

The Phuket Gazette

Volume 12 Issue 6

News Desk - Tel: 076-236555

February 5 - 11, 2005

Daily news at www.phuketgazette.net

20 Baht

The Gazette is published in association with

The **Nation**

IN THIS ISSUE

News: Singaporean airlines aid Phuket tourism revival; World Travel Organization approves recovery plan.
Pages 2 & 3

INSIDE STORY: Phuket's first remembered last.
Pages 4 & 5

AROUND THE ISLAND: Long-term aid programs.
Page 6

AROUND THE REGION: Samui rallies for the Andaman Coast.
Page 8

PHUKET PEOPLE: Love from New York to Phuket; Spa owner vows to carry on.
Pages 10 & 11

LIFESTYLE: Flat-screen LCD and PDP TVs.
Page 12

STOOL PIGEON: Pigeon vs. Tiger in Patong.
Page 18

THAI TRAVELER: High times in Chiang Mai.
Page 19

FIRST PERSON: A beach-chair businesswoman's plea.
Page 21

BUSINESS: MICE set to save local tourism; Money Talks.
Page 23

SPORT: Praise for PADI; sailing, golf raise funds and spirits.
Page 24

PROPERTY: A real gem at Platinum Park; Home of the Week; Doven.
Pages 29, 30 & 31

PLUS

AROUND THE NATION 7; HAPPENINGS 9; HOROSCOPES 14; KIDS 15; FROM THE STREETS OF PATTAYA 18; EDITORIAL, LETTERS 20 & 21; COMPUTERS, BOOKS 22; MOTORING 26; GOOD LIVING 28; GARDENING 32; CLASSIFIEDS 33-39.

Patong 'needs B700m now'

Town is 'like a woman with no make-up' – Pian

By Gategaeo Phetsawang

PHUKET CITY: Patong Mayor Pian Keesin has urged the government to approve immediately funding of 700 million baht to improve Patong Beach, in line with the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT)'s draft plan for reconstructing the resort.

Mayor Pian told Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, during his recent visit to Phuket, that Patong was the worst-affected of all the tsunami-hit places on Phuket, and yet it was the one that the government believed should recover soonest.

"I have done almost 100% of the things I wanted to do first to restore the natural resources," said Mayor Pian.

"The next thing is to improve the scenery and make things more orderly, such as along the beach road."

He also asked the PM to make an immediate decision on the budget, telling him, "Patong now is like a house without paint or a woman without make-up. The TAT can't promote tourism if Patong is still like this."

"The 700-million-baht budget has to be approved, and the decision should be made as quickly as possible, so we can recover in six months or a year, as the government wants."

Mayor Pian also asked the government to speed up the process of issuing soft loans to tsunami-hit businesses.

He said, "The Finance Minister, Somkid Jatusripitak, has said that 30 billion baht has been spent on helping businesses, but there are 900



CANDLE POWER

A child and his father light candles on Patong Beach, just two of the 10,000 people who turned the beach into a blaze of light with 100,000 candles along the three-kilometer stretch of sand.

The "Light Up Patong" ceremony on January 31 was organized by the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization and attended by 33 delegates to the World Travel Organization Executive Council emergency session, held in Phuket on January 31 and February 1 (see page 3).

Representatives of each country were asked to say, in their own language, the sentence "We will always remember you," drawing delighted responses from the multinational crowd.

businesspeople in Patong who have received nothing.

"Why is it difficult for Thai commercial banks to give soft loans to business operators when they have already got the money from the Bank of Thailand?"

He also asked whether it would be possible to speed up the loans process by allowing

businesspeople to form cooperatives to guarantee each other's loans, rather than have to get the support of high-ranking government officers, as is currently the case.

PM Thaksin ordered the Bank of Thailand to look at ways of solving the problems raised by K. Pian.

Thousands of Burmese still missing after tsunami

By Kamol Pirat

PHUKET: One month after the tsunami, more than 3,000 Burmese workers in Phang Nga are still unaccounted for, a seminar was told on January 30.

The meeting, arranged by the International Labor Organization (ILO) and an international NGO, the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES), heard that many Burmese are still hiding atop hills and in rubber plantations in the province – often in bad conditions – too scared to seek help from the authorities in case they are deported to Burma.

FES Coordinator Benjapol Sookhoom said researchers had interviewed more than 100 migrants in Phang Nga between January 15 and 29.

"After gathering the data, we calculated that around 3,000 Burmese laborers are still missing [in Phang Nga]."

"We intend to present this information to the Thai government and ask for its help in resolving the problem."

The ILO's director in East Asia, Christine Evans-Klock, said, "These migrants have problems communicating with local people, so they have little chance of getting other organizations to help them."

K. Benjapol said the government should make contact with the migrants and offer them food and medical help – as well as help in replacing documents lost in the tsunami.

Said K. Benjapol: "I have met survivors injuries who cannot get medical treatment because they have no money."

"The government should get help to them fast, to prevent other problems developing."

He said that the situation further north, in Ranong, was still being researched.

Help offered for coping with stress after tsunami

PHUKET: Two psychotherapists, Dr Victor Adam from Singapore and David Foster, a Phuket-based Englishman, are available to offer advice free to those in Thailand traumatized by the tsunami.

At the Sheraton Grande Laguna Phuket, meanwhile, California-licensed psychotherapist Beverley Cone is being sponsored by the hotel to conduct free counseling sessions for individuals and couples.

She is also holding classes in stress management and advice for parents whose children may be distressed after the tsunami.

In addition, she has launched classes under the title, "Reaching Out To Others", aimed at teaching people how to give support in a community-based fashion to Thais who have suffered loss. Initially these will be in English, but a Thai translator will on hand.

To contact Dr Adam or Mr Foster email to: tsunami_mind_aid@yahoo.co.uk, giving name and contact details or call Tel: 076-288716. All information will be kept in strictest confidence.

To contact Ms Cone, the number is Tel: 076-324101, Room 2203.

Those concerned about a relative or friend in distress are also urged to contact the practitioners for advice.

Singaporean airlines aid tourist revival

PHUKET: Thai Airways International (THAI) may have slashed its services to Phuket, but airlines in Singapore are doing precisely the opposite, offering special deals to travelers to Phuket.

In a joint promotion with selected hotels in Phuket, Krabi and Langkawi, Malaysia, SilkAir is offering travellers packages until the end of February.

Priced from just S\$99 (2,330 baht) for three days and two nights in Phuket, the deals include airfares, accommodation, breakfast and airport transfers.

The airline is also offering return air fares for S\$80 (1,880 baht) per person for two people booking together, until the end of

February, but excluding the Chinese New Year period, from February 7 to 11.

The new budget airline, Tiger Airways, is offering 20,000 low-fare one-way tickets from Singapore to Phuket for travel before April 2005 for just S\$9.98 (235 baht) apiece.

SilkAir flies to Phuket twice daily, Tiger Airways once.

Meanwhile, THAI, which has cut all its international connections to Phuket, along with two of its daily Bangkok-Phuket flights, is trying to make up the deficit by offering discounted flights and flight-and-accommodation packages for Phuket, Krabi and Trang until March 31.



German town gives school B1m

PATONG: The citizens of the small German town of Bad Rappenau – population 20,500 – have donated 1 million baht to help rebuild Baan Kalim School, which was badly damaged by the December 26 tsunami.

On January 28, Heiko Schmidt (2nd from right), owner of Baan Suan Villa in Patong, along with members of his family, handed over a check to Damrong Boonchoti, Director of the Phuket Educational Area Office (right), who is in charge of a charity fund established to help the school recover from the disaster.

Chinese New Year sees slew of entertainment

PHUKET CITY: The Phuket office of the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) and Phuket City Municipality have joined forces to celebrate Chinese New Year and the 7th Old Phuket Festival from February 8 to 11.

Suwalai Pinpradab, TAT Region 4 Director, said that the Chinese New Year festivities will start on February 8 with a dinner at the Jui Tui Shrine, on the corner of Soi Phuton and Ranong Rd, at 7 pm.

Around the corner at the Pud Jor Shrine, on Patipat Rd, a parade to honor the Chinese gods Kuan-Im, Jai-Sin and Tai Sow Ia will start at 8 pm and wind its way around town, ending at Nawamindra Memorial Square at 9 pm.

From the Pud Jor Shrine, the parade will turn right onto Krabi Rd, left onto Satun Rd, continue along Dibuk Rd. turn right onto Phuket Rd and right again onto Thalang Rd, then left

onto Yaowarat Rd, left onto Phang Nga Rd, right onto Montri Rd, around Nimit Circle and then north along Phuket Rd to Nawamindra Memorial Square.

K. Suwalai said that on February 11, the fourth and last day for traditional celebrations for Chinese New Year, there will be about 20 shows from China, all free of charge, starting from 7:30 pm.

"At the Public Health Center on Thalang Rd, there will be

Chinese puppet shows, more than 10 Chinese dramatic-arts performances, Chinese operas sung in Thai, and Shaolin kung fu displays," she said. "There will be more shows from China on February 12."

She added that the 7th Old Phuket Festival will run from February 9 to 11, during which time Thalang Rd, Krabi Rd and Soi Romanee will be closed to traffic.

The festival will include local Sino-Portuguese buildings being open to the public, exhibitions of Phuket's past, street vendors selling traditional dishes, and a light-and-sound show at the Sino-Portuguese residence of Sithi Tandavanitj.

For more information about the festivities, call the Phuket TAT office at Tel: 076-212213 or 076-277036, or Phuket City Municipality at Tel: 076-212196.

- Dhirarat Boonkongsan

Now Open

Coffee Lovers
Index Living Mall

Visit Coffee Lovers (Index Living Mall floor G) & experience the freshness of our coffee, tea, and more...

Coffee Lovers Branch No.8

Open Daily 10.00 am. - 09.00 pm.

RELIABLE SERVICE

NOTEBOOK
DESKNOTE
DESKTOP
PALM & POCKET PC
COMPUTER ACCESSORIES

Big C (Basement floor)
Tel: 0-7624-8699
Phuket town
Tel: 0-7621-8936-7
Fax: 0-7621-8802
www.buscomputer.com
email: buscom@j-net.com

BUS COMPUTER AND SERVICE CO., LTD.

SO ATTRACTIVE AND SO UNIQUE

- 28 two to six bedroom luxury villas with infinity swimming pool set on large private terraced garden.
- Building over a 36,000 sqm of hill front with unobstructed views over the beautiful North Patong Bay.
- Residence club house providing full spa and hotel room services upon request.
- Holiday lettings provided for investors with guarantee return on investment.
- 5 star villa and estate management together with 24 hour security provided by Knight Frank.

13/2 Soi Prabaramee 4, Prabaramee Road, Patong, Kathu, Phuket 83150
Tel. +66 (0) 76 290 405 • email: info@lorchidee-residences.com

Tel: +66 (0) 156 9999 8

L'Orchidee Residences

Scandinavian inspectors give Phuket thumbs-up

By Dhirarat Boonkongaen

PHUKET CITY: An inspection team representing major Scandinavian tour companies Star Tour, MyTravel & Tour, and Apollo Tours, have announced that they will spread the word that Phuket and the other Andaman provinces are safe destinations for tourists to visit.

On January 27 the team of five wrapped up a week-long inspection tour that took in some 80 hotels in Phuket and Krabi.

Engineer and team leader Thomas Bjur said, "I have inspected the structures of the hotels, and most of them are still good; only some of them need about a couple of weeks to repair."

"I was surprised by the good work they have done."

Fellow inspecting engineers Ulf Rydberg and Gert-Inge Mauritzon agreed. "After checking the damaged areas, I can say there is nothing to worry about," said Mr Rydberg.

Mr Mauritzon said, "Places have been cleaned up, are safe and the Thai people are very generous and cooperative. I would bring my family here again."

MyTravel & Tour Quality Director Anders Enhagen said that, on returning to Sweden the team will announce their findings at a press conference.

"Most of the hotels in Krabi have already been repaired. Our government warning was removed a few weeks ago. Now we are free to resume tourism as usual," he said.

At the January 27 press conference, Kasinee Chuennai-thum, Phuket Branch Manager of East West Siam, an agent for Apollo Tours, said that Apollo would resume its charter flights to Phuket on February 4, bringing about 1,000 tourists a week.

Meanwhile, Ender Turkyilmaz, Destination Manager of Danish tour operator Tyrkiet Eksperten, emailed the *Gazette* to announce that his firm would restart its Phuket operations on January 29, bringing about 300 people a week to Phuket.

WTO session approves plan

By Dhirarat Boonkongaen

KATA: A multi-point Phuket Action Plan drawn up by the Executive Council of the World Tourism Organization (WTO) to speed the recovery of Phuket's battered tourism industry has been accepted by a WTO Emergency Session that drew together representatives from 40 countries.

The plan, approved during the session held January 31 and February 1 at the Kata Beach Hotel, contains the following strategies:

- Immediate financial assistance for small tourism businesses;
- Communication of the current operational status of Phuket's resorts;
- Diversification of tourism products including more cultural and nature-based activities and a move away from the traditional "sea-and-sand" options;
- Training of new staff and retraining of existing staff to meet tourists' expectations;
- More "added-value" or complementary offers and promotions from, for example, restaurants, tour operators and shops;

• Realistic and up-to-date travel advisories issued by governments of countries from which tourists come.

Dr Harsh Varma, the WTO Chief of Technical Cooperation, said of the plan, "[It] is a catalyst for cooperation among the member states of the WTO and the PATA (Pacific Asia Travel Association) countries as well as all varieties of organizations, private businesses and academic institutions [in the region]."

Dr Varma also said that both internal and external partners will be encouraged to sponsor and implement projects from the plan, if they correspond with their capabilities and financial resources.

Maximizing the use of the existing tourism infrastructure will, he said, help small tourism-related businesses and their employees survive the recovery period.

"[The WTO] must restore travelers' confidence in the region so that visitor flows resume as quickly as possible," said Dr Varma.

The presentation contained plans for Phuket and other areas of Thailand affected by the tsunami, and also for regions of other

countries which were hit – notably Sri Lanka, the Maldives and Indonesia.

Dr Varma also said that systems should be put in place that strengthen the sustainability of the affected destinations and divided this secondary plan into four areas:

- Marketing and communications;
- Community relief;
- Education and training;
- Sustainable redevelopment.

The WTO and other organizations, as well as individual countries will, he said, work with the United Nations on disaster reduction and mitigation programs in the region.

Other ideas put forward to rebuild confidence among tourists include a global advertising campaign showing "business as usual" in Phuket's beach resorts.

The WTO has waived participation fees for countries of affected regions at tourism fairs, including FITUR (International Tourism Trade Fair) in Madrid, ITB (International Tourism Bourse) Berlin in mid-March and SATTE (the South Asia Travel and Tourism Exchange) in New Delhi in April.

Suwat lays out his ideas for recovery

PHUKET CITY: Deputy Prime Minister Suwat Liptapanlop believes that marketing and rehabilitation of popular tourist sites will be the keys to the recovery of the tourism industry along Thailand's Andaman Sea coast.

DPM Suwat, responsible for overseeing the recovery of the tourism industry in the Andaman region in the wake of the December 26 tsunami, was reporting during a January 27 meeting with Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra and other Cabinet mem-

bers, at the Royal Phuket City Hotel.

"In terms of marketing, the Finance Ministry must help business operators affected by the tsunami in the short term, otherwise we won't be ready to serve tourists," he said.

Bangkok intends to play a key role in the marketing effort by pushing to have a series of high-profile events sited here, such as international conferences, sports competitions and even the Miss Universe pageant.

DPM Suwat said the government hopes to establish an annual memorial ceremony, to which tourists who experienced the tsunami and relatives of those who died in it would be invited, as well as opening a tsunami museum as a memorial and education center.

He continued that the government hopes to persuade tourists from Thailand to return to Phuket, and was offering "inspection tours" for travel firms from elsewhere in Asia, as an at-

tempt to re-establish Phuket as a destination for Asian tourists.

He also said that "cultural tourism" could be emphasized. "In the past we promoted the region's natural resources. Now we plan to include the region's cultural heritage as well, such as the unique lifestyle of the Sea Gypsies."

DPM Suwat also suggested that entry fees could be eliminated, and aircraft landing fees at Phuket International Airport be reduced. – *Editorial: Page 20*

Assistance arrives

While tourism industry operators and government officials in Phuket rush about trying to repair the island's image and clean up what is left of the damage from the tsunami, the recovery effort seems to have bypassed one group of people who urgently need it, the Mokken, or "Sea Gypsies".

One of the many non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that has stepped into the breach is Wildlife Fund Thailand (WFT), whose Wichoti Kraithep was assigned to help the Sea Gypsy communities on Koh Sireh and in Rawai, both of which suffered severely from the tsunami.

K. Wichoti said that on Koh Sireh, nine Mokken homes were completely destroyed and 100 more suffered damage. Perhaps worse for the seagoing Mokken on Koh Sireh is the fact that about 60 boats were damaged.

In Rawai, 14 boats disappeared after the tsunami swept through, and 13 more boats that were recovered are badly in need of repair.

"We are trying to coordinate with the government to give them some assistance, but it will take at least four months. The Sea Gypsies are a small group of people descended from the original inhabitants of Phuket," said K. Wichoti, "but now it seems that they have been left behind."

But not completely, thanks to the work of the WFT and several other NGOs that are pitching in to help the Mokken rebuild.

"Initially, the WFT used donations to help the Koh Sireh community to buy equipment they need to repair their boats. Some local residents, along with

volunteers from Phuket Rajabhat University and the Royal Thai Navy, also helped them build new houses."

"Fishermen from Trang and students from Sichon Technical College in Nakhon Sri Thammarat also came to help the community in Rawai rebuild their boats," he added.

About 20 local artists put on an exhibition of art, song and poetry at Lan Nawamin Square on January 14.

"Their aim wasn't to raise money for the Sea Gypsies, but rather to help people better understand the Sea Gypsy lifestyle through art," K. Wichoti explained.

Almost every Sea Gypsy in Koh Sireh shares the same last name, Promongkij, given to them by HRH Princess Sri Nagarindra the Princess Mother as part of the Thai government's efforts to naturalize the Mokken and integrate them into mainstream Thai society. The name means "in the fishing business".

Chalit Pramongkij, a 50-year-old fisherman living in the Koh Sireh Sea Gypsy community, told the *Gazette* that his modest seaside dwelling, made mostly of corrugated iron sheets, was no match for the force of the wave and was easily swept away.

"I built my house just six years ago, but when I came back after the tsunami, all that was left of it was a pile of broken sticks. My boat was also damaged, and I have to fix the motor. Volun-

In the flurry to help victims of the tsunami, one group of people seems to have been left out of the government's calculations – the Mokken, or Sea Gypsies, of Rawai and Koh Sireh. Luckily, Thai NGOs have been piling in to help them put their homes, their boats and their lives together again. Gategaeo Phetsawang reports.



Chalit Pramongkij's home was reduced to a pile of broken sticks.

teers [from WFT], along with my friends, are helping me build a new house. We have already been given new sheets of tin and lumber to begin this work," he said.

More recent arrivals coming to aid the Sea Gypsies include

the Assembly of the Poor (AOP), a grassroots network formed in Ubon Ratchathani to oppose the Pak Mool Dam project in that province; another group of protestors who oppose the Thasae Dam in Chumphon; and the

Northern Agriculturist Network, an association of poor famers.

These groups have been operating in Phang Nga, Trang, Ranong and Phuket to help people as best they can with their limited resources.



KAMALA
ORCHID ESTATE

BAAN CHANG THAI
FOR SALE



A Luxurious villa in the tropical paradise of Kamala Beach, Phuket

Baan Chang Thai is surrounded by verdant forest and has stunning hills as the backdrop. This marvelous, secure villa comes with solid teak garage and entrance doors, a quality finished stone wall and a spacious covered double parking area. All rooms offer an individual balcony, private bathroom with luxury, comfort and space with spectacular and breathtaking sea views.



Plot size: 1,550 sqm
Villa total living area: 1,085 sqm

5 bedrooms & 1 maid's quarters
1 European + 1 service kitchen
1 dining room
1 laundry room
state-of-the-art fitness room/gym

7 bathrooms
1 living room
1 game room
huge pool terrace & sala
55 sqm. infinity swimming pool
with unique waterfall

A fully equipped gym provides absolute pleasure for a perfect lifestyle in this beautiful tropical villa.



For more information please contact:

Tel: +66-(0)1-891-7499 Fax: +66-(0)76-279-530

Web: www.kamala-orchid-estate.com E-mail: info@kamala-orchid-estate.com

for forgotten Mokken



The children are cheerful again, now their homes are being rebuilt.

AOP adviser Pornthip Samruamjit said that 24 people from the group had split off for four days to lend a hand in repairing Mokken homes on Koh Sireh. "Our women do the cook-

ing for those who are repairing or building homes for the villagers.

"Some local people have helped us with the cooking, and they were kind enough to give us

enough fish eggs to make a curry today," she told the *Gazette*.

One of the cooks, Meena Choosala, a 25-year-old Sea Gypsy villager, told the *Gazette* that she had come down from Koh Sireh Hill after the tsunami to find her home had completely disappeared.

"My house was gone and there was nothing left, just a bare patch of sand behind where I am standing now," she said, adding that she was last in the long queue of local community members waiting to have their homes rebuilt.

Diew Pramongkij, 33, said that his family, including his wife and two children, have been living under a makeshift tent because they are afraid that the frame of their damaged home would collapse if they went inside.

"We live under the shade of this tent in front of our house while it is being repaired," he said.

"My two kids go to a school near our house and every day they are asked why they aren't wearing their school uniforms. But all of our children's school supplies, along with those of the other kids who live in the village, disappeared in the tsunami," he explained.

Another AOP adviser, Chaiyaphan Prapasawat, said, "Most people here have been abandoned because the government only thinks about the resorts that were damaged. What they have done is just give the residents some construction materials.

"Now they have tin panels to build walls, but no doors or windows. How can they live in

houses like that? They have been left to fend for themselves. Some of them are injured and exhausted. That's why we came to help them," he said.

Kuen Pramongkij sat in a chair in front of her mother's house watching the reconstruction of the home by AOP volunteers. She has two sons, a three-year-old and a 13-year-old, who is deaf.

"I am glad to see so many people willing to help build a new house for me," she said gratefully.

Those wishing to make donations of wood, cement, bricks or other materials to aid in the ongoing work to rebuild the Sea Gypsy communities can do so contacting K. Maem (Koh Sireh) at Tel: 04-0518299; and K. Ting (Rawai) at Tel: 01-5978270.

NUMCHAI OCEAN TRANSPORT
 145 Phang-nga Road, Muang District, Phuket 83000
 Tel: 076-225444, 212985 Fax: 076-211686
 www.numchαιοceantransport.com email: info@numchαιοceantransport.com

Experts in logistics and a provider of first-class services in the Andaman Sea—including Phuket and nearby islands—we offer a one-stop service for all your needs: offshore operations; a full range of tugboats; fresh drinking water; tanker-supply vessels; ships' chandler; garbage and waste-oil disposal; salvage; boat-building and sandblasting. We also supply various grades of construction hardware at the best rates in Phuket. Our service area extends from Phuket to the provinces of Ranong, Trang, Krabi, Phang Nga and Satun. We also sail and supply to Hedah, Penang and Lumut in Malaysia.

Raksatt Pet Hospital (Kaorang) Phuket
Raksatt Dog Spa & Salon
 The First Dog Spa in Phuket

Well Treated, Well Cared One-Stop Service

- Treatment (Medicine & Health Care)
- Obstetrics and Orthopedics
- Teeth cleaning and scaling
- X-ray and Laboratory
- Home Service (Pet Ambulance)
- Microchip Center
- In-Patient
- Surgery
- Pet Hotel
- Grooming
- Pet Shop

Open Daily 9 am to midnight
 14/4 Mae Luan Rd, Amphur Muang, Phuket.
 Tel: 076-211549 Tel/Fax: 076-211606
 www.pktanimalhospital.com
 E-mail: info@pktanimalhospital.com

- Pet Shop (Pet Food and Accessories)
- Grooming & Bathing
- Dog Spa
- Pet Hotel
- Pet Clinic
- Fashion Color Hair Highlight

Open daily 10 am - 10 pm
 At Car Park (P2) Central Festival Phuket
 Tel: 076-209244-5
 www.phuketdogspa.com
 E-mail: info@pktanimalhospital.com

SILK
 restaurant . bar

THE TASTE OF THAILAND
 Book now for the most romantic valentine's dinner in Phuket!

February 14th

BAR . LOUNGE . DINING . TERRACE

5/50 cherngthalay phuket Tel 076 271 702 www.silkphuket.com

Bangkok Phuket Joint & Spine Center

Keyhole Surgery
 Microlumbar Discectomy
 Joint Replacement

Sport Medicine and Arthroscopy
 Spine Surgery

Bangkok Phuket Hospital
 076 25 44 25 www.phukethospital.com info@phukethospital.com

Accredited

Within two weeks of the tsunami that hit Thailand's Andaman Coast, foreign relief workers had arrived to help clean up the worst-hit areas. Supplies of food and other aid started trickling through to those who needed them most.

But by that time, many Phuket residents – understanding the desperate need of those affected and the slow reactions of governments and the big charities – had already started running mercy missions to Phang Nga and other affected areas.

The concept was simple: tsunami victims need help, so let's help them. Now.

What made those early supply runs so effective was that the aid went directly to those in need. There were no donation centers, no warehouses, no bureaucrats – just people loading vehicles with supplies and delivering them straight to coastal villages where the tsunami wreaked havoc.

Among the first to respond with emergency deliveries were Phuket property players Ken Abday, Wayne "Red" Graham and Gene McCain.

"I'd just got back from volunteer work at Wat Yan Yao [in Phang Nga Province] and I heard that Ken was going up to Khao Lak and Ranong the next day, so I called him," Red said.

"Ken was already familiar with the fishing villages along the Ranong coast from his days working with [seafood supply giant] Phillips Seafood, which set up small processing plants in many of the villages."

Two of the first villages visited were Talay Nork and Haad Sai Khao. "They were really glad to see us. They had nothing. All that was left of the school at Talay Nork was the flagpole, and they were using the processing plant for housing," said Ken.

They also visited Baan Haad Prapat, Baan Bang Bane and Had Sai Dum, all in Ranong Province. The toll in the five villages was high: 137 dead; 151 destroyed houses; and 310 damaged or wrecked boats.

But as the immediate needs of the villagers started to be met and government promises to re-

Looking at relief in the longer term



These children (above) in the camp at Baan Bang Muang are assured of an ongoing education. Right, the 'just do it' brigade: from left, Red Graham, Gene McCain and Ken Abday

build the schools and homes were made, Ken and Red shifted their focus to longer-term support.

Wanting to make sure that they could help to provide the right kind of aid, Ken and Red asked the villagers what was needed most. Boats, came the answer. The villagers wanted to get back to work.

"We talked about how we could help to get their boats back, and Dave Raybould suggested we hire the villagers themselves to build and repair the boats.

"That way, they would at least have some income in the meantime," explained Red.

"Anyone can help with building the boats and it gives them something to do instead of waiting around. It really lifts their spirits," he added.

What the pair had realized

over the weeks of running supplies to the villages was the importance of direct contact with the people in need, as well as showing donors exactly where their money was going.

Now the pair have set up a sponsorship program whereby donors can support the building of a boat, and track how each donation is helping the villagers get back on an even keel.

