

The Phuket Gazette

Volume 11 Issue 25

News Desk - Tel: 076-236555

June 19 - 25, 2004

Daily news at www.phuketgazette.net

20 Baht

The Gazette is published in association with

The **Nation**

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Patong to hold new elections

By Gategaeo Phetsawang

PATONG: Thailand's Central Election Committee (CEC) has declared the Patong Municipal elections of February 8 void and handed "yellow card" warnings to both parties in the poll.

On June 11, the decision was passed to the apparent winners, the Patong Progress Party (PPP) of Songserm Kepsap, and to the rival Rak Patong Party (RPP) of Pian Keesin. A new election date was set for June 20, and both parties immediately began frantic campaigning.

The Chairperson of the Phuket Election Committee (PEC), Dr Prapa Kayee, announced the decision in a press conference at Phuket Provincial Hall on June 15. She said the poll results had been voided because the election was found to have been "unclean and unfair". She declined to give further details.

Dr Prapa said that the reason for the short campaign period was to give politicians and their supporters less opportunity to break campaign laws again. The PEC, she added, has been watching every candidate from both parties carefully since June 11.

"This is the third election for Patong Municipality [in 19 months] and we hope to settle things this time. There were problems in the past two elections and we don't want to see a fourth election," she said.

She pointed out that Patong Municipality spent at least 800,000 baht on the last election and will have to spend at least 500,000 baht more this time around. This was money, Dr Prapa said, that should have been



SECONDS OUT, ROUND 2: Songserm Kepsap (left) and Pian Keesin have been ordered to try again.



used to develop Patong instead.

K. Pian told the *Gazette*, "Frankly, there are some people who have problems, so I don't believe this coming election will be clean.

"If they want to be thieves, they must avoid being caught. And if they have been caught already, they shouldn't be mad at the officers [of the CEC and the PEC] just because they themselves are thieves."

K. Pian added that voters are already bored of elections. The June 20 poll will allow only a short period for people to understand the election process, he said. "However, it's a good thing that candidates won't have much time to contravene regulations in this election."

PPP leader K. Songserm was "too busy campaigning to talk to the press," said one of his

deputies, Somkiat Kuru. But K. Somkiat added that the party was "stunned" by the CEC's decision to call a new election.

"We state emphatically that we were not involved in [vote-buying]," he said. He explained that a supposed supporter of the PPP who had allegedly offered 3,000 baht per vote to local people was in fact closely affiliated to the RPP. The CEC had, in effect, been tricked.

"However," he added, "we respect the CEC's decision to call a new election."

K. Somkiat added that the people of Patong are beginning to understand the truth and lose faith "in a person who has done wrong so often in the past, so they won't vote for that person in the coming election."

Patong has had a torrid
Continued on page 2

Postmen under fire for poor service

By Siripansa Somboon

PHUKET: The postal service in Phuket is coming under increasing criticism from customers frustrated with poor service standards, incompetence or theft.

The *Gazette* has recently received a steady stream of complaints about the problem.

Ellen Castagno from Karon queried why she and her neighbors have to visit their local post office to collect their telephone bills instead of having them delivered.

Shannon Bunni asked why she was told that she had a package only after it had been returned to the sender, having sat at her local post office for two months.

Others have complained about mail, most pressingly credit card and utility bills, being delivered en masse and after payment was due.

Representatives of the postal service were able to offer little by way of solution or explanation to these concerns.

The postal center in Surat Thani has regional responsibility for Phuket. Spokesperson Somjit Treessinnurak told the *Gazette*, "We care about how the public perceive our service but we cannot solve all of the problems, particularly concerning post sent from abroad.

"I would ask anyone with a grievance to direct their complaint to the Post Master in Surat Thani," she concluded.

Visal Pongtiwattanakul, Post Master of Phuket Post Office, said, "We want to solve customers' problems over lost or returned mail but are hampered because customers are unable to

Continued on page 2



Don't miss it... **Phuket & Samui PROPERTY EXPO**

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Skeleton believed to be missing Dutchman

CHALONG: A skeleton found on June 10 near Yanui Beach is believed to be that of missing Dutch dive instructor David Wiewel.

Local people found the remains at about 5pm while looking for shellfish, said Pol Col Chalit Kaewyarat, Superintendent of Chalong Police Station.

The colonel said that it was impossible to tell from the remains whether foul play was involved, but investigators who had combed the area could find no signs of violence.

The wife and relatives of Mr Wiewel, who disappeared on March 26 after walking out of his



David Wiewel disappeared on March 26.

Kata home, identified shoes and clothing found with the body as his, and provided Mr Wiewel's dental records to police.

"The remains, the clothing [and the dental records] will be sent to Bangkok for autopsy and identification," Col Chalit said. This, he said, would take

about a month.

When asked whether he believed the skeleton was that of Mr Wiewel, he said, "Probably. The remains were found not far from his home and he is the only person reported missing in the Chalong area in recent months."

- Sangkhae Leelanaporn

Marine alliance sets new action agenda

PHUKET: After successfully lobbying the government to drop the customs duty and excise tax on imported boats to zero, the Marine Alliance of Thailand (MAT) has marked its first anniversary by outlining a new policy agenda to further promote Thailand's marine tourism industry.

In a statement released by chairman Kevin Quilty, the MAT listed its new aims as follows:

- To promote Thailand as a top marine tourism destination by cooperation with the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT). The effort will include attending road shows, boat exhibitions and other promotional activities.

- To develop a five-year plan, for submission to the TAT, to develop Thailand as a top marine tourism destination.

- To continue lobbying efforts to make regulations more attractive to yachtsmen and develop better relations with government agencies.

- To lobby the Customs Department for duty-free import of boat-building materials in order to promote the domestic pleasure craft building industry.

- To assist and support training of yacht crews to international standards of safety and service.

- To promote environmental protection and awareness through education, in recognition of the fact that the entire industry depends on a healthy marine environment.

- To serve as an advisory group to government offices, businesses and individuals considering moving to or investing in Thailand.

For more information contact Jan Jacobs at email: broker@thaimarine.com.

Leading researchers to attend Aids talks

By Anongnat Sartpisut

NAIYANG: Professors John and Deborah Greenspan, acknowledged as among the world leaders in the field of oral manifestations of HIV infection, will attend the 5th World Workshop on Oral Health and Disease in Aids conference at the Pearl Village Hotel from July 6-10.

The couple have been involved in HIV research since the early 1980s, when the first cases of HIV infection were recognized in San Francisco.

Today, Prof John Greenspan is the Director of the Oral Aids Center (OAC) at the University of California, San Francisco, while his wife is the OAC's Clinical Director.

Prof Krassanai Wangrangsimakul, former Dean of the Prince of Songkla University's faculty of dentistry and chairman of the local organizing committee for the event, said that he expects at least 250 other experts

from more than 30 countries to also attend the conference.

Among them will be Prof Stephen Challacombe, Director for External Development and Clinical Professor of Oral Medicine, Pathology, Immunology, Radiology & Human Disease at Guy's, King's & St Thomas' Dental Institute at King's College London.

Prof Krassanai said, "Thailand is honored to be the host of this workshop. It will be the first time that it will be held in Asia. Thailand has shown the world that it has well-developed knowledge of Aids and intends to prevent it from spreading."

He explained that the event was originally scheduled to be held in Haad Yai, but that unrest in the southern provinces had prompted organizers to hold it in Phuket instead.

The workshop, which is held every four years, is aimed at giving HIV/Aids experts the opportunity to evaluate the devel-

opment of Aids-prevention medicines and techniques.

"In the workshop we will explore the development of using saliva tests, instead of using only blood tests. Saliva tests provide quite accurate results, although the results must be confirmed by other methods," Prof Krassanai explained.

He added that experts will lobby for the medication needed by HIV victims to stave off Aids to be included under the 30-baht scheme. Between 30,000 and 40,000 people in Thailand have full-blown Aids, he said.

"In Thailand, about 500,000 people are infected with HIV, but the ages of Aids sufferers are also scary because they range from [secondary school upwards]," he added.

Many of the experts scheduled to attend the Phuket workshop are also expected to attend the 15th International Aids Conference in Bangkok from July 11 to 16.

Patong goes to polls a third time

From Page 1

time with its politicians in the past two and a half years, ever since K. Pian lost a budget vote on October 22, 2001, forcing his resignation as mayor.

Three days later, the Municipal Council elected Surasak Maneesri as his successor.

On June 23, 2002, during campaigning for polls on November 16, K. Surasak escaped unharmed when a gunman fired four shots into his Mercedes-Benz outside Tesco-Lotus, in an apparent assassination attempt.

Some newspapers reported allegations that he staged the "hit" in order to garner sympathy votes. K. Surasak vehemently denied this and challenged K. Pian to sit in a car while he fired bullets at it. K. Pian demurred.

On October 2, six weeks before the election, then-Interior Minister Purachai Piemsomboon, after considering allega-

tions of corruption, ordered K. Surasak to step down.

A month later, a court "red-carded" K. Surasak, barring him from political office for five years. It also found proven allegations that he had paid councillors to oust K. Pian in October 2001.

K. Surasak's brother Chalerm Sak stepped into his shoes as last-minute mayoral candidate, with K. Surasak as "adviser". On November 16, K. Chalerm Sak and his party won.

But K. Chalerm Sak was mayor for only a year. In November last year he was ordered out after courts found allegations of electoral cheating proven.

The following month, fresh elections were called for February 8 this year. These elections were won by newcomer K. Songserm and the PPP, which hand-somely beat the RPP.

For four months this election was investigated, resulting in this week's declaration of "poll void" by the CEC.

Mutterings over mail

From Page 1

provide enough details about the items in question.

"[Customers] must provide us with EMS (Express Mail Service) or equivalent document numbers to trace items that have not arrived. Items that are not registered cannot be traced.

"I suggest the sender write his telephone number and that of the intended recipient on the mail. Then we can always telephone the addressee to let him know that he has mail," he said.

One disgruntled customer, who wished to remain anonymous said, "Every time I order

something over the Internet, for example, I have to have the sender provide me with all details - date, time, place sent from - of the package just to have an idea of where it is. Even then, items still go missing."

A spokesperson for the Damrongtham Center, which handles complaints about state employees, said, "Although we have never had a complaint about mail services, we can help.

"Customers can either send their complaints to us at the Provincial Hall, or put them in the special complaints box outside the Governor's residence."

Zoning II seminar postponed

PHUKET: The Nation/Phuket Gazette seminar entitled "Can Zoning Save Phuket? Part II", due to take place on June 25, has been postponed because the keynote speaker, Deputy Prime Minister Thammarak Isarangkura, will be unable attend on that date.

The Nation and the Gazette regret the delay, and will announce a new date as soon as possible.

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Nurse Suchita 'Few' Makpong with baby Tossawat.

Abandoned baby doing fine

PHUKET CITY: A baby boy, thought to be about two days old, was found abandoned on top of a dog kennel at a house close to Phuket Rajabhat University on the evening of June 9.

Pranee Sonsuk was in her home when she heard her dog barking and the more unexpected sound of a baby crying. She rushed the rain-soaked infant to Bangkok Phuket Hospital.

Panee Sithigan, a senior officer of the Phuket Provincial Social Development and Welfare Office, told the *Gazette* the following day, "The baby is now safe and will stay in hospital until he gets stronger."

"Phuket has no orphanage suitable for such a young child, so he will become the ward of the Songkhla Provincial Public Welfare Office until his mother is traced.

"If she cannot be found, then he may be put up for adoption," she added.

The little boy spent the first few days after his rescue in an incubator but on June 14 was deemed strong enough not to need intensive care.

Emergency room staff named the baby "Tossawat", meaning "Decade", as the hospital had just celebrated its 10th anniversary. — *Siripansa Somboon*

Jilted tourist kills himself

PATONG: A young Norwegian tourist was found hanged in his room at the Baan Pornpateep rooming house on Taweewong Rd, Patong, at about 12.30 pm on June 11.

Thomas Andreassen, aged about 21, apparently attached a rope to the shower head in the bathroom and hanged himself after his heart was broken by his Thai girlfriend.

Pol Lt Col Chawalit Niemwadee of Kathu Police Station told the *Gazette*: "We received a call from the caretaker of Baan Pornpateep to say that he had found Mr Andreassen hanging in his room."

"Near the body was a letter in which he stated that that he was depressed about his girlfriend and had decided to commit suicide.

"The body is in Patong Hospital and the Norwegian Embassy has been contacted. They have told us that his parents will come from Norway soon to collect the body," Col Chawalit added.

— *Siripansa Somboon*

Port Blair talks end on optimistic note

By Dhirarat Boonkongsae

PORT BLAIR: Talks between a visiting Thai delegation and their counterparts in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands ended with no formal agreement but nevertheless on a distinctly positive note.

Led by Phuket Governor Udomsak Usawarangkura, the 63-strong Thai delegation, including local and central government representatives, private sector figures and naval personnel, and , visited the islands' capital, Port Blair, from June 11 to 13.

Gov Udomsak told the *Gazette* that all issues discussed would be tabled again during summit talks at the rescheduled Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand Economic Cooperation (Bimstec) talks to be held in Bangkok in July.

But although the talks reached no definite conclusion, an accord between the Port Blair and Phuket administrations was signed on June 12.

Gov Udomsak and his opposite number from the islands' administration, S Hemachandran, promised to work more closely in areas of common interest, such as tourism, fisheries, trade and investment, and protection of natural resources and the environment.

Phuket's governor offered an upbeat appraisal of the three-day meeting: "Our local-level talks on issues previously discussed by our two countries' prime ministers were productive," he said.

Gov Udomsak said that Thailand and India, which administers the islands, would share skills and knowledge on information and communications technology, and that Indian experts would be invited to work in Phuket under the aegis of the Software Industry Promotion Agency (Sipa).



Phuket Governor Udomsak Usawarangkura (right) shakes hands with his Andaman & Nicobar Islands counterpart, S Hemachandran, at the conclusion of their 'productive' talks.

He added that scholarships may be offered to students from Port Blair to study tourism management at the Prince of Songkhla University's Phuket Campus.

Transport links between the islands were also discussed. Following a free trade agreement signed last October by Thailand and India, the number of chartered or scheduled flights between the Andamans and Phuket is due to increase.

But Busara Dusadeeisriyawong, Phuket Branch Manager of Phuket Air, admitted, "It's just not cost-effective to fly there yet because there is virtually no market [at the moment]. It doesn't follow that more fre-

quent flights will immediately result in increased numbers of passengers.

She cited landing fees at Port Blair as a major obstacle. "Landing fees are very high, roughly 80,000 baht, compared with 20,000 baht in Phuket.

"The aircraft we [Phuket Air] would use for the Phuket-Port Blair route carry 64 passengers. Even on a full flight we would still be paying over 1,000 baht per passenger in landing fees," she concluded.

Remaining optimistic, Gov Udomsak said that he hoped to see the Andaman and Nicobar Islands becoming established as part of the Phuket sailing, diving and luxury cruising itinerary.

Michael Learns To Postpone

CHERNG TALAY: Danish pop group Michael Learns To Rock have postponed their charity concert, slated to take place at Laguna Phuket on July 2, due to unforeseen scheduling problems.

Announcing the postponement, Laguna Hotels & Resorts

said today that ticket holders could obtain refunds at the Canal Village Shopping Centre.

The concert is being rescheduled for September, on a date yet to be confirmed.

For additional information call Tel: 076-324453-7.

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Queer News

Testosterone tears

CHON BURI: Without an elephant gun, there isn't much protection against a charging elephant – unless another elephant comes to your aid. And that's exactly what happened recently in Saththahip district, where a sex-crazed male elephant attacked his intended mate's handler in what was described in the Thai press as a "fit of possessive rage".

On June 6, Dr Alongkorn Mahanop, regarded by many as Thailand's top elephant doctor, reported that mahout Lee Kingkeat, 50, was riding his beloved 40-year-old cow elephant, Phang Sao, to a romantic rendez-vous with bull elephant Plai Liu. Both animals work the streets in the local tourist trade, now that their traditional work in the forest has largely disappeared.

The elephantine love match was to take place near an abandoned building behind Krung Thai village, where Plai Liu was waiting "in rut".

For those unfamiliar with the ways of elephant sex, being "in rut" (also known by the Indian term "musth") is not to be confused with being "in a rut", which for humans males might conjure up images of a middle-aged wife in hair curlers and face cream saying, "Not tonight dear, I have a headache."

Human males are almost always ready to mate – as human females know all too well. But it's very different for male elephants, whose desire for sex goes in cycles. Being "in rut" is more akin to what *Star Trek's* Mr. Spock used to go through with his PonFar episodes, in which he suffered from periods of uncontrollable aggression resulting from his all-encompassing desire for sex.

So overwhelmed are bull elephants in rut that their temporal glands become swollen and excrete tears so rich in hormones that they give off a strong smell – testosterone tears. The condition, while rare in human males, has been noted in some foreign tourists visiting Soi Bangla for the first time.

When a bull elephant is in rut, it's not a good time to try passing under him three times for good luck: you might find your path blocked by the largest penis in the animal kingdom, extended in its full glory – and that's if he doesn't decide to trample you first.

When K. Lee rode to the meeting point atop Phang Sao, he quickly learned that Plai Liu was in no mood for foreplay.

The elephant saw K. Lee as an interloper and flung him to the ground. As the other mahouts ran for cover, K. Lee ran to a nearby pickup truck for cover, but Plai Liu continued his attack.

Fearing for K. Lee's life, Phang Sao courageously protected her mahout by coming between him and Plai Liu. And she paid the price, being gored by Plai Liu's tusks and suffering wounds to the torso, back and right legs. She was treated by Dr Alongkorn, who noted that Plai Liu should have been kept chained up while in such a state.

K. Lee said Phang Sao was ready to sacrifice herself to protect him because they had developed such a close relationship over the years.

It was not reported if Plai Liu ever found a release for his built-up sexual tension.

Source: *Khao Sod*

New realities for

Phuket has been a center for scuba diving since the early 1970s, but now many in the industry believe that it has reached maturity and that its chief hope for the future lies in marketing itself as the prime hub for diving in the Andaman Sea.

Gategaeo Phetsawang and Anongnart Sartpisut report.

The Phuket diving industry has grown and matured over the past decade, but as this year's high season comes to an end, industry experts have different opinions about the potential for continued growth and profits.

It seems that the majority feel that the market is saturated, and some have noted a division into two market segments: upper-end and low-budget.

All agree, however, on the need to preserve coral reefs at undisturbed dive sites and to rehabilitate damaged reefs.

Meanwhile, the Professional Association of Dive Instructors (PADI), which has developed into the dominant certifying body in Thailand, now faces a serious challenge from a Thai-based certification agency affiliated with PADI rival Confédération Mondiale des Activités Subaquatiques (CMAS, which bears the official – and futuristic-sounding English translation – "World Underwater Foundation").

Jürgen Schenker, PADI Course Director at Dive Asia in



Kata and Vice-President of the Phuket chapter of the Dive Operators' Club of Thailand (DOCT), remains optimistic that there is still room for expansion of Phuket's dive industry, which already has at least 80 operators – 48 of them DOCT members.

"Phuket can be called one of the top 10 diving destinations in the world, especially if diving sites in the Andaman Sea are included.

"It has everything that other diving destinations offer, plus an international airport, good logistics, other activities to enjoy – and the Thai people themselves," he told the *Gazette*.

