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## IN THIS ISSUE

**NEWS:** Finland appoints Pasmuke as Honorary Consul; Tsunami warning system one step nearer completion.

Pages 2 & 3

**INSIDE STORY:** Of human bondage.

Pages 4 & 5

**AROUND THE REGION:** Killer jet-skis claim another victim.

Page 7

**AROUND THE ISLAND:** 'Bands of Hope' for tsunami relief.

Page 9

**ON THE MENU:** Twice as nice with two.

Page 13

**PEOPLE:** No ordinary woman.

Pages 14 & 15

**LIFESTYLE:** For the unpicked nose... Durian does it.

Pages 18 & 19

**SPA MAGIC:** Massage à trois at Cottara Spa.

Page 20

**FIRST PERSON:** Violence in schools.

Page 27

**NATURE NOTES:** Get connected.

Page 29

**BUSINESS & MONEY:** Rubber price keeps on stretching; Money Talks.

Pages 32 & 33

**SPORT:** Kiteboarding's a breeze; Amateur boxers; Fun run.

Pages 34 & 35

**PROPERTY:** Home of the Week: Nai Harn; Decor: Stone; Construction: Karon Municipality Office; Gardening: Palms.

Pages 36-39

## PLUS

**QUEER NEWS, PHUKET DIARY, TRASH 6; AROUND THE NATION 8; MOTORING 10; HAPPENINGS 16; MAKING TRACKS 17; TRAVEL 21; TAKE A BREAK 23-24; MOMMA DUCK, BOOKS 25; EDITORIAL, LETTERS 26 & 27; HOROSCOPES, OUTSIDE IN 28; COMPUTERS 30; CLASSIFIEDS 40-51.**

# 'Aftermath' set gets a reprieve

By Sangkhae Leelanapaporn

LAYAN: A "destroyed" building specially constructed at Layan Beach by the team shooting the TV tsunami mini-series *Aftermath*, will not be knocked down.

Instead, it is to be taken over by the Sirinath National Park authorities and converted into a rest area for tourists and park officials.

The crew shooting the mini-series, which will be shown on the BBC and HBO networks, was filming at the beach for around a week and attempted to recreate the chaos of the days after the tsunami hit.

Once filming was completed, tourists and residents were initially left perplexed as to why there was a new "smashed" building in the national park, with Christmas decorations and other garbage strewn around it.

One walker on the beach even reported coming across a fake arm and a fake leg, made of silicon, apparently left behind on the beach by the film crew. The *Gazette* was unable to find any such artifacts, however.

On July 1, Veeraphol Ratana, Chief Protection Officer of Layan Beach, which is within Sirinath National Park, cleared up the mystery.

"The house was part of the set for the mini-series. We asked the film-makers to leave it because we plan to fix it up so tourists and park officials can use it for relaxing.

"It would have been easy for the film crew to destroy the building and clear the site, but I feel that the foundations will be useful for us. We plan to have it



From movie set to rest area: the 'tsunami-smashed' building at Layan. The Christmas decorations in the foreground are believed to be from the filming, too.

ready for next high season."

As for the debris lying around, he said, "Much of the rubbish still on the beach consists of trees that were knocked down by the tsunami and debris brought in by the monsoon.

"Unfortunately, at the moment we do not have the budget or the personnel to clear it all up," he added, "but we hope to have the beach completely cleaned by the start of high season."

*Gazette* reporters were not able to find the arm and leg, so it appears that they have been picked up, possibly by local children.

K. Veeraphol noted that park officials may legally erect "temporary" structures such as

salas in a national park area without prior permission. This is what is planned for the *Aftermath* structure.

About 100 local people joined in the filming and were paid 500 baht a day. Local resident Nares Promdan, 52, said that the production team brought in around 300 dummy corpses for the shooting.

"They brought in wood and dummies from Khao Lak to make the area look like it did in the days after the tsunami. It didn't cause any major problems here, though at one point almost 100 10-wheel trucks were parking along the beach area. The last temporary toilet was removed just this morning," he added.

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## Mick the Pom murder case is suspended

By Natcha Yuttaworit

PHUKET: Phuket Provincial Court has suspended indefinitely its case against British murder suspect Michael John Taylor, after he failed to appear for a scheduled hearing on June 29.

It was the second hearing Taylor had missed. He also failed to turn up in court on April 24, in breach of his bail terms. The case against him is now on hold pending his capture by police.

Taylor, better known as "Mick the Pom", was on trial for the murder of his 28-year-old girlfriend Jantra Weangta, who was stabbed to death on August 17, 2005. He was released on bail from Phuket Provincial Prison on March 7, when the Phuket Provincial Court accepted as bail a *chanote* land title deed valued at 400,000 baht.

After he failed to appear on April 24, the court seized the title deed and issued a warrant for his arrest.

Taylor's lawyer, Somsak "Sam" Chattay, told the *Gazette*, "Mr Taylor did not come today, so the court must suspend his case. If the police can arrest him, the court will summon him again and the case will resume."

But it may be too late for that. The lawyer said he had heard many rumors that his client had already fled the country.

"There are many rumors about him; that he is in England, Bali or Bangladesh. So I'm not sure. Where could he be?" the fugitive's attorney asked.

*Bail business: Page 4*



Your Piece of Paradise

# Paddlers out in force to celebrate new pier



A day of canoe races was held on Klong Mudong in Ao Makham on July 2 to celebrate the official opening of a new concrete pier (right), built to replace a wooden one smashed by the tsunami. Almost 1,000 spectators turned up to cheer the teams along the one-kilometer course. The winners in the open category were Supot Wandee and Jessadaporn Kamsumalee of Bor Rae Sport Club.



## Finland appoints Pamuke as its Honorary Consul

By Jenjira Ruengjarus



Pamuke: 'I feel most privileged and honored.'

KATA: Pamuke Achariyachai, Managing Director of the Kata Group of hotels and resorts, has been appointed Honorary Consul-General for Phuket by the Republic of Finland.

The appointment comes partly in recognition for the role played by K. Pamuke and his Kata Group staff in helping Finnish victims of the 2004 tsunami disaster.

Finnish Prime Minister Matti Vanhanen visited the resort during the recovery period to thank staff there.

"I feel most privileged and honored to accept this responsibility, not only because it is a unique experience for me but also because HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej personally signed the document to endorse me," said K. Pamuke, whose wife Thanyarat is Senator-elect for Phuket.

Although the position is mostly honorary, K. Pamuke will help arrange documents for Finnish nationals who want to renew their passports and assist others who encounter problems in Phuket.