Last week Ken and Red placed their first order for 54 small fishing boats, each about six meters long, at an estimated cost – complete with fishing equipment – of 60,000 baht per boat. "The first boats will go to the small families," said Ken.

While the current focus is



on building boats, however, the project aims to support the villages with any other aid that might have been overlooked by the government or major aid organizations. Hence, the dynamic duo say, the project has become more of a "sponsor-a-village" program.

As Ken and Red's project was taking shape, Gene McCain was at the refugee camp at Baan Bang Muang, just south of Takuapa Town, where some 550 children are staying.

He, too, had realized that

direct contact was the best way to ensure that tsunami victims get the right kind of aid, and that – although immediate help is critical – long-term, continuing support is vital.

Concerned about the future of the children at the camp, Gene asked officers from Baan Nam Kem Tambon Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*) – the village where most of the children are from – what the children needed most. "Education," was the reply.

He explained that while villagers were struggling to rebuild homes and boats, education for the children would be regarded by parents as a low priority.

Gene was determined to ensure that the children would continue with their schooling.

Within days, the *OrBorTor* had organized all the paperwork and details of the children so that Gene could start an education sponsorship program.

"It costs only 500 baht a month for one child to continue in school," he said.

As with the boatbuilding project, donors can track each child's progress, academic attainment and welfare.

"Also, if the child or his or her family needs other types of help, we'll know about it, too," said Gene.

For more information about the sponsor-a-village project contact Ken Abday (Tel: 01-6493557, Email: tsunami@phuketlifestyle.com) or Red Graham (Tel: 01-7970358, Email: red@eastwest-properties.com).

For more information about the education sponsorship project, contact Gene McCain (Tel: 09-2900035, 076-353926, Email eam1008@mac.com). See also www.tsunamirelieffundthai.org/

Donations to the boatbuilding project can be made to: Bank name: Bangkok Bank; Branch: Tesco-Lotus Phuket, Thailand; Account name: Tipparat Ponrit; Account no: 618-0-015882; Swift code: BKKBTHBK.



Boat Lagoon Park Residence



A special place providing handsome homes for those who are a cut above the rest; homes that realize those dreams you have nurtured for years. The modern Sino-Portuguese style of these delightful homes combines beauty with functionality.

Beauty that is complemented by light breezes and the sound of running water from the lagoon, creating a soothing atmosphere that will bring tranquility and peace to your life. The Boat Lagoon Park Residence is the perfect place for that exclusive lifestyle.

For more information please contact: Boat Lagoon Park Residence at Phuket Boat Lagoon 23/120 Moo 2 Thepkrasatri Rd, T. Koh Kaew, A. Muang Phuket, 83000, Thailand.
Tel: 076-273466, 238948-9 Fax: 076-238948 www.phuketboatlagoon.com Email: property_sale@phuketboatlagoon.com

711 orphaned by tsunami

The number of Thai children orphaned by the December 26 tsunami is 711, according to the Ministry of Social Development and Human Services. Of these, 630 are from the six affected provinces and 81 more are the children of parents from other provinces who died while working in these provinces, said Ministry Permanent Secretary Wallop Ploytaptim.

The ministry has found close relatives or foster families to care for the orphans, K. Wallop said. It has given 3,000 baht to each orphan along with school uniforms and stationery. The ministry will seek grants to pay for their educations to college level.

The ministry, assigned to rebuild homes for the tsunami victims in Phang Nga, has put up 500 houses. It is clearing land to build 700 more and negotiating on locations for the rest, he said.

Teenage wasteland: A poll of 4,645 teenagers conducted by Assumption University and the Thai Health Promotion Foundation found that two-thirds of teens polled admitted to indulging in at least one of the nine "vices" listed in the survey: smoking, alcohol consumption, frequent partying, gambling, drug use, over-spending, "premature sex", fistfights and entertaining suicidal tendencies.

Ranked first on the list was excessive drinking, with a third of respondents admitting to it. It was followed closely by fighting and excessive spending, with almost a third of teenagers listing them as one of their bad habits.

Almost a third of respondents said they frequented night entertainment venues and 25% admitted to being in a sexual relationship. Some 16% of polled



CLEAN SWEEP: A Government House police guard takes a look at a prototype vehicle developed by the King Mongkut Institute of Technology to sweep for nail traps laid on roads by insurgents in the Deep South. Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra was so impressed that he ordered the production of four such vehicles at a cost of 2.9 million baht each.

teens admitted to gambling and 12% to smoking. Almost 10% said they entertained suicidal fantasies and 2% admitted to using drugs.

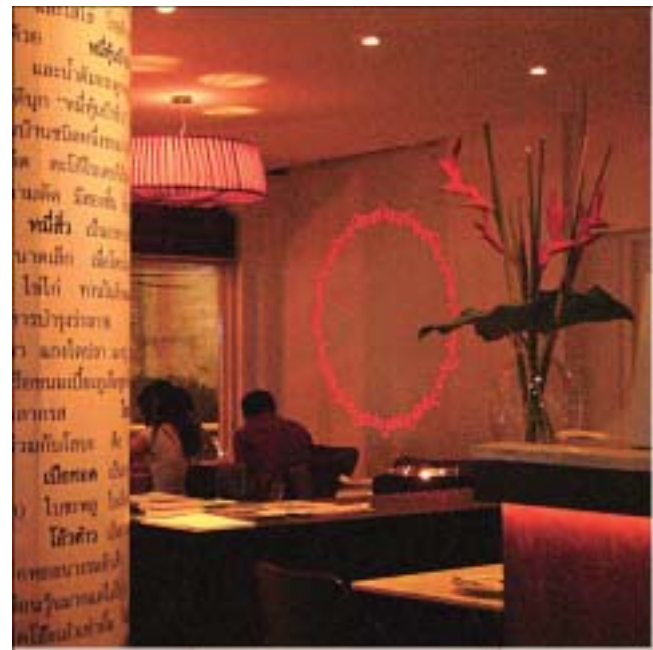
Windpipe parasite: A doctor in Chiang Mai warned trekkers to boil water before drinking it after a man recently coughed up blood because a leech, believed to have been ingested during a forest trip, was lodged in his windpipe.

"We suspect he swallowed a leech when he drank water from a stream," said Dr Chatchai Khoonrangsisomboon, head of the Ear Nose and Throat unit at Nakhon Ping Hospital.

Public relations nightmare: Honda Automobile Thailand agreed to buy back a Honda CRV from Duenpen Silaket, 28, after she battered it in front of some 100 cheering onlookers outside the Shinawatra III building on Bangkok's Vibhavadi-Rangsit Road.

K. Duenpen shattered the car's windshield with a hammer and smashed its bonnet with a shovel in protest at what she said was the carmaker's refusal to take responsibility for her new car's chronic problems.

K. Duenpen will be given a full refund by Honda when she returns the vehicle.



Local thai food • contemporary art
 restaurant 346 & galeria 346 • phuket town
 346 phuket rd • 1 min from robinson • 076 216 332

Experience the best...

Brand new fully crewed Riviera motor yachts for charter

Discover exotic destinations in air-conditioned luxury

Enjoy 5-star service and dining from our hostesses

Go game fishing, snorkeling or simply enjoy Phuket's idyllic scenery

TAWAN CRUISES

For information and reservations, call our sales office, located at the Boat Lagoon on 076239710 or 018943234 www.tawancruises.com

the PLANTATION *The Plantation, Kamala Bay, Phuket.*
 Experience The Luxury Of Nature

33 SPACIOUS LUXURY APARTMENTS & 22 STYLISH VILLAS FOR SALE, SET IN A PRISTINE RAINFOREST ENVIRONMENT, FOR SOPHISTICATED, YET CASUAL TROPICAL LIVING

- A NUMBER OF ATTRACTIVE VILLA OPTIONS TO CHOOSE FROM
- VILLA LOT PRICES START FROM 11,800,000 BAHT (ca. US\$ 295,000)
- APARTMENTS START FROM 14,900,000 BAHT (ca. US\$ 374,500)

SHOW APARTMENT OPEN FOR VIEWING

Bangkok Office:
 Somkid Place, 6 Soi Somkid, Ploenchit Rd, Bangkok 10330 Thailand
 Tel: +66 2655 1970-4
 Fax: +66 2655 1976
www.theplantationphuket.com

Phuket Office:
 17/37 Moo 6, Kamala, Kathu, Phuket 83150, Thailand
 Tel: +66 76 386040-2
 Fax: +66 76 386043
 Email: info@theplantationphuket.com

*Details subject to change. IN ASSOCIATION WITH PACVEST GROUP

Shocked Samui sends help west

Koh Samui and its residents were both stunned and saddened as news spread of the tragedy that had befallen the west coast of Thailand. The Mayor of Samui, Warakorn Rattanak, said that all the Samui people sent their heartfelt support and condolences to the victims, and that everyone would do whatever they could to help.

Collection points were set up on the island for the donation of clothing and other essential supplies, and money is also being sent across the peninsula to help with the relief effort.

The Rotary Club of Koh Samui, along with various other local businesses, has been involved in the relief effort, and blood banks were set up at the major hospitals on the island.

Special flights were laid on by Bangkok Airways to fly supplies to Phuket, and truckloads of

provisions were also dispatched from Samui, along with cash donations.

The Samui Blues Festival raised around 1 million baht for the relief efforts, and this was followed by Tsunami Dance Aid, a concert with international deejays at Gecko, on Bophut Beach.

FROM THE GULF OF THAILAND



By Commander Sammy Swan

Clampdown on visas: Two Britons were arrested recently on Samui for visa and work permit violations. Martin Sinclair and Lee Thomas were found to be working on tourist visas without work permits when Immigration officials conducted a check at the Queen Victoria Pub in Lamai.

Both men were arrested and later deported. They were also blacklisted and therefore may not re-enter Thailand for several years.

Accident solutions: In response to prolonged and widespread

Samui, although it escaped the effects of the tsunami, suffered its own disaster a month later when at least 14 people died in a speedboat accident.

The 14 – 10 foreigners and four Thais – were among revelers returning to Koh Samui early on January 25 after a Full Moon party on Koh Pha-ngan.

Police said they believed that the steering gear of the boat, which had three powerful outboard engines, failed, causing the boat to veer suddenly and capsize, throwing passengers into the sea.

One passenger, David Broo from Sweden, described the scene to Samui's *community magazine*: "I heard the engines cut out and felt the boat turning over so I jumped overboard.

"When I came up for air people were screaming and trying to climb back onto the hull. I swam back to help, but then someone panicked and dragged me under water so I

criticism of road conditions and accident levels on Koh Samui, the local authorities implemented a new, stricter system of road controls throughout Surat Thani Province from December 29.



The speedboat (above), powered by three large outboard motors, capsized, spilling its passengers into the sea.

realized it was too dangerous and moved away.

"Two or three boats passed without seeing us, but then after about 20 minutes, another boat came and picked us up. We tried to use CPR on one man but it seemed he was already dead.

"We had to leave some people behind, but I saw more boats going out to pick up the other survivors. There was no organized rescue operation until much later, I think."

The driver of the boat later surrendered to police to face charges of manslaughter.

Holidays and festival periods are notorious for accidents, so over the New Year, roadblocks and spot checks were set up in more than 50 locations around the province, including several

on Koh Samui, although many appeared to be unmanned for most of the day.

Cdr Swan is a writer with Koh Samui's community magazine.



ANOTHER QUALITY PROJECT FROM LAND & HOUSES

Land & Houses Park Phuket



Pruerk-pirom

3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 298 sq.m.



Pruerk-lawan

3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 348 sq.m.



Pruerk-umpai

4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 382 sq.m.

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



New lakeside homes

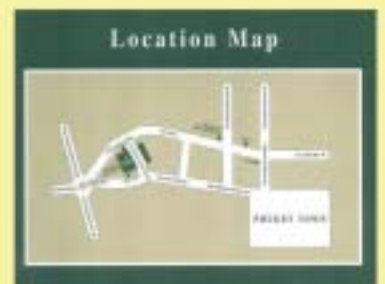
For further information please contact our office

Tel: 076-381150-2 Fax: 076-381111

Email: info@lhphuket.com

http://www.lhphuket.com

Free sports complex membership (4 persons/unit)



This week



BIG BIKES, BIGGER HEARTS: The Blackrose Motorcycle Club and friends donate 250,000 baht in cash as well as equipment, food and gifts to Baan Bangsak School in Phang Nga Province.



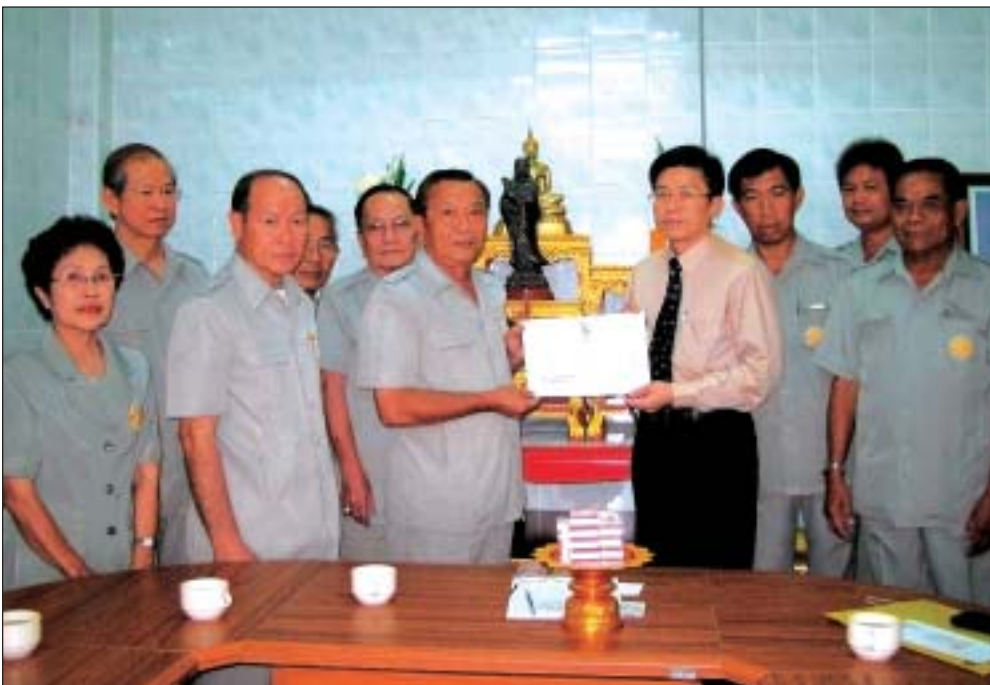
KIND CHEMISTRY: Children of Baan Kalim School are entertained by Chemistry students from Phuket Rajabhat University who brought their "Smile Mobile Project" to the youngsters. Food, fun and games seems to be the right compound.



RADI-CAL HELP: Thomas Engström (left), the President and CEO of RADI Medical Systems, celebrates the official opening of the Pa Khlok-based factory by awarding scholarships to pupils of Baan Ao Por and Baan Bang Rong Schools in the presence of Phuket Governor Udomsak Usawarangkura.



JIVA FEVER: Lars Ydmark (center, in gray shirt) opened his Jiva Resort & Spa for friends to spend the weekend as a way of cheering up after the tsunami. Judging from the smiles, he succeeded.



FOUNDATION DONATION: Dragonair Manager Sutthisak Pattamawattananukul (4th from from right) presents – on behalf of Hong Kong-based Evergloss Tour Company – Chalermkiat Ongjarean (6th from left), the President of the Kusoldharm Rescue Foundation, with a donation of more than 500,000 baht.



THREE CHEERS FOR TRISARA: Robin Plant (2nd from right), of AVC Phuket and the coordinator for the Bang Tao Relief Project, which is building and equipping homes in the area, accepts a donation of 200,000 baht from the management team of Trisara.

Can you afford to be without it?
It's only 500 baht! (plus VAT)
 To get your card, e-mail shopper@phuketgazette.net or call Anna at 076-236555

**Looking for
a home in Phuket?**

www.phuketimmo.com

09-724-7211 / 076-249-315

Phuket Pool Tables

**New Year New Income!
From a coin operated pool table.**

For Sale, Rent and profit-share

Phuket Pool Tables.
01 8234627, 01 755 5057
www.phuketpooltables.com

The heritage of Relaxation.

Rawana

491 Moo 6 Visod Road, Muang District, Phuket 83100, Thailand
Tel: +66 (0) 7638 3945 Fax: +66 (0) 7638 3946 www.rawana.com
BKK Tel: +66 (0) 2377 6863, +66 (0) 2377 3580 Fax: +66 (0) 2378 0100

QUALITY BOATS BUILT HERE

We build 100% fiberglass 'Steppa' boats right here in Phuket.

- 18ft open-bow 'Barracuda' is great for skiing and is the perfect family boat.
- 22ft center-console 'Skip-Jack' is excellent for diving and game fishing.
- 30ft and 36ft 'Flying-Fish' are popular for all commercial applications.

ALL OUR CUSTOM BUILT BOATS HAVE

- ★ a deep-V forward with outboard engines giving cruising speeds of over 30 knots.
- ★ easy, cheap and legitimate Thai registration. (built in Phuket)
- ★ very shallow draft for easy beach and Boat Lagoon access. (no need for a dinghy)
- ★ excellent stability and payload capacities. (simply safer boats)
- ★ the option of being stored at home on a trailer. (avoid expensive marina fees)
- ★ low ongoing maintenance costs due to our excellent supervised fiber construction.

PHUKET WATER TAXI
Anywhere... Anytime...
Since 1990

TEST DRIVE A DEMO OR VISIT OUR FACTORY.
Call 076-270379 or 01-8912688

Children from the School of the Holy Child and Resurrection School in Rye, New York, were determined to do something special for students in Thailand who had suffered from the tsunami.

So each one created a greeting card to send, via the *Phuket Gazette*, to Baan Kalim Primary School.

Accompanied by notes that read, "I am praying for you," "I am sorry for what happened to you ... I hope this picture helps to brighten your day," or "I am sorry the tsunami happened. I am thinking of you and praying for you," the cards, some of which also contained cash, are a heart-warming demonstration of how children as young as three years old can understand the pain of others and sympathize with them.

The cards were delivered to School Director Sutat Worasri by *Gazette* Events/Client Services Manager Vallapa "Pam" Bunnak.

Chumlong Limpattanasophon, a teacher at Baan Kalim School, told the *Gazette* that he will set up a new board in front of the main school building to display all the cards the students have received from overseas.

"I've told them many times that there are many kids in other countries who worry about them and want to cheer them up. It makes them smile," he said.

Baan Kalim School has five teachers and 112 students aged between six and 12 years old. The tsunami damaged buildings, including a teacher's house and the canteen, and destroyed desks, chairs and stationery.

"It was lucky that we didn't lose any of our students. But some of them lost relatives, or had their homes damaged or destroyed.

"They are cheering up, however, after seeing how many organizations want to help them," he added.



The *Gazette's* Pam Bunnag (right) hands over the cards to children and teachers of Baan Kalim Primary School. Below, some of the cards from the New York schools.

Love from New York



BRITISH EMBASSY



Are you a British national who was in Thailand at the time of the tsunami?

Have you reported to the British Embassy that you are safe?

If **NOT**, please call 076 264 473/4
Or e-mail us at; Phuket.consular@fco.gov.uk

BACK TO SQUARE 1

In September 2004, Wareerat Khoo-Aroon saw the culmination of years of planning and hard work and a 10-million-baht investment when she opened the doors of her Panwa Garden & Spa.

Three months later, she is left surveying what is left of the spa after the tsunami sent millions of tons of water pounding through Khao Khat, and is trying to salvage her business and her dream.

The global community has united to help tsunami victims around the Indian Ocean, and the government has announced a package of measures to help businesses in Thailand, but, according to 38-year-old K. Wareerat, "The priority now is to help ourselves."

K. Wareerat intends to have the 18-rai, 80-bed Balinese-style spa back in business before the end of February, although she isn't sure how many customers there will be.

Opening the spa, with its 30 staff and 10 trainees, was the fulfillment of a dream K. Wareerat had had since graduation. Born in Prachuap Khiri Khan, she was inspired to open a spa after meeting a blind masseur in Bangkok.

She explained, "I saw a blind man walking up a flight of stairs. I tried to warn him that he would soon have to go to the left on the walkway, but he told me not to worry, as he had been trained to use a cane. It turned out he had trained as a masseur at the Thai Association for the Blind."

"We talked for a while, and that conversation made me decide to talk to my family about opening a place in Phuket where blind people could learn massage from experienced teachers."

"Around 1996, I opened the first blind shelter in Phuket, though I accepted sighted students as well as blind ones."

"I went on to pass the spa manager examination, and in 2003 I started to build this spa, on the site of the shelter. I got a permit from the Ministry of Public Health and we opened last September."

K. Wareerat recalled what happened the day the tsunami came. "I was here when the second wave came," she said. "My sister called from Bangkok and warned me that there had been an earthquake in Sumatra and that it might affect Phuket."

"At 9.30 am, I sent a mem-



Wareerat Khoo-Aroon: 'The authorities asked me why I didn't simply close my business, then I wouldn't have to worry about my staff because they wouldn't be working for me any more.'

ber of staff to work at the Thara Patong Beach Resort, then she called me to say there had been a wave there and there was sea water in the pool. Ten minutes later, my relatives called to tell me the water had come to Khao Khat too, so I rushed to the spa.

"The first wave sucked the water off the beach so quickly that it left big fish just lying on the sand. Some staff picked up pots to collect the fish, but then the wave came in a horizontal line and everyone started to run."

"The water came very fast. One member of staff who didn't get out the way fast enough was knocked over. Although he was hit by wooden debris in the water, he managed to climb a column and out of the way of the water."

"Another member of staff was swept along by the water, but she too, managed to grab the column. A third, because she was

used to flooding in her home town, knew to head for higher ground.

"The staff were worried about the water hitting the electricity supply, so, together, they unplugged all the electrical equipment."

"But then the second wave came. It must have been three meters high, and it demolished the lockers and a wall, and washed away around 10,000 baht's worth of property, including our petty cash. But at least no one died."

K. Wareerat estimates it will cost about 5 million baht to repair the damage caused by the tsunami, but she is also concerned about the welfare of her staff.

Just a day after the tsunami, staff – many of whom moved to Phuket to work – were asking what they could do with "no work and nowhere to go". K.

Wareerat had already paid them their salaries for December. "I asked them whether they could help me to rebuild the spa or whether they wanted to leave. I said that if they helped, I would pay them what I could – 100 baht a day."

Like other tsunami victims, K. Wareerat turned to the authorities for help. "My staff contacted the Phuket Provincial Social Insurance Office and asked for some assistance because we weren't functioning. We hoped that would help us to continue paying the staff."

"But they told us to contact the Tambon Administration Organisation (*OrBorTor*).

"But the authorities asked me why I didn't simply close my business, then I wouldn't have to worry about my staff because they wouldn't be working for me any more."

"Similarly, we heard about the cheap bank loans for tsunami victims, and we applied for one, but so far we haven't had a response."

"Thankfully, now, though, the Department of Social Development and Welfare's Ministry of Social Development and Human Security have given the *OrBorTor* money to spend on helping victims."

"And we also got a packet of medicine from the Phuket Provincial Health Office."

But K. Wareerat believes there needs to be more organization, coordination and – from the government – leadership and direction to the aid effort.

"Throwing around loans randomly to victims isn't the way to do things; there has to be some kind of organization, some distinction between loans to small and big businesses."

She continued, "We are using our own money to rebuild this area right now; we have worked together to contact customers. Even if we don't know whether they will come or not, it's better than doing nothing..."

"We're going to re-open the business and I hope it will be 100% successful. At least I shall have tried, and we're still better off than people who have been seriously injured, lost members of their family or their home."

Even though K. Wareerat knows she has been luckier than many others, the tsunami has clearly affected her deeply.

"I accept it was a natural disaster," she said, "and since December 26, I have shut down my feelings."

"I know that if I think about what things were like before, or the damage that has been caused, then I would worry and be afraid, and I would feel so bad I would be unable to run the business again."

"But I know that we have to continue to operate, and that's what we're going to do now."

"Since the tsunami, there has been rumor after rumor that there has been an aftershock and there is going to be another tsunami, but I don't think one will happen again in Phuket. At least I hope it won't."

– Anongnat Sartpisut

MANEE SAI
Open daily
Tel: 01 487 4139 Fax: 076 383 527
E-mail: manee_sai@hotmail.com
STONE MURALS & STATUES & MORE
Showroom 500 meters from Chalong Circle, Chalong to Rawai road, opposite Chalong Post Office.

ANDAMAN
Lighting Systems
See you in the dark about lighting?
andamanlighting.com
Tel: 076 254 826 Fax: 076 254 827

PATONG LANGUAGE SCHOOL
KARON LANGUAGE SCHOOL
TEFLPlus Teacher training
LinguaPlus Language centre
Your first choice for language classes on Phuket island, with branches in Patong, Kata/Karon and Chalong.
Thailand's best value TEFL course at only 35,000 Baht.
Patong Language School
Aroonsom Square, Patong, Kathu, Phuket 83150
Tel 0 7634 0373 Fax 0 7634 0873
Karon Language School
Karon Plaza, Patak Road, Karon, Phuket 83100
Tel 0 7639 8282 Fax 0 7639 8283
LinguaPlus Language Centre
86/6 Wiset Road, Chalong, Phuket 83000
Tel/Fax 0 7628 0368
TEFLPlus Teacher Training
www.teflplus.com info@teflplus.com
info@phuket-languageschool.com www.phuket-languageschool.com

Skiff ASIA
www.skiffasia.com
info@skiffasia.com
phone 06 954 1915
Come Sailing Today!
New Performance Sailing Dinghies
□ 4-day learn-to-sail package
□ Racing, instruction and scenic fun-sailing around Cape Panwa and Chalong Bay.
□ New clubhouse facility has showers, views, beverages, sailing books and DVDs.
□ Youth sailing program
Intro "have-a-go" day for 2,000 baht. Resident prices from 1,800 baht per session.
Ao Yon Phuket (west side of Cape Panwa)

GADGETS & GIZMOS

by Gategaeo Phetsawang



Above: Hang onto your hat – the 50-inch Pioneer Plasma TV costs 199,900 baht. It comes with a free Pioneer home-theater system. Right: Hang it on the wall – the 42-inch Samsung PDP TV costs 159,000 baht and comes with a free home theater system worth 24,900 baht.

Flat-hunting for TV lovers

Forty-odd years ago, most TVs still showed images in blurry black and white. The TV sets themselves were often gargantuan in size, had a mono speaker and either a four-button channel selector or a dial to tune in to another channel.

As color broadcasts came in, TVs began to get smaller.

Now, however, as technology has developed, TVs have, in size terms, come full circle, and then some, with monster-sized plasma display panels (PDP) or LCD screens measuring 100" diagonally and 4" thick now available.

They are even light enough to hang on a wall, much as one would with a painting.

When switched off, TV screens may appear black but they are – generally – dark gray. PDPs score high because they have what the trade calls a very high “dark-room” contrast, which creates a near-perfect

black. The blacker the screen, the better an image – a movie particularly – looks.

PDPs also have higher lux (illumination) values than cathode-ray tube (CRT) TVs, delivering an image that looks sharper, and colors that are more natural.

Figures for “contrast ratio” (the difference between the brightest and darkest parts of an image) quoted by manufacturers can, at 3,000:1, seem impressive but no standard test exists to measure this and makers tend to publish whatever figure they want.