Mr Schenker said diving standards in Phuket are generally quite high. In order to become DOCT members, he said, interested businesses must be registered with the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT), provide insurance for customers, be affiliated with a hyperbaric chamber facility in order to treat divers suffering from decompression sickness, and meet standards set by an internationally-recognized

certifying agency, such as PADI, CMAS or NAUI (the US-based National Association of Underwater Instructors).

He thinks the number of people coming to Thailand to dive will continue to increase, along with the number of dive operators. He said this would be due in part to the work the TAT has done abroad in promoting Phuket as a dive destination.

Donning scuba gear isn't the only way to see what the world beneath the waves has to offer. Surin Bamrunpon, Director of Phuket Submarine, conducted a good deal of market research on the diving industry in Phuket before launching Phuket Submarine.

He said that only 2% of visitors to Phuket carry certification from agencies such as PADI, and that his company's tours – which operate year-round – are intended to tap the remaining 98%.

He said, "The diving industry in Phuket has grown continually. Coral Island [Koh Hei] alone can get as many as 1,000

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the dive industry



The stunning beauty of the underwater world of the Andaman coast keeps attracting divers. But many believe the market is saturated.

– Photo courtesy Phuket Marine Biological Center

“If the agreement is a success, it could benefit the Phuket dive industry,” he added.

He told the *Gazette* that, rather than trying to speculate too much about the industry’s future prospects, he felt it would be better to focus efforts on environmental protection.

Damage to coral reefs by trawlers and the theft of reef fish to be put on display in aquariums were two major problems that need to be addressed, he said, adding that damaged reefs take five to 10 years to recover.

“As long as we can sustain our natural resources, there will always be people coming to Phuket to dive,” he said.

Chusak Wongwai, Operation Manager of tour agency Asian Trails, told the *Gazette* that he didn’t think the Phuket dive industry would grow much more.

“Most tourists who visit Phuket just go snorkeling,” he said, noting that the number of dive sites piquing the interest of serious divers continues to move further and further away from Phuket’s shores.

K. Chusak estimated that diving arrivals continue to increase 5% to 10% annually, but that despite the growth, diving excursions accounted for only about 5% of Asian Trail’s total business. He added that he expects the number of dive operators to level off, along with the number of tourists who come to Phuket for diving.

Patrick Catellani, Managing Director of Rawai-based Colona Diving & Tours, said his firm had given up on Phuket dive sites altogether because the water is unclear and the dive sites overcrowded. Colona now runs liveboard trips to the Similans.

tourists a day. There are many levels of divers [coming here], and those who have never dived are [sometimes] stimulated to learn when they arrive,” he said.

Phuket Tourist Association (PTA) Vice-President Panu Maswongsa, who is the PTA’s consultant on the dive industry and a NAUI-certified diver himself, agrees that the waters near the coast of Phuket may no longer be that appealing to some divers, but said that the island can still serve as a regional diving hub.

“Phuket cannot not sell itself solely on its dive sites. We have to find alternative destinations,” he said, adding that he was planning a trip to Port Blair to explore ways to establish links that would bring the Andaman & Nicobar Islands into a ring of relatively unspoiled dive destinations – with Phuket as the hub.

He also suggested that TAT efforts to promote Phuket as home to world-class dive sites should change to reflect the actual situation, and instead market Phuket as a good place to learn diving and as the jump-off point for dive sites along the Andaman coast.

Another dive outfit that caters to divers seeking clean water and undisturbed dive sites is Kingfisher Marine, whose Managing Director, Jean Kingston, agreed that the market has become largely saturated.

His company has no interest in competing in the low end of the market, he said, and was also now using its fleet of vessels for non-diving excursions.

“This industry grew 10% annually over the past five years, but now it’s difficult to grow or expand the market [further]. Perhaps just 1% a year,” he said.

“We also face [increasing] competition from outside Thailand, where many new diving places are opening up,” Mr Kingston said. “Divers usually want to explore new destinations.”

He also noted that the Phuket market now appears to be dividing into two distinct segments, one for “budget divers” and the other targeted at the high end of the market.

He said that the Similan Islands, although they can still be classified among the top dive destinations because of their variety, are in danger of losing their appeal and becoming damaged as more and more “low-budget” operators run dives in the area.

He said this segment often sacrificed standards when cutting costs, and that the reefs suffered as a result.

He estimated that at least 70% of the Phuket diving market catered to low-budget market, but that Phuket as a whole was still seen as an up-market location compared with other parts of Thailand.

PADI dominance faces challenge

While the scuba diving certification and instruction company PADI has long enjoyed a virtual stranglehold on the Phuket market, it is now faced with a challenge from a new agency, the CMAS Thailand Diving Association (CTDA).

CTDA President Chaturathep Khowinthawong said that it was now possible for divers and dive instructors to become certified through CTDA’s international affiliate CMAS, which has 120 member associations worldwide, including Scuba Schools International (SSI) and Germany’s IDA.

K. Chaturathep maintains that certification through CTDA will mean that the millions of baht that currently leave the country through operations such as PADI would stay in Thailand, a point that is sure to make the Thai government look favorably upon the newcomer.

“People who learn diving [and are certified by] foreign diving organizations [in Thailand] have resulted in about 500 million baht being sent to countries such as Canada and Australia over the past 10 years,” he said.

“A [PADI] diving certificate costs at least 800 baht per diver. [CTDA] will keep that money in the country and use it to help preserve our country’s natural resources,” he said.

Asked how this would be accomplished and what projects the fledgling organization had in mind, he said these were still in the planning stages, but that they would be conducted with help from the Royal Thai Navy.

Phuket Submarine’s K. Surin said he supports certification through CTDA because most dive firms in Phuket are owned by and cater to foreigners. So, he concludes, most of the income

generated by the industry is of no benefit to Thais.

“[Foreigners] use our resources and take our income. We should have an association to control the number of non-Thai diving companies.

“It would be good to see [more] Thai people operating dive companies and taking care of our own marine ecosystems,” he said. “But now most Thai divers just serve PADI, which is a business organization,” he said.

“We don’t know how many dive companies there are or whether they are properly licensed. And we don’t know if the dive instructors really have sufficient knowledge to teach diving,” he said.

The PTA’s K. Panu appears to view PADI’s presence in a different, less nationalistic light.

“Some Thais feel that the diving industry attracts many foreign divers to this country, and that only non-Thais benefit.”

He believes, however, that the problem is more linguistic than imperialistic.

“Naturally, when people learn to dive they will have more confidence in an instructor with whom they can communicate. In the same way, Thais learning to dive generally use Thai diving instructors,” he said.

“We need to improve our own human resources, especially foreign-language skills,” he said.

He added that associations such as PADI, NAUI or CTDA should be allowed to compete. The one with the best administration and ability to earn the trust of divers would win in the end.

K. Panu also played down the amount of revenue that is “lost” to PADI.

“PADI is just a certification body. Most income generated through diving goes to the dive operators certified by PADI, not to PADI itself,” he said.

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By Sangkhae Leelanaporn

Before the advent of modern anesthetics, people tended to avoid the dentist's chair like the plague, and with good reason. They feared going through a painful experience like the one Dustin Hoffman's character suffered in the 1970s thriller *Marathon Man*.

Today, for many people dental care is little more than brushing the teeth a few times each day, flossing once in a while, and hoping to avoid cavities. Trips to the dentist come once or twice a year and most people are happy just to have a decent set of choppers in their skull as they begin to reach old age.

But all that has changed, and modern dentistry's answer to the question, "Is it safe?" is an emphatic "yes". And not only are modern dentistry and orthodontics painless, but advances in cosmetic dentistry can really enhance one's appearance and improve confidence.

A wide range of such services are now available at the newly-opened Phuket Cosmetic Dental Clinic on Hongyok U-Thit Rd in Samkong, an area which is rapidly establishing itself as the epicenter of Phuket's growing healthcare center.

The clinic is a partnership between Managing Director Dr Yada Palimapun, who has run a clinic in the area for years, and five other well-established Phuket dentists.

Dr Yada told the *Gazette*, "In Phuket, there are still some people who travel to Bangkok for top-quality dental care. As a Phuket native, I wanted to get together with other dentists who have been working on the island



Drs Yada Palimapun (left) and Sarawut Tepsuparangsikul in one of the new high-tech consulting rooms.



The attractive octagonal waiting room should help calm any pre-dentistry jitters.

Filling a gap in the market

to establish a one-stop dental center with reasonable prices.

"This will also help to promote the government's policy of establishing Phuket as the Medical Hub of Asia," said Dr Yada, who is the Thai Rak Thai party coordinator in Phuket – and is tipped to be the party's parliamentary candidate for District 1 in 2005.

Dr Yada showed the *Gazette* some of the center's high-tech equipment, which includes ultrasonic and auto-clave sterilization systems, digital sensor X-ray equipment, ergonomic patients' chairs from Italy, and IT and digital camera equipment that allows pa-

tients to check their files online via the Internet.

One of Dr Yada's partners, Dr Sarawut Tepsuparangsikul, explained that each patient has an in-depth consultation with a dentist before undergoing any procedure offered by the clinic,

whether tooth whitening, crown or bridge work, implants or orthodontics.

The team feels that cosmetic dentistry, such as tooth whitening by plasma arc light, will become increasingly popular as people begin to realize the benefits of having a gleaming white smile.

Tooth whitening can be

done in about an hour, but each patient has a ½-hour consultation with a doctor before the procedure, explained Dr Yada.

When the work is complete, patients can get a set of before-and-after images using the center's digital photography

equipment. The high-tech gear also allows the dentists to consult with dental experts in Bangkok or abroad.

Dr Sarawut is confident the center will develop a regular base of foreign customers who will be attracted to the clinic's strict attention to hygiene, competitive rates and attractive premises.

"We opened two months [before the official opening on June 4] and we have had very positive feedback from the foreign patients who have come here," he said.

"Foreigners are attracted to Phuket by the much lower cost of high-quality dental care here than in their home countries."

Phuket Cosmetic Dental Clinic is at 16/1 Hongyok U-Thit Rd, Talad Yai, Phuket City, and is open daily from 9 am to 6 pm. For more information or to make an appointment, contact the clinic (Tel: 076-236823; Fax: 076-236824.



The attractive exterior of the new clinic in Samkong.

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Cash cows going to Cabinet

Agriculture Minister Somsak Thepsuthin is seeking Cabinet approval for his 10-billion-baht *Ua Athorn* (We pity you) cattle project, under which the government would lend a million pure-bred calves to poor farmers and buy them back, fattened, and less 7% interest.

The project would help prevent the smuggling of up to 500,000 head of cattle a year, K. Somsak said. A Cabinet screening committee has approved the Agriculture Ministry's proposal to set up a state enterprise to run the project.

The enterprise would take out a 10-billion-baht loan to buy the million calves and lend them out to farmers for free. K. Somsak insisted that farmers would not need any capital to join the project, but they must have access to sufficient grazing area.

Farewell to foam: The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment has assigned Thammasat University academics to draft a law on recyclable and disposable product packaging – after noticing an increase in foam and plastic waste, after years of campaigning against the products.

If approved, the law may also compel citizens to separate waste before disposing of it, said Rangsan Pinthong, Director of the Pollution Control Department.

“Each year, we throw away 14.4 million tonnes of garbage, and out of this amount about 20%-30% is product packaging. Foam and plastic makes up about 2% of all disposed packaging,” K. Rangsan said.

Glowing review: Science Minister Korn Dabbaransi has ordered a review of the construction of the controversial Ongkharak nuclear research reactor in Nakhon Nayok, citing too many cost overruns.

The directive came after Pathom Yaemket, head of the Office of Atomic Energy, requested 3.3 billion baht on top of the original 3.5-billion-baht budget for the construction of the 10-megawatt research reactor, said Pimuk Simarot, secretary to the science minister.

Last year, the government approved the project, despite rejecting its environmental-impact assessment.



RICEFIELD NUPTIAL: A pair of buffaloes rehearse for their marriage in a rice field in Chiang Mai's Hang Dong district. The nuptials will be part of an annual blessing ceremony to mark the animals' important role in villagers' lives and to apologize to the beasts of burden for a year of toil in the fields, said a village headman.

Paddy plan: The Agriculture Ministry is planning to use deserted paddy fields in the three southernmost provinces as palm plantations in order to reduce the country's dependence on fossil fuels.

Banphot Hongthong, the ministry's permanent secretary, announced the plan after a spate of petrol price rises. He said he expected palms to be grown on 70,000 to 80,000 rai of currently abandoned paddy fields, adding that he would invite the Land Development, the Agricultural

Extension and the Cooperative Promotion departments to discuss the plan.

Top-down damage: Representatives of 82 environmental organizations who recently met at the Public Relations Department claimed that more than 90% of local development projects initiated by provincial governors are damaging the environment.

Many of the issues discussed stemmed from local development projects that have been approved and funded by the

central government, which has asked provincial governors to initiate their own development proposals as income-generating schemes for local residents.

But Sasin Chalermklarp, of the Sueb Nakhasathien Foundation, said most development plans involve expansion of industrial zones, tourism projects that encroach on fragile ecosystems, or the construction of dams and reservoirs.

Porn punishment: Privy Councillor Dr Kasem Wattanachai has

voiced concern that the average age of young people dying from sexually transmitted diseases, such as HIV/Aids, is getting younger.

“Patients are getting younger and younger. Some of them are still primary students,” Dr Kasem told a seminar about children and sex education, held by the Family Planning Association (FPA). He blamed easy access to pornography for the increase in sexually transmitted diseases among adolescents.

“Vendors have even sold pornographic VCDs in hilltribe villages,” he added.

The FPA's northern branch director, Tassanee Srimongkol, said that Public Health Ministry statistics showed that half of new HIV/Aids patients in Chiang Mai and Phayao were youths.

Euro punt: The Kasikorn Research Center has predicted that Thais will gamble about 33 billion baht on matches during the Euro 2004 soccer tournament this month. The amount is far higher than that wagered during Euro 2000, when some 20 billion baht changed hands.

The research pointed to an improved economy and an estimated 38% increase in the number of gamblers over the past four years as major causes.

The poll indicated that 55% of gamblers said they gambled for fun, 36% for money, and 8% to bond with gambling friends.

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



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Basking in epicurean delights

The Krabi community was treated to a night of fine food and wine at the Sheraton Krabi Beach Resort on May 22.

Food and Beverage Manager Richard Suter organized an epicurean evening featuring the fine wines of Fermoy Estate, presented by winemaker Michael Kelly. The Fermoy Estate vineyard is in the Margaret River region of Australia, which is gaining a reputation as a source of fine wines.

Accompanying the Sauvignon Blanc, two Cabernet Sauvignons and a Merlot was a meal that all more than 50 attendees raved over. Appetizers included scallops in a light curry, duck liver and tiger prawns. These were followed by the Australian specialty, rack of lamb.

As usual, the food and service at the Sheraton was exemplary. But don't feel bad if you missed this evening, because Ri-

chard has promised a series of wine tastings and dinners to come.

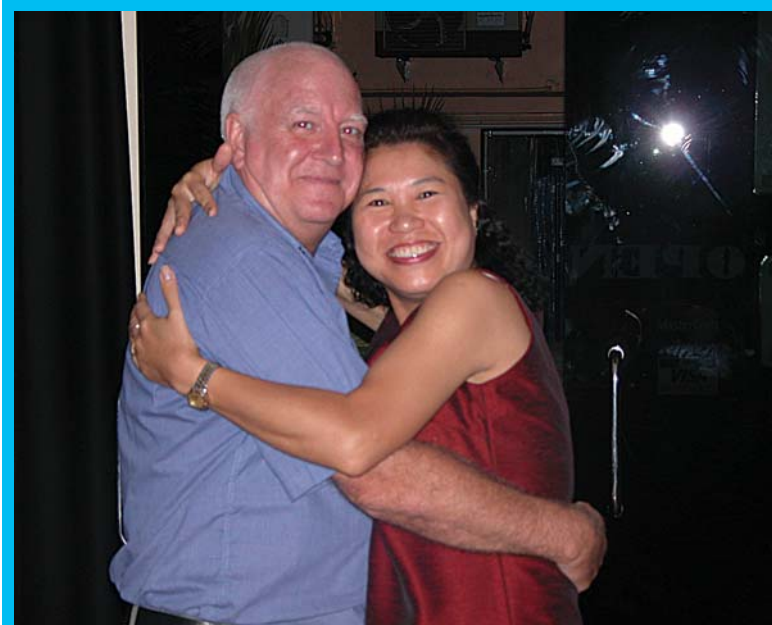
The next wine tasting will be on June 22, when John O'Connor of Matariki Boutique Wines will present his fine New Zealand wines along with a four-course dinner. Not to be missed.

Ao Nang nuptials:

Krabi was host to another society event with the marriage of James Loh of Hong Kong and Jenny Kelly of London on May 23.

More than 50 people traveled from England and Hong Kong to witness the nuptials in the lush surroundings of the Lai Thai Resort. The couple, family and friends took over the entire resort for four days and basked in a private holiday that also served as a honeymoon and family reunion. We wish the best of luck to the newlyweds.

Seasonal seafood: As we enter the low season and many



FAREWELL HUGGINS: On May 26 Ao Nang bid farewell to Neville and Wilawon Huggins who, after many years of living in Ao Nang, are returning to Australia.

A going-away party saw well-wishers enjoying an evening of food, drink, dance, live music and even a parody skit. Gidi Mevisson dressed as Neville and Ko Teng, dressed in a wig as Wilawon, entertained the crowd. A lot of giggles, and it was a fitting send-off for the colorful couple.

shops and restaurants close, choices for a night on the town are getting fewer and fewer.

However, the opening of the Wungsaai Seafood restaurant in Haad Napporat Thara is a welcome addition.

The new place is quite an improvement on other venues, and can handle seated groups as large as 200 people.

The restaurant is right on the beach and the service is friendly as well.

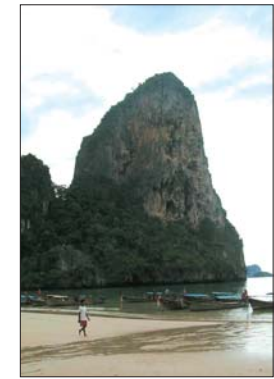
After midnight: Numerous construction projects have marked the beginning of the low season, but the most notable activity in town has been demolition. The bungalows atop the hill at BB Bungalows have been razed, and we hear the hill will be bulldozed to street level as well.

Up the road from there, the row of small restaurants across from McDonald's has been dismantled to make way for a new shopping plaza.

But the biggest surprise was to see the tearing down of the Midnight Bar. Harry Junker, owner of the popular late-night watering hole, was one of the first farang businessmen in Ao Nang. He operated this bar for 10 years, so its absence is quite noticeable.

I caught up with Harry, who was quick to console all his old customers by telling them he has taken a long lease on The Cowboy Inn, just up the road. After some renovation work, it will reopen, renamed – you guessed it – the Midnight Bar.

He plans to add a kitchen, build a new bar and refurbish most of the 14 rooms in the guesthouse, which will continue to operate under the Cowboy Inn name. Hurry up Harry, you have lots of thirsty customers waiting!