K. Pamuke, also a former Phuket Chamber of Commerce President, said he did not think the work would be too demanding.

"As I am already in the hotel business I am used to helping people," he said happily, adding that on July 21 he would open an office at the Kata Beach Resort to conduct his work as Honorary Consul.

The appointment is unusual. Countries generally appoint their own nationals as honorary consuls.

## Special tickets for Phuket-Suvarnabhumi inaugural

PHUKET: Thai Airways International (THAI) is offering special inaugural flights between Phuket and Bangkok's new Suvarnabhumi Airport on July 29. All passengers will receive special boarding passes and certificates from THAI as souvenirs.

A total of 50 tickets, one-

way, are for sale in business class at 2,999 baht apiece, while the 325 economy class tickets, one-way, are priced at 1,999 baht.

Bookings may be made at the THAI sales office on Ranong Rd, Phuket City, or by calling THAI's 24-hour reservation service at Tel: 02-3561111 or 02-6282000.

## Scheduled blackouts in July

PHUKET: The Phuket Provincial Electricity Authority has announced scheduled blackouts for July in order to maintain and repair the island's high-voltage power lines.

The blackouts will occur from 9 am to 4 pm on the following dates at the locales indicated:

July 6 and 20, **Rawai**: Wiset Rd, from Saiyuan Rd to Laem Phromthep, including Soi Salika, Happy Home Village, Rawai beachfront and Soi Yanui.

July 14 and 25, **Rawai-Nai Harn**: Wiset Rd, from Muang Phuket School to Saiyuan Rd, in-

cluding Soi Suksan 2, Soi Masayit Bangkontee, Soi Ruamjai and Baan Bangkontee, and along Saiyuan Rd from Wiset Rd to Nai Harn Beach, including Baan Saiyuan, Soi Samakkee 1, 2 and 3, Soi Saiyuan 1, Soi Ruam Nanachart, Soi Khok Yang, Soi Khok Makham and Soi Naya.

July 28, **Chalong/Kata**: South side of Patak Rd from Chalong Circle to the signal station on Kata Hill, and including Moo Baan Patak Villa.

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

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## Woman found murdered on beach

RAWAI: The body of Tada Sanguansuk, a 49-year-old motorbike taxi driver in Phuket City, was found on the beach near Wichit Bungalow late in the afternoon of June 28.

She had been raped and her throat had been slashed.

Pol Col Chalit Kaewyarat, Superintendent of Chalong Police Station, told the *Gazette* that staff at Wichit Bungalow made the gruesome discovery and reported it to the police.

"We believe she was murdered about three hours before she was found," Col Chalit said.

He explained that K. Tada had recently been released from Phuket Provincial Prison, and had started working as a motorbike taxi driver at a taxi stand in front of the prison.

Col Chalit added that her body was taken at Vachira Phuket Hospital, and that officers were waiting for the results of an autopsy.

"We believe she was raped by [at least one] Burmese working on a nearby rubber plantation," he added.

- Natcha Yuttaworawit

## Duo gun down 'wrong' student

PHUKET CITY: Phuket Rajabhat University student Teerapong "Song" Junsawee, 24, was shot dead on Soi Panieng on June 25 in an apparent case of mistaken identity.

K. Song, who also worked at a Karon hotel, was shot four times while on the way to pick up his girlfriend from university about 9:30 pm. He was hit in the temple, stomach and shoulder.

Pol Lt Col Sien Kaewthong, Duty Inspector at Phuket City Police Station, told the *Gazette* that two men on a motorbike were seen following K. Teerapong. The passenger opened fire.

"All the witnesses we questioned said that K. Song was a good man - patient, hard working and never had any problems with his neighbors," he added.

Col Sien said that earlier the same evening a man with the same nickname and a similar appearance to K. Song was seen arguing with a group of teenagers in a soi near where K. Song lived.

- Jenjira Ruengjarus

# Dates set for second 'Hilal Town' festival

THEPKRASATTRI: The Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) will hold its second "Halal Food, Hilal Town" festival from July 29 to August 2 at the Thalang Chanasuk Memorial Field in Tambon Thepkrasattri.

The event is intended as a celebration of the peaceful coexistence between Phuket's Buddhist and Muslim communities.

The TAT, hoping the event will attract Middle Eastern tourists, is promoting it abroad and has invited consular representatives from several Muslim nations to attend.

The highlight of the show will be nightly stage performances. From July 29 to 31 there will be a presentation of the story of Princess Mahsuri, a semi-legendary princess from Kamala.

Featured in the show will be Sirintra Yayee, believed to be a seventh-generation descendant of Princess Mahsuri.

On August 2 and 3 there will be a fashion



Glittering costumes featured in last year's performance of the tale of Princess Mahsuri.

show featuring Muslim styles worn by some 300 volunteer models. All performances will be open to the public free of charge.

Other events will include a Qur'an read-

ing competition, a turtle dove singing competition, display and sale of Muslim food and garments and many other cultural activities. Tickets for "Red Carpet" Gala Dinners,

# Tsunami warning system one step nearer completion

By Jenjira Ruengjarus

PHUKET: Thailand will be the first country to be able to alert the recently-founded Asian Disaster Preparedness Center so that other countries in the region can be warned of impending tsunamis, Smith Thammasaroj, Deputy Minister of the Prime Minister's Office, said on June 28.

At a press conference at the Royal Phuket City Hotel, K. Smith explained that Deep-ocean Assessment and Reporting of Tsunamis (DART) buoys donated by the US government will be installed off the Andaman Coast.

The buoys will be able to send tsunami warnings to the National Disaster Warning Center (NDWC) in Nonthaburi and direct to the warning towers that have been installed along the Andaman Coast.

"Seventy-six tsunami warning towers have been installed along the coast in Phuket, Phang Nga, Krabi, Trang, Satun and Ranong, and in the coming months they will be connected to receive warning signals [direct] from the dart buoys," he said.

Another 48 warning towers will be installed along the east



Smith Thammasaroj

coast of peninsular Thailand, he added.

The first buoy will be installed at 9°N 89°E in December, and the second buoy at 4°N 89°E

early next year, K. Smith said. They are expected to give just under two hours' warning of an approaching tsunami.

The buoys will be donated by the US, and maintained by the US over the next two years at a cost of 36 million baht. "If Thailand had decided not to use these buoys from America, and instead had chosen to use other buoys, it would cost us 180 million baht a year," K. Smith explained.

The US government will receive the warnings issued by the buoys as well, he added.