LCD TVs are no different

– except in size – from the monitors found on most laptop computers. Despite the age of LCD technology – it was successfully introduced in 1971 – LCD screens are more expensive than equivalent-sized PDPs.

On the plus side, LCD screens last longer. PDPs have a guaranteed life of “only” 60,000 hours – or almost seven years of watching TV round-the-clock.

Prices for both technologies are still high compared with conventional TVs. However, as many of the big players – Sony, Philips and Samsung included –

refine production technology, prices continue to drop.

PDP and LCD TVs with USB ports and Wi-Fi or Bluetooth compatibility, as well as the standard peripherals to set them up as home-theater systems – with an adequate audio setup – are more of the benefits of the big-screen, high-resolution units.

• *A word of warning: many Phuket residents are familiar with the electrical brownouts so common on the island. Fluctuations in power supply can ruin electrical appliances that need a constant and steady supply.*

PHUKET COSMETIC DENTAL CLINIC

Come and enjoy the difference of our unique esthetic dental treatment.

- Tooth whitening by plasma arc
- Dental implants
- All-ceramic crowns
- Ceramic veneers

16/1 Hongyok-U-Thit Rd, T. Taladyai A. Muang, Phuket 83000 Thailand.
Tel: 0 7623 6823 Fax: 0 7623 6824
Email: info@phuketcosmeticedentalclinic.com
www.phuketcosmeticedentalclinic.com

Fast installation-guarantee-removable

New!
Above ground pools from 4 to 8 meters fully equipped starting at 150 000 Baht

FANTASTIC

A World of Difference ...

Central Festival 3rd floor
Tel: 076 224 444



Songkran FESTIVAL 2005

Where's the FUN place
to be for Songkran this year?



**It's all happening at
Central Festival Phuket!**

Don't miss loads of family fun activities like the Thai Food & Sweets Festival, Thai Products Fair, Miss/ter Songkran Beauty Pageant, Thai Performances daily, plus all the New Year splashing and splashing you love!

So be there...
Central Festival Phuket.
April 6-17 for
a Super Songkran!



Central Festival Phuket
74-75 Moo 5 Between Vichitsongkram and Chalermprakiet Rd.,
Muang, Phuket 83000 Tel: 66(0) 76 291 111
www.centralfestivalphuket.com

A Central Retail Company

www.central.co.th

Your stars in the week ahead

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): Aquarians celebrating a birthday this week should drop heavy hints to ensure that loved ones don't present them with an unwanted gift. If it's hard to concentrate on business, exercise will clear the cobwebs; a sluggish friend will appreciate being asked to join in. Libra wants to get closer to you, but needs encouragement to make a move.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): An important decision is not as concrete as you believe. Don't take someone's word as being a definite agreement; get commitment on paper first. There is a promising start to the week for Pisceans investigating new employment. Your talents are more varied than you believe; make a list of all your skills and create a more attractive CV. The number 8 holds promise on Wednesday.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): Administrative tasks are best cleared up at the beginning of the week as you are likely to be asked for documents on Thursday. Arians who want to stay ahead of the game should devote time to finessing business plans. It may not seem as if there's much scope for new ventures on the island at present, but one of your innovative ideas holds promise.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): Taureans who are tiring of their immediate surroundings will benefit from a break. A distant friend would love to welcome you for a visit and you will gain fresh perspective on your situation by getting away from it all. Luck in love is in the air mid-week, but don't reveal your secrets too quickly. On Tuesday, Scorpio comes up with an offer that's hard to refuse. The number 3 holds promise on Sunday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): Geminis who have been holding their breath regarding an overdue business agreement can sigh with relief this week. Finances are looking promising, although you will need to meet someone halfway. As to love, your partner needs to feel more appreciated; some simple romantic gestures will set sparks flying again. Wednesday is an auspicious day for making extravagant purchases.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): Cancerians whose imaginations have been hard to kick into gear lately will benefit from motivating conditions this week. If you are desperate to find a new direction in your working life, the signs should be hard to miss. Avoid family conflicts this weekend by refusing to be pushed into any corners. Single Cancerians wanting a change in status will benefit from rethinking their attitude to relationships. The color mango yellow cheers you up.

LEO (July 24-August 22): While work is probably the last thing you want to be getting on with, there should be few valid excuses for avoiding it this week. Lazy Leos are in danger of missing the boat if they put business matters on hold for much longer. If you're worried about juggling work and family commitments, remember that where there's a will, there's a way. The color jade will encourage helpful insight.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): You are likely to start the weekend feeling out of sorts. Sufficient rest will help this condition to pass by Monday. Changes regarding finances are brewing; don't get depressed if there's more money going out than coming in until mid-month. The balance will alter dramatically after that, leaving you free to pursue a dream. A romantic entanglement on Tuesday gives cause for optimism.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): Your lust for life is reactivated this week and most Librans will be seeking new social scenes. It may take a while to recognize the signs but someone is flirting with you and would appreciate some encouragement. If you're definitely not interested ask a third person to explain tactfully on your behalf. Take care with your diet later next week as your stomach is likely to be sensitive.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): Patience is the only solution to your pressing problem. Those Scorpios who are feeling inclined to light a firecracker under a lazy someone are strongly advised not to. Intimate relationships are strongly highlighted on Sunday, making this is the perfect day to share secrets and confess deep feelings. Wearing the color aquamarine will help stabilize your thoughts.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): Unattached Sagittarians need to be on their guard if they want to stay that way. Someone has set their sights on you and is not about to give up easily. This will not be a case of having your banana cake and eating it too, so if you're not ready to give up your single status make distance immediately. The number 5 comes alive on Tuesday.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): Work is still causing you to chase your tail in circles. Capricorns should try standing still and see what happens. A new romance continues to float your boat and there are signs that this relationship will blossom. Financial restrictions are eased toward the end of next week, but you must endeavor to pay off any existing debts. The number 4 is lucky on Sunday.

Angus O'Tool's
 IRISH PUB, Restaurant & Guesthouse
 OPEN FOR BREAKFAST FROM 11:00 AM
 MON. MICK'S GRILL FRI. ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT BBQ
 TUE. BALTI CURRIES SAT. SIZZLING STEAKS
 THU. HOMEMADE PIES SUN. ROAST DINNERS

SEE ALL THE SPORTS LIVE ON OUR HUGE 100" SCREEN

HAPPY HOUR ALL DAY *TIL 9:00PM ☎: 076-398262
 Karon Beach, opposite Islandia Hotel www.otools-phuket.com

We take pride in our most exclusive selection of glazed and terracotta pottery from Thailand and our associated factories in Vietnam and China.

Plus a good selection of lacquerware platters. Located near Boat Lagoon.

House & Garden Limited Partnership
 8/1 Theprasartree Rd, Sapsim, Koh Kaeo, Muang, Phuket 83000
 Tel./Fax: (66 76) 239 600 Mobile: 01 893 3571, 01 891 9051
 Email: 4seas@4seas.com www.4seas.com

QUEEN AIR BOOKING CENTER CO., LTD.
 Your Travel Agent In Thailand (Since 1981)
 E-mail: queenabc@loxinfo.co.th
 99/4 Rat-U-Thit 200 Pee Rd, Patong Beach, Phuket, 83150.
 (On corner of Rat-U-Thit 200 Pee and Sai Nam Yen Rd).
 Tel: 0-7634-0250 (Auto) Fax: 0-7634-1333

UNIQUELY Singapore *Silk way to SIN* **SILK AIR**

Be smart, *Silk way to SIN* will lead you to a deluxe-class hotel on a value budget.

3 Days / 2 Nights only 8,999 THB
 (Valid till 31 Mar 05)

- Air ticket Phuket - Singapore - Phuket
- 2-nights accommodation in **Le Meridien Orchard** or **Royal Plaza**
- Airport transfer, round trip
- Half-day city tour
- Value added with one meal at the Great Treat Fast Food Centre at Le Meridien Hotel (basement 1)

Excludes Phuket airport tax of 500 THB & Sin airport tax + insurance + fuel charge of 1,755 THB.
 Non-Refundable Reservation bookings are non refundable. Changes or bookings must be made 24hrs in advance.

- CHEAPEST WORLDWIDE & DOMESTIC AIRLINES TICKETING
- SUPER VALUE PACKAGE & HOTEL BOOKING SAVE 30%-50%
- AMAZING SPECIAL DAILY TOUR WITH FREE PICK UP & RETURN TO YOUR HOTEL.

Remark: - CASH BASIS, ALL RATES IN THB. AIR FARES DO NOT INCLUDE AIRPORT TAX OR AIRLINE INSURANCE. FREE DELIVERY TO YOUR DOOR. FARES MAY CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED.

CENTRAL FESTIVAL
Phuket



THAILAND GRAND SALE '05 10-50%*

Today - 31 July 2005



**Witness a
Fashion Extravaganza
featuring 9 Top Models:**

Joy Rinlane, Kae Chonlada & Tuk
Changawanund. PLUS, Enjoy Fun Activities
Galore! **30 June 2005**

**The First Lucky 100
Persons**

To register get a chance to win gift vouchers
worth up to 500.- Plus, VISA Card's Daily
Biggest Spender **Gets 5,000.-**
CASH INSTANTLY - 1 Prize/Day.
*(Valid for sales receipts purchased under one
card account within a single day.)*

Spend 4,000.- up (one sales receipt only) with
your VISA Card and **get a FREE VISA Bag
worth 150.-**

*Participating brands and vendors only. Please check
conditions at the sales counter.



Phuket's Best Shopping Center

@ The Junction of Vichitsongkhram Road
& Chalemprakiet Road
Tel. 66 (076) 291 111
www.centralfestivalphuket.com

A Central Retail Company www.central.co.th



The Gazette Guide 2005 is now on sale at:

41 Minimart	At the entrance to Laguna Phuket. Tel: 076-325436
A-One Market Place (opposite Police Station)	3/5 Moo 9, Chaofa Rd, Chalong. Tel: 076-381526
Bay Mini Mart	94/13 Moo 3, Kamala Beach. Tel: 076-271062
Bookstore at Robinsons	Phuket Town. No direct telephone.
Deli Supermarket	17/30 Rat-U-Thit Rd, Patong Beach. Tel: 076-342275
Dok Ya Bookstore	43/1 Phang Nga Rd, Phuket Town. Tel: 076-258040
Don's Café & Mart	53/5 Soi Saiyuan, Moo 7, Rawai. Tel: 076-288229
Dorn's Place	67/3 Wichitsongkram Rd, Muang. Tel: 076-222210
Flintstone Bakery – Dulwich International College	59 Moo 2, Thepkrasattri Rd, Koh Kaew. Tel: 01-8922392
Gift Shop – Kata Beach Resort	5/2 Patak Rd, Muang. Tel: 076-330530
Gift Shop – Novotel Phuket Resort	Kalim Beach Rd, Patong. Tel: 076-342777
I.L.C. Language School	Patak Rd, Chalong Circle. Tel: 076-280433
Julapan Bookstore	16/6 Chaofa Rd, Chalong Circle. (About 100m before the circle, on right). Tel: 076-282254
K. Supermarket	245 Koktanod Rd, Karon. Tel: 09-7298991
K.L. Mart	107/4 Moo 4, Patak Rd, Rawai (at the Circle). Tel: 076-280400/3
Kanda Bakery	Rasada Rd, Phuket Town. Tel: 076-223410
Kata Pharmacy	59 Taina Rd, Kata Center. Tel: 076-330898
Koh Kaew Supermarket	22/1 Moo 2, Thepkrasattri Rd (in Boat Lagoon). Tel: 076-238950
M & G Star Mart (Caltex station)	51/135 Moo 6, Vichisongkram Rd, Kathu (at big intersection on way from Phuket Town to Patong). Tel: 076-254199
Ma Nop Bookstore	146 Rat-Utit Song Roi Pee Rd, Patong. Tel: 076-295480
Nai Indra Bookstore	304-306 Phuket Rd, Phuket Town. Tel: 076-256220
Nai Indra in Black Canyon	Coliseum Theatre Building, Phuket Town. Tel: 076-256336
Phuket International Hospital	Opposite information counter. Tel: 076-249400
R.D. Shop	376/14 Moo 1, T. Cherngtalay, Thalang. Tel: 076-270074
Rung Napa Supermarket	75/23-25 Patak Rd (Chalong Circle). Tel: 076-280989
P.N.S. Supermart	52/8 Moo 6, Rawai. Tel: 076-288044
Se-Ed Book Center	Big C Supercenter. Tel: 076-249422/3
Se-Ed Book Center	Tesco Lotus. Tel: 076-255118
Seng Ho Bookstore	2/14-16 Montri Rd, Phuket Town. Tel: 076-211396
Siam Daily	JW Marriott Phuket Resort and Spa, Mai Khao. Tel: 076-338000, ext 3403-5
Sin & Lee	49 Thalang Rd, Phuket Town. Tel: 076-211230
Sunrise Coffee House	43/44-45 Moo 5, Wiset Rd, Rawai, Muang. Tel: 076-280962
Taurus Travel	62/3 Aroonsom Plaza, Rat-u-thit Rd, Patong. Tel: 076-344521/2
The Bakery & Fresh Juice Bar	Phuket Boat Lagoon. Tel: 076-238941
The Books - Phuket Town	53-55 Phuket Road. Tel: 076-224362
The Circle Cafe	8 Rassada Rd, Muang. Tel: 076-355233
Top Ten Supermarket	68 Ranong Rd, Phuket Town. Tel: 076-212091
Used Books	7 Chaofa East Rd, Chalong. Tel: 01-9568659
Whispering Cock	Tinlay Village (at entrance to Laguna Phuket). Tel: 09-8721398
Yacht Haven / Haven Restaurant	Mai Khao. Tel: 076-206652 / 076-206651
Yacht Haven Marina's Office	Phuket Island Marina Co Ltd. 141/2 Moo 2, Mai Khao, Thalang. Tel: 076-206652



For a list of vendors outside Phuket, see www.phuketgazette.net/guide/vendors2005

KIDS

THE FUN PAGE FOR ALL THE FAMILY

Spot the Difference



Can you find the seven differences between the two cartoons below? And can you find them faster than the rest of the family?



Brain Buster!!

Train A and train B are crossing the country, from coast to coast, over 3,000 miles of railroad track. Train A is going from east to west at 80 miles per hour, and Train B is going from west to east at 90 miles per hour. Which train will be closer to the west coast when they meet?

Answer: Neither. When they meet they will both be the same distance from the west coast.

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD



Get your brain in gear with The Monster Quiz



- Who is the President of Ukraine?
- Where – until November 15, 1996 – was the Stone of Scone?
- Where is it now?
- What do the words window, sky and anger have in common?
- Who was the shortest-serving British MP?
- How long did he serve?
- In terms of time, what is UTC?
- The Royal Greenwich Observatory did what for the first time on February 5, 1924?
- Which Portuguese soccer player was born February 5, 1985?
- What is the term for a zoologist who studies the behavior of animals in their natural habitats?
- Formula 1 driver Juan Pablo Montoya will race for which team in 2005?
- The first Formula 1 race of the 2005 season will be held where and when?
- In which city can one find the Holmenkollen ski jump, Vigeland Park and The Storting?
- What is The Storting?
- The words arsenal, cipher and lemon originated from which language?
- Buffy the Vampire Slayer* star Sarah Michelle Gellar was born when and where?
- Where is the world's largest ancient stone circle?
- Which is the highest mountain known in the solar system and how high is it?
- What is the correct term for a political system governed by rich people?
- From where did the Lewis and Clark expedition set out?

Answers next week

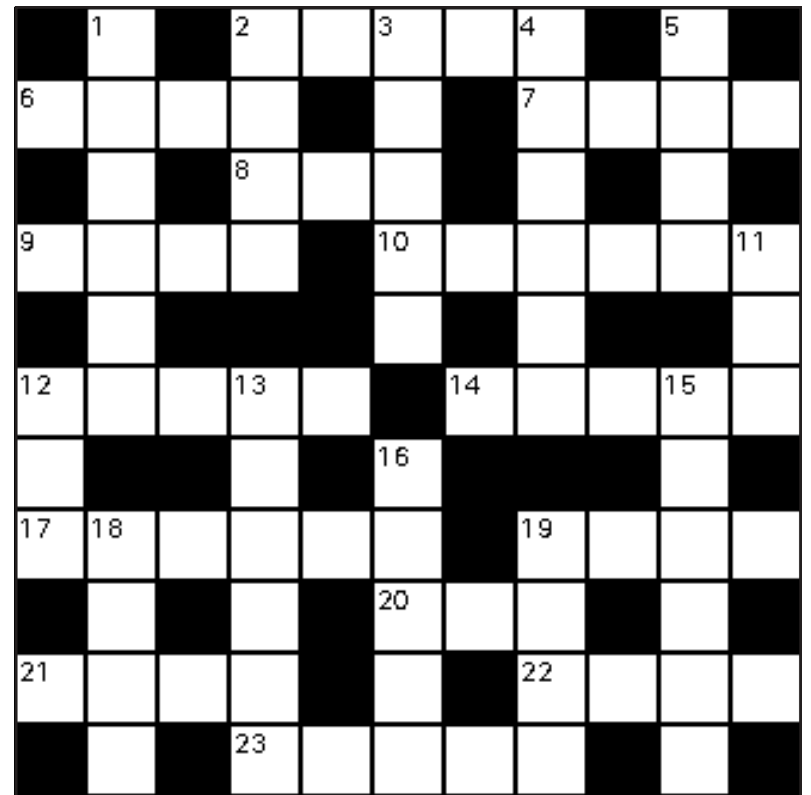
Never a Cross Word!

Across

- Financial examination.
- Make a sweater.
- It wasn't built in a day.
- Clumsy fool!
- Old name for Thailand.
- Tex-Mex 14 ac.
- Religion centered around Mecca.
- Bite between meals.
- Take the paper off a gift.
- Doctor's word for zits.
- Hostelry.
- He talks about himself endlessly.
- Singer Ike's ex-partner.
- Birds' homes.

ANSWERS TO LAST WEEK'S MONSTER QUIZ

- Aleksandr Pushkin; 2. Reese Witherspoon; 3. *Vanity Fair*; 4. Georgia; 5. The Black Sea; 6. China; 7. 555; 8. Tamil (originally *kattumaram*); 9. An opponent of technological development; 10. Lotus; 11. Weapons of Mass Destruction; 12. Argon, helium, krypton, neon, radon and xenon; 13. *Macbeth*; 14. 37.4 meters; 15. Skateboarding; 16. Shipping areas around the UK; 17. Auguste Comte; 18. The Anglo-Zanzibar War of 1896; 19. 45 minutes. Britain won; 20. The peregrine falcon, at 350kmh.



Down

- Very slow animals.
- Molecule component.
- Cartoon duck.
- Hector or Priam, for example.
- Leave it out.
- Request.
- Note from a debtor.
- Aviators.
- Having to do with dogs.
- CIA or MI6 employees, perhaps.
- Gas for lighting.
- They form colonies and hills.

Solution next week

www.fourwindsmoving.com

INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC MOVERS



FOUR WINDS
INTERNATIONAL GROUP

For all your moving requirements to and from Phuket
Call Liz Mulqueen
Tel: 01-820 1557

e-mail: lmulqueen@fourwindsmoving.com

Pigeon takes on a tiger (but doesn't really win)

It's amazing how the selfish actions of a few can ruin the enjoyment of the many, but that's exactly what happened on the evening of January 22, when a Soi Bangla DJ managed to spoil what should have been the most important musical event in the history of Patong.

Upon learning that the Bangkok Symphony Orchestra (BSO) was scheduled to play a free concert on January 22, Stool Pigeon realized that this event – the finest classical musicians in Thailand playing for free on Soi Bangla – was something not to be missed. It sounded too good to be true.

"Surely, it will just be an ensemble?" I thought, looking at the size of the makeshift stage set up between Rock Hard A-Go-Go and Margarita Bar at the top of Soi Bangla.

But as the moment arrived, some 50 of the best musicians in the land filed onto the stage carrying horns, cellos, flutes – the whole shebang – and somehow crammed themselves into their

sections. It appeared to be the entire BSO there, seated on yellow plastic chairs and looking much like passengers on a *Bor-KorSor* bus.

Behind them was a large sign bearing the legend "Revive Patong and Phuket" and a picture of a bottle of Singha Beer, which was sponsoring the event.

Confused bar girls late for work and overweight tourists wearing "I survived the tsunami" T-shirts were among the thousands of people crowding at the head of the soi, all in eager anticipation of what, for many, must have been their first-ever chance to enjoy a live performance by a world-class symphony orchestra.

But as the conductor took up the baton and the music be-

gan to play – opening with a piece written by HM King Bhumibol – Stool Pigeon realized something was wrong – very wrong.

The normal booming cacophony of Soi Bangla was drowning out the sound of the orchestra – the audience couldn't hear the music.

"They cast their pearls before swine!" I muttered to myself, shaking my head in disbelief.

Rather than sit there and fume, I decided to see if there were any police officers nearby who might do something about it. But for all the talk of tourist safety these days, not one could be found.

So, emboldened by several bottles of the sponsor's product,



I gave up my seat and forced my way to each of the offending venues, explained to their respective managers what was happening.

Surprisingly, one-by-one, they started turning down their stereos or turning them off completely: first The Living Room pool hall, then Rio and then Margarita Bar, where the manager quickly pulled the house band off the stage, just as they were finishing

off a kick-ass rendition of *Proud Mary* – no more than 50 meters from where the BSO string section was playing.

I returned to my seat feeling quite satisfied, even though I had missed the first four pieces. It was now possible to hear the BSO, but there were still deep, booming thuds coming from Tiger Entertainment Complex.

Those of us far back in the crowd were forced to listen to an intricate flute solo with violin accompaniment – together with the bass line of *Boom Boom Boom, Let's Go Back To My Room!* pounding away in the background.

Tiger proved a very difficult nut to crack. I asked one bar at the end that seemed to be playing particularly loud music to turn it down. At first he said, "But this is Patong culture."

When I pointed out that most of Patong was trying to enjoy the concert and his bar was empty, he did eventually compromise and turned it way down. But it made little difference because around 50 bars in the complex all play the same music fed to them from a DJ, whose whereabouts it was my job to discover.

Going to each bar individually would have been like trying to repel a Borg invasion simply by taking out a few mindless drones; it couldn't be done. You have to find the queen.

So up I went to the 2nd-floor disco where the music was pounding at full volume with doors open wide – despite an absence of customers. The doorman there told me the DJ worked from under the stairs along an alleyway. I found him eventually and tried to explain.

I think he turned it down slightly, but must have turned it back up again out of spite as I left – because when I got back to my seat the steady dull thumping from Tiger continued.

Although I ended up missing most of the concert, the parts that I did catch were the BSO's first-ever public performance of the theme from *Phantom of the Opera*, along with *Moonlight Sonata*, *Chua Fa Din Salay* and a vocal rendition of the rather corny song *You Raise Me Up*, sung by Suran Kumanthod.

I would have preferred more classical numbers than the many "crowd pleasers" they played, which also included a pop song – *Dek Doi Jai Dee* – written by a 10-year-old Thai girl. The song was something about the joys of eating carrots, but just about anything played by such fine musicians sounds good.

After such an experience, it's difficult to know when, if ever, the BSO will return to Patong. Perhaps never, as Patong is clearly still a bastion of cretinism, not fine art. Maybe we'll have to wait for another tsunami to hit.

They say the prime goal of the concert was to show that Patong is getting back to normal. If the actions of some DJs are any indication, it already is.

Comments or criticisms? Send an email to: stoolpigeon@phuketgazette.net

Who let that wacko in here?

Having been a freelance journalist for more years than I care to remember, I was reminded recently why it is I have remained a freelancer for most of my working years rather than becoming an editorial wage slave.

The primary reason, obviously, is no one in full control of his faculties would employ me.

The secondary reason is that as soon as you start writing on a regular basis for a particular publication, you begin receiving correspondence from persons who you suspect have a tenuous grip on reality and are, to put it simply, a few sentences short of a paragraph.

I know this will come as a complete surprise to many people who live in Thailand to think a place such as Pattaya could be home to persons whose grip on reality is less than firm, but it's true.

In fairness, these people are

not confined to Pattaya. During the course of his or her career, practically every journalist in the world receives missives from these wackos.

It usually starts with a phrase like, "I know you won't have the balls to print this truth what I am going to write about, you gutless turd."

This derivative opening sentence, designed to win friends and influence people, makes you read on because you already know that, a) you sure as hell won't publish what the idiot has to say and b) you feel in the need for a good laugh.

The letter may go on:

"Why don't you press understand the TRUTH whats happen in Pattaya NOW!!!! Everyone nose the people that go down Soi 125 in them bars like the Pissed As A Parrot have GENITAL HERPES. They rip you off in that bar. you go talk to the f*#king Yank owner, everyone

nose that f*#ker has been selling that stuff for years."

There are other letters and emails that run along similar lines, except these are written by people who appear, to all intents and purposes, close to being sane.

The distinguishing feature of these missives is they run to 200 pages of closely-written or typed verbiage totaling 87,000 words.

They fall into a couple of categories. First, the failed relationship with – I know this will shock the pants off you – a bargirl. It begins:

"How is it that all these men who come to Pattaya can be so stupid? All these girls want is your money. They don't love you,



most of them really secretly hate you. They all have Thai boyfriends and husbands and children and they never stop wanting more. One lived with me for six months and she ripped me off for a million baht. I went to the police but they don't care. They just laughed at me."

The second category sends letters about how the Earth is doomed because the World Government has launched some form of mind control.

"I know the Mongolian government signed a secret treaty with Upper Volta and Laos to share information technology and hide billions of dollars in Swiss bank accounts and it's now in contact with aliens who have been hiding in the mountains of Burma since Columbus landed in New York and the Zionist conspiracy that had Lenin drive a train from Berlin to London in secret in 1917 before he overthrew the Russians and killed the Czar with his bare hands in Siberia and then Hitler had the Gestapo full of Jews but pretended to have them all gassed in Auschwitz but really they were brainwashed and turned into Thai politicians by the CIA."

When Kaiser Wilhelm II remarked, "The noodles have had a lucid interval," he was referring to Britain and Japan forming an alliance back in 1902.

But that phrase could apply equally to a number of people here, although it would have to be modified to, "The noodles have occasional lucid intervals."

And I just know that the Gazette won't have the BALLS to print this.



Sunseeker Manhattan 58 : TAWANWAN
Luxury Charter Motoryacht worth US\$ 1 Million



ENJOY the best luxury vacation, cruising around Phuket Island, visiting the Phi Phi Islands, Similan Islands, James Bond Island, Maya Beach and many more...

EXPERIENCE a comfortable stay on a modern motor yacht. We have a professional captain, chef and crew. We offer complimentary drinks, snacks, and fresh seafood meals.

ACTIVITIES: snorkeling, deep sea fishing, sunset watching, scuba diving.

One-day trip THB 100,000 per day
Overnight trip THB 125,000 per night
15-night trip THB 87,500 per night
Make your reservation now!



20/4 Moo 2 Thepkrasattri Rd., Koh Kaew, Muang Phuket 83000
Tel & Fax: 66-7623-8976
E-mail: sunnav03@cscoms.com

Misty mountain magic

Located 160 kilometers north of Chiang Mai and just 5km from the Thailand-Myanmar border, Doi Angkhang was the site for HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej's first Royal Agricultural Research Station.

The project was established in 1969 with the goal of encouraging hilltribes to abandon slash-and-burn farming techniques – including the cultivation of poppies for opium – and instead to grow other crops.