ACROSS THE BAY

By Gus Reynolds

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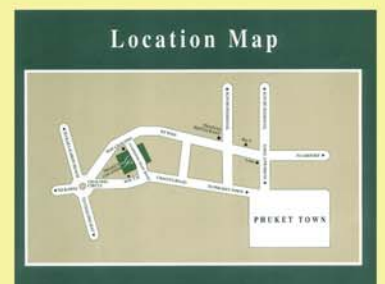
Model	Area (sq.wa)	*Special price*(baht)	Deposit (baht)	Contract (baht)	70% Last payment (baht)
Pruerk-pirom	99.6	10,500,000	100,000	3,050,000	7,350,000
Pruerk-lawan	112.6	11,850,000	100,000	3,455,000	8,295,000
Pruerk-umpai	157.80	14,480,000	100,000	4,244,000	10,136,000



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This week



DOC ON HOLIDAY: Famed pathologist Dr Khunying Porntip Rosjanasunan (2nd from left) and family are welcomed to the South Sea Pakarang Resort and Spa in Khao Lak during their recent stay by Group General Manager Nantana Saenglhee (center) and Chief of Staff Third Area Naval Command R/ADM Amornchote Sujiratana (left).



A GOOD CAUSE: Classical music was on the menu at Baan Klung Jinda Restaurant on June 4 in aid of the Dialysis Unit at Wachira Phuket Hospital. From left: Kitti Phatanachinda, MD of Baan Klung Jinda; internationally-renowned classical pianist and composer Nat Yontarak and wife Pawongduen; Phuket Governor Udomsak Usawarangkura; Vinai Ruengjaruwatana, MD of Sunshine Tours Phuket; and Ajarn Pranee Sakulpipatana, Director of the Phuket Cultural Center.



OPEN WIDE: Yowvares Shinawatra (center), President of the National Council of Women of Thailand, marks the official opening of the Phuket Cosmetic Dental Clinic on June 4. The Managing Director of the new clinic, Dr Yada Palimapun, is on the right.



CARVING OUT A REPUTATION: Philippe Siegle (2nd from right), Regional General Manager of Le Meridien, congratulates Chef Alongkorn Tra-Ngarn (wearing medal), who took silver for his fruit carving in last month's "Thailand Kitchens of the World Culinary Classic Battle of the Chefs" in Bangkok.



WHERE'S THE CAKE? Bangkok Phuket Hospital Director Dr Surapong Lookhanumajao (left) and Deputy Director Dr Kongkiat Kespechara (2nd from left) celebrate the hospital's 10th birthday with Software Industry Promotion Agency President Dr Manoo Ordedolchest (2nd from right) and TOT Corporation Public Co Ltd Administrative Director Dr Kamthorn Withayakul.



THE DRY SEASON: Michael Jenselius, Director of Da Jam pub and restaurant in Phuket City, enjoys the venue's first Wet T-shirt night with pals Nat and Annie — who look remarkably less than wet — on June 5.

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In a lovely house off Soi Naya, Nai Harn, live dog show judge Jackie Perry and her husband – and four very lucky dogs.

Mrs Perry is well-known to Phuket's dog-loving community, having recently judged a dog show at the Green Man Pub and Restaurant in Rawai.

Her career as an evaluator of canine merit developed quite naturally out of her love for the animals, a love that began soon after she was born in India.

This affection continued to grow as she and her family moved from one Asian country to another in a story-book expat existence: Singapore, Malaysia, Fiji, Cambodia and, in what she expects to be her last stop – retirement in Phuket.

"We moved to Phuket about 10 years ago. As soon as we saw how beautiful the island was, we began looking for land to build a house.

"We knew that this was the place where we wanted to retire," she told the *Gazette*.

Mrs Perry and her husband have four grown-up children, two sons and two daughters.

"They all live in other countries. I have one daughter who lives in Cambodia with her husband and two adopted Cambodian children. But they plan to move to Phuket too," she said.

Mrs Perry began breeding dogs and taking part in dog shows in 1963. Now she enjoys her retirement with her husband, but still has plenty of time for dog competitions, which are her labor of love.

"When I first started judging dogs shows, I would sometimes have my hotel accommodation and air tickets paid for by the organizers.

"But this job has never been about making money. I do it out

of my love for dogs," she said.

Mrs Perry began breeding dogs when she lived in Malaysia, where she raised her favorite breed – Doberman pinschers.

"When I started to have some success in contests, that made me want to study and learn more about other breeds," she said.

All the study and hard work paid off.

After all, anybody can point a finger and say, "This dog is better than that one," but Mrs Perry is one of only 300 dog judges licensed by the Belgium-based

Fédération Cynologique Internationale (FCI – International Canine Federation), which operates in 72 different countries and is recognized by 75% of purebred dog kennels worldwide – including most of those in Thailand.

"To get licensed involves more than just taking classes and passing the examination," Mrs Perry explained.

"You really have to know everything about the breeds you will judge. And there are new dog breeds being recognized every day, so it's necessary to continually update and add to your knowledge."

Of all the dog events she has attended, she said, the most impressive is the Crufts Dog Show in Birmingham, England.

There, about 25,000 dogs are paraded before the discerning eyes of 50 of the world's top judges in a four-day extravaganza that features activities and competitions including breed showing, agility, flyball [relay racing] and obedience.

But of all the dogs that are presented for Mrs Perry's consideration, the Doberman remains her favorite breed.

"They are big, beautiful dogs, and very smart. They make excellent guard dogs," she said.

Another life

By Dhirarat Boonkongsaen



Jackie Perry with her Pekinese 'China', one of the four lucky dogs that share her home in Nai Harn.

Here come

That said, being a world-class judge requires extraordinary impartiality.

"My love for Dobermans doesn't affect my job. I judge each dog according to the standards for its breed.

"Sometimes we have to put more classes in a show. Like the dog show at the Green Man last month, for example.

"We added fun categories like 'smiliest dog' and 'waggiest

tail' because we didn't have enough purebreds for the show," she said.

Perhaps one reason people love dogs so much is because they seem to share many emotions with us – not all of them positive.

"Dogs can be jealous of newcomers to a family. If a dog has been receiving exclusive love and care for long time, the arrival of a baby or another pet can

cause jealousy. It's normal behavior for pack animals that live in a hierarchy," she explained.

Like most higher mammals, a dog's behavior can be strongly influenced by upbringing and environment, Mrs Perry says.

"Dogs can be aggressive, but this depends on how they are kept and trained. Owners should realize this and match their lifestyle to an appropriate breed of dog."

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Do dogs take after their owners? Jackie says, 'I have seen Afghan hound owners who had really long hair, just like their pets...'

weaknesses a dog might have while showing off his strong points. And they have to know what those weaknesses and strengths are. Even a dog that has some bad characteristics can win in the hands of an experienced handler," she said.

Mrs Perry feels deep pity for Phuket's stray dogs, estimated by some to number as many as 13,000.

"Dogs need love from people. Even though they are descended from wild animals, they have been domesticated for a long time.

"I once saw someone kick a dog just because it came close. I called the dog and rubbed his head. He seemed to be afraid at first.

"I think that's because it was always treated badly by people. Finally, he began to trust me and sat at my side without bothering me," she said.

Groups like PAWS and the Soi Dog Foundation do good work in helping dumped dogs find appropriate new homes, she said.

"People who live in an apartment should get a small dog that doesn't need a lot of exercise. If they want to keep a Doberman or other large dog they should make sure it has enough room to run around," she said.

Dog breeds vary in terms of

behavior as well as size, and this too needs to be considered when deciding what kind of dog to keep. "Some dogs need more attention and affection than others," she said.

"For me, the greatest value in keeping a dog is the companionship. They love us unconditionally, and this is why dogs are man's best friend," she said.

When asked if dogs tend to take after their owners, Mrs Perry said she had seen a tendency for this to happen.

"I have seen a ferocious pit bull terrier. His owner had the same character as the dog. Both seemed as though they were always ready to bite someone.

"I have also seen Afghan hound owners who had really long hair, just like their pets," she said with a smile.

She believes dogs can also play an important role in therapy.

"I have seen hospital patients, some of them children, who seem much happier after being visited by a dog. The governments of some countries even support dog-visit projects financially," she said.

But don't expect Phuket's

government agencies to start a pooch-to-patient scheme any time soon.

While the Phuket government has build a large kennel to house 2,000 strays in Thalang,

Mrs Perry is not optimistic about its chances of success – at least as far as the dogs are concerned.

"The dog pound is not going to work. I disagree with keeping so many dogs together. The dog's nature as a pack animal means they will fight for food. The belief that sterilizing the dogs will make them better-behaved is wrong. Their basic instinct as wild

animals will override all else when they need food," she said.

"What I have learned from dogs is that they respect one another within their hierarchy, which is why the oldest dogs will still be respected by younger ones, even if they are old and weak," she said.

Unlike many "doggie people", Mrs Perry has a place in her heart for cats as well. She used to breed Siamese cats, but eventually had to give it up because she moved around too much – and after all, she had all those dogs to care for.

'Dogs need love from people. Even though they are descended from wild animals, they have been domesticated for a long time.'

de judge

There is no place for bad behavior at a dog show, said Mrs Perry sternly.

"Dogs in a show should be well behaved. Aggressive dogs or ones with strange behavior are not wanted," she said. "FCI regulations require judges to eliminate bad-tempered or aggressive dogs from competition because they need to come into close contact with the animals to check their structure and so on. If a judge cannot do that, the dog must be eliminated [from the contest]," she explained.

Mrs Perry pointed out that dog shows are not purely for entertainment, but also play an important role in identifying good traits – and bad ones. In this sense the competitions help to maintain the integrity of the breed, she said.

But dog shows aren't simply a showcase for the likes of Rover, Lassie and Spuds MacKenzie. Dog handlers play an important role in the shows, too.

"Handlers have to manage the dog properly while in the ring. A good handler is able to hide any

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Has anyone seen

Where were our mahouts? They were here a moment ago, carefully steering these magnificent beasts along this treacherous track.

I could now only hear them walking way behind us in the valley below ... chatting and laughing to each other as they occasionally shouted commands to our elephants.

We were traversing a mountain pass to the north of Chiang Rai. The track was steep, narrow and with a deep ravine to our right, revealing spectacular scenery – this was trekking – exciting. My elephant seemed happy enough, and knew where she was going, but I did wish my “driver” would return.

After the 45-minute high-speed ride by longtail upriver from Chiang Rai, we had joined our guides, mounted our elephants for the three-hour trek over the mountains – and were now to arrive at our first stop, a remote Lahu hilltribe village.

We were greeted by a group of children playing in a stream who, smiling and cheering, escorted us to the center of the village where we thankfully disembarked and watched as our mounts walked slowly off into the hills. It had been an uncomfortable but spectacular ride.

The villagers were celebrating a Chinese festival, and today was obviously a party, so after meeting up with my old friend Jun, our Chiang Rai tour operator, we headed off for lunch at the house of the village chief.



The whole village seemed to be there. Food was served, and the locally-produced rice whisky poured (and I mean poured), as we sat cross-legged on the floor with the rest of the village in the house of the *kamnan*.

Lunch seemingly took hours. After, awash with the local brew, we slowly walked off through the village – only to be received at yet another house – more food and more whisky. By this time we certainly felt that we were part of the village.

It was late afternoon, and by this time everyone in the village had heard of our arrival. As honored guests, we were now expected to attend as many of

these feasts as possible. I never realized that traveling in Thailand could be so hard.

At sundown, we were escorted to a small wooden hut owned by K. Jun on the edge of the village, our accommodation for the night. Extremely basic but clean, no electricity – storm lanterns only – and no running water.

We were left to swim in the river and relax on the small balcony overlooking the village below. In the quiet of the evening, we could hear the revelries still continuing as the villagers celebrated. Where do they get the energy?

It was only later, sitting on the porch in the peace and tranquillity of the night, that had I time to ponder on just how far we had traveled from Phuket. Still the same country, but a totally different world.

Thailand TRAVELER

By Bill Owen

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How to Get There
By Air: Regular daily flights from Phuket by Thai Airways via Bangkok to Chiang Rai. Special e-ticket rate for June: 3,290 baht one-way.

Overland (recommended for budget travelers only): Overnight bus to Bangkok. One day in Bangkok and then overnight bus to Chiang

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a mahout?



The delights of elephant trekking in Chiang Rai – and the greater delights of a village celebration

Rai. Cost: between 650 and 1,000 baht.

Where to Stay

Standard Class: The Golden Triangle Inn. Excellent location in the center of town. This small, friendly hotel/guesthouse has some good aircon rooms, a small bar and an excellent restaurant. Cost: from 900 baht a night. Tel: 053-711339.

What to Do

Many local operators offer trekking tours starting from Chiang Rai. Day trips and extended tours can be booked locally.

A big thank-you to my good

friend K. Jun from Golden Triangle Tours for his assistance during our trip. K. Jun offers top-quality services, excellent accommodation in the villages and some of the best local guides in the area.

Bill Owen, who has lived in Phuket and worked in the island's travel industry for more than 15 years, is General Manager of Oriental Leisure Co Ltd, a leading event management company in Phuket. He can be contacted by email at: owen_b@hotmail.com. Website www.oriental-events.com

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HEARD & scene

The *Gazette's* **Siripansa Somboon** met up with contestants in the Miss 2004 Siam competition and asked, "If you could change yourself into an animal for one day, what animal would you choose to be?"



Sasiwan Phootrakornchai
Age: 19
From: Bangkok
Occupation: Student

I would become a bird because they have the freedom to fly anywhere. If I were a bird, I would fly to Nang Yuan Island because the sea there looks like a sapphire topped with diamonds. Also, birds always live in flocks, so they are never alone.



Talatchanun Srisanun
Age: 19
From: Bangkok
Occupation: Student

I would change myself into a fish because fish can travel such vast distances and see so much.

Fish have freedom and come in many different colors. I have freedom and for this reason I feel a strong affinity with any beautiful fish.



Prynda Kumthumpinij
Age: 19
From: Bangkok
Occupation: Student

It would have to be a lion. The lion is a powerful and elegant creature, and looks graceful even when hunting its prey. I read Aesop's fables as a child and the lion was always the best character. He was the king of the forest, and every other creature obeyed him.



Niramol Aneklap
Age: 19
From: Bangkok
Occupation: Student

I would choose to be a cat because it is pretty, affectionate, and likes to rub itself up against your legs. Cats also like to rub themselves against other cats, and kittens are so sweet. To be a cat for a day, being loved and stroked by a thoughtful owner, would be nice.



Siriratana Taweechoitipatr
Age: 22
From: Bangkok
Occupation: Student

I would change myself into a normal domestic dog living happily with a family. The special relationship between a dog and its owner is based on trust. I would be loved and taken care of, and in return I would offer warmth, companionship and protection.

In the Stars

by Isla Star

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): Avoid pressure this weekend. You are likely to be in a touchy mood but this should pass by Monday, which will be good timing as business opportunities are about to open up. Important agreements are best left until the end of the month.



CANCER (June 22-July 23): Your usual inclination to stay on the edge of festivities will be replaced by a new desire to have some fun. Just remember to reschedule appointments so you have time to recover. A friend's odd request mid-week will make you wonder what this relationship is really about.



LEO (July 24-August 22): People will be ready to listen to your ideas this week, but this is not a good time to make new investments, so play the waiting game. The stars will smile on new projects at the end of the month.



VIRGO (August 23-September 23): A romantic interest is in danger of turning into a fixation as your tendency to focus on reality appears to have slipped. If the object of your desire is not responding, then walk away. Virgoans already in a relationship will feel the ground shifting slightly; perhaps your partner is feeling neglected.



LIBRA (September 24-October 23): A financial hiccup could occur when an unexpected bill lands arrives. You should pay it. A new face arouses your curiosity but you won't be the only one wanting to know more. A work situation mid-week puts your diplomatic skills to the test.



SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): Most Scorpios will breeze through this week without a care. The only bad patch may be on Wednesday, when someone tries to rock your boat with poorly disguised insults. Your skin is as thick as a buffalo's so the words should bounce straight back. The number 3 has special meaning.



SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): Find a way to accept unpleasant work-



related circumstances; perhaps even try to see a positive side to them. An old flame that you wouldn't be averse to rekindling gives a positive hint.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): A possible inheritance is indicated for Capricorns. If you are considering signing a business agreement, be careful whom you trust. Getting personal references could save your hard-earned cash.



AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): Your sunny mood helps others to cheer up this weekend, and will enable you to make progress in areas you thought were no-go. The likelihood of relocation grows. Wear silver to stay sharp.



PISCES (February 20-March 20): If you can't shake off the

wet-weather blues, buy rose-tinted glasses. The happiness you desire will come from gradual changes in your perspective. Summon the courage to ask spiritual questions; the truth is more accessible than you think.



ARIES (March 21-April 20): Be alert for too many outstretched hands reaching in your direction. You should focus on ways of expanding your bank balance, not diminishing it. The number 1 will bring you luck.



TAURUS (April 21-May 21): Feelings of panic loom early this week, but your financial situation is definitely moving in the right direction, if slowly. By the end of this month you will have good reason to splash out. The color aquamarine will encourage peace.



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KIDS THE FUN PAGE FOR ALL THE FAMILY

Hidden Words

Hidden in the grid below are the names of at least 20 famous composers of music. The names 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.

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

Get your brain in gear with The Monster Quiz



- Which US state experiences the highest number of tornadoes each year?
- Which saint's day is celebrated on March 17?
- What is the time difference between Nova Scotia and San Francisco?
- Which television personality was born with the name Larry Zeigler?
- Scientist Allessandro Volta was a pioneer in which field?
- Which US state is also known as the Beehive State?
- Tarawa is the capital of which country?
- Why was Cassius Clay stripped of his boxing heavyweight titles in 1967?
- Who was world chess champion from 1975 to 1985?
- Which US president was once a male model?
- What is the correct word for the lights you see when you close your eyes hard?
- From which language does the word "boondocks" originate?
- Which island did Aristotle Onassis give to Jacqueline Kennedy as a wedding gift?
- Which pope died of a stroke while committing adultery?
- Whose grave was recently completed with a tombstone bearing the inscription, "I told you I was ill."?
- Who wrote the novel *Puck of Pook's Hill*?
- Who wrote, "The greatest of evils and the worst of crimes is poverty."?
- 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13. What number comes next in this sequence?
- What is the name given to this sequence by mathematicians?
- Which Greek letter is used to signify one millionth of a meter?

Answers next week.

Never a Cross Word!

	1		2		3		4		5	
6										
7		8		9				10		11
12						13				
						14				
15	16		17					18	19	
								20		
21										

Across

- Bigger than a supermarket.
- A place to sleep.
- Usually made with clams.
- Indian or Pacific, for example.
- Grilled bread.
- Reduced in rank.
- It's necessary for breathing.
- Red Beret.

Downside

- The good doctor's evil half.
- Teacher's favorite.
- A D-Day beach.
- Cousin of rook and raven.
- Not there.
- Fair-haired.
- Nighttime entertainment?
- Bangladeshi capital.
- It makes a chopper fly.
- ***** firma.
- Dutch cheese.
- Semiprecious stone.
- Cool way to drink coffee or tea.
- Small wheel in the machine.

ANSWERS TO LAST WEEK'S MONSTER QUIZ

- Warrington, England; 2. Haberdasher; 3. Arabic; 4. Bibcock; 5. Venice; 6. Carl Jung; 7. Lee Majors; 8. The Stone of Scone; 9. China; 10. Moderate gale; 11. Potter (glaze); 12. Epilepsy; 13. The moon's surface; 14. Aegean Sea; 15. Tangerine Bowl; 16. 1984; 17. Chai Nat; 18. Aung San Suu Kyi; 19. Virginia (Williamsburg); 20. Bangladesh.