"The US chose Thailand because they found that Thailand has a good, professional team to prevent and provide relief from disasters, as was shown [in the aftermath of] the tsunami disaster two years ago," he said.

to be held every night of the festival, will be available for 300 baht. Diners will be able to watch the performances while eating their meal. Commemorative umbrellas will be on sale for 99 baht.

The festival will be officially opened by Privy Councillor Gen Surayud Chulanont in a ceremony starting at 7:30 pm on July 29.

Chanasuk Memorial Field, in Baan Kian, is on the road to Cherng Talay from Thalang, about one kilometer west of the main intersection in Thalang town.

For more information contact the *OrBorJor* Public Relations Office at Tel: 01-5379899.

## Flower show dates set

SAPHAN HIN: The 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Phuket Flower Show will be held in Saphan Hin from July 17 to 26.

Suthep Rattanaphan, Chief of Phuket Provincial Agriculture Office (PPAO), said that the show will include an exhibition of flowers, house plants and vegetables; a flower contest; and stalls selling house plants, flowers, OTOP goods and agricultural products.

The show will be open everyday from 8:30 am until 10:30 pm. For more information contact the PPAO at Tel: 076-216565 or 076-221602.



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# BAILING OUT

**O**n June 29 Phuket Provincial Court suspended the trial of Briton Micheal John Taylor after he failed to appear for his second hearing. Taylor, also known as "Mick the Pom", was on trial for the murder of his 28-year-old live-in girlfriend Jantra Weangta, who was stabbed to death on August 17 last year.

The word on the street is that Taylor has fled the country. This latest turn in the "Mick the Pom" case is reminiscent of the case against Sam Van Treeck, a Belgian man accused of the October, 2004, murder of Phuket-based dive instructor Chompoot "Jeab" Kobram, who was stabbed to death in Pattaya.

Van Treeck remains at large, having fled to his native country after posting a "rented" *chanote* land title deed as bail to the Pattaya Court.

Similarly, Taylor was released on bail from Phuket Provincial Prison on March 7 after the Provincial Court accepted as bail a *chanote* valued at 400,000 baht.

## UNLIKELY

Simply because they managed to post bail, even though neither of them had the means to pay for it themselves, it is now very unlikely that either Van Treeck or Taylor will stand trial.

While the debate continues, both here in Thailand and in the West, about whether a person charged with a violent crime should be allowed bail, the fact remains that if a defendant can produce the bail set by the court then he is released from custody, pending the outcome of his trial.

In Thailand, cash, the signed affidavit of a guarantor and property deeds are all accepted as bail. As in the Van Treeck and Taylor cases, property deeds are the most common form of collateral, especially as they are considered by the courts to be substantial enough alone with neither

cash nor a guarantor needed.

However, if a defendant cannot post bail by himself, there is another option: bail insurance. In April 2004, the Court of Justice initiated the Bail Bond Insurance scheme with the aim of giving suspects the chance to be released from remand while a prolonged trial or investigation continues, without the suspects having to come up with the required collateral themselves.

The introduction of bail insurance, now sold through 59 government-vetted insurance companies, also aimed to limit the number of people private bail agents could take advantage of.

Souwakon Wongkongsang, Manager of the Phuket Branch of Viriyah Insurance Co, explained to the *Gazette*, "The main objective of Bail Bond Insurance is to provide some relief to suspects because it's not clear whether they are guilty or not."

"Some people do not have property and their friends may not be able to help them post bail. In cases such as this they may turn to bail agents, who could take advantage of them and only add to their problems. Bail Bond Insurance is one way to help avoid that," she said.

K. Souwakon explained that the law prohibits the sale of bail insurance only to suspects charged with *lèse majesté* or with selling drugs. "It is [also] our policy never to sell this insurance to people charged with rape," she added.

There are two types of bail insurance: pre-offense and post-offense. "Pre-offense bail insurance is still new and not well known by people," K. Souwakon said, "or it could be that people don't want to spend money on this

In the past 20 months, two foreigners accused of vicious murders have managed to obtain bail and have then disappeared.

The first, Sam Van Treeck, resurfaced in his native Belgium. The other, Briton Michael John Taylor, is still on the run, surrounded by rumor.

Here, Janyaporn Morel takes an in-depth look at the business of bail.



'The main objective of Bail Bond Insurance is to provide some relief to suspects because it's not clear whether they are guilty or not.'

- Souwakon Wongkongsang, Viriyah Insurance Co



'Almost all my customers ask for a lawyer, and if they don't have anyone to help them post bail I suggest that they buy bail insurance.'

- Sutham Sudsanit, Bamrung Roong Ruang Law

policy because they think it's not so useful to them."

"About three or four customers have bought this policy from us. Almost all of them are people who drive cars a lot and don't have first-class insurance that covers bail."

Post-offense bail insurance, however, is proving to be much more popular, she said, mainly because the courts inform defendants that the option is available in the hope that defendants will not turn to private bail agents.

"We started selling this policy two years ago. Many people ask to buy post-offense bail insurance, but we don't sell many of these policies because we have many strict conditions

and we consider each case carefully before selling it to a customer," she said.

A standard precaution is for insurance companies to require a guarantor who can be easily found in case the accused skips bail.

"We need the case details from the police or the court, and we need a local guarantor who can assure us that the suspect will not run away. The guarantor can be a government officer or local person who has a permanent residence here or is involved in a reputable occupation," K. Souwakon said.

"The premium for this policy depends on the bail amount and the seriousness of case, but

it's always between 5% and the legal maximum of 20% of the bail amount.

"If the police are continuing their investigation, the premium is between 5% and 10% of the bail amount, but the premium can be up to 20% of the bail amount, depending on the advice of our lawyer. The law allows us to set the premium ourselves."

Although the number of people taking out this insurance is growing, K. Souwakon said her company does not exploit it for profit. "The number of people who have taken out this insurance with us constitutes about 3% of all our customers. More and more people are taking out this type of insurance, and if we market it well we will get a lot more customers."

"But for us, offering bail bond insurance helps people in need. We offer this policy as a service to society, not for profit," she added.

The top-selling bail bond insurance provider in Thailand is Syn Mun Kong Insurance Plc. Prayat Thitathummakul, Executive Vice-President - Southern Division, explained that of all the Syn Mun Kong customers in Southern Thailand, 40% are in Phuket.

## GOOD SALES TEAM

"We have many customers in Phuket but this doesn't mean that Phuket has a high crime rate, it's because we have a good sales team," he said.

"At first people didn't understand how this insurance is useful, but they are learning more about it from the government and from insurance companies, and now this type of policy is becoming more popular," K. Prayat said.