The Angkhang project has been one of the most successful of the program. Situated some 1,400m above sea level, the village is an ideal place for the cultivation of temperate fruits, such as strawberries, kiwi fruit, pears, peaches and persimmons, as well as flowers including roses and azaleas, and a variety of herbs.

We arrived in the late afternoon as the sun was setting over the mountains. The mercury seemed to drop quickly, just as we were warned it would. We put on our sweaters and jackets and strolled through the village.

Life here is basic for the friendly, cheerful villagers, most of whom work at the agricultural station, but there is a small market, which serves the many visiting Thai families and schoolchildren.

Only a few intrepid Westerners ever seem to make it this far north and there were a few of them dotted around the village.

They seemed more intrepid than us – or just more acclimatized, perhaps – walking around in just T-shirts and shorts.

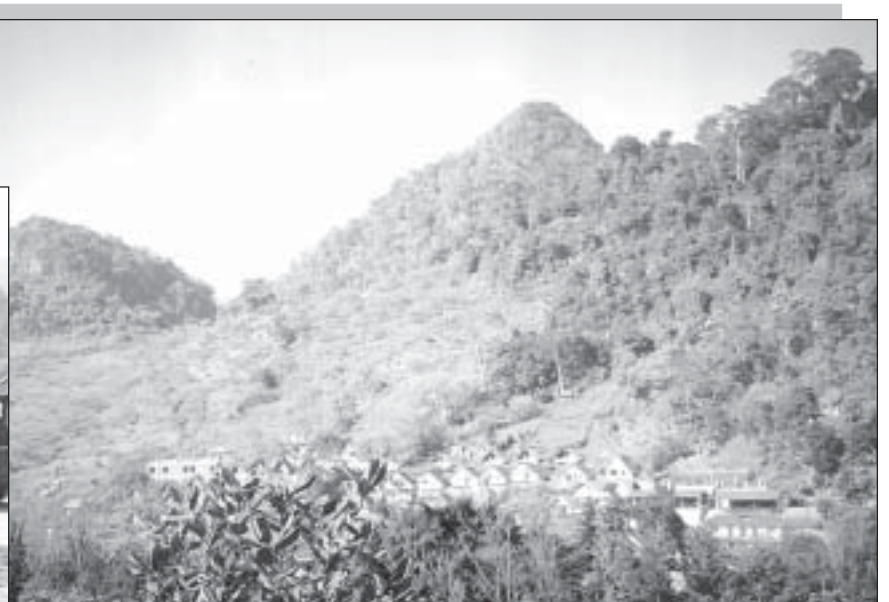
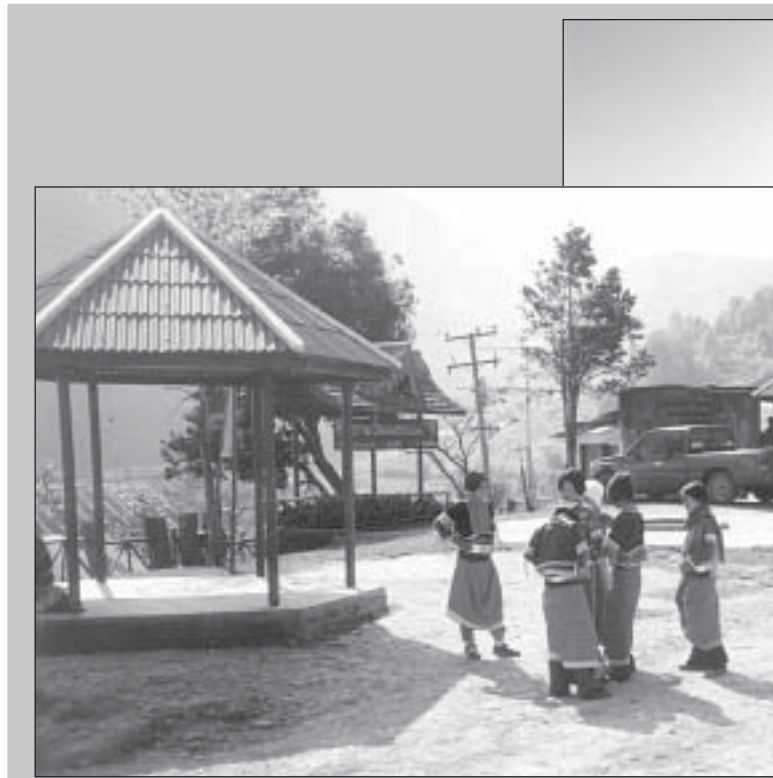
I felt for these hardy travelers as it was becoming decidedly cold by this time. We left them to the late afternoon chill and headed back to our room at the Amari Angkhang Nature Resort.

Rather than dressing for dinner, it was more like dressing for an après-ski party. Out came more socks and an extra layer of T-shirts as well as the ski jackets for dinner before we sat down to dine. Nighttime sub-zero temperatures are not uncommon from November through to February.

However, it was wonderful to sit in the lounge in front of a wood fire, made all the more of a treat by having an excellent bottle of red wine to enjoy.

I wished that the restaurant was as warm as the lounge, the welcome and the general atmosphere, but the food and the company of the resort's general manager, Makoo Techasapon, more than made up for the chilliness.

We woke the next morning to the pealing of bells around donkeys' necks as the beasts of bur-



Above: The village of Doi Angkhang sits high up in the mountains, where the warmth of the people is enough to get you through the chilly nights.

Left: Schoolchildren play in the street at the Lahu – sometimes known as Muser – village of Khob Dong.

den – with their masters – slowly ascended the mountains toward Myanmar.

After breakfast, with K. Makoo as our guide, the first stop was Nor Lae, one of two villages partially sponsored by the Amari Group.

Over the years, the company has collected sufficient donations from its guests worldwide to build and equip a school. Other hotel chains please take note.

From there it was on to the larger Lahu – sometimes known as Muser – village, Khob Dong, which is also sponsored.

Here we met the village shaman in his shack. After a few words to us and an offer – which we gracefully declined – of a strange brew bubbling away above the fire, he bade us goodbye with a wave and a toothless grin.

Stories abound that he was one of the villagers who met His Majesty when the King was on one of his walkabouts in the north.

These villages remain totally untouched and unspoiled by

the ravages of tourism and the encroachment of Western lifestyles.

We felt extremely privileged to have met these hardy villagers and experience – if only for a few minutes – their culture and to see how they make a living from the rugged land.

Next stop was the viewpoint close to Kiew Lom, where tourists are not the only people carrying binoculars.

Several dozen Thai troops spy on several dozen Myanmar troops on the other side of the valley. The tourists seem to enjoy peering at the assembled troops although the area is also rich in bird life. At certain times of the year there are more than 1,000 species of bird in the area, plenty to keep the twitchers happy.

Bizarrely, and showing a combination of entente cordiale and enterprise, Myanmar troops were once allowed to cross into Thailand to buy water and food.

That came to an abrupt end a few years ago when a "little local difficulty" resulted in shots being fired by both sides. Perhaps they had simply spent too much time in their barracks; it showed what life on the edge can be like.

This is really a place to explore for a few days, to trek, bike or simply relax and take in the

wonderful mountain air. For us, however, our time was over and we had to descend to reality.

Bill Owen, who has lived in Phuket and worked in the island's travel industry for more than 17 years, is General Manager of Oriental Leisure Co Ltd, a leading event management company in Phuket. He can be contacted at: bill@oriental-events.com. Website: www.oriental-events.com

Thailand TRAVELER

By Bill Owen



Siam International

Siam International
38/54 Nanai Road,
Patong, Kathu, Phuket 83150

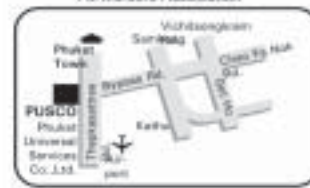
- ❖ Legal consultation Contact:
- ❖ Company formations Tel: 076 346 149
- ❖ Notarial certifications Fax: 076 346 150
- ❖ Contracts Email: siamint@loxinfo.co.th
- ❖ Work permits
- ❖ Bookkeeping
- ❖ Visa service
- ❖ Translations

Phuket Universal Services

"Professional sea, air and land freight forwarder on this island!"



Thailand International Freight Forwarders Association



- WORLDWIDE TRANSPORT
- SHIPPING AGENCY
- TRUCKING / COURIER
- WAREHOUSING / PACKING
- CRANES / FORKLIFTS
- CUSTOMS CLEARANCE
- PROJECT LOGISTICS

TEL: (076) 238822, 238824-6 FAX: (076) 238823, 238927-9
<http://www.phukettransport.com> E-mail: pusco@phuket.ksc.co.th

Phuket Gazette
- Since 1994 -

367/2 Yaowarat Rd, Amphur
Muang, Phuket 83000
Tel: 076-236555
Fax: 076-213971
Email: info@phuketgazette.net

THAI must fly to Phuket

A month after the tsunami smashed the promise of a record high season, THAI Airways canceled all of its international flights to Phuket, along with two daily domestic services from Bangkok.

The cancellation of these flights not only represents a significant financial loss to the island's devastated tourism economy, but also delivers a psychological blow that includes feelings of isolation and abandonment.

Certainly, THAI has to compete in a very tough international industry and is subject to intense competition. And THAI's contribution in evacuating survivors free of charge, repatriating the bodies of victims, and other efforts in supplying free transport for rescuers in the immediate aftermath were generous and valuable.

However, THAI is the national carrier and a state enterprise, so its majority shareholders are the Thai people themselves – and tourism is one of the cornerstones on which the Thai economy is built.

Therefore, THAI must keep its commitment to providing easy access to Phuket for potential visitors from places such as Japan, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Australia – even if demand from such places is low at the moment. Without such a commitment, other efforts to revive the tourism industry are far less likely to amount to anything.

When Deputy Prime Minister Suwat Liptapanlop presented his plans for revival of the tourism industry, only one idea touched on the most important factor of all – the ability of tourists to get here.

This was his suggestion that landing fees at Phuket Airport be reduced to encourage carriers to continue coming.

Other ideas, such as pushing to have the Miss Universe pageant hosted here, fall into the realm of mere hype.

Still others border on impropriety when presented in the context of tourism promotion. Most notable among these is the idea of attracting tourists by staging an annual memorial service for survivors and relatives of the dead.

Also of questionable taste and dubious practicality is the plan to showcase Sea Gypsy communities in promoting the region's culture – especially when one considers that the rebuilding of two such communities in Phuket has been left largely to NGOs.

The inappropriateness of this is further highlighted by the fact that many Sea Gypsies have still not been granted Thai citizenship, despite the fact that they are believed by many to be the island's first inhabitants.

But all of these ideas, practical or impractical, in good taste or bad, will make little difference if would-be tourists try to book a flight to Phuket and find they are unable to do so. – **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.

'Where's the beef' in spam editorial?

Your editorial [*Gazette*, January 22] must have been written by someone who has been in another province, or perhaps on another planet, since the tsunami struck.

The *Gazette* may not have noticed, but Phuket now faces the toughest economic crisis in its modern history.

Hotel occupancy levels are catastrophically low and perhaps 80,000 people or more face a long, hard low season, out of work. Many businesses will close.

So what is the *Gazette's* important issue of the week?

Spam. Most people haven't a clue what that word means, nor do they care.

By all means, look at your screen and monitor your emails, if that's important to you.

But please remember that on most of the island, in the real world, people are concerned not about where their next email is coming from, but the source of their next meal.

Gareth Lareu
Patong

THAI flying Phuket into the ground

I read today that THAI Airways will be cutting international flights to and from Phuket. We had booked – before the tsunami – to come to Phuket for our honeymoon in March, but decided not to cancel our plans in part to support the local economy and its recovery.

We are booked to fly in on March 9 from Hong Kong (connecting from Toronto) but the

Phuket Gazette has reported that this route has been canceled with effect from February 1 (Online *Gazette*, Jan 25).

Why would the government-owned airline decide to worsen the situation by making it more difficult for international travelers to visit Phuket? I will be posing this question to the airline and the Thai government.

Clearly, this is the worst possible course of action at this time.

William Girard
Canada

Flights folly

I cannot believe the decision taken by THAI to suspend direct international flights to Phuket.

One wonders what message this sends to Dragon Air, Silk Air and others, that the Thai national carrier puts its own short-term profits before the long-term requirements of the tourism industry in Phuket.

As the Chinese New Year is almost upon us, when we can expect much interest from Hong Kong and so on, surely the central government can assist here?

Grenville Wilson
Phuket

Thanks from Oz

Thanks to all at the *Gazette* for keeping us frequent visitors to Phuket up to date with the news.

My regular hotel for 20-odd years, the Casuarina on Thaveewong Rd, was flattened but I hope to be back to the island shortly.

Best wishes to you and all in Phuket.

Peter
Australia

Watch the horizon – and those in power

The *Gazette* editorial of January 15 hit the nail on the head. Yes, the long-term effects of the tsunami must be addressed, and addressed now particularly for those who were poor before it happened.

However, since the tsunami struck, many people are beginning to show their real colors; the "sharks" are showing their teeth.

The "positive changes" – as the government and *OrBorTor* (Tambon Administration Organizations) would like to class them – are on the horizon.

First there was the rapid change in existing rules. The "no-build zone" from the high-tide level inland was extended from 50 meters to 150m.

On January 18, Phuket Governor Udomsak Usawarakura visited Kamala to present a plan that all existing buildings – not just new ones – up to 50m inland be demolished. Just a thought: as the land is government land, could any of these properties (including large hotels) have held land titles?

The plan for Patong Beach includes tsunami watchtowers with platforms onto which people could flee if a tsunami approaches. What other "warning systems" will follow? Smoke signals from the hilltops?

It is time for us to open our eyes more to what the decision-makers are doing. The result, otherwise, could be the same as before: fat cats getting fatter while the majority scrape by on 4,000 baht a month.

Name and address supplied
Phuket

Phuket Gazette

In association with The Nation Multimedia Group PCL

Editor: Rungtip Hongjakpet

Managing Editor: Alasdair Forbes

Deputy Editor: Chris Husted

Chief Reporter: Sangkhae Leelanapaporn

Investigation Team: Dhirarat Boonkongsan, Gategao Phetsawang, Kamol Pirat, Anongnat Sartpisut, Siripansa Somboon

Desk Editors: Stephen Fein, Andy Johnstone, Alison Winward

Managing Director: Rungtip Hongjakpet

Marketing Manager: Oranee Pienprasertkul

Website Services Manager: Natthira Susangrat

Distribution Manager: Passara Kaewbumroong

Financial Controller: Benjawan Lukthan

Publisher: The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

Contact us

Advertising Sales: adsales@phuketgazette.net

Classified Advertising: classads@phuketgazette.net

Website Services: anna@phuketgazette.net

Shopper Card inquiries: shopper@phuketgazette.net

Gazette Guide inquiries: guide@phuketgazette.net

Telephone: 076-236555 (10 lines) **Fax:** 076-213971

The views expressed in the *Phuket Gazette* are those of the writers and contributors and do not necessarily reflect those of the publisher, the editor, the shareholders, or the directors of The *Phuket Gazette* Co Ltd.

Copyright © 1994-2004 The *Phuket Gazette* Co Ltd

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.

Time for compromise on the beach

FIRST PERSON

After the tsunami, the Prime Minister offered lots of things to victims, but while some of these initiatives are good, some of them aren't so good. Reorganizing the beach isn't good, not for me at any rate. And I think that if PM Thaksin tries to continue with the plan, the beach workers will make a fuss.

I heard that the government would give victims grants of 1,000 or 2,000 baht, but the application process is very complicated, so it is difficult to get these payments.

I realize that, without sun loungers, Patong Beach will be beautiful, but we will also have fewer tourists, and this will have an effect on the whole of Phuket.

After the Prime Minister announced the restrictions on sun beds on Patong Beach, more than 200 traders attended a big meeting at Patong sports ground, with the District Chief of Kathu.

After the meeting, we agreed on a compromise with the Chief, which was to have 2,500 sun loungers on Patong Beach, in two rows. For me, that meant I could have 40 loungers on the beach.

All we wanted was clarification. Despite what some people have said about us, we are not a

People who made their living from renting umbrellas and beach chairs on Patong Beach say Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra's plans to beautify the beach after the tsunami – which includes drastically reducing the number of sun loungers – will only add to the distress caused to them by the tsunami.

Yupin Taweessith, 50, is a native of Nong Khai, but she has been renting beach chairs on Patong Beach for 22 years. Before the tsunami, she had 80 beds on the beach and her business was worth about 2 million baht; now her business is gone. K. Yupin is also Vice-President of the Phuket Northeastern Club and Chief of the Women's Thai Massage Group of Patong.



mafia, and we don't want to block government policy, but it is understandable that the traders got upset when it looked like the Prime Minister was going to stop them making a living on the beach.

I think they thought the policy would cost them their jobs, and, in fact, some of them felt that it would have been better if they had been carried away by the tsunami.

We might have agreed a compromise over part of the beach, but there are still difficul-

ties over the Prime Minister's zoning plan. In the past, we had 7,000 sun loungers, in five rows. They started at the end of the beach near the pine trees. But under the Prime Minister's zoning plan, a one-kilometer stretch down from Kalim Beach would be empty.

But if there are no sun loungers, the people who make them would be out of a job, as well as the people who rent them out, and this is a place where there aren't any other workplaces. So what can we do?

It's not just about us being able to make a living, it's about other people being able to make a living, too.

We agree with the Prime Minister that the beach should be organized, but we don't agree that that part of the beach should be empty, and we think the traders should be allowed to make a living as they did before.

Our sun loungers were made from wood, but the government has said we shouldn't use wood anymore, because, if something like [the tsunami] should

happen again, it would be dangerous for the people in the water, because they might get hit by the wood.

So all the traders have offered to use plastic sun loungers – even though they're more expensive than the wooden ones – because plastic is lighter and floats, so if there should be another tsunami, people can hold onto them.

A new umbrella costs about 600 baht. Two sun loungers used to cost 2,000 baht, but the plastic ones cost 2,800 baht each, while a small table to go between, which, in wood, used to cost 150 baht, costs 200 baht in plastic.

Just as before the tsunami, I'll have to pay 3,000 baht a year to Patong Municipality in fees, and about 3,000 baht in taxes

I don't want to put up the price I charge, but I will be allowed to rent out fewer chairs, plus I will have the additional capital cost of buying new ones.

The government says it sympathizes with us, but the truth is that people like me haven't had any help yet; I haven't seen anything from the government. It may have arranged some help for us but if so it hasn't arrived yet. If the government really is concerned about us, we must get something soon.

Government's bond to help broken?

With so much money pouring into the tsunami-hit areas, has anyone seen help going to the "normal" people?

I hope certain people in power don't use this catastrophe to benefit themselves, by starving the small businesses into financial ruin and then buying up their property at a small price.

Are certain people in positions of power really looking out for the common people – or their own financial interests?

Thai people in the southern provinces need to go back to work. They need to take care of their families but this will be difficult to achieve without income.

The government says it wants to revamp the beach areas but people's livelihoods are at stake here. When does over-control become out-of-control?

Roger Moore
USA

Re-inventing the longtail boat

In the aftermath of the tsunami, and given the subsequent need to replace the lost boats, I wonder if it is time to look seriously at the use of traditional longtails, especially for tourism.

With no ballast and little freeboard, the boats are inherently unstable in all but the calmest seas and they do not have enough natural buoyancy for themselves, let alone their passengers. Few carry lifejackets

and the longtail engine is fantastically noisy.

In light of this, I am working on a project here in Phuket to develop an authentic-looking fiberglass copy of a longtail, with built-in buoyancy tanks, a well in the stern of the boat to accommodate a four-stroke outboard engine and provision to sail it with a simple junk rig if necessary.

The result would be a boat that is cheaper to produce and run – especially when under sail – more ecologically sound, quieter and safer, and which could open up new avenues in the tourist market.

I am sure there will be howls of protest – along with the largely positive interest already shown in the idea – and I would welcome further criticism and feedback, positive or otherwise.

I would especially appreciate information on funding and finding a suitable boatyard. I have a proposal document which I would be happy to email to anyone interested. My email address is empiricist@hotmail.com

Dermot Doyle
Phuket

High time to silence the engines

I read in the *Gazette* about the authorities in Patong and the government in Bangkok questioning whether jet-ski, parasail and vehicle operators will be allowed to blithely ply their trade on the beachfront in Patong.

I think it's a great idea to ban jet-skis and speedboats and

the car and bike rentals. The first are dangerous and occupy an ever-increasing area around the seashore, which would normally be used for people to swim. No one wants to swim in oil slicks, or to dodge dangerous motors.

As for the car rental operators, how can they have the right to block hundreds of meters of beachfront parking space? Are they paying the same price as the shops on the other side of the road? I think not.

I hope all that is being promised now will come true, although in recent days, some jet-skis have come back. This news will reach other countries, and tourists will see a promise is not being kept, again, and this will not be good for the image of Patong.

I hope the terrible disaster may help *nit noi* to put wrong things right, and there will not be only empty promises.

BRD
Munich

Hookers are destroying Patong

Why don't you stop the prostitution in Patong? It should be illegal and the police should close all the bars that have girls who help customers "enjoy" themselves.

A modern society should not allow girls to sell sex services to customers.

Patong is a very nice place but prostitution is destroying it.

John Dee
Sweden

Change not always for the best

What a shame the Thai government plans to change how things will look in Phuket, namely at Patong Beach.

We have been going to Phuket for nine years now; we came home from our last trip just two weeks before the tsunami.

We loved going [to Patong] and enjoyed the way it was, that was what made it a holiday. We can go into Perth or the suburbs to see shops set out in a neat and orderly fashion.

It is nice to browse through all the market shops and little stalls. It is relaxing and fun to chat and barter, and it would be such a shame if this were to change; it would not be the same sort of holiday.

S Fitzgerald
By email

Don't forget about disabled people

I'm disabled and I live part of the year in Phuket. I escaped the tsunami only thanks to my wife, who advised me not to go to the beach after the earthquake. If I had gone, I certainly would have not escaped.

I read now that Thailand is going to set an alarm system for tsunamis, but I wonder whether someone in the government could take into consideration the problems for disabled people, more and more of whom are coming to Thai beaches.

I know it's a minor issue in this gigantic tragedy, but if one

wants to keep the number of deaths to a minimum, one should consider that disabled people may have problems escaping on the sand without proper paths.

I am asking, therefore, if someone could consider establishing one place on each main beach (Patong, Karon, Kata) especially for disabled people. This could be just a wooden or cement path to make it easier to get a wheelchair to the road.

In Patong, for instance, it could be in front of the Holiday Inn, close to the road that leads onto Sirirat Rd.

In Karon, it could be near the Circle, where the beach is not too wide, and in Kata, it could be behind the Club Med, at the northern end.

This could save a few lives; not many, probably, but some.

Claudio Santini
Italy

Support from Saudi

I visit Patong regularly and used to frequent the Ocean supermarket on the beach road almost daily. I have this image of the lovely staff that worked there.

There was one girl, one of the most beautiful women I have ever seen, working there. I can't believe she may be gone.

As a big, muscular, hairy *farang*, I must confess to crying when I think of this.

Patong has my support; I will be back there soon, and I hope all other like-minded people return.

Frank
Saudi Arabia

Feeling less than fascinated

Twenty three years ago, I read William Boyd's first novel, *A Good Man in Africa*, with great delight. Not only had he captured Ghana in the 1960s with humor and affection but his hero did something rare in current fiction: he made moral progress.

Boyd has since written eight novels and two collections of stories and I've never been disappointed.

Until now. His latest collection of short stories, *Fascination* (Hamish Hamilton, London, 2004, 209pp) is weak, contrived and brittle, a mere finger exercise after the splendid thumping symphony of his latest novel, *Any Human Heart*. There are 16 stories in this volume and half are so bad I'm not even going to bother to describe them.

Oddly enough, the first three are bad. Normally, an author leads off with his best stuff but *Adult Video* is lifeless and contrived, and the next two so slight as to be pointless. It isn't until the fourth story that Boyd produces some substance.

The Haunting is a modern-day ghost story in which a British landscape architect undergoes a mysterious breakdown in Los Angeles, leading him into a spate of heavy drinking and escapades with sleazy barmaids.

When he is rescued by his archi-



Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt

tect partner and returned home to London, the drinking and carousing continues out of his control, so much so that his wife kicks him out of the house.

And he then receives a hint of what may be causing the behavior. This leads him to Edinburgh in search of the ghost that is haunting him, and then to Biarritz for an exorcism. This is old-fashioned storytelling at its best.

The title story, *Fascination*, works well too, a clever juxtaposition between ardent single youth and dissatisfied married middle age. Read this beautiful description:

"You were unlocking your door when the girl came clumping carefully down the stairs from the bedsit above. Her eyes were on her very high heels as she descended sideways, stooped like an old person, fearful she'll fall. Her streaked

blonde hair hung forward over her face and, as she reached your landing and safety, she straightened up and with both hands swept it back over her forehead. At that moment your heart felt taut, over-muscled, and you opened your mouth to gulp more oxygen. You smiled hello."

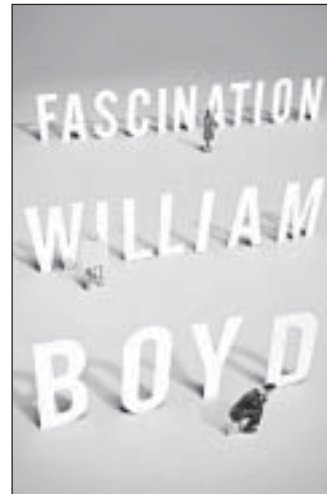
Boyd follows this with another experimental dud and then a brilliant period piece: *The Woman on the Beach with a Dog*. It's 1941, an era of fedoras and Lucky Strikes, when two married people meet on a deserted beach in Cape Cod and fall in love and into a situation there is no way out of.

Next come three stories that are just awful.

Incandescence, however, cleverly plays off an unorthodox presentation – each of six characters talking to an invisible camera and presenting their parts of the tale – with very traditional subject matter: a family of impoverished aristocrats attempt to seduce a former suitor to part with his fortune to save their country mansion. The voices ring true, leading up to a thoroughly satisfying conclusion.

Visions Fugitives is the mystical highpoint of the book and deserves to be ranked with Boyd's best. It's a meditation on coincidence moving between World War I, a 1961 movie and the present day. "You know those unhindering hours of the night when your thoughts will wander free, sometimes freighted with despair, but sometimes inspired and miraculous – this is one of those nights," muses the protagonist. "And just before I begin to doze I think I have it, my Theory of Everything. It is to do, I decide, with mysterious parabolas – as if an event, a moment, is launched at your life like a projectile – a stone, a dart, an arrow – sent soaring in the direction of your life ... We all know these moments of fleeting significance that touch our lives. The great problem, the abiding problem is to make some sense of them ..."

The remaining stories range between the competent and the mediocre with the exception of the hilarious *The Mind/Body Problem*, about a weakling's revenge on weightlifters.



EEK! Where did that window go to?

Q The other day, I was working on several documents at the same time, and to reach document windows behind the one I was working on, I had them offset so I could click on them to make them active.

This resulted in parts of some of the windows being hidden because they had gone right off the edge of the screen.

The more windows I had open the messier my desktop became. One window was so far off

the edge of the screen that it was difficult to tell if it was active. Is there a better way to switch from one window to another?

And if a window is so far off the edge of the screen, how can I tell if it is active and move it back to the center of the desktop?

Sorry if these seem silly questions, but you can probably tell that even after years of having a computer, I am definitely still a very basic user.