Brain Buster!!

Q. You have seven coins that look identical but in fact, one of them weighs slightly less than the other six. Using a balance scale, how can you identify the light coin in two weighings or less?

A. Weigh three coins against three coins. If they balance, the lighter coin is the seventh one. If they do not balance, take the lighter three coins, and weigh one against one. If they balance, the lighter coin is the one off the scale. If not, it is the coin on the lighter side.

Solution to last week's crossword

	I	N	T	R	I	C	A	T	E	
S	M	U	C							
C	A	P	E	R	I	L	I	A	D	
H	E	V		N						
O	A	R	Y	O	G	H	U	R	T	
O	F		U							
L	E	E	W	A	R	D				
E		C		T		R	A			
D	I	T	T	O		O	C	T	E	T
	I			M		N				
S	I	D	E	S	T	E	P	S		

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Solution next week.

Egad! My PayPal account was just cracked. How many thousands of dollars did I just lose? PayPal says I've cancelled an Amex transfer of US\$450 from my PayPal account. Except... I don't remember making an Amex transfer from my PayPal account... and I certainly don't remember canceling one...

Those were precisely my thoughts when I received the message pictured right. For a split second, I thought that my PayPal account had been drained – a dreadful thought, until it dawned on me that I only have US\$15 in the account.

Then the truth hit me: I had just received the most sophisticated “phishing” (pronounced “fishing”) message I had ever seen.

Phishing, in case your spulling ain't quite up to snuff, is the technical term for sending email messages that attempt to get the recipient to divulge sensitive information.

Phishers (the ones who send out phishing messages – by the millions) look for financial website passwords, more than anything, but some specialize in retrieving credit card numbers and associated billing addresses, shopping site passwords – anything that can be used to make a quick, dirty buck.

Most phishing messages, to date, have been quite crude. They frequently contains mis-spelled words, grammar that would make a 10-year-old blush, and ludicrous cover stories that just don't make sense.

For example, why would a financial institution send me a message that links to a site that asks for my name?

Phishers play the numbers. If they send out 1 million messages like the one I supposedly received from PayPal, maybe one recipient in 100 will have a PayPal account, and one in 10 of those sorry folks might click on the link and type in their password. That gives the phisher 1,000 good passwords – like manna from heaven.

And these folks don't sit around and wait, either. Most of them use websites that can't be



This message sure looks like it came from PayPal – and if you click on the link in the message, you go to a very official-looking site. But is it real, or is somebody just trying to steal your password?

Phishing Phor Phun 'n Prophet

traced, and the websites are pulled off the Internet in a day or less. The passwords get filched quickly, but they don't need to be used right away.

In some respects, phishing is the latest version of the old “My name is Mbabwe and I want you to send me US\$2,000 so I can get my late father's millions out of the bank” con. This is most commonly known as the Nigerian Scam, with no disrespect intended to Nigerians.

Most phishing messages are in plain text because fancy, formatted messages are bigger and take longer to churn out. Phishers, like spammers, want to squeeze out as many messages as they can while their Internet connections are available.

There are exceptions, though. In my book *Office 2003 Timesaving Techniques For Dummies* (which doesn't appear to be available in Thailand yet), there are examples of very convincing, formatted phishing messages.

One purported to be from Microsoft – the “install the attached patch!” email – and another from Citibank, which asked the recipients to “sign in here to avoid having your checking account suspended!”

What can you do to protect yourself? Plenty. First, take any message you receive with a grain of salt, no matter whom it appears to come from.

“Spoofing” the return address on a message – making the message look like it came from someone else – is child's

play. I can show you how to do it in Outlook in about 10 seconds flat.

Never click on any attachments to a message. Yes, even if it supposedly came from Microsoft or your dear sainted aunt.

Don't click on a link in an email that will load a webpage from the Internet. If the message says “click here to log on to eBay” you can bet that clicking where indicated won't take you anywhere near eBay – even if the email appears to be genuine. The only safe way to get to a site is by typing in the address.

Don't give out any information to any website, unless you, personally, navigated your way to that website.

If you get a message that looks phishy, it probably is. Notify the company involved immediately – the sooner they can clamp down on the phishing website, the more people they can protect. A couple of hours can make a big difference.

Oh. Did I mention? My name is Jacqueline Whyte, I am a senior partner in the Firm of a Consulting Limited: Private Investigators and Security Consultants.

We are conducting a standard process investigation on behalf of ABSA BANK, the south african internaional-banking conglomerate...

Woody Leonhard has written a number of books in the “...for Dummies” series on computing. Readers can contact him at: woody@khuwoody.com

KHUN WOODY'S COMPUTER

Tale of a nice Thai girl

Andrew Hicks' *Thai Girl* (TYS Books, Bangkok, 2004, 296 pp) opens with hookers on the catwalk of a Nana Plaza bar stripping off their bikini bottoms and you think: Aw, great, the 174th novel about Bangkok bar-girls.

But the couple watching the show are Khao San Rd backpackers, both fresh out of British universities, and the scene quickly moves to Koh Samet. Here the couple, Ben and Emma, fall in with other world travelers for the usual vapid observations about poor suffering Thailand and the filthy rich West. And now you think: Aw, great, another “wanker-in-paradise” novel like Alex Garland's *The Beach*.

So there I was pulling on my critical jackboots to stomp this fictitious snake into mush when on page 70 Fon appears and takes over the novel and makes it fly.

Fon is a licensed masseuse trolling the beach on Koh Samet and making 200 baht for an hour's rub down. Pretty, vivacious, sassy, coquettish, ambitious and iron-willed, Fon fairly leaps off the page, a living breathing character much more real than the rather gormless Ben.

During his massage, Ben is thrilled to be talking at last to a real Thai:

“Thailand poor and very hot, so why farang pay so much to come Thailand?”

“Because it's a beautiful place with such beautiful people,” he said with feeling.

“Jing jing? We beautiful?” she said

flirtatiously. “But I want travel too! You take me aeroplane, go England?” She laughed her infectious laugh and gave him the full force of her smile.

“Yes, of course. I'll take you in an aeroplane any time. For that smile, anything.”

Throughout the conversation, she's comical and exuberant and most emphatically not on the game. Fon, 24, is from a Buri Ram rice-farming family and has been working since age 13 to support a widowed mother and the daughter of her dead sister. A former housemaid and hotel cleaner, she has been a beach masseuse for two years.

“Now I like my work,” she said cheerfully. “Work, work, work every day, meet farang like you, learn English. Have many friends, stay beautiful place. Send

money to Mama ... she happy she have good daughter.”

The day after his massage on the beach, Ben is single again. Ben and Emma have been together for three years but she is still enraged at him for taking her to Nana Plaza on their first night in Bangkok.

He tries to whine his way into forgiveness but Emma is fed up and leaves him to go trekking in Chiang Mai. He consoles himself with Fon

She introduces him to her masseuse colleagues and his first plate of *som tam*. He takes Fon and her sister and niece to

dinner. They go shopping together to Ban Phe on the mainland and to a ramshackle disco back on Koh Samet.

“Only months after getting his Geography degree, here he was on Koh Samet enjoying a whole new world of experience, out for an evening's dancing with three Thai girls, all of them accepting him warmly into their inner circle and one of them perhaps the most bewitching woman in the world.”

The highlight of the novel is his trip to the ancestral rice village in Buri Ram with his new tribe. Back on Koh Samet, at the height of the tourist season, Fon seems to tire of Ben, joking about her “English dog”.

He takes himself off to Koh Chang and falls in with the usual pack of dope-smoking layabouts. They get into a woozy five-page discussion about September 11 and Bush's invasion of Afghanistan.

The problem is that Ben arrived in Thailand just before Thaksin's election in January 2001 and leaves in April during Songkran. The events the backpackers on Koh Chang are arguing about would not take place for another six months.

You're not allowed to do that in a novel. In his acknowledgements, Hicks cites 42 people who helped him with the manuscript, including author Steve Van Beek and songwriter Todd Lavelle. Somebody should have told him about this dumb-ass discrepancy.

But Hicks redeems himself as Ben and Fon have a last canoodle on Koh Samet.

Ben flies back to England but the book ends on a wistful note of hope.



Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt



Creeping disease called stress

Stress has always been part and parcel of the human condition, in both positive and negative ways. Positive stress may come, for example, from being promoted. It is great news, obviously, but it leads to new challenges and natural concerns that one may not be able to do the job properly. Negative stress could come from being made redundant or being in a failing relationship, and these, sadly, are feelings familiar to nearly all of us.

Changing cultural and social norms, hectic lives, traffic and deadlines all contribute to our stress levels and stress can lead to an unhealthy life, both mentally and physically.

Many people may not realize – or accept – that their illnesses may be caused by hidden, creeping stress. Recognizing stress, knowing your enemy, is the first

step to defeating or perhaps just ameliorating its worst effects.

So what is stress? Although unique in each case, generalizations can be made. Stress is pressure affecting the mind, forcing it to deal with a situation and forcing the individual to adjust to bring about a sense of equilibrium.



For example, if there is too much noise where you work or live, you can close the windows, turn down the volume or walk away from it, if only for a short time. We take action successfully and stress reduces. But if we cannot take action, then stress increases.

Stress generally manifests itself in four ways:

- Emotionally.** You feel bored, sad, desperate even. You may become fractious, anxious or easily driven to tears.
- Cognitively.** You might become ab-

sent-minded, have difficulty concentrating, or feel puzzled. Applying yourself to work can become difficult, and you may make wrong decisions.

Behaviorally. Your character may gradually change. You may begin withdrawing from friends and family, finding it absolutely necessary to be alone. You may take up bad habits such as smoking, drinking, drugs or indulging in too much nightlife. Sleep may become a problem, you could feel pessimistic and even suffer a loss of libido.

Physically. For some, the only signs they display – or perhaps are aware of – are physical signs but even then, they may not recognize these as indicators of stress. Fatigue, lethargy and various aches and pains are the most common signs. Nausea, sweats and breathlessness are not unknown.

All four sets of symptoms will not necessarily be present at the same time, and any combination of these is possible. However, anyone displaying all four groups of symptoms is obviously under enormous stress.

Stress is pressure affecting the mind, forcing it to deal with a situation and forcing the individual to adjust to bring about a sense of equilibrium

Most of us can probably think of many occasions when we were stuck in situations about which we could do nothing, but perhaps didn't realize that we were experiencing stress.

If you, a loved one or a colleague show these signs, then you should realize that it can lead to an anxiety, depressive or even psychotic disorder or substance abuse. Help yourself – or them – and seek help.

Dr Napath Petwerachuwong, Psychologist, Bangkok Phuket Mental Health Center. Tel: 076-254425 or Email: info@phukethospital.com.

Mr R, a long-time resident of Phuket, leased land and a building from a Thai person under a 30-year lease. Mr R enjoyed his lease for a few years and wanted to invest a significant amount of money in the property.

Because he had merely leased the building, he contacted the landlord and together they agreed to an addendum to the lease that gave Mr R an option to lease the land and building for another 30 years after the expiry of the initial 30-year lease.

Mr R even received the option to buy the land and building at an agreed price – if he obtained a legal identity, such as a Thai-registered business, to transfer ownership to.

The landlord agreed to make this addendum to the lease on condition that Mr R invest a substantial amount of money in the building. Some time later, Mr R started a business and decided to exercise the option allowing his new company to take ownership of the land and building – at the agreed price.

The landlord at first did not want to transfer ownership, and asked Mr R for additional money. To resolve the matter without recourse to the

Contract is no guarantee of a smooth ride



LAYING DOWN THE LAW
With Friedrich 'Sam' Fauma

in court against the landowner to request that the court order the landlord to transfer ownership according to the agreement.

Given the current workload of the courts, it may take two years before Mr R achieves satisfaction.

This cautionary tale demonstrates that even a well-executed contract is merely the basis for the enforcement of your rights. Enjoying your rights – legally – may take time.

This column is compiled from the collective experience of the partners in the International Law Office, Phuket City. Tel: 076-222191-5. Fax: 076-222-196. Email: interlaw@loxinfo.co.th.

courts, Mr R agreed to make a further payment on top of what had been initially agreed. The landowner then stepped back from the offer made and refused to sign the transfer of the land and building.

Mr R sought legal advice. He was informed that an official notice had to be given to the landlord demanding that he accept the purchase of the land and building as stated in the adden-

dum to the agreement. The notice was sent but there was no reaction.

Mr R then had to file a case

Mr R than had to file a case in court against the landowner. Given the current workload of the courts, it may take two years before he achieves satisfaction.

ASK KHUN WANIDA! MOMMA DUCK

- Problems with an extra-marital affair?
- Questions about Thai culture?
- Having communications problems?
- Need somebody to Love?



Read her advice in the *Phuket Gazette*.

Fax 076-213971 or email momma@phuketgazette.net

SCHEDULED BLACKOUTS FOR JUNE

PHUKET: The Phuket Provincial Electricity Authority (PPEA) has announced scheduled blackouts for June, in order to continue its work on high-voltage power lines.

All blackouts will be from 9 am to 4 pm. They are as follows:

June 22, **Phuket City:** Komaraphat Rd.

June 24, **Rawai:** Wiset Rd, from Soi Masayid Bangkhontee to Soi Sermasuk.

June 25, **Wichit:** Chao Fa Rd and Sakdidet Rd, from Moo Baan Phuket Villa Daorung to Sakdidet Soi 1, including Moo Baan Chao Fa Daorung.

June 29, **Chalong:** Luang Por Chuon Rd, from Chao Fa West Rd to Chao Fa East Rd, including Phuket Country Home and Moo Baan Land & Houses Nantawan 2, Seewalee 1, Ladawan 2 and Parichat developments.

The blackout will also affect the small road from Phuket Country Home to the Telephone Organization of Thailand Phuket Branch on Chao Fa West Rd.

Note: This information is subject to change without notice. For more detailed information or to check the latest status, call 076-211663.

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10. Duangkamol, Sukhumvit Rd, Klongtoey, Phrakanong. Tel. 02-2526261.
11. Sky Train Stations.

Alcoholics Anonymous

is holding meetings in English at the following places:

Phuket City
Mission Hospital
on Wed and Sun at 7 pm

Phuket International Hospital
on Fri at 7 pm

Patong
Patong Hospital
on Mon, Tue, Wed, Sat, Sun
at 7 pm and on Fri at 8 pm

For more info, please call
01-2732053 or 072-795636

Phuket Gazette
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All at sea over diving

The Professional Association of Dive Instructors (PADI) has come under fire recently for being more of a profit-driven marketing organization than one serving its self-defined role of maintaining operational standards to ensure safety in the dive industry.

This is unfair. The number of diving fatalities that have occurred in Thailand is extremely small given the number of people who come here to dive – and of whom the vast majority use PADI-affiliated dive companies.

The figures are remarkably low when compared with the overall number of deaths that occur here from motorcycle accidents or on our beaches from drowning.

PADI surely deserves credit for this – just as it would have to bear criticism should a string of diving-related fatalities occur.

The establishment of the CMAS Thailand Diving Association (CTDA) as an alternative certification body for those seeking to learn how to dive or become certified instructors appears so far to be more closely related to economic and cultural issues than those related to safety.

The argument of CTDA President Chaturathep Khowinhawong (see Inside Story, pages 4-5), that PADI has siphoned some 500 million baht out of the country in the past 10 years, is poorly founded and smacks of the same nationalistic rhetoric and mathematical presumption that have characterized other efforts by local figures to “take back” lucrative businesses established here by foreigners.

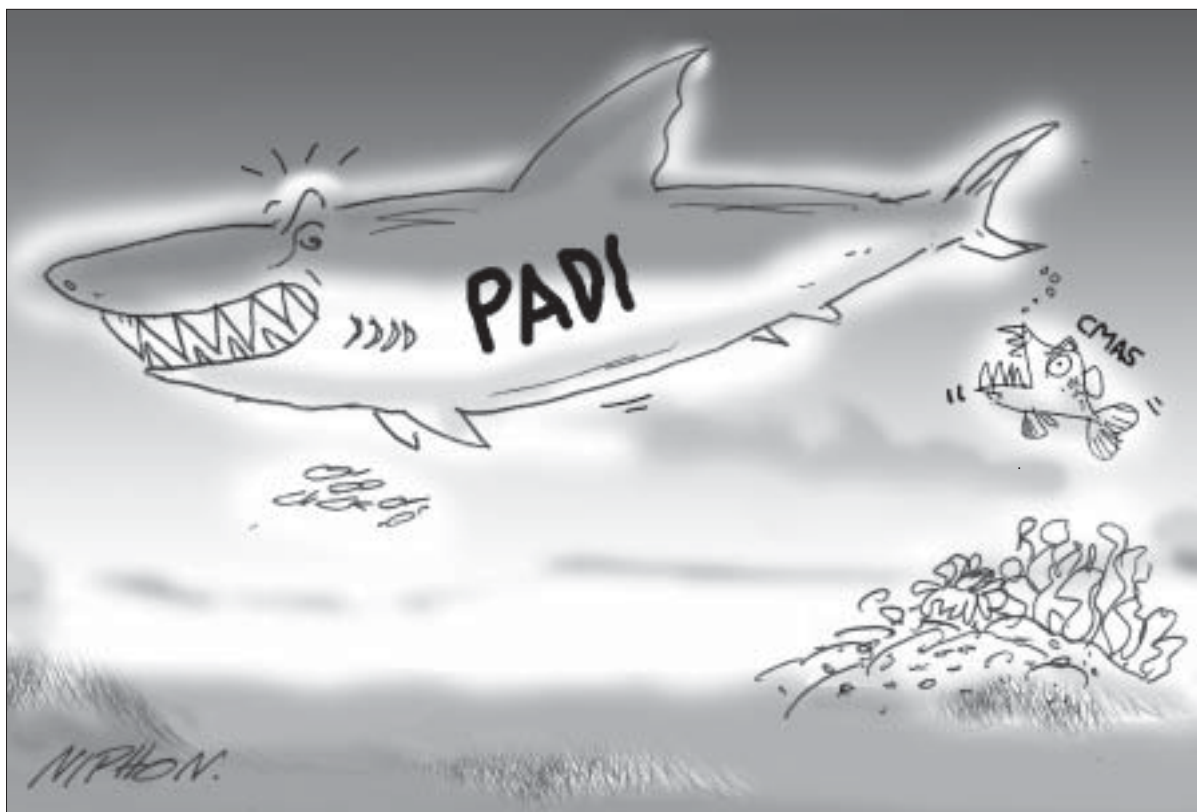
In reality, almost all of the income generated by Phuket dive companies goes straight back into the local economy. Indeed it must, given that almost all businesses operating in this country must be majority-owned by Thai nationals and follow the country’s rather strict laws on foreign-currency transactions.

Implications that PADI is somehow responsible for the environmental damage to reefs in the area is equally unfounded. PADI is actively involved in environmental education and preservation clean-up efforts, both in Thailand and around the globe. The idea that an alternative body such as the CTDA will do better in this regard, simply because it is more “Thai”, is hard to accept at face value.

One segment of Thailand’s tourism industry that sorely needs better self-regulation is marine transport, which appears to have collusion – and not safety – as its only collective goal.