Insurance broker Sutham Sudsanit, whose Bamrung Roong Ruang Law main office is just across the road from Phuket Provincial Prison, explained, "My law office offers services for all aspects of the legal justice process and I started selling bail insurance a little less than a year ago."

"Almost all my customers come to my office and ask for a lawyer, and if they don't have anyone to help them post bail I suggest that they buy bail insurance," he said.

K. Sutham often deals with drugs cases, for which bail insurance is not an option. "Other cases involve theft and gambling, but we sell bail insurance only to people who can find a guarantor. Each insurance company has its own conditions for providing bail insurance, some need only two guarantors, and some need both guarantors and property to be put up," he explained.

All the insurance companies the *Gazette* interviewed agreed that having a customer skip bail was just a risk they took. "Ev-

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The Phuket Provincial Court: if defendants can produce the bail set by the court then they are released from custody pending trial.

everyone knows that it's a risk. They don't want to lose money, that's why there are very strict conditions. In some cases, three or four guarantors are needed," K. Sutham said.

K. Souwakon of Viriyah Insurance said, "Our experience has shown that it is best that we check very carefully before we sell a policy to anybody. We need guarantors who we can track down so that we can be compensated if the suspect jumps bail."

In the case of foreigners,

Viriyah Insurance and Syn Mun Kong Insurance said that they have had only a few cases where a foreigner has asked to buy bail insurance.

"We have accepted some foreigners in less serious cases where bail has not been set too high, but usually we deny them because there is a high risk that they will skip bail and go back to their home countries or disappear because they don't have a permanent residence in Thailand," K. Prayat said.

Viriyah Insurance, however, accepts foreigners who have a Thai family and can provide traceable guarantors, "If they can find a guarantor who satisfies our conditions, then we will sell this policy to them," K. Souwakon said.

Despite the Court of Justice's efforts to give more suspects access to bail, the strict conditions the insurance companies impose leaves the door open for suspects to use a private bail agent.

One source who asked to remain anonymous said, "There are many private bail agents [in Phuket] offering 24-hour bail services. The conditions are negotiated between the guarantors and the clients.

"They usually use a land title to post bail and they charge more than an insurance company, which by law can charge a maximum of 20% of the bail amount.

"Some of them take advantage of suspects by buying a bail bond insurance policy themselves

and then selling the policy to the suspect [who is still in jail] at twice the price.

"But usually these independent agents also ask for a guarantor because if the suspect skips bail they can ask the guarantor for their money back. They will not risk losing their [own land titles]," the source said.

Another source said that if the suspect cannot find a guarantor the independent bail agent might charge a fee of up to 100% of the bail amount. "I've even heard that they can bail the client out of jail immediately if the client agrees to pay them the amount they want."

As Thailand has extradition treaties with very few countries, foreigners charged with serious crimes who are granted bail and can make it back to their home countries stand a good chance of never having to face justice at all.

All they have to do is pay the money and run.



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## Queer News

# Tipple, piddle, topple

**A**t first police thought it might be a case of suicide when local real estate magnate Siri, 52, was found dead in the early hours of the morning on the ground below the balcony of his home.

After searching the man's apartment and finding no signs of a struggle or break-in, police were coming to the conclusion that poor Siri, who lived alone, had taken his own life.

After talking with the man's relatives and the security guard who found the body, however, they reached a rather different conclusion.

According to the people who knew him, Siri, whose name means "splendor and glory", liked nothing better than going out and enjoying a drink or three. And after returning from his liquid nights out, when he began to feel pressure building in his bladder, he

would stumble to the edge of his balcony, unzip, and happily relieve himself onto the ground below – or upon any unfortunate soul who happened to be passing underneath. This, apparently, gave him a special kind of pleasure.

The security guard on duty told the police that on the night of his demise, Siri had stumbled back home looking a little worse for wear from drink and, as always, headed up to his favorite peeing platform.

Presumably unwilling to witness the unsightly spectacle for the umpteenth time, the guard did not actually see Siri fall. But he reasoned that the most likely explanation was that while Siri was swaying back and forth struggling with his zip, he lost his balance and fell to his death.

Police accepted this explanation and ruled the case one of accidental death.

Source: Siang Tai



## TRASHING Phuket



Judging by the weeds growing over it, this heap of wood and other builder's trash on a corner near the back door of the ST Hotel on Sakdidet Rd has been there for a while. So far, however, no one else has added to it. So far...

If you have a favorite informal garbage pile, send a high-resolution digital photo of it to [dump@phuketgazette.net](mailto:dump@phuketgazette.net), along with a description of where it can be found, and we'll let everyone know.

## PHUKET DIARY

## of coming events

### July 8: Havana Vibe - Cuban Salsa Magic at The Watermark.

A Watermark event in collaboration with Pacific Cigar & Havana Club Rum. A night of pure Cuban salsa and Latin-American magic, featuring master cigar roller Gustavo Garcia Bello from Havana.

The best of salsa and samba with a live percussionist. Latin tapas available. Sexy salsa dancers twirling the night away.

This will be a great party with a Havana fiesta vibe: lots of mojitos, loco latino, sexy dancing and of course 'phat' cigars.

Gals: sexy, sassy, heels and a dress that moves. Guys: Panama hats, Cuban heels and a gyrating pelvis.

The action starts at 8 pm. Admission is free.

### July 9: Seafood Sunday Brunch at The Mangosteen

Seafood Sunday Brunch at Mangosteen means a day with friends and family, with great food, wine and music. Best sea views in the South of Phuket. Please reserve your favorite table. Call Christophe Lopez at Tel: 076-289399.

### July 15: Wine tasting at Wine Connection.

Please come and celebrate and welcome the winemaker from Nekeas Winery, Spain, on Saturday July 15. We will have a Spanish-themed party and be tasting wines from Nekeas. A 300-baht entrance fee will allow you six wine tastings, finger foods and a live band. For details call Paul Clark at Tel: 076-282411.

### July 13-16: AHRA F&B (Food & Beverage) Show and Hotelex Exhibition 2006.

Open daily at the Royal Phuket City Hotel from 11 am to 8 pm, the expo gives F&B suppliers the opportunity to pitch their wares to Phuket hotels and resorts.

It will also include a variety of culinary competitions, including fruit and vegetable carving contests, a beauty pageant and the popular Flair Bartending Contest.

For more information about Hotelex 2006 or to enter the competitions contact Teerawit Yingdumnoon, President of the F&B Managers Club Phuket, at Tel: 01-9794244; K. Sansanee at Tel: 07-2755138; or K. Suchada at Tel: 06-6896518.