A First, you should never feel embarrassed about how skilful you are at using a computer – you are most definitely not alone.

Every person I know has asked someone for advice about one computer thing or another; and you might be surprised to know that even quite experienced users – yes, including me – often forget the simple things that make using a computer easier.

The easiest way to "switch" from one window to another is to press and hold down the Alt

button and then press Tab. This opens a panel called the Task Switcher, which will remain on your screen as long as you keep the Alt button pressed down.

The Task Switcher shows an icon and a description for every window open. To switch from one window to another, simply keep Alt pressed down and press Tab to highlight the next active window.

The Task Switcher is also handy for reaching and retrieving windows that are off the edge of your screen.

COMPUTER Q&A

By Chris Husted

New, improved, and open for business. Bookazine Phuket is happy to be re-opened to serve you again with a special offer.

BOOK AZINE
Good Reading from Around the World

TIME ASIAWEEK FORTUNE BusinessWeek
The Economist THE IRRAWADDI

BOOKAZINE 10% off all items in our store!

Plus: Bookazine Members & V.I.P.'s will also receive an additional 10% discount to their standard discount rates.

Hurry! Now until February 28

8 Bang-La Road, Patong, Kathu, Phuket 83150
Tel: 076-345-834 Fax: 076-345-833

NAT
Providing the best business solutions

World-class
Accounting Software
QuickBooks sage

HIS
Accounting & Tax Services
Thai Tax Courses (in English)
Tax Clinic (For your tax solutions)

Phuket: 076 212989
Bangkok 02 5137151
Pattaya: 03 8378178
Koh Samui Branch: 07725 0831
info@thaiaccounting.com
www.thaiaccounting.com

SIN & LEE

49 Thalang Road,
Phuket 83000
Tel: 076-211230

ON SALE:
GERMAN WURST
DUTCH CHEESE
ITALIAN SPAGHETTI
ROASTED & GROUND
COFFEE
AND MUCH, MUCH MORE

**CAR PARK
FOR CUSTOMERS**

**Get your Gazette
Shopper Card today.**

Gazette Shopper
The discount card for savvy local residents
Completely useless outside of Phuket

**Significant - and genuine! -
discounts at more than
300 places, including:**

Better Vision
25% on spectacles, 20% off watch
items, and 10% off contact lens items.
Tel: 076-211705

Big-A Resort
15% on accommodation, food & drink in
the restaurant. Tel: 076-383080

See the Gazette website for details of
more than 300 other offers:
<http://www.phuketgazette.net/shopperlist.asp>

MICE as cheese to lure visitors back

By Gategeo Phetsawang

PHUKET: In a bid to fill Phuket's empty hotel rooms, the Thailand Convention and Exhibition Bureau (TCEB) and the Tourism Council of Thailand recently held an exhibition at the Pearl Village Hotel to encourage the Thai MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions) industry to take advantage of special promotions in Phuket.

Management teams from 19 Bangkok-based companies – including Colgate Palmolive, Mitsubishi Electric and Fuji Xerox – attended the mid-January meeting titled "Save the Spirit of the Andaman in Six Months" and met representatives of more than 40 local companies, such as hotel operators, tour agencies and spas.

The goal is to generate revenue of 200 million baht from MICE business in the six months from February.

The Director General of the TCEB, Peerapong Oeusoonthornwattana, said, "Thai people need to help each other to recover [their businesses] and give confidence back to the tsunami-affected provinces. These provinces have potential for tourism and also as places to host meetings."

K. Peerapong added that a budget of 10 million baht has been set aside for this project. He expects at least five groups – or 1,000 delegates – a month, generating the 200 million baht – that's approximately 33,000 baht a person.

K. Peerapong predicted that this month's proposed information and communications technology (ICT) meeting will bring in revenue of some 30 million baht from 1,000 delegates.

The President of the Tourism Council of Thailand, Wichit Na Ranong, said "The [ICT] meeting will stimulate the market and raise the spirits of people in the affected provinces.

"We expect that this will bring at least 20,000 [new] tourists to Phuket and nearby provinces in the coming six months."

He said that the basic package on which the MICE campaign is based includes flights and transfers, two nights' accommodation in a shared room, and a sightseeing tour with lunch, or a gala dinner.

Three airlines – Thai Airways, Nok Air and Orient Thai Airlines – are participating in the promotion. Prices for the packages are 5,500 baht, 4,900 baht and 3,999 baht respectively.

Akrapatra Tongnuntago, Sales Development Manager of Boon Rawd Brewery – which produces and markets Singha, Leo and Kloster beer – told the *Gazette* that the company recently brought 600 customers to the Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa for three days.

"We didn't cancel our Phuket conference; we knew that it would help to bring a large amount of money to Phuket," he said.

"We also knew that it would help to restore an all-important sense of confidence among people in the tourism industry on the island as well as encouraging other companies to hold their meetings here," he added.

World Travel Service Co Ltd (WTS), one of Thailand's largest travel companies, attended the exhibition in its role as an intermediary between potential MICE customers and Phuket hotels.

Chintana Asawasongsiri, who is responsible for managing the MICE market for WTS, said, "We want the tourism industry [in Phuket] to recover soon and this can be achieved by encouraging Thai people to help each other first.

"We should promote the actual state of the island as this will bring confidence back to the tourism industry and companies considering holding their MICE events on the island."

Hotel operators from Phuket and Krabi also set up their booths and joined the exhibition. They said they expected that the MICE market would help their businesses to recover soon.

Aonang Villa Resort Front Office Manager, Guitar Songchai, said that the exhibition was a valuable opportunity for agents to meet the operators and to promote Phuket and the region to buyers.

She said that it was usual for her resort to attract tourists in the high season and Thai conference delegates in the low season. "We have a reservation from the

Office of the Permanent Secretary of the Prime Minister's Office to hold a seminar as well as another conference for officers from the Education Ministry.

"We expect the government and media to help promote tourism and make people understand that not all areas were affected by the tsunami," she added.

Virada Chavalit, Operations Director of Aon Consulting said, "Aon usually holds an annual meeting and has often chosen Thailand as the venue."

She said that she had come to Phuket to assess the situation herself, rather than be swayed by media reports.

"I have seen first-hand that most of the island has not been damaged and it remains an interesting location for MICE meetings," K. Virada said.

The Resident Manager of Patong Lodge Hotel, ML Tirachai Chayangkul, said that the time has come for aggressive promotion of the region and its facilities. "We do not yet know if the feedback [from the exhibition] will be good or not, but we hope that MICE will help us recover."

He noted that Mitsubishi Electric and oil company Unocal, which were both represented at the exhibition, have expressed interest in holding meetings at the Patong Lodge Hotel.

"We need good cooperation from every organization to help promote the lucrative MICE market in Phuket," he said.

The Thai stock market is generally measured by the Stock Exchange of Thailand (SET) index. The index rose briskly during 2003 – the market was the world's best performer in that year, recording a 91% gain. However, it lost more than a quarter of its value during one stage of 2004.

Any major world stock market that behaved in a similar fashion would leave observers aghast. But Thailand is a trader's market and not for the faint-hearted.

It can be a very profitable place in which to invest, but it can also destroy wealth in the blink of an eye.

A brief look at the performance of the index since 1994 will give some indication of just how volatile it can be. In 1994, the SET index reached its all time high of over 1700 but by the beginning of the Asian financial crisis in mid-1997, it was trading at only 1400.

Stock-market historians, with the benefit of hindsight, might say that between February 24, 1994 and June 1997, the market was discounting the substantial current-account deficit that Thailand experienced over this period.

February 24, 1994 was a very interesting date but I imagine that for most investors with money in emerging markets it is a date they would rather forget.

In Asia, the focus was actually on Hong Kong and by the second half of 1993 interest in the stock market was becoming intense. It seemed that the stock

All the fun of a rollercoaster

market could only go one way – up.

By December 1993, Hong Kong investors had reached a stage where they were desperate to invest their money. Although every stockbroker and fund manager in Hong Kong was making money at an enviable rate, one fund management group stood out above the rest.

That company was Jardine Fleming (JF), a joint venture between Hong Kong trading group Jardine Matheson (although by 1982 it had moved its headquarters to Bermuda) and a British merchant and investment bank, Robert Fleming.

JF had, over the previous years, established such a reputation that any other fund management group was subordinate to them. Comparative analysis of investment performance among fund managers left little doubt of JF's preeminence.

People with application forms and checks in hand were queuing on the streets around the JF offices. It is doubtful that any other fund management group in history has had so many investors so absolutely determined to invest their money.



MONEY TALKS

By Richard Watson

The only other queues seen standing outside any financial institution with this level of determination have been when banks experienced "runs" on them. This was quite the reverse, people wanted the money in, not out.

This all came to an abrupt halt on February 24, 1994, the date of the global bond-market crash when interest rates on fixed-interest securities jumped in tandem worldwide.

Hong Kong, with its direct currency link to the US dollar, was not spared and neither were most other emerging markets, including Thailand. The crash was of the rolling variety and it continued until December 1994 when the Mexican economy imploded.

Mexico may seem a long way from Asia, but the effect here was instant. The US government immediately injected substantial

funds into Mexico to stabilize its neighbor. It stopped the crisis, but showed to investors how interdependent global emerging markets can be.

From the onset of the Asian financial crisis of 1997, the SET index plummeted from 1400 to 207. In percentage terms this was even worse than the collapse of the tech-heavy Nasdaq.

Stock markets invariably overreact to conditions of boom or bust. Indeed, virtually all financial markets have this in common.

Thailand's market is currently hovering around the 700 level having failed to hit 800 early in 2004 before subsequently falling to 582. Although volatile as always, the SET is probably not a bad destination for a modest part of a portfolio, although it may be years before we see anything resembling the performance of 2003.

Economic growth for 2005

Thai Chiropractor
Come feel the difference
Tel: 07-279-7553

Phuket Property
single house for sale/rent in Sol Sai Yuan, 500 sqm, 3 bed, 3 bath, private swimming pool & Jacuzzi and green garden.
5.8 million baht.
Mobile: 09-4744622

PHUKET ALPHA
Authorized Reseller
Email: info@phuketalpha.com
201 PL CENTRAL FESTIVAL PHUKET, TEL: 076-249788
201 Thalang Rd. Muang Phuket town, Tel: 076-215790

AN Production
DIRECT EXPORT
Made to Order
New T-Shirt
European Quality:
- Polo shirts
- Sweatshirts
- Baseball caps
- Embroidery
- Pens, Lighters
Tel: 076-321850
Fax: 076-321851
Email: info@best-t-shirt.com
www.best-t-shirt.com
Ask for: Mr. FRANZ

PADI pulls out all the stops

The Professional Association of Dive Instructors, better known as PADI, has organized a tsunami task force to come to Phuket.

News of this created some buzz in the local dive industry, with many people wondering what exactly PADI were doing.

The corporate types from the Asia-Pacific headquarters in Australia turned out to be personable; within days of their arrival in Phuket, there was nothing but praise for the "PADI guys" and their efforts in the region.

The *Gazette* had a chance to speak with three members of the task force: Shahrar Saber, Marketing Manager; Paul Morrall, Director of Sales and Field Services; and Hans Ulrich, the new regional manager for PADI Asia-Pacific. Together they elaborated on what their mission was attempting to achieve.

The primary reason, they explained, was to evaluate the

situation and see what they could do for the members of affected communities. They toured Phuket, the Phi Phi Islands, Krabi and Khao Lak to see the extent of the damage their members had sustained; whether it was entire dive shops that had been destroyed, or just equipment and teaching materials that had been damaged or disappeared.

Apart from these aspects, they also wanted to assess the overall impact of the tsunami on survivors.

"The deaths, injury and psychological damage that has happened [are important] as well," Mr Morrall explained, "because you can't push that to one side and separate it from the physical damage of a dive shop, or the fact that there are no customers. There is psychological damage and human tragedy that we need to take into consideration, too," said Mr Morrall.

Mr Saber clarified his organization's role by saying,

Hans Ulrich (left), the new regional manager for PADI Asia-Pacific, and Paul Morrall (right), Director of Sales and Field Services, inspect damaged dive businesses to determine what assistance PADI can offer.



"PADI is not a relief agency. We don't have the expertise [for that]. We are here to support our members.

"I feel a sense of responsibility, as an individual but also because I wear this badge

[PADI], to help my members. The organization does [also]. We are all doing it because we feel a sense of responsibility. What we are doing is helping to get these people get back in business as fast as possible. [But] where do you start?"

PADI started immediately with dive shops, by offering many free services in an effort to get them up and running as soon as possible, distributing packages worth about 60,000 baht. These included dive center membership renewals and a starter package containing instructor manuals and other necessary materials.

PADI will also replace dive certification cards from open water to professional level, and any wall-mounted certificates that were lost or damaged.

Instructors and dive masters will also be happy to find out that PADI is offering free renewal of its yearly membership fees for instructors and dive masters working and staying in the affected areas.

This news has been very well received among local PADI professionals, many of whom are working at reduced schedules or who have been completely out of work since the tsunami.

In addition to helping on land, PADI worldwide has also donated about US\$70,000 (2.7 million baht) to non-profit organization Project Aware, which will help support beach clean-ups and help with other environmental restoration efforts.

Besides the more immediate aid to the dive industry members, PADI is also aiming to help tourism in general to help ensure that the impact of the tsunami is minimized.

Mr Saber said, "There are so many people who depend indirectly on what we do. Everyone knows that tourism needs to return to help the many people here."

He noted that the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) es-

timates that tourism brings in 293 billion baht to Thailand, and that the 400,000 tourists who come for diving pump some 20 billion baht into the economy – about 7% of all tourism revenue.

So what is being done? "Everyone I have met is doing what they can to help – from the government to the volunteer organizations to the local people. Everyone is doing his best ... to bring tourism back. The TAT is working hard to come up with some initiatives," said Mr Saber.

PADI is also working closely with the TAT. "We have given a commitment to the TAT that we will support them, because PADI is the [largest] dive industry [regulator] in Thailand. We have a responsibility to make sure we support the TAT and any other organization working to bring tourism back," he added.

Mr Saber met with the TAT in Phuket and Bangkok, as well as with Thai International Airways (THAI) and others. These are not newly-formed relationships – even before the tsunami, PADI had a whole range of joint initiatives planned with the TAT.

"We were talking ... with the TAT before the tsunami about doing some joint initiatives. Also, PADI is working with [the organizers of] ADEX, the largest dive show in Southeast Asia, which takes place annually in Bangkok.

"During the exhibition, PADI and its partners at TAT, THAI and ADEX plan to host key international buyers to showcase the destination and the diving in Thailand. [Now] there is more urgency to get this implemented. It becomes a key for bringing people back," Mr Saber explained.

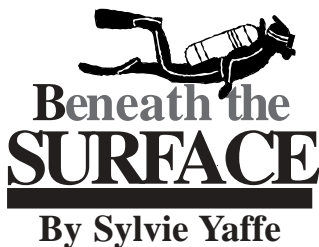
The dive industry here needs to recover quickly, and PADI understands that most businesses need a full high season to survive the low season.

"We need to make sure the message is sent to the general public: yes the tsunami came, the tsunami went and certain parts have been badly affected, but certain parts [have] recovered," said Mr Saber.

PADI Worldwide is currently targeting people in Europe and in the United States to let them know that 90% of the area is not affected.

Mr Saber's message to divers is, "If you want to make a difference, then come to Thailand. Help [the affected areas to] recover. Give them the financial strength, because they have the willingness. Give them your business and support them so they can recover.

"We are committed to putting resources behind this. If necessary, we will draw extra resources or direct resources from elsewhere to ensure that Thailand comes back."



Beneath the SURFACE

By Sylvie Yaffe

THANK YOU VERY MUCH

Kusoldharm Rescue Foundation has received 504,348 baht donated by the Evergloss Tour Company from Hong Kong through Dragonair Company Manager Sutthisak Pattamawattananukul to help tsunami victims.

The Foundation would like to take this opportunity to thank the donors and other related people. We wish you all to be greatly blessed for your generosity.

Kusoldharm Rescue Foundation
January 28, 2005

ประกาศขอบคุณ

ด้วยบริษัทเอเวอร์กลอสทัวร์ เมืองฮ่องกง ได้บริจาคเงินจำนวน 504,348 บาท (ห้าแสนสี่พันสามร้อยสี่สิบแปดบาทถ้วน) ผ่านเส้นทางบริษัทฮ่องกงตราก่อนแอร์ไลน์ จำกัด (ตราก่อนแอร์) โดยนายสุทธิศักดิ์ บัณฑิตวัฒนากุล ผู้จัดการบริษัท และได้มอบให้แก่มูลนิธิกุศลธรรมภูเก็ตเรียบร้อยแล้ว ซึ่งมูลนิธิกุศลธรรมภูเก็ตจะได้นำเงินจำนวนนี้ไปใช้ในการช่วยเหลือผู้ประสบภัยพิบัติคลื่นยักษ์ "สึนามิ" ตามวัตถุประสงค์ของผู้บริจาคให้กับผู้ประสบภัยโดยตรงต่อไป

ในโอกาสนี้ มูลนิธิกุศลธรรมภูเก็ต จึงขอกราบขอบพระคุณต่อผู้บริจาคและผู้เกี่ยวข้องทุกท่าน มาในโอกาสนี้เป็นอย่างสูง และขอให้ได้รับเอาความสุขมาหาทุกคน ในครั้งนี้โดยทั่วกัน

ประธานมูลนิธิกุศลธรรมภูเก็ต
28 มกราคม 2548



Sailing for tsunami aid

YACHT HAVEN: A flotilla of five yachts took to the bay off Yacht Haven Marina on January 30 for Yachtpro's Charity Sailing Day, which was held to aid the victims of the tsunami.

The day started off with very calm conditions, which gave way to an excellent sailing breeze later in the day.

Rob Williams, Managing Director of Yachtpro, said that the event was supported by a small but generous group. "One of Thailand's most prominent sailors, Radab Kanjanavanit, and Geoff Lawlan, who came to Phuket from England specifically for the event, were prominent participants," he said.

"A great day was had by all and the event demonstrated the best of the Phuket lifestyle," said Mr Williams.

Blue Canyon Open raises B500,000 for new homes

KATHU: The Blue Canyon Golf Open 2005, held on January 29 and 30, attracted a total of 180 golfers and raised more than 500,000 baht to go toward rebuilding homes for victims of the tsunami.

After two days of intensive competition, Matt Richardson took Division A honors with a gross score of 153, beating club champion Don Kennedy, who scored 161 gross to come second overall.

Tim Pinnegar scored the lowest in the net competition, with an adjusted score of 157.

The event concluded with a charity auction dinner that boosted the money raised during the tournament to more than 500,000 baht.

The proceeds will be used to buy materials for projects supported by the Royal Thai Army, such as rebuilding homes at Nai Rai Village in Phang Nga, where 107 families were affected by the tsunami.

The results of the other flights in the tournament are as follows:

Division B. Net: 1st Sans Christopher, score 152. Gross: 1st Hans Schaur 171 (on count-back); 2nd Greg Goward 171.

Division C. Net: 1st Chuck Schaupp 146. Gross: 1st Christopher Knight 176; 2nd Stan Ketch 177.

Ladies' Division. Net: 1st Jarinya Kamhanpon 157. Gross: 1st Wassana Schaupp 177; 2nd Srirada Panpeth 179.

The sun still shines, the wind still blows, the locals still smile and the hospitality still warms. Phuket; it's still a destination. We invite Thai nationals and residents to come and stay with us in Kata Beach. We have a Suite Offer for you...

The Aspasia Phuket
A Boutique and Wellness

1/3 Laem Sai Road, Kata Beach,
Karon Sub-District, Muang, Phuket 83100
Tel: 076 333 033 Fax: 076 333 035
Email: info@aspasiaphuket.com
www.aspasiaphuket.com

PHUKET'S MOST UNIQUE SHOPPING DESTINATION

เดอะ พลาซ่า สุรินทร์

THE PLAZA

SURIN

SHOPS

- Aleenta
- Lamont
- Fine9design
- Lola
- Cocoon
- Indigo
- Namsang
- Tamarine
- Soul of Asia
- Sivalla
- Candere
- Everything Underthesun

FASHION . FURNITURE . ANTIQUE . ART

5/50 cherngthalay phuket Tel 076 271 241 www.theplazasurin.com

KEEHIN Quality in products
Trust in service

- We sell and service electrical equipment, lamps, lightbulbs, air conditioners, communication systems, closed-circuit television (cctv), security alarms, fire alarms, motors, generators, water pumps, washing machines, water filter tanks, hot water systems, electrical hoists, televisions, refrigerators, high pressure power-jet cleaners, power tools, transmission gears, valve equipment, etc.
- We design and install electrical systems, switchboards, air conditioners, dumb waiters, etc.

100/2 Moo 5 Chalemprakiat Rue 9 Ril, T. Kasada, A. Muang, Phuket 83000.
Sales Tel: 076 261450 Fax: 076 261456-7 Open daily 8 am - 6 pm
Service Tel: 076 261460 Fax: 076 261464 Open Monday-Saturday 8 am - 5 pm
Email: keehin@keehin.com

House of sanitaryware and tiles

The most beautiful room in the house

Tel: 076 261 470-5 Fax: 076 261 477
E-mail: sanitary@loxinfo.co.th

Seara SPORTS SYSTEMS

From the **START**, to the **FINISH LINE**...

SEARA PLANS for your project's success

Seara plans, builds and services international-standard, quality sports and athletic facilities across Asia, working in partnership with you, to match your exact needs and budget.

PLANNING, BUILDING AND SERVICING ASIA'S RECREATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE

PHUKET
Tel: (66-76) 355 040 Fax: (66-76) 355 039
E-mail: Phuket@searasports.com and cji@searasports.com

BANGKOK
Tel: (66-2) 382 1722 Fax: (66-2) 382 1729
E-mail: info@searasports.com

www.searasports.com

At the Paris motor show in September 2004, Mercedes-Benz unveiled its second-generation A-Class – the new version of the car that, seven years ago, industry pessimists said would never be popular and would devalue the brand.

Confounding the critics, Mercedes-Benz (MB) has sold more than 1.1 million A-Class cars since then, and although it had a rocky beginning it has since carved a sturdy reputation for itself in terms of comfort, reliability and, above all, safety.

Safety is of prime importance for any vehicle bearing the Mercedes three-pointed star and to overcome structural difficulties the A-Class features a sandwich floor – a false bottom, if you like – which creates a higher seating position but also allows deformable structures to be built within the car's frame. In addition, the transversely-mounted engine and transmission are designed to slide beneath the car in the event of a head-on accident.

In producing the latest A-Class, Mercedes-Benz has taken the opportunity to expand the range of engines available with an entry-level model and there are now three diesel motors, three gasoline models and a top-of-the-range gasoline turbo version.

The turbocharged unit produces an impressive 193bhp (142kW) at just 2,500rpm, while the smallest diesel, the A160 CDI, develops a more modest 82bhp (60kW).

Either manual or automatic transmissions are available with all models, while a new option is the constantly variable automatic transmission, Autotronic, which continuously changes gear ratios



A little touch of class

No, it's not a Honda Jazz ... the new Mercedes-Benz A Class is roomier than the old model introduced seven years ago.

through a pulley-wheel variator and a steel belt. With this advanced system the A-Class is able to accelerate smoothly with no interruption in power delivery.

The direct-injection diesel engines are claimed to be some of the most economical in their class, while power output is greater across the range of new models with little or no increase in fuel consumption.

One of the most significant advances in the second-generation A-Class is the creation of more shoulder room, while the distance between the front and

the rear seats is now on a par with many medium-sized sedans, vastly improving on the old model's use of interior space.

Safety concerns have been firmly addressed on the latest A-Class. These first arose on the original model due to some over-exuberance by a bunch of Swedish journalists, who subjected the early prototypes to what they termed the "elk test".

They swerved the car from side to side, supposedly simulating avoiding a large animal, and succeeded in tipping it over. Wider tires and electronic stabil-

ity system were subsequently fitted as standard on all A-Class models and these have been carried through on the new version.

Other safety features include dual-stage adaptive front airbags, belt tensioners for the front and outer rear seats, adaptive belt-force limiters and newly developed head and thorax airbags. High-strength steel alloys are used extensively throughout the structure, making the latest A-Class almost as safe as any of the larger Mercedes models.

Introduced for the first time it is a three-door A-Class. MB says it expects this model to appeal more to younger buyers, although why this should be has not been explained.

Trunk capacity is around 15% larger than in the outgoing model. In addition, the rear seats can be folded flat in a roughly



By Jeff Heselwood

60:40 split, and the front passenger seat can be folded back to horizontal, or removed altogether to increase cargo capacity.

Overall dimensions of the new A-Class are slightly larger, but

at first glance it is difficult to see how the extra width or length has been achieved. On sale already in some parts of the world, and due to arrive in Phuket next month, the new A-Class is expected to be just as successful as the old one. It is well worth checking out.

To check availability and prices of the A-Class in Phuket, contact Benz Phuket at 20/5 Moo 2 Thepkrasattri Rd, Rassada, Muang, Phuket 83000. Tel: 076-239700-1. Fax: 076-216706. Email: info@benzphuket.com

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

CHILI
Restaurant & Bar

Good Food-Good Price
Happy Hour 5-7pm Daily
Cocktails & Cold Beer
Daily Special, Take Away
Thepkrasatri Rd, Koh Keaw
nearly opposite Boat Lagoon
Close to Dulwich College.
Tel. 076 239 728

M.C. HOME DESIGN
For Homes, Hotels and Offices

We sell and install :
Curtains, Firenze Aluminium
Vertical Blinds, YOKOTA (flexible)
Pelmet, Slimline Wooden Blinds,
Carpets and Wallpaper, Table Lamps,
Cane furniture, Rattan furniture.

We also have a pelmet repair
and curtain cleaning service.

52/18-19 Wichitsongkram Rd, Muang, Phuket.
Tel: 076-234892-3, 01-5357456

Chalong Beach Villa

Beach front property

Viset Road, T. Chalong, A. Muang
Phuket 83000 Thailand
Tel: 076 - 383719
Fax: 076 - 383723

E-mail: cby@phuketcbvhousing.com
www.phuketcbvhousing.com

Bangtao Beach Gardens

Phase 2 Now Selling

The Ultimate in Indoor/Outdoor Living

- Large 2 bedroom Apartments
- 2 storey Penthouses
- 124 to 240 Sq. Ft. of Living Space
- All Units with Private Terrace
- Furnished, European Fixtures
- Open Plan Designs
- Pool and Tropical Gardens
- On Site Property Management
- Security Services
- Top Class Design & Construction

Tel : (66) 06-2806624 Email : info@bangtaobeachgardens.com
www.bangtaobeachgardens.com

Starting from 6.5 million baht

The most up-to-date dental technology in town.