Most vessels operate in brazen defiance of basic safety regulations and common sense in order to turn a bigger profit. Far more lives have been lost in that industry than in the PADI-dominated diving industry. Where is the local effort to regulate that industry?

– 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.

Fed up with two-tier buffet prices...

The reply given by Nopparat Thongsong of the Thavorn Grand Hotel to Danny B’s complaint about double-pricing [see Issues and Answers, *Gazette* June 5-11] is typical of the thinking of some Thai people when discriminating against *farang*.

He says that the special price of the lunch buffet was for local people only. How does he define “local” people? People from Thailand? People from Phuket? People from the local village? If it was Phuket locals only, how did he determine that? Were all Thai people required to display an ID card showing Phuket as their home address?

Danny B has a Thai wife, so I suspect he qualifies as a “local”.

In developed countries, this kind of discrimination is not tolerated and is against the law. Yet some people in Thailand continue to abuse *farang* in this manner.

Elsewhere, a hotel such as the Thavorn Grand would stand a real chance of being sued for discrimination.

Steve
Phuket

... but discrimination goes both ways

I have lived and worked in Thailand for almost 10 years now. It astounds and angers me the way Thais accept discrimination in their own country regarding employment rights.

Compare this with their *farang* counterparts, who generally lack relevant qualifications. Most don’t even speak Thai.

They work fewer hours yet receive vastly larger salaries and all the other benefits that come with having a white face.

A lot of Thais work harder than *farang*. They are better qualified and speak more than one language.

But Thais are paid far less and often receive no benefits. But more importantly, they never complain to their employers.

No wonder Thais avoid the sun and apply whitening lotions to their skin. It seems to be the best qualification to have in their country.

It is time they stood up for themselves. The employment department should address the discrimination of its own people.

Would discrimination be allowed in the *farang*’s country?

E. W.
Chalong

Water issue taps into the island’s future

Your May 15 article (Inside Story: Worried about Water) and prescient editorial on the topic of water quality in Phuket led me to do some really hard thinking.

I cringe every time I read the little public service ads in the *Gazette* warning people not to drink tap water. Why should this be the case in 2004, when solutions to this problem have been known for over a century?

It seems that the approach to water problems in Phuket is very much an ad hoc effort: “Whoops! We’re running dry, let’s stick another stand-pipe at the next tin pond.”

Has anyone extrapolated what Phuket’s population might be in 30, 50 or 100 years? If other

quality-of-life aspects can keep pace, it can be presumed that population growth on the island will outpace that of Thailand as a whole.

More homes and more hotels will be built. More willing migrants from dusty Isarn will come looking for jobs. All will need water. But how much?

For sure it’s going to be a lot more than can be trapped behind a couple of tiddly dams and whatever the tin mines can offer.

By establishing an island-wide water company through a bond issue, with adequate investment, the whole island could come under one management. Why does Phuket need to have water in the hands of a variety of government agencies? Just to perpetuate the way Thai bureaucracy stifles progress with red tape?

Concerned observer
Name & address supplied

Properly stitched up

I recently injured my foot, and had it treated, in another province. I went to Phuket International Hospital to have the wound cleaned.

A specialist there noticed that my little toe was in an unusual position, possibly indicating a severed tendon. He re-opened the wound and he was correct. It had not been noticed when first treated. He stitched the tendon up to give it a chance to heal properly.

All staff I met were very professional, helpful and polite.

Without such an excellent hospital, I might have been permanently disabled. I am lucky to be living in Phuket.

Chris Melchior
Phuket City

Phuket Gazette

In association with The Nation Multimedia Group PCL

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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.

PADI deserves credit—not criticism

Don Gard has stated in two recent *Gazette* articles that divers' skill levels have fallen since the good old days. We, the Dive Operators' Club of Phuket (DOCT), disagree.

When the YMCA certified Mr Gard as a diver back in 1964, there was no control over what instructors taught their students, no standard curriculum, no standardized texts and no quality control. Instructors were at liberty to teach what they wanted.

Diving has become safer over the years. Training is now based upon continuing research into equipment and decompression sickness.

Anyone who has taught diving for long would surely not wish for the "halcyon days" of poor teaching materials, uncontrolled instruction and unsafe equipment.

Mr Gard has also criticized – unreasonably – PADI. It appears that, were it up to him, there would be no training agencies and people interested in the sport would be left to their own devices with no supervision. It's hard to imagine a more dangerous approach to diver training.

PADI is an easy target and far from perfect. It may sell itself as an educational marketing organization, but so what? Just because it is a marketing company does not mean that it is unsafe or unprofessional.

PADI employs some of the best educators from the US and Europe to develop diving



FIRST PERSON

Richard Motein is Managing Director of Phuket Pro Dive and recently-elected President of the Dive Operators' Club of Thailand, Phuket Chapter. In this article he vigorously rebuts the recently published opinions of Hawaiian marine biologist Don Gard who argued that safety in diving was being compromised by the commercial approach of the Professional Association of Dive Instructors (PADI), to which most of Phuket's dive companies are affiliated.

courses. Standards are based on recommendations made by medical professionals, divers and attorneys.

They are also based on consumers' needs and desires. PADI exchanges ideas with and takes recommendations from many other organizations, including the Divers Alert Network and the World Recreational Scuba Training Council.

Limited space prevents all of Mr Gard's outrageous assertions from being addressed. One that must be addressed, however, is his promotion of free-ascent training. Virtually every diving educator in the world believes this to be too dangerous.

This ascent skill is taught during PADI courses but it is not recommended as the first option,

even in an emergency. Lung expansion injuries and decompression sickness can result from free-ascent and it's far better to teach a diver how to monitor his gauges to avoid an "out-of-air" situation.

If, as Mr Gard claims, he is such a skilled diver, then why was he unable to assist the diver he referred to who got into difficulties in 40 feet of water? It sounds as if his training – or lack of it – failed him.

Any responsible diver, unlike Mr Gard, would carry two mouthpieces as a matter of course. PADI divemasters are required to carry two regulators because doing so presents the simplest solution to an out-of-air crisis not because, as Mr Gard suggested, PADI sells them.

PADI, in fact, does not sell diving hardware.

To address another of Mr Gard's points, PADI does have a mandatory swim test of at least 200 meters, not 15 meters.

Mr Gard asserts that children shouldn't be allowed to dive. Is he a physician and therefore qualified to make such a statement?

Incidentally, teaching children wasn't PADI's idea. Another old-school organization called CMAS started training youngsters way back in the 1960s. PADI jumped on board only recently, after years of researching the safety aspects of teaching children to dive.

Mr Gard also seems to have a problem with "paying to get divemaster certification".

Why shouldn't a teacher be paid? If you take driving, flying or cooking lessons, you expect to pay. There is no difference.

Perhaps Mr Gard would like to set up a free diving school so that horrible capitalists can stop taking advantage of unsuspecting consumers. Diving is in fact a business, and it doesn't need to apologize for this.

PADI has helped to raise the skill levels of divers. For example, buoyancy control is now taught thoroughly to every diver. No one even talked about it in the 1960s, and it's the most important skill a diver can learn, both for safety and for environmental protection.

No training organization can teach every diver to be excellent. Being excellent takes practice and not everyone has the time or the money to dive as often as they should, or would like to.

However, this doesn't mean that a person should be denied the pleasure of diving because he can't practice constantly. The way the industry has raised safety levels in diving is by standardizing training, developing and recommending improved equipment, and by better supervision underwater.

You can love or hate PADI, but you must give credit where it's due. Training organizations have made diving a safer activity and have opened the sport to many people who would otherwise not have the opportunity to witness the beauty of the ocean first hand.

Pointless PO boxes

I started renting a post office box at Phuket City Post Office because I rarely received packages sent from abroad to my home. I figured that if I had a PO box in town that at least there would be one less step involved in delivering my mail.

Either my husband or myself check the PO box every week, and recently I found an EMS [Express Mail Service] delivery slip in my box and went upstairs to collect it.

There I was told that the parcel had been returned to the sender because it had been awaiting collection for at least two months. Apparently the slip had been put in the box only *after* the package had been returned.

I tried to tell the attendant that I had only just received the slip, but he became angry and kept repeating "returned to sender".

Is it possible to find out who sent the parcel so I can contact them to see what it was?

When my family sends mail from Canada, what is the best way for them to send it so I can at least track it down in case it is lost?

Shannon Bunni
Phuket

Visal Pongtiwattanakul, Postmaster, Phuket Post Office, replies:

EMS [or the equivalent] is the best way for mail to be sent from overseas. It takes about three days for a letter to be delivered and about two weeks for parcels.

Parcels are held at the post

office for at least 15 days before they are returned.

To be able to tell you who sent the parcel, we need to know your PO Box number and the EMS registration number, which would have been written on the yellow card. If you have both these numbers please call us at Tel: 076-216951.

Booked for having no book

A friend of mine was fined recently for not having the green motorbike registration book with her while riding her motorbike. Is this a legal requirement?

Alex Thow
Phuket

Pol Lt Sutam Rattanasawangwong of Chalong Police Station responds:

The law requires that drivers must at all times when driving a vehicle have at least a copy of the pages in the vehicle's registration book showing who the registered owner is and when the vehicle was last registered.

Police especially check teenagers riding motorbikes to verify who owns the motorbike and to see their driver's licenses.

If a motorbike driver cannot show the registration details or is not carrying a license, police will keep the motorbike key and fine the driver up to 1,000 baht. The key will be handed back when the driver proves that the fine has been paid.

If a car driver cannot show the registration details, police will retain the license and issue a fine of up to 1,000 baht, and the license will be returned when the driver proves that the fine has been paid.

If a driver is also not carrying a license, officers have the authority to order him to park the car and levy a fine of up to 1,000 baht. Police will not keep the car key, but they will not allow the driver to move the car until they see proof the fine has been paid.

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

Two jobs. Two work permits?

If I have two jobs do I need to have two work permits?

Josh Tristan
Phuket

Airport contractor

Who has the contract to upgrade Phuket International Airport?

Stephen Parker
Phuket

The Gazette replies:

Bangkok-based Clean Technology Co Ltd has the contract. Call Tel: 02-3747131 or 02-3744185, or Email: cleantech@clean-technology.com.

Kitti Nuisri, Chief of the Foreign Labor Division at the Phuket Provincial Employment Office (PPEO), replies:

No. Foreigners working in Thailand need only one work permit book whether they have one, two or more jobs.

Take your book – with all necessary documentation and the 150-baht fee – to the PPEO. It should take about seven days for the permit to be amended to include the description of the new job.

For more information, contact the PPEO at Tel: 076-219661 or 076-219660.

With the Monsoon season blowing full-force in our faces, it's time to hunker down and pass the next six months as best we can, enduring black-outs, garbage-covered beaches, drastically reduced income and chilling rain. If you haven't got a regular sweetheart, now is the time to start looking.

Let's face it, the Phuket tourism industry is just like one of those huge Nile crocodiles that survives the dry season by eating frogs, bugs, its own offspring or whatever bloated dead body happens to float by.

For us, the seasons are reversed – we suffer during the rains – but the implications are much the same: the lives of people in Phuket's tourism business are characterized by a seemingly endless cycle of feast and famine.

But just like those crocodiles, we know that if we can endure long enough, hordes of tourists, just like nervous wildebeest and zebra, will return to cross our path. If only we can hang on long enough...

Little birds: Not all Phuket residents are fated to wait out the low season, however, as a good percentage of the island's population is migratory. This includes an impressive number of butterflies that take to the wing and head off to other regions of Thailand during the rainy season.

Many of these head for destinations in the drier northeast region, where they feed on staples such as sticky rice and lo-

Wet season flights of fancy

Probably nothing more one can say about this sign, spotted recently by one of Stool Pigeon's agents.



businesses which offer "hydrotherapy" and "service" in the same area, or that allow the guest to choose his/her "therapist", would be categorized as "entertainment", not therapy centers – and therefore subject to 10% excise tax.

Before the Prime Minister was booed for wanting to use state funds to buy shares in Liverpool FC, this raised the frightening prospect that money punters spent on "entertaining massages" could find its way into the personal bank account of Liverpool and England striker Michael Owen. No wonder people protest globalization.

Take that: One reader who put a personal ad in the *Gazette's* online classifieds looking for company received the following reply, offered here in all its unedited glory:

Hi! Oh no just too bad u farang men no reply no good must be lousy all farangs u know thai gals now don like farangs u know all big mouth no money talk big not honest not trusted all bull shit men ok go home don come here ok thailand not for u ok thai gals now lkie rich chinese men all good money ok all very sincere ok.

I guess he didn't get the response he was looking for.

cal delicacies including deep-fried insects – a far better way to spend six months that staring off into space and wondering where the next bowl of *somtam boo* is going to come from.

time and has over 50 people on her address list – all of them foreign males. Why do I help? Because it's fun, and some fringe benefits do apply. Besides, I don't mind playing the role of Robin Hood and keeping the local currency strong with the foreign earnings these transactions pull in. We don't want a repeat of 1997, do we?

That's entertainment: Pity the poor bureaucrat who was charged with the task of delineating exactly where Thailand's legitimate spa industry ends – and its "entertainment" industry begins.

Ultimately, it was decided that all

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 such as new venue openings, birthday parties, etc. Amusing anecdotes, reports of the latest scams, jokes, astute observations and interesting photos are all welcome.

Stool Pigeon



Universal translator: Stool Pigeon, who has regressed into a flightless state and is therefore forced to remain on the island, is often asked by bar girls to keep up their Internet correspondence while they are up-country

and far away from Phuket.

If your reading this and pining away for your Patong one-and-only, consider that the most impressive of these keeps about eight guys on the string at any given

Man walks into a pub

Asked what they miss from their home country, many British expats in Phuket will say, without hesitation: "beer and pubs". From slick apartments in foreign cities to tropical beach huts and desert tents, a deep yearning rises from the collective hearts of displaced Brits for real beers served from cool casks in traditional pubs.

Canned or bottled beers are just not the same, they moan. In their damp-eyed nostalgia, some will even claim that the British pub is the very essence of Britain.

EDGEWISE

By John Gilpin

Maybe so. For myself, sitting in the shade of an old oak tree on a warm afternoon in a pretty pub garden and enjoying a pint or two with good friends, and with no pressing engagements or outstanding anxieties, is one of the truly good moments in life.

But it's not just the garden and the temperate weather that makes the magic of a great pub. Above all, it's the ale itself. Real ale. Well kept.

Over the past thirty-odd years there has been a consumer-driven movement in Britain (led by the Campaign for Real Ale, or Camra) to encourage and promote the manufacturing and consumption of real, living beers – none of which can be found in Phuket, by the way.

Essentially, a real ale is one where the beer is not pasteurized or "killed" before it leaves the brewery. Rather, the ale continues to ferment so that it reaches maturity in the cask in the pub cellar. In this way a rich mix of flavors is retained and the beer is not fizzed up with pressurized carbon dioxide. Brits generally don't like fizzy beer.

The character of the pub it-

self also enhances the pleasure of the pub experience. Most older country pubs are works of art in themselves, even if constructed without architects several centuries ago. Many are set in idyllic countryside while more than a few have long and lively histories.

There are many, many great old pubs in East Sussex where I come from. As a typical example, take the 500-year-old Red Lion in the time-forgotten village of Hooe on the edge of the Pevensey Marshes, just inland from where William the Conqueror landed in 1066 and not too far from Eastbourne, where I am writing this piece.

The pub, which was a popular hangout for smugglers in the 18th century, boasts a tobacco mill built into the roof rafters. It was used by the smugglers to grind up tobacco that they smuggled over in blocks from the continent.

A short history of this pub hanging in the low-ceilinged, oak-beamed bar tells of fights between the Excise (taxmen) and the smugglers. Lanterns would be hung in coded sequence from six lime trees, which still stand outside the pub, to inform the smugglers when Excise men were present.

In the 17th century the daughter of the landlord was committed to "the house of cor-

"Everything that happens in this Rip Van Winkle village, happens here"



John Pratty, beer-lover extraordinaire, enjoys a real ale early on a summer's evening at The Snowdrop in Lewes, East Sussex.

rection" (prison) for bearing an illegitimate child.

Anne, who has been a bartender at the Red Lion for 18 years, says that the pub is haunted by a one-legged man – the father of the child, perhaps? – who walks along the upstairs corridor. She also says she has heard the music of a chamber orchestra out the back when nobody is about.

Old inns are a favorite haunt of ghosts, it seems.

Like many country pubs, the Red Lion is the focus of the local community, Ann says.

"Everything that happens in this Rip Van Winkle village, happens here," she said.

No wonder British expats miss their real beer and old pubs. I'm off for a pint myself...

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Duty free plans mired in disagreement

By Anongnat Sartpisut

PHUKET CITY: Key Phuket business figures and high-ranking government officers failed to come to any agreement over where to set up duty-free areas in Phuket at a meeting at the Thavorn Grand Plaza Hotel on June 9.

Phuket Customs Chief Surachart Jantavatcharagorn said that the government's short-term strategy is to make duty-free goods available to tourists through such places as hotels, convention centers and health centers, including spas.

"In the long-term, if duty-free is successful, we will establish Phuket as a free port," he added.

K. Surachart noted that the idea of Phuket becoming a free port has been bandied about for some 20 years. However, restrictive laws and lack of cooperation from investors and local communities have consistently stalled progress.

"If Phuket becomes a free port, import duty privileges will cover all of the island. However, restrictive laws, local communities' objections and financial

impediments [for private investors] will still be obstacles," he said.

Phuket Governor Udomsak Usawarangkura suggested five sites where duty-free goods might be sold: Thalang Rd and Yaowarat Rd in Phuket City, Soi Bangla in Patong, Phuket Deep Sea Port at Ao Makham, Koh Maphrao as well as another site yet to be suggested by private investors wanting to set up a duty-free area.

An obvious omission was the new Wang Talang complex being built on Chao Fa West Rd in Wichit, which he had previously highlighted as the most probable site.

Key business figures, while keen to take part, had their own views on where duty-free goods should be made available in Phuket.

Theera Kienpoteeramad, Chairman of the Phuket Transportation and Tour Association, suggested setting up a duty-free zone in an undeveloped area. "Not more than 5% of tourists who come to Phuket visit Phuket City; most of their money stays in Patong or other beach areas.

"We should set up two sites;

if Thalang Rd and Yaowarat Rd is successful, then the second site should be at Saphan Hin," he said.

K. Theera also suggested another site in Phuket City - Klong Bang Yai. "After seeing how duty-free works in San Francisco, which has many canals, I think we should develop and offer duty-free goods along Klong Bang Yai to help develop sections along the klong," he said.

He argued that setting up five duty-free areas would be difficult for Phuket Customs to control, and pointed out that the duty-free zone at Bangkok International Airport can be controlled because it is all in one area.

K. Theera also voiced concern about requirements from Customs being unclear, and said that he was worried that the requirements might change, putting investors at risk.

Pamuke Achariyachai, President of the Phuket Chamber of Commerce, suggested that duty-free goods be made available near the beaches. Citing the example of Johor Bahru, Malaysia, where duty-free goods are available at hotels, the convention center and individual shops, he said that this was the best way

to use duty-free goods to boost the tourism industry.

Pattanapong Aikwanich, President of the Phuket Tourist Association, voiced his preference for duty-free goods being available in Phuket City and at the beaches.