WARNING: SELLING ALCOHOL TO PERSONS UNDER 18 YEARS OLD IS ILLEGAL

*When the taste is perfect,  
it can be the start of a friendship.*



Indonesian tourist Inyoman Rishamawa, of Bali, was killed when two jet-skis collided at high speed off Mae Nam Beach on June 10. Inyoman was apparently knocked unconscious in the accident and left to drown by the operator of the other jet-ski, who fled the scene.

Witnesses called the Samui Rescue Service, but they arrived too late to save the victim. Later, when police questioned witnesses to the accident, some of them said they had seen the two jet ski riders racing and pulling stunts to try and scare each other.

One day after the incident, Pol Col Apichart Jansamret of the Samui Police received a call from a Thai man who admitted to having been the driver of the other jet-ski. The man, whose name has not yet been released, was arrested on a manslaughter charge and is now in prison awaiting trial.

**Beetle battle:** After three years trying to rid the island of the infamously destructive coconut leaf beetle, Samui authorities say that the island's palm trees are finally showing signs of recovery.

An environmental crisis developed when an insect known as *Brontispa Logissima Gestro* began laying its tree-gobbling larvae in the crowns of Samui's most famous symbol.

At the height of the infestation last year, nearly 50% of the island's palm trees were affected over an area of 75,000 rai. After



**FROM THE GULF OF THAILAND**

By Barry Singleton

assessing the situation, government experts asked the Samui Municipality to import several thousand *Den Bien* wasps from Vietnam. While most people are unfavorably disposed toward wasps, this tiny parasitic version, *Asecodes hispinarum*, is a hero, attacking the beetle larvae and limiting the infestation.

When former Minister of Public Health Sudharat Keyuraphan saw the extent of the problem on a visit to Samui, she persuaded the Cabinet to fund the import of the wasps.

The result was that over 130,000 wasp cocoons were placed on infected trees around the island. According to Dr Chalerm Sintusek, Chief of the

# Jet-ski tourist killed

Department of Agriculture's Planning and Protection Office, the battle against the beetle is now finally being won.

"Based on the last inspection in June," said the professor, "only around 10% of the island's palm trees are still infected. However, there is still around 1,200 rai that needs attention and for this we may need to release more wasps."

**Double dealing:** On June 10, Samui Police Deputy Superintendent, Pol Capt Apichart Boonsrirote reported the arrest of a husband-and-wife drug dealing team in Bophut.

After watching the couple's activities for several weeks, undercover officers finally moved in and arrested them at Lam Din market.

A search of their bags uncovered an unspecified quantity of *ya bah* (methamphetamine) tablets wrapped in tissue and sealed in small plastic bags.

Police identified the suspects as 26-year-old Porn Pilai from Nan Province and her husband, identified only as "Pitak", from Phattalung. During questioning they told police they bought the drugs from a woman known as "Ann" from Lop Buri, another Samui resident.

Police traced Ann, also known as Yuwada, to her house in Bophut, where they found 3,000 tablets of *ya bah* wrapped in packs of 10 and ready for sale.

Ann was arrested and taken to the police station for questioning. Capt Apichart told the local press that the three suspects may be part of a larger drug ring.

In another case involving *ya bah*, Capt Apichart arranged for undercover police to buy the drug from 24-year-old suspect Pongsak Jairangsee. Realizing it was a set-up, the suspect managed to evade arrest, but a subsequent search of his room uncovered 79 *ya bah* pills and three grams of *ya ice* crystal (crystal methamphetamine).

**Island infrastructure:** In an attempt to meet the demands of the island's growing economy, the Samui Municipality has decided to revive a number of previously shelved development plans on the island.

The projects, scheduled for completion by the end of 2007, include: reconstruction of the road from Samui airport to Bophut; land reclamation in Nathon to create a new public recreation and commercial zone; a beachfront park in Bophut, and a small flyover to route traffic

around Samui's busiest tourist area, Chaweng.

The total budget for new projects on Samui? A modest 78.5 billion baht, with an extra 30 million to be requested for the land reclamation plan.

Samui Mayor Warakorn Ratanarak said that the new facilities have been designed to benefit "local people and tourists alike" and admitted that large-scale infrastructure projects are also sorely needed if the island is to keep pace with international tourist demand.

**New Rotary president:** On July 1 the Rotary Club of Koh Samui held its annual installation night at the Samui Palm Beach Resort, where members appointed the club's fourth president, German Rico Stapel.

A businessman who grew up in the former East Germany, Mr Stapel took over the post from Paul Watson of Northern Ireland, owner of Tropical Murphy's, one of the island's most popular tourist pubs.

Having lived in Thailand for several years, Mr Stapel has been a member of the Samui chapter since its inception. The well-attended event included cocktails, canapés and a delicious Thai buffet.



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# Profs ignoring research, seminar told

Only 2,000 research articles by Thai university lecturers appeared in international academic journals last year, with 98% of those coming from just eight universities, Higher Education Commission Secretary-General Pavich Thongroj told a seminar of university rectors.

When the number of lecturers was divided by the number of published articles, K. Pavich said, it emerged that about 12 lecturers had worked on each paper, even at the eight most productive universities.

"In fact, universities should give priority to research, which widens knowledge. Production of graduates should be a secondary task," he said.

Caretaker Education Minister Chaturon Chaisang disagreed, saying universities should focus on producing graduates in line with the country's needs.

K. Chaturon said he hoped to give the public a role in keeping an eye on universities and had, to that end, instructed the Higher Education Commission to evaluate universities and make the results public.

**Garland grief:** Ananya "Lee" Meunsuwan, 9, suffered fatal head injuries after being run over by a six-wheel truck at a Bangkok intersection where she was forced by her father to sell garlands to passing motorists.

When police arrived at Teuk Chai intersection in Phya Thai District, they found the victim's parents, Bualoy and Umaporn Meunsuwan, standing beside her weeping.

The truck driver, Chom Hanphum, 30, who waited for police at the scene, was charged with reckless driving causing death.

Witnesses from the neigh-



**UP IN SMOKE:** More than three tons of confiscated narcotics valued at over 10 billion baht were destroyed by authorities to mark the UN's "International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking". The fire reduced to ashes some 32 million amphetamine tablets, along with 254 kilograms of heroin, marijuana and ecstasy.

borhood said Lee was forced to sell flowers to pay for her schooling and get money for her parents, who did not want to work.

Relatives said Bualoy had forced Lee to sell flowers every evening until 8pm and on weekends since she was seven.

