 076-260208, 07-0142913. Fax: 076-260208. Email: sam@canavan.com

## TOYOTA CORONA

for sale. Dark green, 1600cc, 1994 model, GLI. 280,000 baht for quick sale. Email: tarineet@lagunaphuket.com

## ISUZU FOR SALE

Isuzu stationwagon. 2500cc diesel. Big, good car. Tel: 09-9700357. Email: sture@2vikings.net

## Pickups

**CARRYBOY MIGHTY-X** van. 2500cc, 5 seats + 4, double aircon, MP3/VCD, TV, power amp, 6 speakers, new paint and mag wheels. 90,000km. 1996 model. 285,000 baht. Tel: 075-631-994, 06-8202663. Email: colombattofabio@hotmail.com

## 4 x 4s

### SUZUKI CARIBIAN

for sale. White, 1992 model. 165,000 baht, incl first-class insurance. Tel: 06-2810205.

### KIA SPORTAGE 4X4

Dark-green, 1996 Kia Sportage for sale. Top-of-the-range model in excellent condition with sports wheels, aircon, and CD player. A bargain at 340,000 baht. Tel: 01-958-3690. Email: bathman555@hotmail.com

### SPORTSRIDER

Toyota Sportsrider, 10 months old, immaculate condition. 16k on clock. 1 owner. Roof rack and fenders. Leather seats. Gold color. 920,000 baht ono. Tel: 06-2697284. Email: kathwafer@hotmail.com

### SUZUKI CARIBIAN

for sale. 1991 model, good condition. Regularly serviced and maintained. White color. 130,000 baht. Tel: 076-296-619, 09-8735947.

## Motorbikes

### HONDA MOTORBIKES

for sale. Honda 400 CBR 67,000 baht, Honda 400 Superfour 75,000 baht. Excellent condition. Tel: 09-4729740.

### KAWASAKI VULCAN

1500cc, black, year 1998, original 8,700km, new tires. Tel: 076-386113, 01-5778443.

## HONDA WAVE 100

New September 2003. Silver color. Only 3,900km. Electric starter. Disc brake on front wheel. The bike is as new. 28,500 baht. Tel: 076-258343. Email: hwa39@loxinfo.co.th

## TIGER MOTORBIKE

Tiger 120cc, blue, 8,900km, 1 year and 3 months old. Only 23,500 baht for quick sale. Tel: 01-6912881. Email: condotel@web.de

## YAMAHA TZR 150CC

Red and white, 4 years old, well taken care of and in good condition. Comes with matching full face Index helmet. Asking 30,000 baht. Contact me for a test drive. Tel: 076-911323. Email: neilmac42@hotmail.com

## HONDA CB1 400CC

Good looking and well maintained. New back tire. The bike is in good condition. Now only 59,000 baht - cash. Tel: 076-292319. Email: richi.s@bluemail.ch

## YAMAHA SCOOTER

Mio model, year 2003, blue, disc brake, red plate, 500km. Very good condition. Tel: 04-0586665. Email: doctor@hotmail.com

## HONDA WAVE

Honda Wave 125cc, electric starter, blue color. Only 16 months old and lightly used with only 9,800km on the clock. Has been regularly maintained by Honda dealer. Never dropped and looks like new. Cost: 46,000 baht. Will accept 32,000 baht. Can be viewed in Patong. Tel: 076-296619 (English), 07-926-6088. Email: alangoldsbrough@hotmail.com

## HONDA STEED 600

Totally rebuilt Steed 600 for sale. Airbrush, 2-caliper behind, long fork, lots of chrome, very beautiful. Tel: 09-970-0357.

## Van & Mini-buses

### FORD TRANSIT

for sale. Ford Transit 12-seat minibus, VIP fittings - 5 seats, leather upholstery, table and sound/video equipment. UK manufactured 1997, 2000cc, 76hp, metallic gray color, maintained with original spare parts. Special offer. Email: paradise@loxinfo.co.th

## Others

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Looking for a four-door, short-bed pickup. I need an automatic, preferably no more than three years old. Email: troysai@yahoo.com

### SMALL CAR WANTED

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Car on hire-purchase basis or for long-term rent in good condition. My budget is about 13,000 baht a month, maximum. Email: blueskies10000@hotmail.com

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