However, he pointed out that if a zone were demarcated, then small stores selling duty-free goods stood little chance of survival if a big operator were to set up within the zone. "The small entrepreneurs cannot survive if the government does not protect them through laws," he said.

He also criticized the Customs Department's requirement that businesses wanting to sell duty-free goods have at least 100 million baht in registered capital. "The Customs Department should consider reducing this requirement to make it possible for private companies that do not have the required registered capital but really want to set up a duty-free store, to do so."

Phummsak Hongsyok, President of the Phuket Real Estate Club, also criticized the capital requirement. "It is impossible to select Thalang Rd as a duty-free zone. The 100-million-baht required registered capital to set up in the zone is possible only for big investors, but they will not invest in such a quiet business area.

Joining the criticism of unclear regulations, K. Phummsak said, "If we clarified the criteria, then the private sector would surely invest in it."

Offering an alternative to duty-free, K. Phummsak suggested, "Why don't we invest in an Information and Technology Free Zone so that we won't rely only on tourism; instead, we would be able to re-export software and other IT services."

In response to the criticism, K. Surachart confirmed only that the regulations were in effect, but did not comment on whether they would be reviewed.

US looking good for cheap investment buys

The May 2004 job creation figures released in early June showed that the US economy created almost a quarter of a million new jobs. The already healthy figures for April were amended upward.

Tax cuts have put more money back into peoples' pockets, a substantial part of which is then spent, spurring economic growth.

The US is running a budget deficit that is higher than it should be, though not at dangerous levels. It could, more accurately, be described as "uncomfortably high".

Domestic US savings are at low levels and the economy is reliant on foreign capital to bridge that gap. Should the inflow of foreign funds be insufficient, then the value of the US dollar will fall. US trade and current account deficits must also be taken into account in the overall calculation.

It is, however, hardly the end of the world if we experience a period of US dollar weakness. It is some time since we heard US Treasury or administration officials talking of "the strong dollar policy" because that policy has been abandoned. Neither will the same officials say they favor a weak dollar.



MONEY TALKS

By Richard Watson

"Foreign exchange markets will find their own level," is the current, much-heard phrase.

Because no votes rest on the value of the dollar - and because many Americans are virtually oblivious to the matter anyway - US politicians could not care less. Those US citizens who are aware know that a weak dollar encourages exports and inhibits imports, and that the matter will rectify itself in time.

A strong domestic economy encourages investors to eye the US for investment in two ways. First, foreign direct investment, that is, long-term investment, perhaps the outright purchase of American companies. Second, portfolio investment into the purchase of financial assets on the stock and bond markets.

To a Japanese pension fund, for example, yields on a 10-year Government Bond in Japan are well below 2% but in America, a 10-year US Treasury Bond will yield almost 5% and quality corporate bonds of investment grade will yield even more. Japanese

institutional investors are experts at currency hedging, so a weak dollar is little cause for concern.

A weak US dollar also means a cheap US dollar - for foreign investors. A good example was the recent purchase of the ninth-

largest US bank, Capital One, by the UK's Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) for around US\$11 billion (about 450 billion baht).

With the US dollar about 20% undervalued against the pound sterling, RBS acquired a quality asset to add to its US banking operations at a very attractive price in sterling terms.

Many countries have complicated laws or take other measures to keep major foreign investors at bay, especially from their banking sector. Ignorance is the cause. The Americans are more astute; if a foreign banking group of repute wants to buy a US bank, they are allowed to.

This kind of thinking is one of the many reasons why the bulk of the global "brain drain" is toward the US, not away from it.

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.



Thai Marine Leisure

(bold listings are Thai flagged boats)

Power		BROKERAGE DIVISION	
39 Ft 1998	Riviera 39 Platinum	Cummins, 2 x 250 Hp Turbo	US\$ 275,000
38 Ft 2000	Flybridge Water taxi	Yamaha, 2 x 200 Hp	Reduced to THB 2,000,000
37 Ft 1996	Searay 370	Mercuriser, 2 x 350 Hp	USD 160,000
29 Ft 2003	Prowler 5000	Honda 4-stroke, 2 x 50 Hp	Price on Application
28 Ft 86/02	Italian Open Sportfisher	Yamaha 200 Hp	THB 1,500,000
21 Ft 1997	Searay Laguna 21	Mariner 200 Hp (50 hrs)	THB 1,200,000
18 Ft 2000	Skip Jack 18	Yamaha, 2 x 85 Hp	THB 750,000

Sail			
64 Ft 1993	Traditional Wooden Ketch	Yanmar 45 Hp	US\$ 100,000
63 Ft 1993	Wooden Penis Ketch	Isuzu 511 Hp	Reduced to Euro 100,000
60 Ft 1982	Penis Ketch	Hino 175 Hp	Euro 51,500
60 Ft 1998	Penis Sloop	Yanmar 50 Hp	USD 45,000
56 Ft 1973	Classic Corten Steel Ketch	Perkins, 64 Hp	US\$ 70,000
45 Ft 1981	Bluewater Ketch	Ford Lehman, 65 Hp	US\$ 118,000
33 Ft 1986	Nauticat 33	Ford 90 Hp	THB 3,500,000
31 Ft 1983	Musi 95 (Peterson)	Volvo Penta, 22 Hp	US\$ 40,000

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Surin Bamrungpon receives his Overall Gross Winner's trophy from contest sponsor Phummisak Hongsyok.

Surin wins Phuket Masters tourney

PHUKET: After four weeks of tournament competition, Surin Bamrungpon has won the overall low gross prize in the Phuket Masters Invitational Golf Tournament 2004.

The tournament began on May 16 at Laguna Phuket Golf Club, followed by second and third rounds at the Blue Canyon Lakes Course and Loch Palm Golf Course, before concluding with the final round at the Phuket Country Club on June 13.

Surin won the overall low gross by scoring a four-round total of 302 strokes, winning him a trophy, a TV set and a golf bag.

Weera Patee, who won the overall low net prize with a total of 268 off a handicap of 24, also won a trophy, a TV set and a golf bag.

Other winners in their flights were:

Flight A (0-12 handicap). Gross: Prapan Kanthakul, 309 strokes; Net: Shin Tsai Yuan, 278 (8 handicap).

Flight B (13-18). Gross: Chatree Kaweekeit, 347; Net: Korawut Tansumet, 276 (18).

Flight C (19-24). Gross: Aroon Kaewwatee, 371; Net: Sampun Triburuth, 298 (24).

Flight D (25-36). Gross: Surapol Keojareu-an, 394; Net: Sarawut Srisakukram, 286 (30).

Junior Flight. Gross: Chartchai Thongyon, 353; Net: Thanat Peungdet, 258 (36).

The next Phuket Masters Invitational Golf Tournament will be held in 2006.

- Anongnat Sartpisut

Call for entries for Volvo Klassik golf

PHUKET: Volvo owners handy with a golf club will have the chance to win entry to the national finals of the Volvo Klassik Thailand 2004 – and possibly the international finals in Spain – by finishing in the top five in their flight in the Phuket qualifying round on September 4.

The Phuket round, one of eight nationwide, is limited to 120 players.

Any Volvo owner finishing in the top five of any of the three flights will win a berth in the national finals, to be played at the Lakewood Country Club in Samut Prakan on October 5.

Although only Volvo owners will get a shot at the national finals, non-owners may play. The top three to finish in their flight, regardless of whether they own a Volvo or not, will each receive a "Lotus Crystal Cup".

Golfers will play one round in one of three flights: Flight A (handicaps 0-12), Flight B (13-17) and Flight C (18 or more). The competition will feature a shotgun start and will be scored according to the Stableford system.

The winner of each flight in the national finals will get the chance to play against some of the best amateur golfers from 20

countries in the Volvo Masters Amateurs, which will be held at the Almenara Golf Hotel & Spa, in Sotogrande, Spain, from October 27-31.

Registration closes August 20. Entry costs 2,500 baht for Volvo car owners and 3,200 baht for others. For more information or to enter the tournament, call Muang Mai Motor Phuket at Tel: 076-218838-43.

Charity 10-pin

PHUKET CITY: The Phuket Wittayalai School Alumni Foundation will hold a fundraising bowling contest at CS Bowl at the Big C supercenter on June 27.

Money raised from the competition, which starts at 9 am, will go toward providing scholarships for poor students to attend Phuket Wittayalai School.

Entry costs 3,000 baht per three-person team. Application forms are available from the Phuket Wittayalai School Alumni Foundation, on Chumphon Rd, Phuket City (Tel: 076-222161), or from the Seng-Ho bookstore, 2/14-16 Montri Rd (Tel: 076-211396). Alternatively, teams may register at CS Bowl on the day.

Players sought for cricket match in Karon

KARON: Inspired by the recent Phuket Invitational Cricket Sixes, cricket will reappear in Phuket on June 27 with an 11-a-side match.

The venue will be Karon Municipal Stadium and the first ball should be delivered at 10 am in this informal practice game.

The organizers, Mark "Scarfy" Whetton and Richard Brown, are looking to attract a few more players – of any skill level – to join in the game and partake of the liquid refreshments so necessary to prevent dehydration once the match is over at around 4 pm.

Game fees – to cover stadium hire, rollers and labor – are 700 baht a player.

Players are encouraged to bring along their own kit, if they have any.

Anyone interested in playing can email Scarfy Whetton at scarfy@loxinfo.co.th or call Richard Brown at Tel: 01-7193414.

Patong Darts League roundup

PATONG: In a week-12 showdown between table toppers In-Between and Champs, the boys from Soi Kepsab won decisively in the singles and doubles. In-Between, however, remain on the top of the table, thanks to winning the beer leg and the point associated with it.

Happy Days have been on the rise, settling into third place in the standings by taking two points at home against Offshore. Happy Days have taken 8 points of a possible 9 in their last three matches, one of them an upset win over table toppers In-Between and the other a make-up match against Didi's for the game that was postponed over the Songkran Holiday.

Results of June 1 matches: Amigos* 6 Piccadilly 3; Champs* 3 Shakers 6; Football Crazy

6 Valhalla* 3; In-Between 3 Happy Days* 6; Offshore 5 Didi's* 4.

Results of June 8 matches: Amigos 6 Football Crazy* 3; Piccadilly 7 Didi's* 2; In-Between* 2 Champs 7; Shakers 4 Valhalla* 5; Happy Days 5 Offshore* 4.

April 13 make-up match: Happy Days* 6 Didi's 3.

(* = winners of beer leg.)

Overall standings including June 8 play: In-Between (27pts); Champs (26); Happy Days (22); Offshore (20); Football Crazy (18); Amigos (15); Valhalla (15); Piccadilly (14); Didi's (12); Shakers (11).

June 22 matchups: Champs at Football Crazy; Happy Days at Amigos; Offshore at In-Between; Shakers at Didi's; Valhalla at Piccadilly.

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Phuket matches will be a great success, says Fifa

By Anongnat Sartpisut

PHUKET CITY: Some training fields may lack toilets and dressing rooms, and the upgrade of Phuket's Surakul Stadium has been delayed by rain.

But John Schumacher, Chief Media Officer of the International Federation of Association Football (Fifa), said on June 10 that he expects the final rounds of the Fifa U-19 Women's World Championship 2004, to be played in Thailand in November, will be a "great success".

Mr Schumacher arrived in Thailand on June 6 with three other representatives from international soccer's ruling body to inspect the sports facilities in Thailand to be used during the event, from November 10 to 27.

"This is the first chance we have had to do a full inspection tour of the stadiums in Thailand since November last year," Mr Schumacher said.

"During this time it is important for us to inspect all the facilities. We are not in a position just yet to identify individual points that need improving, but once we get back to Zurich, we will be able to coalesce all of the information we have gone through.

"So it's not a question of

whether we can say 'yes' to this and 'no' to that. It's part of the process; there are always things to improve," he said.

"One of the things we are very happy with is the cooperation with the LOC [Local Organizing Committee]," he added. "All the people here are very welcoming and very helpful." He said he was pleased to encounter "the passion and the excitement of Thai people" for the coming tournament. "No doubt it is going to be a great success," he added.

Eam Thavornvongwongse, Deputy Chairman of the Phuket Sports Association, said, "The budget and all responsibility for the reconstruction of the stadium has been handed over to the Sports Authority of Thailand in Bangkok (SAT), which is a good thing because we have limited time to complete

everything by the end of September."

K. Eam added, "All departments are working well together. They cannot confirm how complete the upgrade is, but they believe that Surakul Stadium will be ready in time."



The Fifa team discuss improvements with Eam Thavornvongwongse (right). John Schumacher is second from right.

of this month, the stadium will be closed and upgrading will recommence," he said.

Addressing the problem that some training fields to be used – at Karon Stadium, Sanaam Chai in Phuket City, Rajabhat Institute Phuket and Saphan Hin – lack toilets and dressing rooms, he said, "Fifa is not strict on this point because players can use facilities nearby."

The Fifa delegation inspected the Chiang Mai 700th Anniversary Stadium before coming to Phuket. They flew to Bangkok on June 8 to inspect the other two tournament venues – the Rajamangala National Stadium and the Suphachalasai Stadium – before returning to Zurich.

On June 11, a draw was made in Bangkok to place qualifying teams in the three groups for the final rounds of the competition. These are: Group A: Thailand, Australia, Canada and the second-ranked team from Europe; Group B: China, Brazil, the top-ranked African team and the fourth-ranked European team; Group C: South Korea, the USA, and the first- and third-ranked European teams.

Group A will be played in Bangkok, Group B in Chiang Mai and Group C in Phuket.

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It is perhaps a depressing fact that only two car companies have consistently made a profit in the past 30-odd years: Japanese giant Toyota and Germany's BMW. Of the two, one is aiming for global dominance while the other is simply glad to have divested itself of the millstone round its neck called Rover – now known as MG-Rover – in the UK.

Rover was acquired by BMW in 1994 as a way to move into the high-volume market, to complement its already highly successful luxury range.

Labor problems, out-of-date plants and an aging model lineup contributed to an ongoing problem until, in 2000, Rover was sold for a token £10 to a British group led by former Rover boss John Towers.

Rover is still mired in debt and now offers an even older model range – the company has even elected to take an Indian-built minicar from Tata to rebadge as a Rover – and is unlikely to survive without a larger, more solvent industry partner.

But at BMW, since Rover was removed from the balance sheet, profits have leapt and the company has begun to introduce a raft of new models, including, debuted at this year's Geneva show, an attractive and sporty 6-series convertible.

The 645Ci is endowed with a 4.4-liter V8 producing a healthy 333bhp (245kW) and 450Nm of torque.

Although the power delivery is leisurely, resulting in a 0-100kmh sprint time of a shade over six seconds, the torque output is strong thanks to variable valve technology.

The convertible is not, as you might believe, simply a 6-series coupé with the top removed; the

drop-top version was designed in line with the enclosed model and retains the near 50:50 weight distribution, with the advantage that the low weight of the cloth roof boosts the car's agility.

The 645 has a vertical rear screen that allows the cloth roof to fold independently.

The screen is not attached to the roof and can be raised or lowered whether the roof is up or down.

Thanks to careful attention to detail in designing the roof, luggage space is ample

even with the roof down, while at speeds close to 160kmh there is little buffeting or turbulence.

The big V8 is mated to a choice of transmissions. While it is anticipated that the majority of buyers will go for the six-speed automatic, there is also a six-speed manual or a sequential manual operated by buttons on the steering wheel.

Other driver aids include a dynamic anti-roll system that uses step motors to reduce lean on bends, giving a more comfortable ride.

There is active steering which amplifies driver input at low speeds, increasing maneuverability but becoming less direct at higher speeds, thereby enhancing straight-line stability.

The many innovations in the new 6-series include optional systems like heads-up displays, adaptive, all-seeing headlamps and a brake-force display to warn following drivers of heavy braking.

Prices for the new model have yet to be announced, but the 645Ci will be a welcome addition to the BMW ranks and should contribute significantly to further profits in Bavaria.

Jeff Heselwood may be contacted by email at jhc@netvigator.com.



By Jeff Heselwood

If an event isn't listed in the Gazette's *Events Calendar* it probably isn't one. List **YOUR** event now - **It's free of charge.**

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Wine ratings are overrated



By Steven Roberto

Prohibition in the US and two terrible wars in Europe slowed down progress on the scientific understanding of wine in the first half of the 20th century.

In the 1950s, however, researchers began using chemistry and microbiology to understand better how the molecular properties of wine affect taste.

Researchers could analyze wine in the laboratory, but they did not know if consumers noticed – or even cared about – what they were measuring.

To give their research work more practical value, they needed experienced wine tasters to help them understand the links between the various chemical constituents of wine and their effect on the palate. But personal preferences and sensory perceptions invariably led to differing descriptions being applied to the same wines.

This problem was finally overcome by statistical analysis. This has developed into what we know today as “wine ratings”. Originally, wine ratings were just the results of trained tasters paying attention to specific characteristics, such as “acidity” or “fruitiness”.

Wine ratings were initially never intended to say if a wine was good or bad, only if it was different from another wine.

Over time, however, the quality and selection of wines improved and the interests of both consumers and the industry began to shift. Recognizing the need to describe the increasingly refined and nuanced wines available, wine critics seized on the incongruous idea of giving scores to wines.

Today, publications such as the *Wine Spectator* and *Decanter* use such quantitative ratings to describe wine quality. Most common is a system of 100 points, with 80 points being av-

erage, 90 points very good, and 100 points perfect.

However, this system is actually a 20-point system. Few commercial wines ever receive ratings lower than 80 points. Presumably the tasters who bestow these ratings are qualified, impartial and have no prior knowledge of the wines they are evaluating.

Most insiders familiar with the workings of these tastings snicker at this assertion, yet consumers tend to accept and take ratings at face value because they are perceived as being independently assigned.

I don't like ratings because high “scores” inflate wine prices and create scarcity of certain wines. They also tend to turn ordinary consumers into grasping hoarders, the kind who dread the thought of actually drinking a highly-rated bottle. Ratings are fundamentally silly; no number can ever tell you if a wine is good or bad. Only you can make this judgment.

Most of us are much better served by relying on our own experience and intuition to choose a wine. Yet few of us seem to bother, so we blindly continue to allow mystifying numbers posted in magazines and eccentric newsletters decide for us whether we should like – or dislike – a wine.

This is lamentable because when we trust our own judgment, a wine can connect with us much more deeply and bring far greater enjoyment and satisfaction than anything offered to us by the world of analytical chemistry.

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

For those not blessed with the plethora of cable TV channels available in Phuket, one of the recent delights of South Korean TV, *Dae Jang Gum* (“One Fine Spring Day”), may have passed you by.

The series was watched by more than half the people in South Korea and recounted the tale of Jang Gum, the first female doctor appointed to an emperor during 16th-century Korea.

As much as it was a historical drama, it also doubled as a cookery program, with many fine recipes of Royal Korean cuisine – and traditional medicine and herbal remedies – being presented to the public.

At *Dae Jang Gum* restaurant in Phuket City, Kim Yong Jun from Busan, a former South Korean commando, brings the legacy of his country's culinary delights to Phuket with a little help from his father, Kim Byoung Sik.

Mr Jun, as he calls himself, began to learn the intricacies of Korean cooking at age 19 when he entered a temple to make merit.

Preparing food for his fellow monks, however, may differ somewhat to satisfying paying diners and coachloads of Korean tourists who, as Mr Jun explained to us, “...prefer three types of food: Korean, Korean, Korean!”