She was supposed to meet a sales target or she would face a beating.

Bualoy was often seen assaulting Lee at the intersection because she had asked for a break to play with other children or do homework, they said.

**Cracking up:** About six in every 100 Thais suffer some form of mental disorder and as many as 600,000 of those are chronic sufferers, Deputy Public Health Minister Anuthin Charnveerakul told a seminar.

Citing a World Health Organization report, K. Anuthin claimed a quarter of the world's population had mental health problems at some time in their lives, while up to 45% of work absences resulted from mental health problems.

The WHO also predicted that within 14 years, economic and social losses from depression and similar disorders would be severe, ranking second only to heart and blood diseases.

In Thailand, about 1% of the population, or 600,000 people, was estimated to be mentally ill.

A further 5% suffered from depression and depressive episodes, he said.

Society continued to misunderstand the mentally ill. Many perceived sufferers as untreatable and dangerous to others. This led to a lack of social acceptance and job opportunities, as well as alienation that sometimes worsened their condition, he added.

**Population peak:** Experts believe that by reducing infant deaths, road accidents and HIV/Aids infections, the average life expectancy of Thai people could be increased by 10 years to about 80, bringing the country into line with more developed nations.

Current life expectancy for Thais is about 70 years, said Pramote Prasartkul, a professor of demography at Mahidol University.

Thailand's population is increasing gradually and is expected to peak at 65 million in the next two decades, then begin to fall.

Current estimates are for about 800,000 births a year, compared with about 500,000 deaths, for a net population increase of 300,000 a year.

Births are projected to drop to 700,000 per year and the death rate is forecast to rise to about 700,000 annually, K. Pramote said.

"This means more people are dying while there will be fewer births," he said.

Recommendations made by his institute were aimed at reducing deaths and helping people live longer, he added.

**Scared straight:** A program that forces convicted drunk drivers to have direct contact with maimed road accident victims is reporting great success in making irresponsible motorists realize the error of their ways.

"We require them to take care of the victims so they can realize the tremendous suffering and difficulties they can cause," Probation Department Director-General Wanchai Rujanawong said of the program it had organized jointly with the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration.

"Of these convicted drivers, fewer than 3% have been caught repeating the offense," K. Wanchai said.

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

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# From Bermuda with love

By Janyaporn Morel

One of the remarkable things about the aftermath of the tsunami disaster has been the astonishing and continuing outpouring of support from ordinary people around the world to help in the recovery.

One such project, initiated by a girls' school halfway around the world in the Caribbean, raised some US\$25,000 (just under 1 million baht) in direct aid for Baan Koh Phi Phi School.

Shortly after the disaster, the Bermuda High School for Girls (BHS) launched its Tsunami Relief Project and began raising money, mainly through the sale of blue "Bands of Hope" wristbands. These were imprinted with the words for "hope" in six of the languages of the most devastated regions.

By June this year, the project had raised more than US \$25,000. Wanting to make sure that the funds went directly to those in need, a first group of five teachers and six students from the school made the long journey from the North Atlantic to Koh Phi Phi Don.

The *Gazette* caught up with the group at the Cape Panwa Hotel in Phuket. BHS teacher Susan Gorbutt said, "When the tsunami hit on December 26, we all wanted to do something because we felt so hopeless. So we decided to do some fundraising."

She explained that about 10,000 of the blue bands were sold to visiting cruise ship passengers, to family and to friends.

The girls making the trip, all top fundraisers, had no idea they would be given the chance to visit Thailand to help distribute the aid and take part in other projects to help the school on Phi Phi Don.

"Many of the people who gave us money so willingly said, 'We want to make sure this money goes to the children, because we've read so many stories about money not going directly to the people who need it most.' We promised them all the money would go directly to a school and its children," she said.

Paul Crouch from the Regents School in Pattaya, was instrumental in helping select the school, vetting it to make sure that the claimed needs were real and then helping to organize the trip, she added.

Before heading to the school for a 10-day stay "to help

out in any way we can", the girls first paid a visit to Tesco-Lotus and Central Festival Phuket to stock up on supplies for the school. Among the donated items were digital cameras, printers for the cameras, a sound system, life preservers, sports equipment, stationery and art supplies.

"A part of their need is also funding for food to serve breakfast, lunch and dinner to the children. We've supported them already in that, and we will probably continue to support them in that and in other ways," Mrs Gorbutt said.

Other activities included "Fun with English" and instruction in how to make Bermuda kites – a part of Bermuda's national heritage, Mrs Gorbutt said.

Many friendships were formed during the stay on Phi Phi, and the girls brought with them a list of some 60 students wanting pen-pals, she added.

"I think the biggest message we wanted our girls to feel and understand is that we come here with respect. We know we are not here to save the world, we are just here to help if they want our help. We expect the trip to be life-changing."

Arriving in Phuket on June 19, the girls stayed for two nights at the Cape Panwa Hotel before leaving for Phi Phi on June 21. They were due

to spend four more nights at the hotel on the return leg before returning to Bermuda.

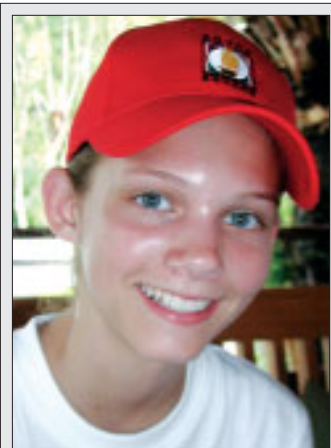
"The people here are wonderful. I know now why they call [Thailand] the Land of Smiles. They are really helpful and so good with the girls as well. We feel very safe with the girls here. This has been a-year-and-a-half process and we're very excited to be here," Mrs Gorbutt said.

One of the students, 14-year-old Michelle Davis, summed up the feelings of the group before they left for Phi Phi Don.

"I'm very excited that I am going to have this wonderful experience of going to Koh Phi Phi Don," she said.

"I'm also very excited about meeting students from Thailand because I've never met students from another country. I hope to build a relationship with the people who are there."

The girls' experiences in Thailand are being shared with their friends back home at the website: sawadeebermuda.blogspot.com



14-year-old Michelle Davis and a 'Band of Hope'.



8-21 July 06

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At the age of 76, Stirling Moss stepped back into the legendary Ferguson Project 99 to complete a few laps at Goodwood last year.

– Photo by John Colley

# Goodwood Festival of Speed

In 1948, with World War II over, the perimeter road of an airfield on the grounds of an English stately home in rural Sussex became a motor racing track.