Metal-Free Restoration

Before
After

Laser Tooth Whitening

Before
After

- Crowns and Bridges
- Root Canal Treatment
- Metal-Free Restoration
- Gum Treatment
- Tooth Whitening Center
- Laser-Assisted Gum Treatment
- Laser
- Operative Dentistry
- Rembrandt
- Sterilization by Autoclave
- Home Bleaching
- Digital X-ray & CEREC 3D
- Dental Implant
- Dental Microscope
- Pediatric Dentistry

PROMJAI DENTAL CLINIC & SPA
 5/4 Sawadtrak Rd., (2nd Fl. All 4 Diving) Patong Phuket
 5/4 ถ.สวตตรก (ชั้น 2 All 4 Diving) ป่าตองภูเก็ต
 ☎ 01-8934304, 076-345341-2
 www.promjaidentalclinic.com

TSUNAMI

BENEFIT SHOW

JOHN MOORHEAD presents direct from London's Comedy Circuit

THE PUNGLINE COMEDY GMB

Roger Monkhouse
 "Puck is more observant in the human condition in a comedy world than a whole lot of other comedians."
 - *Comic Magazine*
 "An enthusiastic actor in that of an excellent professor who's just found the gems that would make a fortune to grow a beard."
 - *Manchester Evening News*
 "His historic delivery stands as an engaging presence and an inspiring role."
 - *The Guardian*

Terry Alderton
 "Terry knows you exhausted, get see him!" - *The Times*
 "One of the most exciting comedians I have seen in years, superb!" - *The Scotsman*
 "Decided to become a huge star!" - *Daily Telegraph*

Craig Campbell
 "Craig is simply a very, very funny man!" - *Charlie US*
 "A aggressively confident, offbeat comic!" - *The New Zealand Herald*
 "Craig kicked butt in a very outlandish way!" - *The Eye, Toronto*

Ticket price THB 1,700. Show Starts 9.00pm. Wednesday 2 March 2005.
 For Tickets please call, Khun Sawitri on 076 396 433 Extension 2015
 Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa, 333 Karon Beach, Patong Beach, Muang District, Phuket 83100. Tel: 076 396 433

TPK PACKERS PHUKET THAILAND

- WORLDWIDE SEA FREIGHT/SERVICE & SHIPPING & PACKING & TRANSPORT
- REMOVAL SERVICE DOOR-TO-DOOR
- HOUSEHOLD & TRANSPORT
- HOUSEHOLD & PERSONAL EFFECTS REMOVAL

4/176 THEPRASATTI RD, T. BASSADA, A. MUANG, PHUKET, 83000.
 TEL/FAX: 076-236463, 01-5693342
 E-MAIL: TTKPHUKET@HOTMAIL.COM

House & Pool Construction Co., Ltd. since 1995
 Thai - German Management

- * Private & commercial construction
- * Renovation / alteration
- * Swimming pools & Jacuzzi's
- * Architecture design
- * Building permits

85/19 Moo 7 Sai Yaun Rob Koh Road
 Rawai, Muang, Phuket 83100
 Tel: 076-288845, 388078
 Fax: 076-288846
 English: 01-6067410 Thai: 01-7192819
 E-Mail: info@siam-business.com
 www.siam-business.com

TSUNAMI

A Photo Memoir compiled by *The Nation & The Phuket Gazette*

48 full-color pages of photos documenting the catastrophic events of 2004/5

Net proceeds will be donated to charities to aid the tsunami victims and their families

Available at leading bookstores in Thailand from February 1, 2005*

only 90 baht

For airmail delivery to:

- Asia: Add 200 baht (approx US\$ 5.00)
- Europe: Add 250 baht (approx US\$ 6.00)
- America: Add 280 baht (approx US\$ 7.00)

E-payments:
www.phuketgazette.net/generalpayment.asp

Bank Transfers: Wire your payment to:
 Bank of Asia (Swift Code: BKAETHBK)
 206 Phuket Rd, Muang, Phuket 83000 THAILAND
 Account: The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd
 A/C# 021-1-01280-2

and fax a copy of your receipt to the
 Phuket Gazette at: 66-76-213971.

For more information, please phone
 K. Pam (English) or K. Mem (Thai) on 66-76-236555
 or Email: photomemoir@phuketgazette.net
 or fax: 66-76-213971.

* For a complete list of retailers in Phuket, see www.phuketgazette.net/photomemoir

A free copy of the Tsunami Photo Memoir will be delivered to our "Phuket Special Delivery" subscribers with next week's Phuket Gazette.

Expert Property Advice

- Sales (land & property)
- Consultancy
- Rentals
- Estate management
- Rental management
- Relocation advice
- Maintenance, repairs & construction

Local knowledge.
 Global presence.

LYNX management group **Chesterton** HETTY

076 239944 / 01 893 3434
info@lynxmgmt.com

Get your Gazette Shopper Card today.

Significant - and genuine! - discounts at more than 300 places, including:

- Boo's Original Thai Massage**
 15% on two-hour traditional Thai massages. Tel: 076-385821
- Buffalo Steak House Karon**
 15% on all food and drinks on presentation of shopper card. Tel: 076-396824

See the Gazette website for details of more than 300 other offers:
<http://www.phuketgazette.net/shopperlist.asp>

Guest chef

By Jenna Wise

The Angel of Kata restaurant opened on November 1 last year in Kata Center. Owner Kieran Green had worked in the Canary Islands for three years at a holiday complex before deciding to come to Phuket for the Asian experience.

In spite of the terrible disaster of December 26, Kieran remains optimistic about the future of the restaurant. "We already have local residents coming regularly," he says.

"It may take a while for tourists to return, but when they do I'm sure that they'll soon discover that we offer home-cooked Western cuisine at competitive prices."

The Angel of Kata also has a great selection of cocktails, prepared by Arrom "Geng" Klienglam.



Left, roasted asparagus wrapped in bacon. Right, the hearty seafood bake.

Angel Food

Celery and Carrot Soup For 2 people

Ingredients:

50g butter or margarine;
1 onion, chopped fine;
2 cloves of garlic, crushed;
4 medium-size carrots, cut into ¼ inch chunks;
4 celery sticks, cut into ¼ inch chunks;
2 tablespoons plain flour;
600ml vegetable stock;
1 teaspoon dried oregano;
Salt and pepper to taste;
150ml milk;
2 tablespoons plain yoghurt.

Method:

Melt the butter or margarine in a large pan and add the onion, garlic, carrots and celery. Fry gently until the vegetables are soft. Stir in the flour and cook for about 30 seconds.

Slowly pour in the vegetable stock and milk, and bring to a boil. Add the oregano and simmer for half an hour. Add the plain yogurt and salt and pepper to taste.

Cook for a further 2-3 minutes and serve with bread of your choice. You can, for a smoother

option, blend the soup when it has finished cooking.

Roasted Asparagus Wrapped in Bacon For 4 people

Ingredients:

16 green asparagus stalks;
12 white asparagus stalks;
4 tablespoons honey;
1 teaspoon dried tarragon;
4 thin slices of bacon;
A pinch of garlic salt;
Salt and pepper to taste;
Olive oil;
4 cups mixed salad greens.

Method:

Cover the bottom of a deep skillet with olive oil and heat gently. Add the asparagus stalks, salt and pepper, garlic salt and tarragon. Cook on a low heat for 4-5 minutes. Remove the asparagus and divide into piles of four green pieces and three white pieces.

Wrap each bunch of mixed asparagus in a bacon slice. Brush honey over each bunch and place in a roasting tray. Bake for 15-20

minutes in a pre-heated oven at 180°C. Serve on a bed of mixed salad greens.

Seafood Bake For 2 people

Ingredients:

2 x 200g white snapper fillets;
200g mixed prawns, shrimps and crabmeat;
3 medium-sized potatoes, peeled and sliced about ¼ inch thick;
125ml homemade cheese sauce;
125ml homemade tomato sauce;
100g grated Cheddar cheese.

For the cheese sauce:

100g margarine or butter;
100g flour;
1 liter milk;
1 teaspoon mustard;
100g grated Cheddar cheese.

For the tomato sauce:

2 tablespoons olive oil;
1 onion, diced;
4 celery sticks, diced;
2 garlic cloves, crushed;
300g chopped tinned tomatoes;
2 tablespoons tomato purée;
250ml vegetable stock;
½ teaspoon dried dill.

Method:

To prepare the cheese sauce, melt the butter or margarine in a pan

and blend in the flour to make a roux. Gradually add the milk, stirring continuously, and bring to a boil.

Turn the heat down so the sauce is simmering and add the cheese and mustard. Simmer for 20 minutes.

To prepare the tomato sauce, heat the oil in a pan and add the onion, celery and garlic. Cook until these are soft, then add the tomatoes, tomato purée, vegetable stock, dill, salt and pepper and simmer for 20 minutes.

To assemble the Seafood Bake, place the fish fillets and mixed seafood at the bottom of a roasting tray and cover with tomato sauce. Cover this with sliced potatoes and put a layer of cheese sauce on top.

Sprinkle the Cheddar cheese on top and bake in an oven pre-heated to 190°C until cooked and the cheese is lightly browned.

Serve this hearty dish with either salad or steamed vegetables. For hungry guests, include a baked potato or good fresh bread.

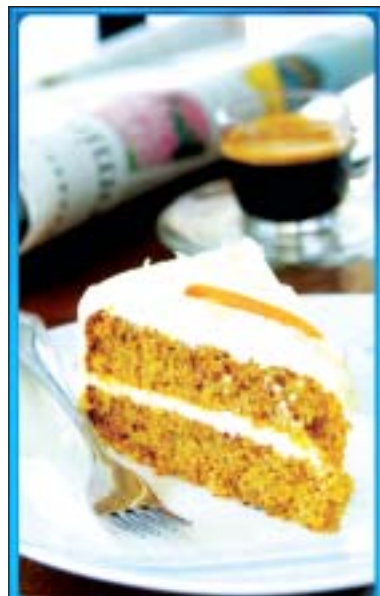
Angel of Kata, 28 Taina Road, Kata Center, Kata, Phuket. Open 7 days a week from 10am until 2am. Tel: 06-9443062.

Farang Restaurant

Not as expensive as you would think. prices start from 45 baht. Cheap prices, great food!
Farang Restaurant at Indes Living Mall
Thai and foreign food.

Gusto bread	45 baht
Ton yam hung	65 baht
Grilled salmon	75 baht
Grilled tenderloin	75 baht
Pizza with tomato & cheese	60 baht
Grilled chicken	50 baht
Cheese salad	70 baht
Spaghetti with seafood	85 baht
Peducco with Aspi & mushrooms	75 baht
Beef hamburger	75 baht

Branch 1: 137/1, Soi Rang, Bang, Thung, Phuket, 83111. Tel: 076-271546. Mobile: 01-4257428.
Branch 2: Indes Living Mall, Tel: 076-248812



Almond Carrot Butter Cream

Miss Woody's Bakery

Patong - Opposite Anitaman Beach Suites
Open: 9:00 am to 6:00 pm. Closed Sunday. 076 340 980

THAI-DIEN
Building Technology

**Building & Construction
Chemicals Since 1994**

- Waterproofing
- Structural repairs
- Concrete floor repairs & treatment
- All kind of sealants
- Vapour & radiant barriers
- Resin coatings
- Pool tile repairs
- Bitumen & polymer membranes & linings
- High-pressure foam injection
- Sales, consulting and application
- Experience, know-how & reliability
- Materials & work guaranteed
- Materials made by Fosroc, Sika, Cormix, Lanko, Drizoro and Henkel.

70/31 Pattana Thongthin Rd., Soi Muangthong Uthit 1, Phuket, 83000.
Tel: 076 242 025, 01-397 1567 Fax: 076 391 680
E-mail: thaidien@hotmail.com www.phuketisland.info/thai-dien

118/1 Yaowarat Rd., Muang, Phuket 83000

Pub & Restaurant

TIMBER HUT

Tel: (076) 21-1839

Home of the Week

Chalong

Located on a total land area of 1,200 square meters at Land & Houses Park, between Phuket City and Chalong Circle, are two similar two-story homes on adjoining plots that offer an excellent opportunity to live in one while earning rental accommodation from the other.

Top two-level twofer

One house is partly furnished while the other is unfurnished. The partly furnished home has large living and dining areas, and marble flooring, on the ground floor.

Also on the ground floor is a well-designed and well-ventilated Western kitchen, featuring overhead cupboards, exhaust fan, pantry and double sink with matching oven, microwave and worktops. Next to the kitchen is a maid's room and guest bathroom.

Upstairs are three large bedrooms, all with built-in closets. The master bedroom has a balcony overlooking the garden, and an en-suite bathroom with a Jacuzzi bath adding a touch of luxury.

Two of the bedrooms are air-conditioned, and all other rooms have ceiling fans, while all windows have sheer, full-length curtains.

Outside, the garden is well established with palms and tropical plants, and includes a large swimming pool. Car parking is under the main roof.

The partly-furnished home



The two-story homes come with lush gardens (left), while the partly-furnished one of the pair has a private swimming pool (above).

is decorated in cool and crisp neutral colors leaving plenty of scope for interior decorating by the new owner, and has UBC cable TV and a telephone line installed, and is hooked up to mains water supply.

The unfurnished home also

has three bedrooms and two bathrooms, with large living and dining areas, with marble floors, on the ground floor, where the kitchen and guest bathroom are also to be found.

The upper level comprises three spacious bedrooms with

built-in wardrobes, with the master bedroom featuring an en-suite bathroom.

Security for both homes is provided by the 24-hour estate security guards. Both properties stand on Chanote-titled land, and

the price for both is 15 million baht.

For more details contact Richard Lusted at Siam Real Estate at Email: info@siamrealestate.com Website: www.siamrealestate.com

ONE OF A KIND

WATERFRONT LIFESTYLES

A NEW KIND OF INSPIRATION... the Aquaminium has arrived

The Aquaminium is destined to change the face of waterfront living around the world. Now you don't just live on the waterfront, ...you are part of it.

The Aquaminium's revolutionary design incorporates an absolute waterfront condominium, of exclusive apartments, with private boat berths, into an exhilarating concept layout. Step from your home, to your boat, and on to the island paradises that surround you ...in minutes. Life has never been so good.

Aquaminium is just one of the fantastic features you will find at our super-chic tropical marina. A residential resort community with everything for the individual or family in style.

Even if you've never owned a boat, yacht charters are delivered to your front door, and our never ending array of lifestyle facilities, set around a beautiful tropical marina... is guaranteed to inspire you for life!

Show apartments now open

For further information contact us directly: Royal Phuket Marina.
68 Moo 2 Thepkasatri rd, Koh Kaew, Muang, Phuket 83200, Thailand.
ph: + 66 (0) 76 239 762 paradise@royalphuketmarina.com
www.royalphuketmarina.com



RESIDENTIAL. RETAIL. ENTERTAINMENT.

Sai Taan

Luxury Villas For Sale/Rent

Tel: +66 (0)7627 1255 Fax: +66 (0)7627 1256
Email: info@sai-taan-phuket.com
Web: www.sai-taan-phuket.com

TAWAN PROPERTIES

Maan Tawan and Chorn Tawan - two superb developments located in an area of stunning natural beauty on Phuket's north west coast. Comprising an inspired collection of luxury villas, apartments and penthouses for the discerning buyer and set amongst extensively landscaped gardens in a private, managed estate the homes are of the highest quality design and construction.

Our show property is now complete and ready for viewing.

+66 076 271 188
www.tawanproperties.com sales@tawanproperties.com



Computer-generated impression of the Koh I Noor design of home at Platinum Residence Park.

Platinum Park selling well

RAWAI: Platinum Residence Co Ltd is spending 200 million baht to develop a 21-unit luxury residential project on a 5.5-rai site off Soi Samakee in Nai Harn, two minutes from the beach.

The Platinum Residence Park project broke ground late last December, and the developers expect the model home to be ready for public showing as early as March this year. The project is expected to take about 2½ years to complete. Prices start at about 12.5 million baht, and two units have already been sold.

Two design options by architects Saowalee Engineering Partnership are available. The first, the "Koh I Noor", will have 482 square meters of living space and sit on a half-rai plot. The two-story homes feature terraces, sliding doors and a spacious kitchen/living room, maid's quarters, guest room and storage room downstairs. Upstairs are three large bedrooms, including a master suite.

The "Orlob" design, at 327sqm, is a smaller version of

the Koh I Noor. These two-story units will also sit on half-rai plots and have three bedrooms upstairs. The ground floor will also have an L-shaped living/dining room with maid's quarters, a guest room and sliding doors leading to a terrace and nearby garden.

All designs will have Thai-style roofs and be finished with modern-style tiles and fittings. Swimming pools are optional and can be installed on request, as can landscaped gardens. Buyers can, if they wish, use the developer's own interior design team to decorate units according to their own needs.

The project features wide roads with walkways, green zones and underground cables. Other amenities will include 24-hour security and reception staff; maintenance crew; high-speed Internet access; pool cleaning and exterior maintenance services, and cable television. There will also be a variety of optional services, including in-house massage and beauty services.

A unique residential location in the heart of Karon.

You can walk to ...

- The beach in 20 minutes
- The fun and nightlife in 10 minutes



Contact Information

105/9 Moo 7 Vichitsonggram Rd. T. Kathu A. Kathu Phuket 83120 Thailand
 Tel: +66-76-321-076 Mobile: +66-9-158-9614 +66-4-0635480
 Website: karonbeachwalk.com E-mail: info@karonbeachwalk.com

DOGGONE CAT

There's a lot of noise in the roof of my office today. In fact, there's been a lot of noise in the roof of my office for more than a month.

My secretary decided that the tapping and banging noises were caused by rats and offered to call in the pest exterminators. I told her that she had better check first – she might be exterminating somebody's pet possum.

Possums are normally the cause of this kind of commotion in the roof of my uncle's house in Australia, but of course, possums are not common in roofs in Thailand.

If she was right, however, my office roof was playing host to the biggest rats in history.

Whatever was up there, it was extremely distracting, at the critical point of the negotiation, to have the customer startled by sudden loud thudding and scuffling noises right overhead.

I called in a local carpenter friend of mine, who made a small hole in the ceiling, and fitted a trapdoor so that we could investigate this and any future inva-

sions by whatever species of wildlife might be around looking for a place to hole up.

"Cats," he informed me. "Maybe one, maybe a whole family." However, he was unable to proceed further due to the fact that, number one, he was too big to get through the hole, and number two, my ceiling was built for decorative purposes only and definitely not to carry the weight of a hefty foreigner.

I was getting a bit worried about the ceiling surviving the nocturnal crashing around of the cats. So my secretary called in some friends of hers to get the cats out and patch up any the holes they might be able to use to get back in.

She told me that it would cost 600 baht. I okayed this and they turned up – about eight people. One of them was a small boy who was designated to crawl around in my roof.

After several hours of discussion, and a fair bit of banging around above my head, they decided to leave and return the next

day. The cats continued to terrorize my customers.

The crew returned the next day and there was much commotion and banging and waving of sticks. A picture fell off the wall but little else was achieved.

They were unable to come the next day, they said; they had another job to do in Patong but after two more days, they'd patched up the holes through which the cats had been coming and going.

The trouble was that one cat was still holding out in his ceiling fortress. So yesterday the small guy got in the ceiling again and ended up in a fight.

He lost. He came out with a bloody hand where the cat had bitten him and scratches all over his arm. I don't know where this cat came from, but it could be useful to one of the security companies.

After a week of intensive activity, the cat's still there, and I haven't yet paid the 600 baht. I'm allergic to cats. I can't wait till Monday.

LARGER THAN LIFE

By Graham Doven

"44 EXCLUSIVE HOMES IN THE SKY ...IN THE HEART OF BANGKOK"




Two-Storey Penthouses
each with **Private Swimming Pool**
Construction already commenced at Sukhumvit 31

Walking Distance to

- BTS-Promphong Station
- MRT-Sukhumvit Station
- Emporium Shopping Complex
- Benjapark

Le Raffine Sukhumvit 31
A freehold condominium, only 45 units, 350 sqm.

1st Floor (Lower Fl.)

- Owner's Entrance
- Foyer
- Living Room
- Private Pool
- Balcony
- Dining Room
- Guest Bhr
- Kitchen
- Utility area+Storage
- Maid's Br+Bhr
- Service Entrance
- Staircase

2nd Floor (Upper Fl.)

- Master bedroom+Master Bhr
- 2 Bedroom+2 Bhr
- Family area

Le Raffine Sukhumvit 31
0 2259 5326, 0 1562 4277
kriengsak@leraffine.com
leraffine.com

is a fully licensed 27 years developer and owner. is a fully 31 Company (limited registered capital 100,000,000 baht fully paid up) Office location: 31 Sukhumvit Soi 31 (Raffles), Sukhumvit Road, Chong Nonsi District, Bangkok 10110. Managing Director: Prapa Sripattana, P.22. Residential condominium 20 floors with 46 units. Site location: On Sukhumvit No. 31/2, Klongton Sub-District (Sukhumvit), Phrasangha District, Bangkok. Registered Land area: (Type 1 + R) approximately 500 square meters. Project monitored and supported by: Everglades Bank Plc. Building association permit has been approved. © 2004. Construction begins: Jan. 2004. Completion expected: December 2004. The project will be registered in the condominium plan complying the construction. Current unit fee will be paid by buyer in accordance with registration of condominium unit price.

Exclusive Residences at Phuket's Finest Address



Laguna Residences Banyan Tree Two-Bedroom Pool Villas Laguna Townhomes

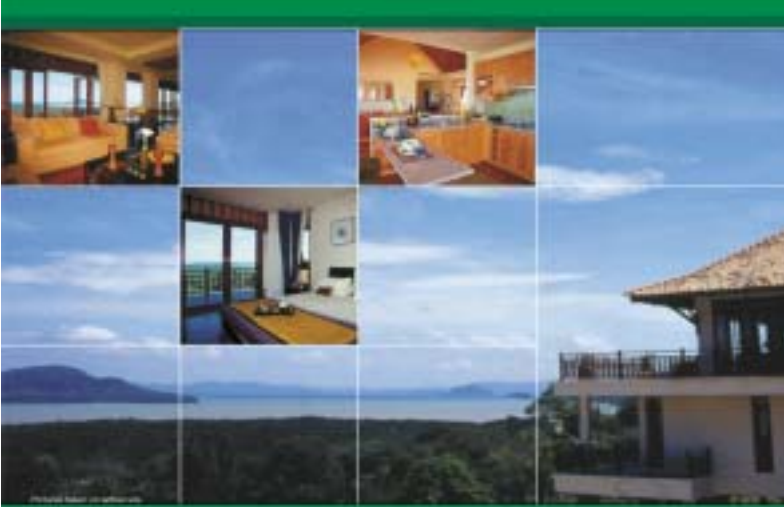
Discerning design that blends tradition with contemporary living. Choose a home to suit your own Laguna Phuket lifestyle:

- Two-Bedroom Pool Villas: Invest in the Banyan Tree lifestyle
- Condominiums: One and two-bedroom Allamanda suites
- Townhomes: Spacious two-storey semi-detached homes
- Residences: Elegant one- and two-storey private villas

laguna PROPERTY

Sales Office at Canal Village
Tel: 66 (0) 76 324 386 Fax: 66 (0) 76 324 065
E-mail: property@lagunaphuket.com
www.lagunaproperty.com

A Natural Paradise in Phuket Town



BAAN Rommai Chaitay

Baan Rommai Chaitay Co Ltd: 79/4 Moo 3, T. Rasada, A. Muang, Phuket 83000.
Tel: 0-7624-0991-2 Fax: 0-7624-1287
www.baanrommai.net
E-mail: info@baanrommai.net
Open Daily 9 am - 7 pm

Baan Rim Tarn Cherngtalay



- 2/3-bedroom villas, private pool
- Close to Laguna Phuket
- Contemporary style
- 15 mins to airport

SOLE AGENT
CBRE 09 729 8804 baanrimtarn@cbre.com
076 270 737 www.cbre.co.th

Gardening

with Bloomin' Bert

Last week, I did the unthinkable. I got up reasonably early on a Sunday morning (11 am is early isn't it?), and decided to leave the air-conditioned comfort of my office for the morning.

I got onto my high-tech Suzuki Crystal, and somehow it propelled my more than ample behind over the hill to Kata to see how the plant life of the area had been affected by the tsunami.

In Kata and Karon, I was pleasantly surprised at the relatively low level of damage to the trees and plants on the beaches.

I then headed north up the coast, toward Patong and Kamala. The most visible change at beaches on the central-western part of the island was probably the most obvious – the movement of the sand. It was as if a thousand bulldozers had moved in and removed several million cubic meters of sand, but somehow neatly avoided the vast majority of the plants and trees that were growing in it.

I started at the beach at Le Meridien Phuket Beach Resort, near Patong. The hotel is closed at present, and will be for at least the next couple of months. Despite the fact that they were wa-

HOLDING ON

tering the gardens daily, the grounds were looking rather sad. There had been acres of thick-bladed grass all over the hotel grounds, and this was always kept looking a lush green.

Unfortunately, seawater nearly a meter deep changed that. The grass is now pale brown – not because of lack of freshwater, but from saltwater damage.

There are ferns and palms all over the gardens that were affected by the saltwater – I'm not sure how much fertilizer and flushing out will be required for them to recover, if they ever do.

I used to know this spot fairly well – the shape of the beach has changed dramatically. It looks several feet lower than it used to.

One of the security guards at the hotel, who was there during both the tsunami and ensuing cleanup, said that huge quantities of sand had been scooped up and deposited elsewhere on the hotel grounds.

Things were now visible



THOROUGHLY ROOTED: The amazing root network of the casuarinas at Patong Beach stopped them being washed away.

along the shore that weren't there before – tree roots had appeared that had probably never dreamt of seeing the light of day.

Over the hill next, to Patong Beach, where much of the greenery had suffered. As this was one of the hardest hit areas, only the

hardest, toughest plants remained unscathed. The ubiquitous casuarina trees were totally unaffected, needless to say. The casuarina's Thai name, *ton son talay*, or sea pine, indicates its suitability to coastal living.

One interesting sight at Patong now is the incredible root systems that these trees produce. I had no idea, but beneath the ground is a crazy network of roots. Some roots go up, some down, and some form weird arching shapes.

It's also amazing just how far the roots of a single tree actually reach out from the tree. This

starts to explain why not a single casuarina was toppled here.

One particularly odd example had obviously had a walkway made out of small cement paving bricks built around it. The path was long gone, but 60 centimeters up the trunk were the remaining bricks, sucked into the side of the tree as it grew over the years, enveloping everything nearby.

The inevitable screw pine (could this be the mascot tree for Patong or what?), or *toei hom* in Thai, also did fairly well. A few lost their tops, but I didn't see any that had been uprooted.

Again, their root systems prevailed, and now that these roots are exposed it is easy to see how steadfastly they were able to hold on. It's difficult to guess how much less damage might have been caused had the ultimate shoreline flora, the mangroves, not been cleared in so many areas.

The final port of call was Kamala. Given the wide, open shape of the village, the main evidence of the damage was to the grass, now a pale brown.

On the beach, a few of the mighty casuarina trees had actually been downed. It didn't take much figuring out why – all along the beach the top of the sand is now four to five feet lower than it used to be.

As a result, the plant life remaining is sitting above the sand on a dense base of its own roots. I saw only two of these trees on their sides – I still can't believe there weren't more.

2 & 3-Bed Apartments + Penthouses overlooking Laguna Phuket and Layan Bay

LUXURY TROPICAL LIFESTYLE

Tel: 01 893 6602 www.LayanGardens.com

exotiq[®] REAL ESTATE

Ocean View Land Plots

1-2 rai plots now selling at this location

Complete listing of property sales and rentals

076 270376 H/p : 0987 33 564

lagunaphuket@exotiqrealestate.com www.exotiqrealestate.com

phuket home services

behind every beautiful garden is great imagination

076 324 400

specialists in landscaping

A QUALITY LIFESTYLE INVESTMENT

GROVE GARDENS

A residential resort project of 2, 3 and 4 bedroom townhomes and apartments with full resort facilities on the east coast of Phuket including: Restaurant and Bar; Convenience Store; Massage and Sauna; Gym; Tennis Court; Swimming Pools; Putting Green; BBQ Areas; International management.