We ate in typical Korean style at low tables. Patrons in the private rooms upstairs – accommodating from four to 16 diners – may relax a little more than the sorry six-foot-tall patrons sitting downstairs, where Procrustean measures are required to sit comfortably.

Our host ordered for us, selecting dishes combining his favorites and other characteristic examples of the cuisine of *Han'guk*, as South Koreans call their country.

Among my favorites was the *naeng myun* (cold buckwheat noodles) and *K'ongnamuleoi Naengku* (cold cucumber soup), the latter reminiscent of gazpacho and just as easy to recreate at home.

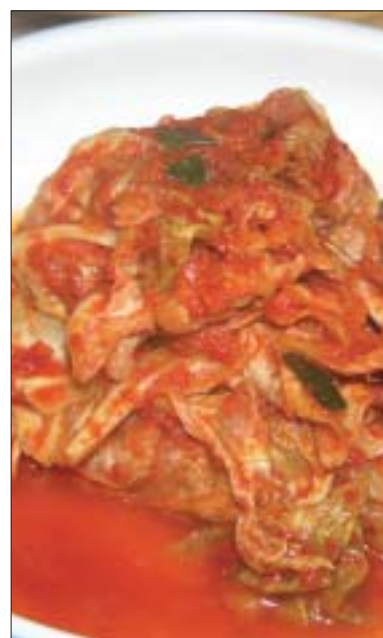
The flavors of green onions, sesame, fresh red chilies and cooling cucumber assaulted the senses with vivid colors and equally vivid tastes.

The jumbled heat/coolness of the soup sat well with the fiery-red *baechu kimchi* (pickled

Korea move



TAKE YOUR PICKLE: Above, a groaning table at *Dae Jang Gum*. Below, *baechu kimchi*.



Korean cabbage), perhaps the dish most associated with Korea since the actress Tymarrah played her dastardly role in the most recent James Bond film.

Kimchi is by turns hot, sour and hot again, and an acquired taste. Two minutes after I almost reluctantly ate the first morsels, I was clearing the bowl, much to the delight of Mr Jun and to the vexation of my dining companions.

Do I alone continue to surprise my Thai, Korean or Japanese friends by my ability to eat rip-roaringly spicy food? “Think of mustard or horseradish sauce or curry,” I implored them. “We Brits built – and lost – an empire

eating these foods,” I reminded them.

Beef seems to feature large in Korean cuisine, and the *galbijjim* (short braised beef ribs) were decidedly moreish and, not surprisingly, one of the most popular choices at *Dae Jang Gum*.

Deungshim-gui is another one of the star choices on any Korean menu. A sirloin steak is marinated in a mixture of crushed sesame seeds, crushed garlic and salt before being grilled before your eyes. More importantly, it is grilled before your nose.

Our waitress cut the succulent scented steak into bite-size pieces that we enveloped in salad leaves and topped with sesame oil, raw red chili, *kimchi* and *doenjang* (bean paste) before popping one, two, three – well, who's counting – into our mouths.

We drank *poricha*, the ubiquitous Korean barley tea, during our meal and enjoyed *chunju* – a Korean saké – as a nightcap.

Korean cuisine features many dishes to excite the palate and eyes with a blend of colors, tastes and textures. There is something for everyone, from those who savor the sour and spicy to others whose preference is for meat, salads or noodles. Definitely worth a try.

Dae Jang Gum, Jee Teng Complex, 101 Bangkok Rd, Phuket. Open 10 am-10pm every day, except alternate Sundays. Tel: 076-246350. Fax: 076-246-349.

On the menu

with Andy Johnstone

Dae Jang Gum

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Construction Update

by Alasdair Forbes



The Sri Panwa architects have taken care to ensure that each house will have unobstructed views.

Sri Panwa project to generate B1.2 billion

CAPE PANWA: The first show house at the Sri Panwa development at the southern tip of Cape Panwa is now complete. The house is one of 34 being built in the first phase of the project, with at least 20 to follow in the second phase.

The homes will range in size from one- or two-bedroom units up to a 700-square-meter house on one rai of land. All will have their own pools and care has been taken to ensure that no house blocks the view from another.

All homes will have sea views, either southwest across Chalong Bay or northeast across the southern end of Phang Nga Bay. Those on the top of the

ridge will have views in both directions.

The entire project covers some 57 rai, with homes selling at prices ranging from 12 million to 80 million baht. Bangkok-based Charn Issara Development Public Co Ltd expects the project to boost company income by 1.2 billion baht next year.

The company's Managing Director, Songkran Issara, told the *Gazette* that a decision had been taken to move away from the steep, pointed roofs seen in many earlier developments in Phuket, in favor of shallower-pitch roofs using cedar shakes.

"We've spent a lot of time with the architect and have arrived at a design that blends with

the environment, has a Thai flavor and yet is different from, say, Amanpuri. I think people should have more choice," he added.

The architects for the project are Habita of Bangkok, who include in their portfolio design work on Amanpuri, The Evason Phuket and the Pimalai resort on Koh Lanta.

Charn Issara plans to bring in a top hotel company to run part of the development as an upmarket resort, giving buyers an income on their homes while they are not in Phuket.

The company is also the developer of the Baan Issara Rama 9 luxury housing project on Ramkhamhaeng 24 Rd in Bangkok.

Home of the Week

Hideaway



This three-story home comes complete with an ornamental waterfall that runs from the top of the house down to the terrace.

This week's Home of the Week is a luxury villa set in a private estate, with its own access road, on a hillside overlooking Patong Bay. The views are stunning and the tranquillity of the location add to the home's appeal.

This three-story house has an immense living area of nearly 500 square meters, and sits on more than two rai of land with landscaped gardens nestled into the contours of the hillside.

The property has been built to the highest standards with extensive use of marble and teak, and air conditioning is fitted throughout. The living accommodation is large and light, and offers ocean views from nearly every room.

The main living area is on

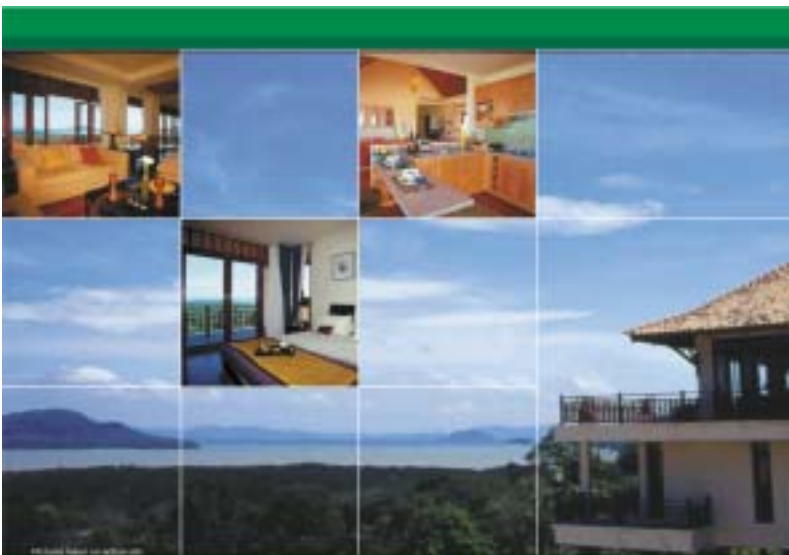
the pool-terrace level, with another spacious area to entertain guests or just relax and enjoy the view on the second level. Both have full-length fold-away windowed doors on three sides giving unobstructed views over the ocean.

The living area on the second level also has a wide balcony and outdoor stairs leading down to the main terrace and the large infinity-edge pool.

The house features an ornamental waterfall, which cascades from the top of the house to the lower parking area.

The villa has four large bedrooms, ranging in size from 30sqm to 50sqm. All feature double beds, fitted teak wardrobes with mirrored doors and, of course, en-suite bathrooms.

The main bedroom, on the



A Natural Paradise in Phuket Town



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Patong

high in the hills



Above: The large kitchen comes fitted with all the appliances a modern family needs.

Right: Views over Patong Bay are accessible from nearly every room in the house. Below right: All four bedrooms feature extensive teak throughout.

top level, features a private balcony and the en-suite bathroom has a Jacuzzi with fold-away windows exposing a view over the bay.

The large kitchen is fully fitted out with all appliances necessary for the modern family's cooking needs. These include a cooker fitted into a central food-preparation unit, surrounded on three sides by a work top that has ample cupboards above and below.

The property comes partially furnished with traditional Thai-style teak furniture, which has been brought in from all over Thailand. The asking price is 35 million baht.

For more information contact Rudi at House and Villa Sales Phuket. Tel: 076-345081 or 01-9241447. Email: info@houseandvillasalesphuket.com.



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Décor Source

By Siripansa Somboon



Kwanchai Aswawongsonti with some of the sumptuous artifacts available from Villa Orientara.

Something for everyone

When looking for furnishings to complete the home with that personal touch, people tend to choose items that reflect their personalities, perhaps simple and practical, or contemporary or classical, or in a traditional style from a particular culture.

Villa Orientara, on Patak Rd in Kata, attempts to cover all bases with its range of items.

"Our specialty is handcrafted teak furniture, but our designs are a mix of traditional Thai and contemporary styles," Kwanchai Aswawongsonti, managing director of Villa Orientara says.

K. Kwanchai explains, "We

have over 200 workers making a wide range of furniture, accessories and decorative items. With our distinctive style, a mix of traditional style and today's designs, assembly techniques and finishes, we have created a harmonious range of products.

"We can suggest items from our existing collections or make to order according to clients' tastes," he says, adding that Villa Orientara has an in-house artist constantly creating new designs.

Villa Orientara is at 84/2-3 Patak Rd (Kata Beach), Karon, Phuket 83100. Open daily 9am-8:30pm. Tel: 076-284281. Fax: 076-330-932. Email: vorient@cscoms.com

Correction: The wooden waterwheel pictured in *Décor Sources* in the May 29 issue of the *Gazette* is not available at Aukao Aunam, as was implied by its inclusion in the same article. We apologize for any confusion this may have caused.

Gardening

with Bloomin' Bert

Burning yearning

Is "tenuousness" a word? If it isn't, it should be [*It is - Ed*]. The subject of this attempt at literary art stems from the rain that has been teeming down lately, resulting in the temperature dropping from the oven-like norm to the chilling depths that now have Thai people walking around wearing coats and complaining about the cold.

"If this were England," I thought to myself, "we'd be huddled around inside trying to keep warm around a crackling fire, watching the stream rise from our sodden clothes."

Here's the tenuousness bit: thinking about crackling fires got me thinking about the fire bush, or *prathat-thawng* as it's known by the now coat-wearing Thais. Proper gardeners call it the *hamelia patens*.

Some plants are spectacular in one or more ways. Some have incredible, eye-catching blooms. Some have amazing aromas that are caught on the wind from 50 paces, or leaves that look so spectacular that you'd swear they were created by an artist with far too much time on his hands.

The fire bush is different though. It has none of the above. About the only thing in its favor is its name, which conceivably might prompt a few immature schoolboy sniggers.

It's certainly a bloomer, and does so year-round - it's just that



Good hedge material: the fire bush is originally from Mexico. - Photo courtesy of www.toptropicals.com.

the "blooms" themselves are a bit disappointing. They don't even look like flowers - more like tiny red-orange tubes about a centimeter long, with deeper-red throats.

The bush gets its name simply because there are a lot of them, so from a distance all you see is splashes of fiery orange in the bush. Snigger. Sorry.

Apparently these tiny tubular flowers are great attractors of hummingbirds, which would be great if we had hummingbirds in Phuket. But in all the time I've been here, I've never seen one, which is a pity. Do we get them here? (Answers on a postcard, please.)

The fire bush originated from Mexico, and grows as a large evergreen shrub there. Elsewhere it's also known as the fire-cracker plant, for obvious reasons.

Stunning it may not be, but it's a rugged bush that will grow just about anywhere it can get some sun. At times of the year when everything else in the gar-

den starts to look a bit frazzled and tired, the firebush will still sit happily, steadily getting on with the business of growing.

It will put up with poor soils and is even tolerant of salt, so it's suited to the island life here. If you're feeling energetic, you can encourage more flowers, and indeed the whole bush, to grow by planting it in rich organic soil. It is great as a patio plant, as a bedding plant or by the pool.

If you ignore it, the fire bush will grow to a couple of meters tall, but by that time it will look a bit straggly.

If you're intending to put a few of them together, it's better to have them about 20cm-40cm apart. This will allow you to let them grow a bit, then you can trim them back.

Let them grow a bit more and trim them back again, until you have a full-blown hedge. The short-term downside of the hedge idea is that pruning slows down the production of flowers, as they grow at the ends of the stalks.

Over the past couple of weeks, I have explained various methods of propagation. This one is a member of the "cut-it-and-stick-it" club. Just cut off a reasonably thick, healthy-looking branch and push it unceremoniously into some damp compost or even just plain soil - it'll probably take root anyway.

As we progress through the rainy season more rain is sure to fall, and again my mind will drift back to my homeland, and the fire that we'd all be sitting around in this weather, trying to keep warm by almost burning our hands in the flames. After all, a burn in the hand is worth two in the bush.

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CONDO WITH VIEW ON THE BANYAN TREE GOLF

82sqm apartment with view of the Banyan Tree Golf. 1 bedroom, kitchen/dining/living room. Includes 2 golf club memberships. Price: 5.5 million baht. Tel: 09-7247211. Email: julien@phuketimmo.com Website: www.phuketimmo.com

2 RAI IN RAWAI

Distress sale. 2 rai in Rawai, with Chanote title, for sale at 1.4 million baht a rai. Tel: 06-5950188. Email: nsupin@yahoo.com

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Property Gazette

Properties For Rent

OFFICE SPACE

For rent: fully furnished and air-conditioned shared office space – 70sqm – available on the 3rd floor of the Land Rover building in Phuket City. Includes telephone line. Please contact for details. Tel: 076-385292, 01-893-1360. Fax: 076-385292. Email: somyong_phumala@yahoo.com

3 BEDROOMS

Parkland setting. Delightful two-story house in secluded and secure landscaped estate. Air conditioning throughout, quality furnishings, well-equipped modern kitchen and only 10 mins to Phuket City. Rent: 35,000 baht a month. Please contact for more details. Tel: 076-381717, 01-8950680. Fax: 076-282218. Email: trin@phuket-sunseekers.com

HOTEL PROMOTION

for the low season. Rental rooms for long-stay at beachfront hotel, includes ABF and facilities. Price: 18,000 baht a month. Please call. Tel: 076-345518, 01-8920038.

LONG-TERM LEASE

New houses at Palai Green. 2 aircon bedrooms, hot shower, kitchen, living room, patio, garage. Fully furnished, beautiful garden, quiet, peaceful area. Palai beach, near Chalong Bay. Call 01-8924311.

BEACH HOUSE FOR RENT

Fully furnished, 3 bedrooms, in Rawai, nice, quiet and secure. Price: 22,000 baht a month. Please call 09-6822954.

RAWAI CONDO

1-room apartment, kitchen, aircon, TV, swimming pool, furnished. Tel: 06-7417260.

PRIME LOCATION

in Soi Bangla. 300sqm, 1st-floor building, on Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd, next to C&N and 50m to Soi Bangla. Ideal for bar, discotheque, restaurant, gym, shop or office. Minimum 3-year lease, prefer 5-10 years. Rent: 38,000 baht a month, key money 1.2 million a year. Contact for more details. Tel: 076-296621, 01-9785501. Fax: 076-344689. Email: info@phuketforsale.com

HOUSE FOR RENT

New 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom house for rent, very close to Nai Yang and airport. Comprises kitchen, living room and garden. Furnished: 25,000 baht a month. Unfurnished: 20,000 baht. Tel: 01-3978938, 09-7240116.

HOUSE FOR RENT

in Kathu. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, large living room and kitchen. Situated in quiet cul de sac near 2 golf courses. 9 mins to Patong. Price: 20,000 baht a month. Please contact for details. Tel: 09-4729841.

5-BED HOUSE 4 RENT

5-bed/5-bathroom Thai-style house for rent at Loch Palm Golf Course. Close to Dulwich International College. Fully furnished and less than a year old. Just move in. 800-sqm garden, 3 telephone lines. Car available if required. Short-or long-term rental is OK. Rent: 45,000 baht a month. Please contact us for further information. Tel: 65-98370340, 09-871-3360. Email: chris_winter@veritasdgc.com

HOUSE FOR RENT

in Bang Tao area. 1 furnished bedroom and aircon house for rent. Kitchen, living room, small lawn and parking space. Rent: 7,000 baht a month. Please call for details. Tel: 01-6341432. Fax: 02-6881753.

PATONG APTS

for long-term rent. 1 bedroom, 1 TV room, cable TV, aircon. Some apartments have good sea view. Prices from 5,000 to 20,000 baht a month. Tel: 09-2909567. For further details, please see our website at: www.brommathaihouse.com

4 RENT IN KAMALA

2-bedroom apartment for long-term rental. Fully furnished, aircon, UK-style kitchen, TV, UBC, etc, plus swimming pool and Jacuzzi in private, new development. Tel: 01-9580489 or 09-8746185. Agents welcome.

HOUSE FOR RENT

3-bedroom house with garden, in desirable Chao Fa Thani estate, backs onto klong, 3 bathrooms, living room, study, dining room, kitchen, air-conditioned, fully furnished. Rent: 30,000 baht a month. Tel: 076-281018, 09-4729841.

BEACHSIDE HOUSE

Detached 2-story, 3-bedroom house with panoramic views over Chalong Bay. Quiet location at Khao Khat, between Phuket City, Cape Panwa and Chalong. Furnished: 24,500 baht a month. Unfurnished: 19,500 baht, negotiable. Call or email for info and pics. Tel: 076-256407 or 01-6764849. Email: amono@loxinfo.co.th

NEW HOME + POOL

New home in Kamala with pool. Furnished: 35,000 baht a month; unfurnished: 28,000 baht a month. Minimum 6-month let. Please call after 4 pm. Tel: 076-385940.

HOUSE WITH LARGE

garden (property covers 712sqm) for rent in Land & Houses Park in Chalong. This partly-furnished 2-story house has 3 bedrooms, parking for 2 cars, aircon, walk-in closets, a modern kitchen, terrace, balcony, satellite TV and telephone line. Rent: 45,000 baht/month (negotiable). Tel: 06-6897113.

PATONG HILLTOP

Fully furnished, 4-bedroom, 3-bathroom house with big garden and great view. Live-in maid, if required. Long-term lease only. 40,000 baht a month. Tel: 02-5138348, 01-8915325. Email: jorg1@bkk4.loxinfo.co.th

NEW HOUSE

is located near Heroines' Monument. 105sqm with 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, and furnished garden. 10 mins to Lotus and 15 mins to airport. Rent: 23,000 baht a month. Please contact us for details. Tel: 06-6829922. Email: relaxphuket@thailand.com

HOUSE IN CHALONG

New 3-bed house in Soi Palai with 2 aircon units, 2 bathrooms, garden, phone and carpark. Minimum 1-year rental: 20,000 baht/month. Tel: 09-5943209.

TOWNHOUSES

for rent. Situated in quiet area of Soi Sansabai, Patong. 2 bedrooms, furnished, UBC, aircon, telephone, short- and long-term lets available. 20,000 baht a month. Tel: 076-341871, 01-5697616.