The winner in the first race meeting at Goodwood, in the 500cc class, was Stirling Moss. It was also at Goodwood that Moss had the crash that ended his racing career 14 years later.

In 1966 racing stopped at Goodwood and the track lay quiet until 1993, when the Earl of March and Kinrara – whose father, the Duke of Richmond, owns Goodwood – brought the roar of powerful engines back, creating one of the best motoring events in the world – the unique Goodwood Festival of Speed.

## BEHIND THE WHEEL

By Jeff Heselwood

This year's Festival of Speed takes place on the weekend of July 7-9 and is dedicated to the memories of former world rally champion Richard Burns, who died from a brain tumor in 2005, and Michael "Beef" Park, Markko Martin's co-driver who was killed in a crash during the British round of the World Rally Championship last September.

Attractions this year will include a visit by 1992 Formula One World Champion Nigel Mansell, who will demonstrate some of his race-winning F1 cars; and Mika Häkkinen, the 1998 and 1999 F1 world champion, who will demonstrate his DTM (German touring car) Mercedes-Benz C-Class.

There will be a forest rally featuring historic rally cars, including a Lancia Stratos – surely one of the most exciting competition cars of all time – as well as a championship-winning Peugeot 205 T16 and an Audi Quattro A2, to be driven by legendary Finn Hannu Mikkola.

There will also be the latest in rally autos, such as an M-Sport Ford Focus (see *Gazette*, January 14) and one of the latest Prodrive Subaru Imprezas.

Most star WRC drivers have pledged their support, including 1995 champion Colin McRae and current world champion Sébastien Loeb. Former champions Petter Solberg and Marcus Grönholm will also take part.

This year the Festival will also feature a rare feast of the latest motorcycles, including a Honda CBR1000RR, which the Japanese star of the British Superbike series, Kiyonari Ryuichi, will demonstrate.

World Superbike front-runner James Toseland will demonstrate his Honda CBR, and attempts are being made to lure '80s legend Ron Haslam to Goodwood to demonstrate another of Honda's bikes.

The Paris-Dakar rally is represented by BMW with a selection of its bikes from the 1980s through to the present day.

Road-going supercars will be well represented by, among others, the 1,000bhp Bugatti Veyron and the latest Ferrari, the 599 GTB, which made its debut



At last year's Festival, rallying legend Hannu Mikkola once again took the wheel of the mighty Audi Quattro. – Photo by John Colley

at the Geneva Salon in March.

Audi is hoping to have on show its own supercar, the new R8, based on the Le Mans-winning sports car, while joining it will be Prodrive's one-off P2, its showcase of engineering talent based on a Subaru Sti and designed to persuade manufacturers to give business to the British automotive consultancy.

Also on display will be Peugeot's amazing V12 907 and the remarkable Freestream T1, a prototype designed and developed by a team of former McLaren engineers.

In its first year the Festival of Speed attracted around 25,000 visitors; last year that that number had swelled to over 150,000. Entry this year is by advance

ticket sales only. Said Lord March, "The inclusion of very high-efficiency, cutting-edge technology vehicles in the Sunday Supercar Run and elsewhere at the Festival of Speed is very important to us."

"It is a hugely exciting area and one we are keen to promote, not only with our larger industry partners, but also with smaller manufacturers."

The 2006 event promises to be the biggest and best yet, and will surely be a fitting memory to Burnside and Beef.

For more information, visit [www.goodwood.co.uk](http://www.goodwood.co.uk)

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

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John Surtees, the only man to win the World Championship on two wheels and four, last year drove the Honda RA272 that won the Japanese giant's first grand prix in Mexico in 1965.

– Photo by Andy Smerdon

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# On the menu



WITH  
**Andy Johnstone**  
**2 Gusti**

For anyone not familiar with the Italian tongue, 2 Gusti means “two tastes”; the binary palate-teasers in question at 2 Gusti in Central Festival being Italian and Japanese cuisines.

No-one in his right mind would say that these two national treasures are not popular on this isle.

In fact, given their respective popularity, one could go so far as to suggest a perfect marriage between the two, and let me not to the marriage of true minds admit impediments, as my dear friend Will keeps telling me.

“Is this not a marriage of convenience?” I ungallantly challenge Marcella Mocci, 2 Gusti’s General Manager.

“No, of course not,” comes her characteristically polite response, delivered swifter than the Ariete main battle tank being thrust into one of its four reverse gears. But then, I was playing Devil’s advocate.

## INTIMATE

The restaurant, on the ground floor of Central with the world wandering by and a rich sunset visible through the windows, is light and decorated in a pleasing, pale egg-yolk yellow.

A pacific color, it is not dissimilar to an early-morning Tuscan sun or the yellow of the Seal of the Chrysanthemum Throne, the Imperial House of Japan. By design or coincidence, it suits the 2 Gusti style well.

It is altogether both casual and intimate in the restaurant, an intimacy that belies the 80 seats available.

Shown to our table after a tour of the 400-plus-bottle wine cellar and Cigar & Wine Lounge, we are grateful that a reservation was made for us.

As the sun is now firmly over the yardarm it is quite definitely martini o’clock. However, we dodge the cocktails and go straight for a glass of house white as we chat. Good music – a little of this, a little of that – plus the drinks, soothe away the stresses and strains of the day.

Food, and plenty of it, begins to arrive. The first is a morsel, a degustation of a fresh spring roll filled with prawn and pin-thickness *fungi* served on rather elegant translucent glass slabs.

Marcella asks if we wish to order from the menu, à la carte,

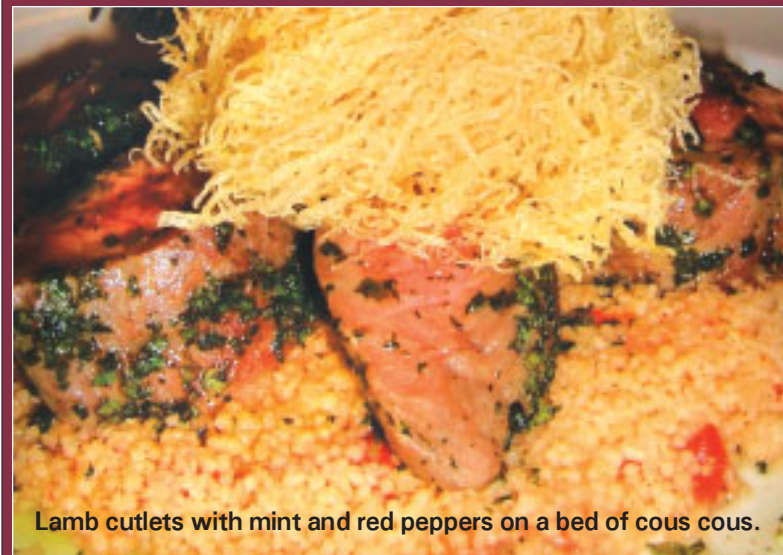


Avocado salad.