For details call 076 239 820 or visit our sales office: 382/32 Moo 1 Cherm Talay Phuket (near the entrance to Laguna.) info@grovegardensphuket.com www.grovegardensphuket.com

Property Gazette

Properties For Sale

LIGHTHOUSE FOR SALE



The famous Lighthouse Restaurant – with five waterfront luxury rooms and three offices – in Ao Chalong is seriously for sale. Potential to develop residential units on unused property. Please email: maipenrai@hushmail.com

NEW SINGLE HOUSE FOR SALE



204sqm. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, garden and balcony. Chao Fa East Rd. 2.2 million baht. Contact Khun Ya at Tel: 01-5973398.

SPECIALTY LAND

We specialize in Phuket residential property, personal & project development land. All inquiries to Tel: 09-6491963, 01-8918082.

BANG TAO BEACH

Large, 2-bedroom apartments and penthouses from 6.5 million baht. 160m to the beach. Tel: 06-2806624. Visit: www.bangtaobeachgardens.com

LAND FOR SALE

in Phuket Country Club. Please call for more details. Tel: 09-8718333, 01-6913351.

Best Value on the Island



1000sqm Western-built commercial building situated on over 3.5 rai. Originally designed as a country sports club but never opened. This property has superb unspoilt views and would suit both business or residential use.



Situated between Thalung and NaiYang, it is only 5 mins to the beach and 20 mins to Tesco.



10 million baht for quick sale. Tel: 0-7631-3137 mick@phuketprogrammers.com

MISSION HILLS

Build your dream home on 1-rai serviced lots next to Phuket's newest golf course. Exclusive gated community. Please contact for more info. Tel: 09-9725226. Email: bgbphuket@yahoo.com

65 RAI BEACHFRONT

land. In Chalong, perfect location for a villa or marina project. Price: 180 million baht. Please call for more information. Tel: 01-8916143.

2-STORY HOUSE

Nai Harn. New house for sale by owners. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 400sqm. Price: 4.5 million baht. Tel: 01-752-0275.

PATONG CONDO

Apt for sale: 92sqm, 350m from beach, panoramic view. 1.85 million baht. Tel: 09-4740227. Email: chotip_5@hotmail.com

EXCLUSIVE TO PHUKET ONE!!

ON-SITE SALES OFFICES NOW OPEN

<p>CAPE PANWA Step from your apartment directly onto the beach with these superbly-sited units. Actual photo. PRICE: From 4 to 10 million baht.</p>	<p>CHALONG Walk to the beach from these value-priced homes in a great new estate. Show home open daily. PRICE: From 3.3 million baht.</p>
<p>KALIM Real value, freehold apartments in modern design, with large terraces and breathtaking sea views. Incredible value for new apartments based on recent auction results. PRICE: From 57,000 baht per square metre.</p>	<p>LAGUNA AREA Excellent value, top quality and superb design. Show home open daily. PRICE: From 6 to 21 million baht.</p>

Tel/Fax: 076-345707, 076-345709 Mobile: 01-5354546, 09-5862959.
Email: info@phuketonerealestate.com www.phuketonerealestate.com

ANDREW PARK

Property Agents & Consultants

Sales and Rentals

Over 9 years' sales experience in Thailand

We can answer all your questions

Call us now at **01-8923633**

E-mail us at phuketsales@andrewpark.com www.andrewpark.com

Imagine a view like this... we have many seaview properties for sale. Call now to see the sunset.

We have homes in every price range. This large 2-bedroom home is priced to sell fast at only 3.8 million baht. Don't miss it, call now.

SHOCK SALE LAND
at Soi Saliga, Rawai. 20 rai, 4.5 million baht per rai. Private sale. Tel: 076-288422.

NAI HARN 2,344SQM
for sale with Thai registered company in order. Has Chanote title and is ready to build. Tel: 01-1901205. Email: balipenang2@yahoo.fr

KATA – BEST PRICE!
House for sale & rent. Near the sea. Please contact for details. Tel: 076-284065, 06-595-8512, 01-9704638. Email: nalumana@phuket.ksc.co.th

RAWAI CONDO
for sale. 250,000 baht total price, payable in instalments. 150,000 baht initial payment, the remaining 100,000 baht transferred at the Land Office after 1 year. Freehold title. Please contact for more information. Tel: 09-4740227. Email: chotip_5@hotmail.com

BEAUTIFUL THAI-STYLE HOUSE
Recently built, set lake-side with lawns and palm trees. 2 large b/rooms + AC ensuite. Fully-equipped western kitchen, maid's room, extra shower, WC, large patio, entertainment area, balconies all round, 440sqm of living area; must be seen. 7.5M baht. Tel: 01-0825634.

KATHU WATERFALL
Townhouse for sale. Corner unit, 2 bedrooms, furnished, with aircon. 770,000 baht. Pls call for more info. Tel: 07-2698492.

ONE-STORY HOUSE
in Anupas Golf Ville. 4 bedrooms, 5 aircons, kitchen with dining room & built-in furniture in every room. Price: 5.7 million baht. Pls call for more info. Tel: 07-2836716.

The world is not enough... We'll go to the ends of the earth to help you live and let buy

Whatever your property needs, local inspectors reveal them to the team who can spy quality and potential anywhere. Knight Frank, the world's not-so-secret agent.

The local office with a global network

076 396 776
www.knightfrankphuket.com

CB RICHARD ELLIS

Professional real estate advice for those looking for property in Phuket

Residential Sales & Leasing
Property Management
Villa Rentals
Research & Valuation
Development & Design Consultancy

TEL: 076 239 967-9
E-mail: phuket@cbre.com
www.cbre.co.th

Find more classified ads at www.phuketgazette.net/

Property Gazette

4 + 2 BEDROOM HOUSE IN KAMALA



Top-quality 4 + 2 bedroom house for sale in Kamala, near Phuket FantaSea, 1.2 km from the beach in a very safe area. 4 master bedrooms on 1st floor with ensuite bathroom. 2 bedrooms on ground floor – one can be used as an office (2 phone lines), the other as a maid's room – with attached bathroom. Large living/dining room with open European kitchen, as well as a Thai kitchen. Fully furnished; all rooms with aircon and ceiling fan. The premises are also very suitable for business use (but not for public restaurant or bar). Asking price: 18 million baht neg. For more details pls contact Franz Brun in Kamala. Tel. 01-4761415, or 076-279075. Email: fbrun@loxinfo.co.th

NAI HARN SOI SAMAKKEA 2

Beautiful land for sale, typical tropical coconut tree garden, 3 rai 75sq wah, Chanote title: 10 million baht. Tel: 09-5940646. Email: flodaubas@libero.it

Do Not Drink Tap Water!

NEW HOUSE IN QUIET AREA



Near Laguna Golf Course, Cherng Talay. 2 bed w/ ensuite bathroom, good design & high standard of materials. Price 3.5 million baht. Tel: 06-9434824. Email: chatra@csloxinfo.com

SEAVIEW CHANOTE

land, with well water and road, located in Ao Makham, 1,220 sqm, 60m to the sea and a small harbor. Property is surrounded by a solid wall and is ready to build on. Must see to appreciate. Price: 5.7 million baht. Pls call. Tel: 07-2728216.

CHIANG RAI

property. Nice houses for less than 1 million baht. Tel: 05-0360721. Email: ken@adventure1.com For further details, please see our website at <http://adventure1.com/land.htm>

TOWNHOUSE

in Anuphas. On the main road in the heart of the city and near Central, Tesco-Lotus and Big C, a 3-bed, 2-bathroom house with kitchen, aircon, furniture and water heater. Pls contact for more info. Tel: 09-4691813. Email: annanoi@hotmail.com

NEW TOWNHOUSE

on the bypass road. 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, 22.75 sq wah. Price: 869,000 baht. Please call for more information. Tel: 01-7476571.

Properties For Rent

PATONG, NANAI RD



4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, trees, aircon, hot water, covered MB park, UBC, laundry room. 25,000 baht. Pls contact K. Ann for more information. Tel: 09-9720187. Email: melaniethai555@yahoo.com

BRAND NEW 3-FLOOR

apartment + shop. 2 bedrooms w/balcony, 2 bathrooms. Very good location in Phuket City, near Lotus. 17,000 a month. Call Tel: 01-8928208 for details.

FOR RENT

Bungalows & restaurant. Tel: 01-8946686. Website: www.phuketnatureplace.com

BUNGALOW 4 RENT

Fully-furnished, 2 bedrooms, with a view of the sea. Chalongs Bay – nice, quiet and secure area. Tel: 01-6064279.

LONG-TERM LEASE

New, fully-furnished house in Palai Green with 2 aircon bedrooms, hot shower, kitchen, living room, garage and beautiful garden. Located in a quiet area near Chalongs Bay. Please call Tel: 01-8924311.

KATA PENTHOUSE

Furnished apartments with UBC or cable TV, aircon or fan, 2 or 3 rooms, balconies, views and cleaning. Tel: 05-2766597.

PATONG

apartments. Clean, comfortable studio apartments. New interior decor, big fridge, aircon, TV, big double beds, pool and parking. Central Patong. Tel: 01-0825707. For more information visit our website at: www.phuket-accommodation.info

HOUSES FOR RENT

in Chalongs, Phuket City, Kathu, Patong – all over Phuket. Tel: 01-9680309. Email: info@houseinphuket.com www.houseinphuket.com

PATONG RESIDENCE

1- or 2-bedroom apartments with kitchen and pool, and only 350m from the beach, for rent at 7,000 baht per month. Contact for details. Tel: 09-4740227. Email: chotip_5@hotmail.com

FOR LEASE

Purepenny Beauty clinic for lease near Central and Makro. Fully equipped and staffed, with regular clientele. 3-year lease: 1.7 million baht + rent of 16,500 baht/mth. Tel: 06-9539209.

NEW HOUSE

for rent close to Chuan Chuen Lagoon, near Dulwich College & Boat Lagoon. 3 beds, 3 baths, 5 receptions, parking and garden. Tel: 076-352-122, 01-6930231.

HOUSE FOR RENT

Newly refurbished 2-bedroom house with 2 aircon. Fully furnished, UBC TV, Kata Beach. 11,000 baht per month. Long-term only. Tel: 09-2905594.

ROOMS TO LET

in Kathu. Fully-furnished lake-view apartments with air conditioning, fridge, free satellite TV, hot water and car parking in a new development in Kathu, for rent. Rent from 166 baht a day. Tel: 076-202585, 09-1968449.

ROOM FOR RENT

Room with aircon, TV, fridge, hot water, balcony, ADSL connection. From only 550 baht a day. Tel: 07-6346258, 07-8975674. Email: johnsjo1949@yahoo.com

Property Wanted

SHOPHOUSE RENTAL

Interior & furniture company is looking for a shophouse to rent on the bypass road or in Kathu. Should have at least 3 bedrooms. Tel: 02-9875170, 01-9279328. Email: tyates_sm@hotmail.com

SINGLE PLOT

I am looking to buy around 250sqm of land on which to build a 2-bedroom house. Email: siam_int@msn.com

LAND OR HOUSE

wanted. I am looking for a small land plot or a house. Should be around Kata or Karon, maybe Chalongs or Rawai. Can pay up to 1.5 million baht for land, or up to 3 million for land and house. Email: funlife_99@hotmail.com

SEA VIEW RENTAL

Looking for 1- or 2-bedroom seaview rental. Clean and quiet a must. Minimum 2 months – possible long-term rental for the right place. Email: ethanbenjaminid-1@yahoo.com

SMALL HOTEL

We are looking for a small hotel, 10-15 rooms, in Patong only. Please email with price, number of years remaining on lease, and condition of the property. Email: sainamyen@hotmail.com

LONG-TERM RENT

Min 1 year. Looking to rent a 3-bedroom house with 2 bathrooms, in Patong; Nanai Rd is ok. Looking for long-term – at least 1 year. The monthly rent should be around 18,000 baht, or less. Coming to Patong mid-March and want to rent as soon as possible after that, latest April 1. Please email with photos and details. Email: kofodz@hotmail.com

WANTED TO RENT

Retail shop premises wanted, 30sqm, unfurnished, to suit 5 tables. Soi Bangla or other busy location preferred. Please contact us with full details. Tel: 01-7746699, 07-8934830 Email: frp70@hotmail.com

Bangkok

Get your Phuket Gazette from these outlets in the capital:

Don Muang Airport

Tel. 02-5731120

Se-Ed, Mahboonkrong Building, zone B, Phayathai Rd, Pathumwan

Tel. 02-6117165

Se-Ed, Silom Complex, 4th floor, Silom Rd, Bangrak

Tel. 02-2313244

Se-Ed, Silom Center, Rama 1 Rd, Pathumwan

Tel. 02-6581153

Se-Ed, Panthip Plaza, M-floor, Petchaburi Rd, Rajathewee

Tel. 02-6566070

Se-Ed, Fortune Town Building, Ratchadapisek Rd, Huaykwang

Tel. 02-2485668

Se-Ed, Central Rama 3, Satupradit Rd, Yannawa

Tel. 02-6736342

Q Mart, Grand Hotel, Sukhumvit Rd, Soi 11, Klongtoey

Tel. 02-6511200 ext. 3452

C Mart, Centre Point, Petchaburi Rd, Soi 15, Rajathewee

Tel. 02-6536690-8 ext. 4030

Duangkamol, Sukhumvit Rd, Klongtoey

Tel. 02-2526261

phuketvillarentals.com

Classified Advertisements

Please use this form to write your classified advertisement.

_____ (heading)

Classified ads are charged per line. Each line is 80 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.

Property Gazette

Accommodation Available

C.C. Bloom's **C.C. Bloom's Hotel**

Beautiful small luxury hotel in the hills above Kata Beach



Special Rates
2,500 baht - Stay three nights and the 4th night is FREE.
Rooms with kitchenettes for 20,000 baht a month - including breakfast, maid service and use of pool and the Sunset Bar, the perfect place to watch the sunset after a busy day.
Come visit this special hideaway above Kata. We will be glad to meet you.

84/21 Patak Soi 12 POB 18. Karon Post Office, Phuket Thailand 83100
076-333222, 07-2756546(cell)
skipper@taol.com www.beachesthairesort.com

ATSUMI VILLAS
Total tranquility in a tropical garden setting in Rawai. Kingsize bedroom, lounge/kitchen, aircon, hot water, UBC/DVD/stereo, POS ADSL & phone, yoga & massage. 2,500 baht a night to 16,000 baht a month, long stay. Please call us for more information. Tel: 01-2720571.

AIRCON ROOM
Air-conditioned room at Patong Beach for only 375 baht/day. Email: mail@paradizo.com For further details, see our website at: www.paradizo247.com

CONDO ROOM
4 rent. 5 min walk to Patong Beach. Cheap price, sea view, aircon, hot water, cable TV. Tel: 09-6455134. Email: js_0704@hotmail.com

FRIENDSHIP BEACH
Bungalow Resort has RE-OPENED. Beautiful, seaside, pool, restaurant. Yearly, monthly, short-term rentals. Located 2.6km south of Chalong Circle. Please call for more information. Tel: 09-7272296.

PATONG CONDOS
Nicely decorated condos for rent or sale. Located in central Patong, behind Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd. The rooms have everything, fan and aircon, kitchenette, fridge, cable TV, access swimming pool. The rental price is negotiable. Tel: 01-8948446, 09-8726895. Email: sfrkata@hotmail.com

KAMALA
apartments for long let. Fully furnished, aircon, shower, cable, 56sqm. 10,000 per month; 36sqm. 8,000 per month. Quiet area, sauna, Jacuzzi. Tel: 07-1904584.

Accommodation Wanted

HOLIDAY APARTMENT wanted. Australian looking for a nice but not too expensive 1-bedroom apartment in or near Patong from March 1 to 17. No more than 1,500 baht per night. Must be very good quality, air-conditioned, secure, in a nice building, and have cooking facilities. Please email photos, location and rates. Maid service also required. Email: frank_pelagic@yahoo.com

SEEKING HOUSE
Looking to rent a 3-bedroom house with 2 bathrooms. Quiet area, garden, Kathu, Phuket City, Chalong. Looking for long-term as I have been working in Phuket for the past 10 years. Stayed 6 years in my previous rented house. Price: around 15,000 baht per month. Please email with photos. Email: claudesauter@hotmail.com

ROOM IN PATONG
I'm looking for a room in Patong for 5,000 baht per month. I live here so I'll probably stay at least a couple of years. The room has to have a bedroom, living room, bathroom with HOT water, and ceiling fans. A kitchen would be a bonus but is not essential. But it MUST have a phone line; if not, then I can't stay there. I have a TV and a UBC dish already so I don't need those. If you have a place that fits my needs, please contact me. Tel: 09-7305591. Email: wilki77@hotmail.com

3 BEDROOM + POOL
We are still looking for a three-bedroom house with pool near the OSI-Phuket school. Please send an email with pictures and a description of the location. Tel: 09-677863. Email: ddrill1964@yahoo.com

Building Services

TCM Woodbliss
Woodprimer against termites, fungi and wood-eating insects

Wood protection from 42 Baht/SQM
Gypsum sealer 49 Baht/SQM

*Poison-free
*Emission-free
*100% natural

one-time treatment lifetime protection

www.woodbliss.com

NEW INVISIBLE DURABLE
Nano Coating
Save 80% time & money on maintenance always easy to clean easy to apply

From 50 Baht per SQM
Carpets 40 Baht

windows - bathroom - pool kitchen - car glass - stone - wood ceramic - marble - granite - metal

TCM Asia Co., Ltd., Kamala, Phuket
info@tcm-asia.com
Tel: 06-9439834 / 07-2945828

P-CON
Phuket Construction and Home Services Co Ltd
Roofing, floor, walls, tiles, cleaning, painting, plumbing, aircon, electrical systems, repairs and other work done by our professional team.
Call: 06-5933464
Fax: 076-263204
Email: p_con@thaimail.com

phuket home services

repair • maintenance
renovation • finishing
electrical • plumbing
air conditioning
flooring • roofing
tiling • painting
woodwork • stonework
metalwork • landscaping

office : 076 324 400
24 hrs : 01 60 60 200
www.phukethomeservices.com

SPAS R US
Steam room/sauna and accessories, and portable hot tubs from USA. Quality equipment, designed and installed for your needs. Business and residential. California Spa Design. Please call Tel: 076-263269, 09-1950610.

CORRECT CLEANING
services for new building delivery; clean up old building before rebuilding. Please call for more info. Tel: 076-280415, 09-7255194.

Do Not Drink Tap Water!

Household Services

LOCKUP STORAGE
500 sqm steel shed. 24-hr security. Purpose-built storage compartments. Call Tel: 01-0825707 for more info.

SAFeway SELFSTORE
Secure lock-up and covered areas, 24-hr security. Tel: 01-8924804, 01-1251873. For more information, please see our website at: www.safewayphuket.com

ONE-STOP SERVICE
Handymen and home improvement contractor available for repairs and more. Floor/wall tiling, painting, ceiling, lighting system, kitchen, bathroom, wood and furniture. Tel: 09-5913996, 01-8953185. Email: hservice@phuket.ksc.co.th

View Thailand's **LARGEST** portfolio of Classified Ads - nearly 3,000 of them!
See the **Phuket Gazette Online** at
www.phuketgazette.net

25% Discount on Classifieds for Shopper Card Holders

IF YOU...

Place your ad in these pages;
Present your Shopper Card; and
Pay for the ad at our offices,
you'll enjoy a 25% discount* AND have your ad appear free of charge in the Phuket Gazette Online.

With more than 10,000 visitors a day, the Island Trader Online is Thailand's most active classified marketplace.

*Ads may be submitted in person or online (phuketgazette.net/classifieds), but must be paid for at the Gazette offices. The discount is not available when payment is made at our agents.

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd
367/2 Yaowarat Road, Phuket City
Tel: 076-236555 Fax: 076-213971

Would you like to keep up on what's happening in Phuket - the good, the bad and the bizarre? Let us share it with you - every week!

TO: The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd, 367/2 Yaowarat Road, Amphur Muang, Phuket 83000, Thailand.

YES, I want to receive the PHUKET GAZETTE for a full year - 52 issues!

I hereby authorize payment against my Visa / Mastercard

Thai Baht 1,560 for Phuket Special Delivery (Phuket Island only!)

Thai Baht 2,800 for a domestic subscription (outside Phuket)

Thai Baht 8,000 for an overseas subscription (any country outside Thailand)

Sumame (as appears on card) _____ Given name(s) (as on card) _____

Card #: _____ Exp. Date: _____ Security Code: _____
Last 3 digits on back of card

Signature: _____ Date: _____

E-mail address: _____

Please Deliver To:

Street address _____
City _____ State or Province _____ Zip Code _____
Country: _____

Island Job Mart

PHUKET CBRE

CB RICHARD ELLIS

Continuing our expansion, we wish to recruit the following motivated staff who believe in the future of Phuket and want a career with a responsible employer.

1. Property Manager / Estate Manager

- Degree in Business Administration, Hotel Management or related field
- Min. 2 years' experience in operations and planning of office buildings and condominiums, apartment is an advantage
- Fast-moving, and with an excellent attitude to service
- Strong analytical and problem-solving skills and proven team leadership skills
- Excellent written and spoken English

2. Assistant to Property Manager / Site Administrator

- Female, age 22-28 years
- Degree in Accounting, Secretarial College or any other related field
- 0-2 years' working experience
- Good command of English
- Computer literate
- Good personality, hard working and can work in a team, service-minded

3. Sales & Marketing Officer

- Female, about 23-29 years of age with bachelor's degree or equivalent
- Good command of written and spoken English
- Computer literate - Excel, Word, PowerPoint
- Pleasant personality, service-minded
- Able to work extra time if needed

4. Head of House Keeping

- Minimum of 4 years' experience in controlling stock, staffing hotel or serviced apartments
- Fast moving & service minded
- Problem solving & leadership skills required
- Capable of reporting & controlling expenditure
- Excellent spoken English

5. Technicians

- Higher vocational certificate in Electrical, Mechanical engineering or any other related field
- Experience in Air-Con, plumbing, swimming pool maintenance, PABX system.
- Fair command of English

6. Gardeners

- 2 years' working experience
- Strong analytical, problem-solving and proven team-leadership skills
- Fair command of English

7. Cooks

- Good personality
- High school certificate
- Basic English communication skills
- Ability to cook European food is an advantage

8. Maids

- Good personality
- High school certificate
- Basic English communication
- Basic cooking skills is an advantage

Your opportunity to join the largest international property consultancy firm and build up your career in the property industry with CB Richard Ellis.

Please apply in person or send your CV to:

CBRE
CB RICHARD ELLIS

CB Richard Ellis (Thailand) Co., Ltd.
12/9 Moo 4, Thepkrasaitri Rd., T. Kohkaew, Muang, Phuket 83000
Tel: 076-239967-9 Fax: 076-239970
Email: wanpen.duangjit@cbre.com

RECEPTIONIST

We're looking for female Thai nationals to work as cyber-café receptionists. 1 full-time, 1 nighttime (6 pm to midnight). Possibility of lodgings. The applicant must speak English. Patong and Phuket City area. Please contact K. Yupha by email or by phone. Tel: 076-341 255. Email: reservation@liontchai.com

LIFE HOME PROJECT

A local NGO urgently requires a secretary. We require computer literacy - Office 2, Excel, Word - and Internet competence, good command of written and spoken English, and available immediately. Email: lifehome@loxinfo.co.th

TIMESHARE SALES

Need experienced sales representatives for the high season at a Gold Crown resort in Samui. We have financing available and pay all commissions within two weeks on full down financed deals. Limited amount of slots open. Pls contact for more information. Tel: 66-77413844. Email: fred@samuipeninsularesort.com

CHARTER MANAGER

Fluent written and spoken English. Second language would be an advantage. Experience in yacht-charter industry is a must. Computer literate & able to handle on-line booking program. Experience in managing staff, and in running back & front office. Contact for full details. Tel: 076-273321. Fax: 076-238974. Email: marine@thaimarine.com

NEEDED URGENTLY

Maid & cook. Please call for more info. Tel: 076-273427, 01-8295388.

SALES EXECUTIVE

Invited to apply for a challenging position in Phuket. Franke (Thailand) will soon open in Phuket and we need a colleague to handle and expand our business. Requirements include: at least 1 year of sales experience, preferably in kitchen equipment or sanitary ware, Thai nationals only, bachelor's degree, aged up to 40 years, and have a good command of written and spoken English. Please email resumé and cover letter to:

FTH-info@franke.com
www.franke.co.th

PERSONAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY REQUIRED

An internationally-managed OEM based in Kathu/Phuket requires staff urgently.

Qualifications

- Female;
- Bachelor's degree;
- Knowledge of the English language;
- Computer knowledge MS Office, especially Excel.
- Knowledge of Quickbook is an advantage.

Good salary, bonus and accommodation allowance.

Woodcraft International Co., Ltd.

46/1 Prabaramee Road Village No. 6 Kathu sub-district, Kathu, Phuket 83120 Thailand
Tel: (66) 076-323525 Facsimile: (66) 076-323526
Cellular: (66) 01-8054945
Email: woodwind@phuket.ksc.co.th
website <http://www.woodwind-group.com>

Svenson

URGENTLY REQUIRED

EARN 30,000.00 - 50,000.00 BAHT PER MONTH

An international company specializing in sales of unique and exclusive products / services has vacancies for

FEMALE SALES CONSULTANT <PHUKET BRANCH>

Qualifications:

- 25-35 years of age
- Must speak English
- Self-motivated, self-confident and able to sell
- Experience with cosmetic products or other types of personal selling could be useful but not necessary
- Selected candidates will receive high earnings and full comprehensive training

Please submit application in English only, with curriculum vitae and recent photo, to:

SVENSON HAIR CENTER THASIA LIMITED

2nd. floor room no. 209A Central Festival Phuket no.74 Moo 3 Chalongrakat Rama 9 Road, Tambol Vichit, Amphur Muang, Phuket 83000

MAID NEEDED

Foreign couple is looking for a live-in or full-time maid. Basic English required; location is Rawai, close to Chalong circle. Pls call for more info. Tel: 09-4744083 or 01-9872821 (in English).

RECEPTION STAFF

wanted. Young woman to supervise room bookings and assist in small Internet café. Must speak English. Tel: 076-330484, 04-0635773. Fax: 076-330173. Email: johnnymc21@hotmail.com

REAL JOB IN EUROPE

British manager of Black Sea Coast property & publishing company wants to employ a Thai person for many different jobs. Visa will be arranged for 3 months - if happy, extended. Pay is 200 euros plus expenses all paid. Accommodation arranged. Meeting in Thailand. Ed Vaan. Please contact by email to: champagne@worldemail.com

STAFF WANTED

Office Administrator - must be a computer user. Accounting knowledge an advantage, able to speak English. College leaver considered. Training given. Contact: Elle.

Programmer - experienced web programmer to maintain website and develop e-commerce. Knowledge of C language an advantage. Contact: Woranit

Thai nationals. Good salaries based on age and experience. Contact for details. Tel: 076-313137, 01-8912934. Fax: 076-313269. Email: admin@phuketprogrammers.com

RECEPTIONIST/SALES

Urgently looking for 2 female Thai nationals to work as cyber café receptionists/tour sales on Koh Samui. Positions include accommodation. Applicants must speak basic English. Tel: 077-413-884, 01-5357768. Email: yaaryon@hotmail.com

The Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following positions:

I. IT TECHNICAL SUPPORT OFFICER

Responsibilities: The Technical Support officer will focus, at least initially, on hardware and system maintenance, and networking issues (TCP/IP, LAN).