KATHU HOUSE

for rent. Furnished 2-bedroom, 2-bathroom house with kitchen, living room, 2 air conditioners, available for long-term rent at 8,000 baht a month. Tel: 09-2909567. Please see our website at www.brommathaihouse.com

2 SHOPHOUSE UNITS

for rent in Patong. Main road access. For business, can rent long term. Price: 25,000 baht a month. For more details, please call 09-8732133.

RESTAURANT/BAR

on Taina Rd, in Kata, for rent. Good location next to guest-houses with a lot of regular customers. Has been in business for 6 years. Tel: 076-284049, 01-9585528. Fax: 076-330086. Email: finn@phuket.cscoms.com

KAMALA FOR RENT

Beach shophouse, only 150m or 2 mins walk to the beach, for 6-months' rental. 2 bedrooms, fully furnished. Price: only 8,500 baht a month. Please contact for details. Tel: 076-2780088, 06-2746511.

KATHU HOUSE

for rent. Furnished 1½-story house with 2 bedrooms, 2 aircons, 2 bathrooms, big living room, kitchen, hot water and UBC TV. Price: 10,000 baht a month. Tel: 09-645-9527, 09-7319960.

WATERFRONT HOUSE

1-bedroom, 3-year-old house on beautiful Panwa Beach, with awesome sunset views. Long-term rental. 7,000 baht a month. Please contact us for more information. Tel: 07-2801588.

BEDROOM & ADSL

Aircon, TV, fridge, hot water, balcony. Available June-July. Rent: 600 baht/day. Tel: 07-8975674. Email: johnsjo1949@yahoo.com

VERY NICE HOUSE

in Rawai for rent. Great Thai-style house in Soi Tristar, Rawai, for rent. 3 aircon bedrooms, fully furnished. Nice view from open-air sala. Gardener included. Please call 01-8920643, 01-6937277.

KATHU WATERFALL

Unfurnished 2-bedroom house in a quiet location near Kathu waterfall. Comprises: bathroom, living room, kitchen, front and back patios, and car park space. Only 5,000 baht a month. Tel: 09-8731652.

KATA HILLTOP

house for rent. Fully furnished 2-story house with large air-conditioned bedroom, living room, kitchen and terrace. Bathroom has hot water. 11,000 baht a month. Tel: 076-216036, 01-6062827. Email: nij017@hotmail.com

HOUSE NEAR LAGUNA

4 bedrooms, big living room, study, kitchen, garage for 3 cars, maid's room, swimming pool, 2 telephone lines, 4 aircons, hot water, semi-furnished, good neighborhood. For long-term rent at 60,000 baht a month. Tel: 01-8930692. Email: toto@phuket.ksc.co.th

LONG-TERM RENTAL

available at Land & Houses Park. 82 sq wah, 2 floors, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, situated in Chalong area. Minimum 1-year rental. Price: 25,000 baht a month. Please call for more details. Tel: 09-7731919.

Find more Property Classified ads at www.phuketgazette.net/

Agents for Classified Advertising

PHUKET

K.L. Mart
Patak Rd, Chalong **Tel: 076-280400/3**

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 **Tel: 076-420627**

Avalon Creative Group Co Ltd, Khao Lak **Tel: 076-420539**

Classified Advertisements

Please use this form to write your classified advertisement. Then hand it to any of our agents.

_____ (heading)


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.

Deadline for all other pages: Saturday 12 noon.

Island Job Mart



This well-established deluxe resort on Koh Lanta Yai, Krabi, is seeking for candidates with the following qualifications:

Chief Engineer

- Male, over 35 years old
- Bachelor's or master's degree or higher in engineering.
- At least 5 years experience in a similar position, preferably in a resort environment
- Strong ability in leading a team of 30/35 engineering & gardening staff.
- Good command of written and spoken English.
- Computer, Internet and emailing proficiency.
- Able to work under pressure and handle multiple projects simultaneously.
- Hard working, dynamic, hands on and highly responsible.
- Experienced in resort opening will also be an advantage.

Front Office Manager

- Male or female, ideal age 30-35 yrs.
- Sound knowledge of all front-office and reservation standards, operating procedures with good financial understanding.
- Computer literate in Fidelio, MS Excel & Word.
- Fluent in Thai and spoken English, written English also preferred.
- Must have worked in international-standard hotel, preferably a resort.
- Minimum 2 years as an Asst Manager/Duty Manager, including reservations training.
- Must lead by example, be hands on and create a pro-active team environment.
- Ability to train and develop staff at both supervisory and entry-level staff.

Other position available Guest Service Officers, Cooks-Thai/Western cuisine, Engineers/Technicians, Boat mechanic, Boat captains, Reservation officers (Koh Lanta & Bangkok office), H/K supervisor, Purchasing officer (Bangkok office).

For All applicants: Outgoing personality, self-confident and with an eye for detail. Must also be able to adapt and live on an island. All positions are open for Thai nationals only with excellent benefits and a salary appropriate to the applicant's experience and will be offered.

Interested candidates, please submit, resumé, recent picture and expected salary to:
Fax: 076 907 998 or Email: hr@pimalai.com. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

Pimalai Resort & Spa, 99 Moo 8, Ba Kan Tiang Bay, Koh Lanta, Krabi 81180, Thailand
A member of Small Luxury Hotels of the world



The Allamanda Vacation Club, based in Phuket and an integrated part of Laguna Resorts & Hotels, is currently looking for enthusiastic individuals to fill several available positions of:

**Asst. Sales Manager (2 positions), Sales Representative (5 positions)
Outside Personal Contact (6 positions) and Tele-Marketer (3 positions)**

Applicants should meet the following criteria:

- Self motivated and enthusiastic
- Able to communicate effectively in English (other languages would be an advantage)
- Interested in earning a lot of money
- Experience preferred but not essential (full training given)
- Truly passionate about representing the best product in our industry
- Outside Personal Contact & Tele-Marketing positions reserved for Thai only.

Applicants are invited to apply in person at Allamanda Vacation Club. Office is located in Canal Village (shopping area) at Laguna Phuket. Or send a full resumé, detailed qualifications and experience with recent photo to:

Group Director of Human Resources
Laguna Resorts & Hotels Public Co Ltd
390/1 Moo 1, Srisoonthorn Road, Cherngtalay, Thalang, Phuket 83110
Tel: 076-324416-7 Fax: 076-325002
Email: sunisas@lagunaphuket.com or avcmkt@lagunaphuket.com

SALES PEOPLE

We are looking for direct sales people with or without experience. Full training will be given. High earning potential for right candidates. Positions in Phuket, also opportunity for Samui. Please call Steve at Tel: 04-0530358 for more information or to apply.

CLIENT RELATIONS

and marketing position. Permanent position for Thai national who is looking for an interesting and challenging position in Phuket City. Skills required: Excellent spoken and written English; good computer, organizational and communication skills; driver's licence; bright and outgoing personality. Salary in line with expertise and experience. Tel: 076-232962, 01-8919653. Fax: 076-232 961. Email: rob@sailing-thailand.com

SECRETARY

urgently required. Qualifications: aged above 25, excellent English, able build good working relationship skills, able to operate PC. Experience would be an advantage. Tel: 01-8925590. Fax: 076-224368. Email: pkbranch@somerville.th.com

TEACHERS REQUIRED

We are looking for 3 Thai English-language teachers and 2 native English-speaking classroom teachers to teach kindergarten and primary-level students. Please send your CV via email or fax, or contact us for more information. Tel: 076-248975. Fax: 076-248-976. Email: info@kajonkiet.com

OFFICE MANAGER

Looking for a motivated and experienced Office Manager. Must be able to work independently and possibly supervise office. Qualifications: university degree in any field; experience in the hotel or tourism industries would be an advantage; good command of English is a must, German would be an advantage. Must also have computer skills including MS Word, Excel and Outlook. Thai nationals only need apply. Tel: 076-242785. Email: info@thailandholidays.de Please visit our website at: www.thailandholidays.de

LEAD PROGRAMMER

Web developer wanted with strong skills in the following areas: ASP/SQL, PHP, Java script. Applicants must be fluent in English and skills in Web design and Macromedia Flash are considered an advantage. For further details, please see our website at www.payzip.com or email: info@asiadebit.com

SECRETARY NEEDED


Thai nationals only need apply, age between 22-28 years old. Should speak and write English and have at least a year of experience. Contact Octopus Electrical Service Co Ltd at Tel: 09-4741246, 076-273-379 or email CV for interview. Email: info@octopusasia.com

TIMESHARE REPS

at Koh Samui. Experienced timeshare reps (German and English speaking) required for Asia's newest Gold Crown Resort in Koh Samui for selling floating red weeks. Top commissions, daily spiffs, 1 month accommodation and work permit. Tel: 077-413906. Fax: 077-413904. Email: erwintrepka@yahoo.it

SALES DELEGATE

Perfume company is currently seeking sales delegates to take care of customers in Phuket area. Applicants should have good level of English (speak, read and write), plus 2 or 3 years of relevant sales experience. Good presentation is a plus. Great career development opportunity for a marketing-minded and ambitious person. Must have own transport. Please contact for more details. Tel: 07-9836990. Email: 2f.net@free.fr



Katathani Phuket Beach Resorts is currently seeking highly-qualified professionals with relevant experience for the following positions:

1 Local Sales Manager

Qualifications:

- Male or female, minimum age of 25
- 2-3 years' experience in hotel sales and marketing
- Bachelor's degree or higher
- Fluent in written and spoken English, other languages will be an advantage
- Applicant with personal vehicle is preferable
- Outgoing personality and pro-active

1 Assistant Food & Beverage Manager

for our extensive Food & Beverage operation with 7 outlets and several bars

Qualifications:

- Thai national, male or female, minimum age of 28
- Fluent in written and spoken English, other languages will be an advantage
- Minimum 5 years' experience in a senior Food and Beverage position in a 4-5 star hotel with several outlets
- A natural, highly-motivated leader with great communication skills and good personal relationship skills
- Good analytical and coordination skills
- Experience in ISO 9000 / ISO 14001
- Strong skills in administrative work
- Pleasant and service-minded personality which is creative
- Pro-active management style

Please contact Personnel Department
14 Katanol Road, Karon, Muang, Phuket 83100
Tel: 076-330124-6, E-Mail: personnel@katathani.com

SALES & MKT EXECUTIVE

Phuket's largest property development with high-profile career position and great potential need a Thai national, aged up to 35, with good English skills and presentation. Sales & marketing experience is necessary, although training will be provided. Salary plus commission. Please send CV by fax or email. Fax: 076-239756. Email: nitilak@royalphuketmarina.com

INTERNET CAFE

Staff wanted for Patong Internet cafe. Email: simon47@hotmail.com




Dive Supply is a leading importer for Scuba Diving Equipment located in Phuket and we are looking to recruit for the following position:

Assistant Manager

Are you an all-rounder? Can you manage a company with 20 or more employees?

- Foreign National preferable native English, age over 30
- Degree in business and administration or chartered accountant
- At least 3 years' experience in a similar managing position
- Thailand Experience at least two years
- Friendly and outgoing personality, flexible and energetic

We offer a good salary and excellent benefits such as: long-term Employment, Work permit, One-year Visa and many more. If you think this is you, please send your resumé to info@divesupply.com



Dulwich International College
Phuket, Thailand

For August 2004 we require:

Secondary School

TEACHER OF MATHEMATICS
Experience of British and international programmes is preferred. (English National Curriculum, SATs, IGCSE, IB). This post will be a one-term contract (August to December) and could be either full-time or part-time.

TEACHER OF SPANISH
This is a full-time position for one term (August to December).

TEACHER OF KOREAN
Part-time position is available from August 2004.

A short letter of application, CV, a recent photograph and fax or email contacts of referees should be sent by email to: kanitthas@dulwich.ac.th

The closing date for applications is Friday 2nd July, 2004 but earlier applications are appreciated. Interviews will be held at Dulwich International College, Phuket, in July. For more information go to our website: www.dulwich.ac.th

LAW FIRM

in Phuket is now looking for a secretary who can speak both French and English. Please contact for details or send your resumé to apply. Tel: 06-043-9141. Email: rodriguezlnice@hotmail.com

LAMINATE SALES

Executive wanted. Candidates should speak English, have experience in sales and own car. Please call or email for more information or to apply. Tel: 09-1098278. Email: sales@pltimex.com

Island Job Mart

Zeavola
All Suite Boutique Resort and Spa

Zeavola is the newest all-suite boutique resort and spa on the northern tip of Phi Phi Island on tranquil white sand beachfront.

Front Office	Spa
Operations Manager based in Phuket office and all other positions based on Phi Phi Island	Assistant Spa Manager and Spa Therapists based on Phi Phi Island
F&B Kitchen and Stewarding	F&B Service
All positions based on Phi Phi Island	F&B Manager and all positions based on Phi Phi Island
Housekeeping	Engineering
Executive Housekeeper and all positions based on Phi Phi Island	Air-Con, Electrician, Carpenter and General Maintenance base on Phi Phi Island
Accounting	Gardener Section
- Purchasing Manager based on Phuket - Chief Accountant, IT Officer based on Phi Phi Island	All positions based on Phi Phi Island

Please send your CV with recent photo or call for an interview
Human Resources Dept. Email: wichit@zeavola.com
111 Hoangrak U-Thit Rd, (Samkong) T. Taladyai, Muang Phuket 83000
Tel: 0-76 23-6761-2 Fax: 0-76 23-6763

The Red Room
Bangtao, Phuket

The Red Room, a stylish restaurant and lounge in Cherng Talay is expanding and is now seeking a qualified Chef (Thai national).

The ideal candidate will have a solid cooking background in upscale restaurants. A creative, hands-on approach is required for this continental-style restaurant as is the ability to speak English, oversee all purchasing and receiving, handle monthly inventories, food cost and supervise the kitchen team.

Salary and benefits based on qualifications and experience.

Please forward your resumé in Thai or English by email to aa@richmonth.com or by mail to:

Robert Falls
Manager-The Red Room
293/24 Moo 1, Srisoonthorn Road, T. Cherng Talay, A. Talang, Phuket, Thailand 83110
Tel: 076-271133 Fax: 076-270781

Employment Wanted

JOB WANTED
in Patong by hard working, young, fit 25-year-old Kiwi male. Will arrive in Patong early October. Will do anything to get work permit. Any help locating employment or information leading to employment would be much appreciated. Email: nvwheeler444@hotmail.com

PART-TIME JOB
I'm looking for a part-time job (after 5 pm): translations in French, Spanish and English. Do not hesitate to contact me. Tel: 01-1879848. Email: maggy@voila.fr

TIMESHARE PRO
I have over 20 years of experience and am seeking a long-term management position in Thailand. Hardworking American manager of t/s reps currently living in the Philippines. Will send resumé and references upon request. Email: riggillo@yahoo.com

Nobel Furniture Co., Ltd.

Sales/Designer required

Nobel Furniture Co Ltd is seeking Thai male or female for Kitchens Project Sales/Designer. Must have skilled in English and have own transport. Good salary package.

Khun Kung Tel: 076-234695
Email: pawat@nobelkitchens.com

OFFICE SECRETARY
wanted. Thai nationals only need apply. Candidates should be fluent in English and have at least 4 years' experience in office work. Knowledge of the tourism industry is preferred. Please send CV by email for an interview. Email: charter@thaimarine.com

ACQUA
Procurement Officer

Requirements:

- Good command of written & spoken English
- Bachelor/Diploma graduate in related field
- Good working knowledge of accountancy
- Possess excellent computer literacy skills in Microsoft Office
- Strong organizational/communication, liaison and negotiation skills
- At least 2-3 years' experience in related field
- Highly motivated and ability to work in a team environment

ACQUA Co., Ltd.
T: +66 76 325667-71 Email: info@acquaphuket.com

Sales Manager

- Sales Supervisory experience
- Spoken, written and read English
- Own transport

Sales Executive (Full time & Part time)

- 22-35 years old, college graduate
- Active with pleasant personality
- PR or Sales background
- Good in English

What's on South Thai Tel: 076-213917-8
Asean Journals Co Ltd Tel: 02-3324600-5
Email: ajapply@yahoo.com

TEACHERS REQUIRED

We are looking for 3 Thai English-language teachers and 2 native English-speaking classroom teachers to teach kindergarten and primary-level students. Please send your CV via email or fax, or contact us for more information Tel: 076-248975. Fax: 076-248976. Email: info@kajonkiet.com

ONLINE TRAVEL
Hospitality Manager, currently employed in Patong, is looking for new challenge in the online travel business. Fluent in English and German. Extensive knowledge of domain names, web hosting, HTML, PHP and MySQL, Windows and Linux. Email: managerthailand@yahoo.com

Tout, Trader & Trumpet

Articles for Sale

RESTAURANT EQUIP
for sale. Dough mixer, bench with fridge, deep fryer, cutting machine, double oven and more. All electric and in good condition. Tel: 07-2665965.

CALLAWAY GOLFSET
16 irons and Big Bertha woods. Never used. 28,000 baht, including carrying bag. Email: bobphihi@hotmail.com

GAMEBOY ADVANCE
for sale. This is the newer flip-up GBA with rechargeable battery pack. Comes with 4 GBA games and power pack. Looking for 4,500 baht or offers. Tel: 076-244225. Email: travellingben@hotmail.com

NOKIA 3210
including battery charger, clip-on bag, and owner's manual. In perfect condition. 1,000 baht, fixed price. Tel: 09-971-5664. Email: ronny2507vv@hotmail.com

Boats & Marine

BOAT FOR SALE
29-ft fiberglass motor yacht with Thai registration. 2 x 280hp Mercruiser engines. Price: 3.5 million baht ono. Tel: 076-239864. Email: hktmkt@ksc.th.com

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Please contact:
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Fax: 076-238974
Email: insurance@thaimarine.com

SIMPSON MARINE

Early Deliveries

Beneteau 44.7
July 2004 Delivery
The new model Beneteau 44.7 by Ferret Design is suitable for local season racing. From a regards point of view, the First 44.7 cockpit provides the crew with significant space during manoeuvres.

Azimet 55
July 2004 Delivery
The Azimet 55 is a superb example of ingenuity and imagination in modern motor-yacht design. She has a generous saloon with a spectacular open-plan layout. Her hull is built for smooth passage and excellent handling.

Lagoon Power Cat
Immediate Delivery
LAGOON proudly presents its first power catamaran. The Lagoon Power 43 introduces a local genuinely designed for the private owner, with its modest size and a reasonable price tag.

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Fax: (054) 889 9188
langkawi@simpsonmarine.com

KOTA KINABALU OFFICE
Sabera Harbour Marina
Sabera Harbour Plesent
88100 Kota Kinabalu, Sabah
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Only US\$ 979,000

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076-239 111

TML THAI MARINE LEISURE

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25-meter steel dive boat. 7 cabins with aircon, fully equipped. Please contact with best offer. Tel: 01-8916143.

3.5HP OUTBOARD
Johnson 3.5hp outboard motor for sale. Good condition. 9,000 baht. Email: colonapt@loxinfo.co.th

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Tout, Trader & Trumpet

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30FT TIKI CATAMARAN

Wharram design, built by Seascope in Phuket, launched in December 2003. Thai registered, draught 2ft. Ready to sail away. Price: 42,000 euros. Contact email: seascope@phuket.ksc.co.th

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