- ▶ Male or female, Thai nationality
- ▶ Diploma or degree in computers or a related field
- ▶ At least 2 years' experience in networking and hardware maintenance
- ▶ Good interpersonal skills
- ▶ Good command of spoken English would be an advantage

II. REPORTER

The successful candidate will be a Thai national with initiative, an outgoing personality and plenty of curiosity about the world and how it works, and a keen interest in sports.

Also essential are the ability to communicate in English, both spoken and written, and a car drivers license.

III. ASSISTANT DISTRIBUTION MANAGER

- ▶ Male or female, Thai nationality
- ▶ Bachelor's degree in any field
- ▶ Strong command of English would be an advantage
- ▶ Able to work as part of a team
- ▶ Creative and hard working

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV to Passara Kaewbumroong, Human Resources, by email, fax or post to:

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

367/2 Yaowarat Rd, T. Taladyai, A. Muang, Phuket 83000
Fax: 076 213971 Email: mem@phuketgazette.net

Island Job Mart

Phuket FantaSea
The Ultimate Cultural Theme Park

Phuket FantaSea, Phuket's premier nighttime attraction, is seeking dynamic, highly motivated and service-minded professionals to join our team.

- ★ Director of International Public Relations
- ★ Director of Marketing
- ★ Director of Events
- ★ Director of Food & Beverages
- ★ Director of Training

Qualifications:

- Thai or foreign national, bachelor's degree in related fields.
- 3 - 5 years' related experience.
- Excellent command of spoken English (or other foreign languages)

Interested candidates, please send resumé (in English) to: Chief Executive Officer (Job Application)
Phuket FantaSea Public Company Limited
99 M3 Kamala Kathu Phuket 83150
Fax: 076 385 166 Email: info@phuket-fantasea.com


YACHT Supply co., Ltd.
บริษัท ยacht ซัพพลาย จำกัด

SALES ASSISTANT

1 POSITION AVAILABLE WITH MARINE SPARE PARTS COMPANY, LOCATED AT PHUKET BOAT LAGOON.

- ▶ 2-3 YEARS' EXPERIENCE IN SALES
- ▶ GOOD COMMAND OF ENGLISH
- ▶ FAIR COMPUTER SKILLS
- ▶ ACCOUNTING KNOWLEDGE
- ▶ PLEASANT PERSONALITY

PLEASE CONTACT KHUN TOI
TEL:076-238131, 01-8939174,
MONDAY TO SATURDAY 08.00 - 17.00 HRS

LANGUAGE SCHOOL
Career positions! Needed urgently. Become the principal of Phuket's finest language school. Degree in English, admin experience, excellent English skills and basic computer knowledge required. Excellent salary & bonuses (negotiable). Tel: 01-9105152.

SALES & MARKETING
Assistant for real estate company in Patong. Thai national. Good written and spoken English. Good interpersonal skills. Computer knowledge: MS Office and Internet. Reliable and enthusiastic. Tel: 076-340-792, 07-8822856. Email: info@phuket-tropical-realestate.com

NANNY WANTED
urgently in Nai Harn area to help take care of my 3 small grandchildren. From 7 am till 1 pm, 6 days a week. Some English necessary. Good salary. For information call Mirjam on 01 9202849 or Email: mirrevdp@loxinfo.co.th

CORAL RESORT
Koh Chang urgently requires hotel & restaurant manager, receptionist, cashier, bartender, chef, cook and waiters. Experience a must. Please contact for more info. Tel: 09-9112284. Email: marc@coral-resort.com

Svenson **URGENTLY REQUIRED**

The largest network of hair and scalp centers in the world operating for nearly 40 years with 14 centers in Thailand is continuing to expand. We are seeking to recruit:

FEMALE TELEMARKETER

Qualifications:

- Thai females, age not over 30 years
- Work experience in a call center environment (receptionist or telemarketing)
- Good communications skills, reliable and enthusiastic

We offer an attractive salary and high commission. Interested persons, please submit your full resumé, a recent photo, transcript and expected salary to:

SVENSON HAIR CENTER THASIA LIMITED
2nd. Floor room no. 209A Central Festival Phuket no.74 Moo5
Chalemprakit Rama 9 Road, Tambol Wichit, Amphur Muang, Phuket 83000

Gazette Classads - 4,000 readers a day!

Tout, Trader & Trumpet

Articles for Sale





CHRONO WATCH
Stainless/gold, Breitling; window-fitted aircon; racing bicycle, 58 cm; garden chairs. Tel: 01-9092265.

TSUNAMI SALE
We have available goods from our now-destroyed spa at Nai Yang Beach and seek interested parties only (not traders). The remaining items are in fairly good condition. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-205358, 09-6522585. Email: asden@cscs.com

LEAVING PHUKET
Fridge/freezer, washing machine, dryer, drawers, outdoor furniture (wood), 300 paperback books, stereo, fax, and more. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-328097, 09-8713851. Email: siamlee@phuketinternet.co.th

Boats & Marine

LEE MARINE
International Marine Brokerage
Thailand's premier yacht sales company

 Jeanneau 50 47 \$189,000 USD	 Whiting 36 \$39,000 USD
 Riviera 36 \$199,000 USD	 Nordhavn 62 OFFERS WANTED

WWW.LEEMARINE.COM
Boat Lagoon Marina - Andrew de Bruin - ph: 01 894 1530
Yacht Haven Marina - Jim Poulsen - ph: 01 891 3237
Tel: 076 239 729 email: brokerage@leemarine.com


39 Ft Prout Catamaran
Fully equipped ready to sail
THB 10,800,000
contact
broker@thaimarine.com
076-273464

THAI MARINE
ทะเลชุมพร


Thai Flagged Searay 390
2 x 275 Caterpillar
THB 7,500,000
contact
broker@thaimarine.com
076-273464

THAI MARINE
ทะเลชุมพร

SALE GLASTRON 195 SX



Imported from USA with 5.0-liter Mercruiser V8 with Alpha one drive (240 hours). Perfect for water-skiing. Currently at Ocean Marina, Jomtien, under a roof. Price is 850,000 baht. If interested please contact K. Nong or Mr Herve Mouly. Tel: 02-7511262, 01-8685799. Fax: 02-7511224. Email: herve.mouly@asiamagnetic.com


ASIA PACIFIC
QBE THAILAND

FOR A FREE-OF-CHARGE INSURANCE QUOTE FOR YOUR BOAT. COMMERCIAL OR PLEASURE

Please contact:
Tel: 076-239111, 076-273320
Fax: 076-238974
Email: insurance@thaimarine.com

34-FOOT SAILBOAT
Thai registered, 1995 Australian-built 34ft sailing boat. Steel hull, GPS, depth sounder, radios, complete refit in May 2004. Ready to sail. Ask for pictures. Price: 1,900,000 baht. Tel: 01-8927847. Email: colonapt@loxinfo.co.th

SPEEDBOAT
for sale. 28ft B.D. Flash glass. Yamaha 200hp engine. Fits 20 people. 500L fuel tank. 495,000 baht. Pls contact for more information. Tel: 01-5399411, 06-7085424, 076-296295. Fax: 076-296-295. Email: premiumbsp@yahoo.com

25FT SAILBOAT
best offer. 7.7-meter, Thai-registered sailboat, with lots of extras. Fully insured. Must sell. Best offer was 600,000 baht. Any better offers? Tel: 66-76383080, 06-9401860. Fax: 66-76381934. Email: bigasail@samart.co.th

SAILBOAT WANTED
Damaged sailboat wanted, any condition. Will pay cash. Pls contact for more info. Tel: 038-624343 (Eng) or 038-621343 (Thai). Email: revstephenb@hotmail.com

Find more Classified ads at www.phuketgazette.net/

Tout, Trader & Trumpet

Bulletins

Alcoholics Anonymous

is holding meetings in English at the following places:

Phuket City
Mission Hospital
on Wed and Sun at 7 pm

Bangkok Phuket 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
01 895 4763 and 01 891 2895.

Archery

We are exploring the possibility of setting up a small Archery Club on Phuket.

Interested latent Robin Hoods, with or without experience, should contact . . .

archery@lagunaphuket.com
or telephone Little John at 076 271 006

UNKNOWN

We are searching for an English-speaking male person we rescued out of the water at Yanui Beach. He was badly injured and we gave first aid and later we fixed transport to Rawai Health Station. His wife and daughter were alive but could not be reached. Have to know he made it! Please help us! Tel: 46-3126 3005. Fax: 46-31263005. Email: heinz.kiso@tele2.se

Business Opportunities

MIMMI'S BUSINESS

with great potential due to extensive property development in Rawai and the surrounding area. More than 150 seats, spacious terrace area, large car park. Private, with Chanote title. 1 rai (1,600 sqm) of land freehold. Saiyuan Rd, Nai Harn. Tel: 01-8913095. Email: mimmis@loxinfo.co.th

BAR/RESTAURANT

for sale in good location near Nai Harn Beach. Large plot of land/car parking. Fully equipped: Pool table, UBC, computerized music system, seating for about 40. 4.5 years left on lease, rent 6,000 baht per month. Price 900,000 baht. Contact by email for details and pictures. Email: theboss@rawai.com

RENTAL COMPANY

Jeeps, rooms and bikes in Ao Chalong with bar/restaurant. 700,000 baht. Tel: 06-6897317.

BUNGALOWS

for sale. 9 bungalows and restaurant for sale at Koh Lanta. 1.5 million baht. 10 years left on lease. Tel: 01-4897822.

BAR FOR SALE

Kata Center. Good location, 6,000 baht/month, 350,000 baht. Tel: 07-8814415.

FRIENDSHIP BEACH

Bungalow Resort has RE-OPENED. Beautiful, seaside, pool, restaurant. Yearly, monthly, short-term rentals. Located 2.6km south of Chalong Circle. Tel: 09-727-2296.

SOI BANGLA BAR

for sale. 1 year old. Owner wants quick sale because of death in family in England, hence price: 1.38 million baht ono. Tel: 04-8448232.

INVESTOR

I am soon relocating to Patong Beach. I am looking to invest in a guesthouse and/or bar or other on basis of a working partnership. Have international admin/accounts background in Australia. Please email details. Email: christianleo198@hotmail.com

Business Products & Services

KITCHEN COTTONS



Suppliers and manufacturers of the finest cotton designs to accommodate the catering trade. Napkins, tablecloths, staff uniforms, chefs' jackets and more. Please contact us for further details. Tel: 076-296839, 01-3261556. Fax: 076-296840. Email: kanthimak@hotmail.com

AAA STORAGE

- CLIMATE CONTROLLED
- STORAGE FROM 399 B PER MONTH
- SAFE, SECURE BUILDING
- WE STORE EVERYTHING BIG AND SMALL

JESSE 06-7428743
STOREIT@AAASTORAGEPHUKET.COM

Rothermann 1998 (Thailand) Co Ltd
Hamburg-Bangkok-Phuket

Offers German-standard service in:

- Wastewater recycling systems
- New or secondhand generators imported from Germany
- MDB, DB power distribution
- Wiring design and installation
- Environmental applications

Please disturb us with your problems.
http://www.rothermannthai.com
Email: wattana@rothermannthai.com
Tel: 02-6185925, 02-6187481, 01-6176313. Fax: 02-2701660

DAY TRIP TO RANONG

New double-decker tour bus (not minibus), non-smoking and smoking areas, toilet, films/music, snacks and drinks on board, buffet lunch. No extra to pay; insurance liability 400,000 baht pp. Fully inclusive, only 1,300 baht. Tel: 04-7457024 Email: kingrw80@hotmail.com

LET US SHARE

your problems and be a part of your successful business. Accounting and auditing, business system design, tax planning, financial planning, professional solutions by a professional consultant.

Contact: Kriangsak Prateepvisut
Tel: 01-6424280
Email: prateepvisut@hotmail.com

INT'L DRIVERS LICENSE

5,000 baht, valid up to 10 years, 6,000 baht valid up to 20 years. Sole agent in Thailand. Free pick up & delivery, open 365 days a year. Tel: 04-0068736.

SWIM IN DRINKING WATER!

- * almost no chlorine
- * no burning eyes
- * no bleached hair
- * no salt or corrosion

Caribbean Clear Water Treatment Systems
Tel: 06-6822639
Email: nomochlo@yahoo.com

CASA DI MODA

Mr Subin and his staff wish you and your family a warm welcome to Phuket and a very pleasant holiday here! Let us take care of your clothing needs. Tel: 076-286384, 01-8945055. Fax: 076-286385. Email: mail@casadimoda.net See our website at: www.casadimoda.net

Personal Services

Atsumi Healing

Yoga & Meditation
Counseling
Psychotherapy
Fasting & Detoxing

Call 01-2720571
www.atsumihealing.com

LEARN THAI

at home. Conversation and coursework with charming Thai lady. Course books provided free. Also basic English lessons for a Thai girlfriend. Please contact for more info. Tel: 076-398157, 01-797-1497. Email: churee77@hotmail.com

Personals

WANT SOME ENCOURAGEMENT?

Would you like a free weekly or daily email that will give you encouragement or inspiration? Send a blank email to us to subscribe, or visit our website for more information. Email: subscribe@thoughtforweek.net For more info, see my website at: ThoughtForWeek.net

HONESTY

anywhere? 52-year-old retired Aussie seeks genuine life partner, but email-friend first. Woman must be: 1. Honest, 2. Honest, 3. Good with English, 4. A person who loves to laugh, joke, talk, have fun, and with eyes that 'light up' when she smiles. Email: bigmudcrab@hotmail.com

HANDSOME BELGIAN


Nice man, 55, is looking for sweet, serious Thai woman between 25 and 45. Please Email: papito@skynet.be

BACKGAMMON

Retired businessman looking for backgammon players on Phuket Island. Please call if interested. Tel: 076-386-113, 01-5778443.

Pets

13 DOGS SAVED FROM TSUNAMI



A week after the disaster, rescue workers found 13 dogs who are now ownerless, on the tiny island of Koh Piatthong, off the coast of Khao Lak, where only 87 people out of 400 made it through the tsunami. The survivors live in the forest with the deer there and don't want the dogs, which are now "behind bars" in the Phuket pound. They are all mixed-breed, very friendly, people-oriented dogs and need loving, caring homes immediately. They appear in good health, will all be vaccinated, sterilized and treated for whatever necessary at no cost to the new owner. Please, please, don't let these dogs stay there a minute longer - they have been through so much already, emotionally and physically. For more photos and info contact Margot at Tel: 09-895-9965 or by email at: margot@loxinfo.co.th For further details, please see our website at: www.soidogfoundation.org

Do Not Drink Tap Water!

Club Membership Available

LAGUNA GOLF MEMBERSHIP

Individual (Family) membership at Laguna (Banyan Tree) Golf Club for sale. 295,000 baht, plus 57,500 baht transfer fee. Email: lagunagolf@hotmail.com

GOLF MEMBERSHIP

Phuket Country Club. 27 holes. 320,000 baht. Tel: 01-1901205. Email: balipenang2@yahoo.fr

FULL MEMBERSHIP

Loch Palm Golf membership for sale. Pls contact for details. Tel: 01-3673106.

Computers

COMPUTER SERVICES

We supply new & used PCs & accessories. Repairs & service. ADSL, LAN & WLAN, GPRS. Need Internet? No problem. Call English Computerman at Tel: 09-4735080.

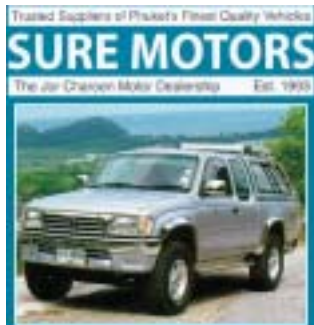
Agents for Classified Advertising

PHUKET	
K.L. Mart Patak Rd, Chalong	Tel: 076-280400/3
NAVA Language School Phang Nga Rd, Phuket City	Tel: 076-232398/9
Sin & Lee Thalang Rd, Phuket City	Tel: 076-211230
Taurus Travel Aroonsom Plaza Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd, Patong	Tel: 076 344521-2

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.**
phuketgazette.net/calendar

Wheels & Motors

Saloon Cars



Phuket's Most Trusted & Reputable Supplier of the Finest Quality Used SALOONS, SEDANS, JEEPS & PICKUPS
New cars or trade-ins – we have what you're looking for
 For more info pls call us at
 Tel: 076-224632, 216243
 www.suremotor.com

HONDA CIVIC

Honda Civic, 2002, top model, very good condition, 51,000 km. Bronze color, leather interior, 6-CD player. 125,000 baht down payment, then take over 36 installments @ 13,720 baht per month. Please contact Jenny at Tel: 076-344847, 09-4744898. Fax: 076-344847. Email: jiranthanin_13@hotmail.com

50,000 BAHT

1980 Nissan Skyline. Silver color, automatic, power steering, aircon. Foreign owner leaving Thailand. For sale to the best offer. Tel: 076-225215. Fax: 076-234832. Email: eric@insurance-in-thailand.com

HONDA CITY (2)

Two cars (Honda City) for sale: one manual and one auto. Owners leaving Phuket. Good condition. Tel: 076-328097, 09-8713851. Email: siamlee@phuketinternet.co.th

'69 VOLKSWAGEN

120,000 baht ono. Must sell as I am moving to Vietnam. Call Tel: 07-8875301 for details.

HONDA JAZZ

(leaving Phuket). We are leaving Thailand: Great opportunity to buy a 3-month-old Honda Jazz VTEC. 4,000km only, nighthawk black, with options... Price negotiable. Tel: 01-9190210, 09-9207311. Email: tombarguil@yahoo.com

CITROEN AX 1.4i

Citroen AX 1.4i, 4-door, 1994, 149,000km, 98,000 baht. Please call Tel: 01-2718635 for more information.

VIOS SPORTY 2003

22,000km, in pristine condition. Runs beautifully. Only 250,000 baht down + 12,500/month for a little over 2 years. Tel: 04-0578981. Email: ms_mw@myway.com

MITSUBISHI EVOLUTION

1998 Mitsubishi CK2. Recently entirely modified to Evolution III motor and Evolution IV body. Mint condition and entirely revised by a specialized Mitsubishi garage. Special Y-shaped 18" rims with steel-lined race wheels. 4 blue neons under the car. Black-tinted windows. 3 gauges. Tel: 07-1530431. Email: frankyberr@hotmail.com

Pickups

FORD 4X4 DOUBLE CAB

for sale by owner. Only 30,000km. 420,000 baht. Tel: 01-8915325. Email: jorg1@bkk4.loxinfo.co.th

NISSAN FRONTIER

D-cab ZDi. Registered October 2003, only 27,000km, one careful English owner with full Nissan service history. Silver/bronze with cream leather trim. Perfect condition, good savings on new car. 500,000 baht. Tel: 076-281464, 06-7396029. Email: pketste@yahoo.com

NISSAN FRONTIER

2003. Full Options. For sale by original farang owner. Perfect condition, must see to appreciate. Diesel 3.0/Cab. No Accidents. Fiber utility box, roof rack, running boards, bug protector/weather guards, liner, central locking (remote), etc. Regular maintenance, mostly highway driven. Still under warranty. 420,000 baht. Tel: 038-773388, 01-4800813. Fax: 038-645472. Email: dustbox32@hotmail.com

ISUZU 4-CAB PICKUP

4-door pick-up with hard top on the back. 3 years old, silver grey, mag wheels, electric windows and mirrors, central locking, 2 wheel drive, manual gear, one owner, no accidents. 3-liter turbo Diesel (120 hp). Drives like a dream. 485,000 baht. Tel: 076-296563, 09-8715642. Email: termalou@loxinfo.co.th

TOYOTA PICKUP

4-door Toyota Hilux, about 12,000km. In very good condition. Price: 240,000 baht. Tel: 01-9797571. Email: harryjunggren@hotmail.com

MISUBISHI PICKUP

L200, 5-speed, diesel motor 1985 model. Good condition-mag wheels, roll bar, step boards. 80,000 baht. Contact K. Pimon at Tel: 076-260-180, 09-1389987. Email: kcbechtolt@hotmail.com

4 x 4s

SUZUKI JEEP

Red Caribbean for sale. Good condition. Price: 120,000 baht. Tel: 01-8915474.

SUZUKI VITARA

1996, 5-door wagon 4x4, rain shield, dark green. 199,000km. Excellent condition. 380,000 baht. Tel: 076-289346, 01-6769336. Fax: 076-289348. Email: pkeowan@e-mail.in.th

FOR SALE - ISUZU ADVENTURE MASTER



Owner relocating. July 2004 (7 months old). 3.0 Turbo Diesel automatic 7-seater. PAS, C/L, all extras. Still under warranty, only 8,000km, excellent condition. 875,000 baht – no offers. Contact owner, Chris James, at Tel: 07-982-4663, 07-8935351. Email: cjamestemplebar@yahoo.co.uk

2004 FORD EVEREST

7-passenger, leather, CD, aircon, diesel engine, 7 months old, 22,000km. Excelent condition. 940,000 baht. Tel: 076-383177, 06-7786338. Email: glennearnold@yahoo.com

ISUZU RODEO

3.0 turbo, 4-door 4WD, leather, private use only, 47,000km, with full Isuzu service history. Top condition, 500,000 baht – fixed. Tel: 06-0592404. Fax: 07-2725433.

Motorbikes

MOTORCYCLES FOR SALE

Limited edition Nuovo, 6 months old, 500km, 40,000 baht. Nearly-new Mio, only 1 month old, 600km, 32,000 baht. Tel: 09-5885692.

Need wheels?

www.phuketgazette.net

HONDA PHANTOM

2003 model in metallic green. 200cc, 6,000km, in new condition. First owner. Asking price: 70,000 baht. Tel: 01-367-0991.

HONDA WAVE 125R

Only 600km on the clock. In showroom condition, this yellow and black Honda Wave 125R has an electric starter and front disc brake. Re-advertised due to time wasters. Leaving Khao Lak sale. 37,000 baht. Tel: 09-6479450. Email: kylielsmith@hotmail.com

J.R.D. QUEST 125cc

Yellow/black, one-year-old automatic motorbike in good condition, for sale by first owner. Only 5,000km. Price: 26,000 baht. Tel: 076-388-226, 07-8938747. Email: platinumresidence1@hotmail.com

SUPERBIKE

'98 VTR 1000 for sale. Immaculate with twin yoshies and ohlins fitted. 26,000km, registered and only 1 owner in Thailand – me. 200,000 baht. Contact me for more details. Tel: 09-8877223. Email: geordierobson@hotmail.com

HONDA WAVE 125

2 years old, 1 owner, electric starter, disc brake, 16,000km, silver with black, 25,000 baht. Email: jefdejong@hotmail.com

HONDA VFR 800FI

1998, red. One farang owner for past 4 years. Fully serviced/maintained. New front tire, chain, and brake pads. Vance & Hines exhaust. Immaculate condition. 180,000 baht. Tel: 01-7531903. Email: lab1bob@yahoo.com

CLASSIC HONDA

1969 Honda CB 125cc. 2 cylinders, in good condition. Green book! 20,000 baht. Email: jefdejong@hotmail.com

JRD CITYSURFER

Yellow, automatic, good condition. Only 20,000 baht ono. Call now. Tel: 04-0578981. Email: ms_mw@myway.com

Rentals

A1 CAR RENTALS

Toyota cars & pickups for rent. Special prices for long-term rental. Includes first-class insurance. Prices range from 13,000 to 28,000 baht a month. Call Tel: 09-8314703.

Wanted

ISUZU D-MAX

wanted. Manual, any condition. Tel: 07-8866283. Email: ra_klaus@yahoo.com

LOOKING FOR 4WD

I want to buy a 4WD pickup, preferably has 4 doors and within the years 2000-2003. Tel: 01-4897822. Email: lpj@papillonlanta.com

Others

GOODYEAR TIRES

Goodyear Wranglers: 31-10.50-15 mounted on 15x8, 6-bolt aluminium wheels. Five (5) tires and wheels like new. 2,000km on 4 and the spare is new. Only 45,000 baht for all five. For more information, please contact us at Tel: 66-98997127, or by email at: trentongrover@yahoo.ca

**Have something to sell?
Tell the WORLD!**

All CLASSIFIED ads in the Phuket Gazette appear FREE OF CHARGE in the

Phuket Gazette Online

Always on top in **Google**

10-15,000 visitors a day!

Phuket Gazette.Net/Classifieds

Focused exclusively on **Phuket** - and delivered to the world!



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 80 baht, with a minimum of 4 lines (heading included) per ad.

All advertising must be paid for in advance.
Deadline for Wheels & Motors page: Saturday 12 noon.

Welcome to our showroom



We offer you the widest range of kitchen furniture and appliances

Teka Phuket Showroom

52/15 Vichitsongkram Road,
T. Talad Nua, A. Muang, Phuket 83000
Tel: 076-234593, 234661
Fax: 076-234660
Website: www.teka.co.th



Choose wisely so you don't have to face the following problems.

SYLER
PE-LINED STEEL PIPE



Choose a newly-built house in these projects because they care enough to use the Syler piping system to supply your drinking water.

- Baan Chai Lei** Patong 076-290-156-0
- Nakasong Village** Kamala 076-344-544
- surin heights** Surin Beach 076-345-211
- Katamanda** All houses built by authorized installer

- 100% rust-free
- Cleanliness, free from any carcinogens (cancer-causing agents) and contamination from the piping system.
- Strong and long-lasting (more than 50 years for interior building applications).
- Type C cold water 60°C or less
- Type H hot water 90°C or less
- All fittings suitable for temp. up to 90°C



- Modern P.V.C. Co., Ltd. T: 076-214-177, 076-259271-2
- PPS Prestigious Products & Services Co., Ltd. T: 076-286394
- Phuket Jamihong Vasaduphun Co., Ltd. T: 076-225-031, 225-062
- Syler Group Co., Ltd. T: 02-6349981-4

www.sylerpipe.com

Sujika Gardens PHUKET THAILAND

Sujika Gardens is a luxury residential development located close to Bang Tao Beach and the Laguna Phuket Resort complex.

Phuket One Real Estate
Tel/Fax: 076-345707, 076-345709
Mobile: 09-2889317, 09-5862959, 07-8970501.
Email: info@phuketonerealestate.com www.phuketonerealestate.com

FITNESS EQUIPMENT
The leading fitness equipment supplier

SPORTathlon THAILAND
Tel: 076 356-273 www.sport.co.th
FIT FOR LIFE 156/21 Phang Nga Road, Phuket, Thailand

Get your Gazette Shopper Card today.

Chao Van
25% on all spectacles and sun glasses. (No discounts on contact lenses.) Tel: 076-212375

See the Gazette website for details of more than 300 other offers:
<http://www.phuketgazette.net/shopper/list.asp>

Monte-Carlo Pool
By **Desjoyaux POOLS**

In order to celebrate the Chinese New Year, Desjoyaux Pools presents this unique and limited (26 pools only) offer: The Monte-Carlo pool for 388,000 Baht only! Inc. VAT.

7x3.5 m
Elliptical shape including:
structure
finishing
accessories
12 m³/h filtration
underwater spotlight
steps

Offer valid only in Phuket and Krabi areas until February 8th, 2005.

Contact:
Tel: +66 76 263688 Fax: +66 76 264023