Gorgeous hunks – tuna.

# ALMOST 2 GOOD 2 BE TRUE



Lamb cutlets with mint and red peppers on a bed of cous cous.



Orzo – pearl barley – cooked risotto-style in beetroot juice.

or leave such weighty decisions up to Italian Executive Chef Pacifici Riccardo from Rome and Japanese Sous Chef Takashi Nakajima from Tokyo.

Gorgeous hunks – steady, ladies – of marinated tuna and zucchini in a Japanese style and a divine salad of avocado, tomatoes, tofu, peppers and various salad leaves make for a table resplendent with warm, Mediterranean sunshine colors.

Stunning again to both the eye and the palate are the next brace of dishes, *orzo* – pearl barley – cooked risotto-style in beetroot juice and *spaghetti alla chitarra con vongole e zucchini* (homemade pasta with courgettes and clams).

The *orzo* – which is served with a spoonful of a fragrant fondue of Parmigiano Reggiano, retains a hint of the taste of beetroot and all the color but is

as rich, warming and scoffable as anything I have ever loved. We hail this dish is the best find we have made in Phuket. Glorious.

Ah, now, that’s not to say that the pasta – a little of the broth from cooking the clams makes up the sauce – cannot compete; it can, but side by side with the *orzo*, this splendid pasta must come a very close second.

And the wines: a couple of glasses of the silken Cantine Leonardo Da Vinci Chianti got the ball rolling tonight before we move on to a slightly plummy Valpolicella Superiore Sagrasso.

A plate of delectable *tempura* – meaty white fish and prawns, and vegetables such as porcini mushrooms and aubergine – keep the two-tastes theme going before the main event arrives.

The *carrè di agnello alla menta con cous cous ai peperoni rossi* – lamb cutlets with mint and red peppers on a bed of cous cous – is magnificent; utterly tender, rich yet light, delicate but not without substance. We plow into it with gay abandon. Fabulous.

Old time is a-flying tonight, and we are sad that we have no precious minutes left to sink into the cigar lounge for a Cazadores or a Fundadores.

Double espressos – Illy is the chosen brand – poured over homemade vanilla ice cream sate us sufficiently for now, but we will be back.

Expect to pay around 1,500 baht per couple at 2 Gusti, excluding wine.

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# Happily Ever After

## Recent weddings in Phuket



Left: Linda Deman and Renout Van Hove from Belgium were married at The Evason Phuket Resort and Six Senses Spa on May 16.



Below: Wasinee Pakdepondon and Natchanon Putchim celebrated their wedding in the Phuket Ballroom at The Royal Phuket City Hotel on June 26.

Samruen Thompson is, in many ways, one of the paradigms for modern, educated women in Thailand – and beyond. She has made choices about the path of her life that for any 16- or 17-year-old girl of today's world might seem no less than is theirs by right.

But for a girl born in Siam in 1925 – even a very bright girl – her choices verged on radical.

K. Samruen went to a Bangkok high school, her studies including one year spent studying in the US.

After graduation, she said, "I was offered a scholarship to study medicine but I turned it down." Her reason was simple: "I couldn't face the prospect of seeing blood, and not just as a doctor; I didn't even want to do the dissection of rats and frogs, which is a necessary part of the training."

Instead, she requested that she be allowed to use the scholarship to study education or liberal arts.

"But I was not allowed to do so. At that time, a scholarship was for one course only; it was not transferable to any other program of study. You had to go through with it; it was a case of you do or you don't."

Instead, K. Samruen returned from Bangkok to work in her family business, a soda-bottling plant.

"I stayed working with my parents for two years. Then I received another scholarship offer, this time to study at teaching college."

She studied for three years during World War II, graduated, and then took a teaching job in Songkhla. She was just 18.

"The next year I was married and I had my first daughter at age 21 and my second at 23 years old."

K. Samruen explained that she and her family moved around Thailand for a number of years, teaching wherever they lived.

"I taught in Ubon Ratchathani and Bangkok, for example, before my husband was transferred to Phuket. I also received another scholarship, this time to study for a further degree in education."

She said that the period after the war was an exciting time for teachers in Thailand.

"Education in Thailand then was ... well, a little behind many Western countries, and the gov-

# MAKING

Samruen Thompson, 81, enjoys a remarkable life. The fifth of 10 children from a well-to-do Chumphon family, she carved out a career for herself encompassing education – which included meeting Robert Kennedy and working in gang-riddled areas of Los Angeles – and law enforcement in the US as an American citizen. She now divides her time between Louisiana and Phuket, where she spoke with the *Gazette's* Andy Johnstone about her experiences.

ernment of the day put strong emphasis on the nation 'catching up' with those countries to improve the education of Thai children.

"It was now 1959, and I had a bachelors' degree with honors in secondary education. I continued to teach here and enjoyed it very much; educating the new generation was – is – a very fulfilling job. The responsibilities you have are enormous," she said.

Yet it was not just the pupils under K. Samruen's tutelage who were furthering their education. She, too, maintained a very active interest in raising her abilities still further.

"In 1964, I received a further scholarship to study for a master's degree in education at Chulalongkorn University. The university had just opened its faculty of education – the first in the country – and I am honored to say that I was one of the first Thais to obtain a master's degree in the subject."

She was soon offered a position to teach in the same faculty.

Disillusionment soon set in, however, over territorial battles. "I was upset by this and retired from teaching for a while to stay at home with my family. Around this time, I opened my house to two American Peace Corps

teachers. I still remember their names: Diane and Marie.

"We got to know each other well, and after some time, Diane approached me and suggested that I apply to work in the US, teaching in the Peace Corps education program."

Surmounting her earlier disillusionment with teaching, K. Samruen made a successful application to the Peace Corps.

"I taught Thai language – and, in some ways just as important for the volunteers who would be traveling to Thailand – I taught them about Thai culture and customs, and how to work and live successfully in this country.

"I taught with the Peace Corps for a year, but decided to not renew my contract. Instead I decided to continue my studies and received US government funding to study for an advanced master of education degree at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles," she said, adding that she wanted to continue her education to doctorate level.

"There were, in the late 1960s, very few foreign students studying in the US. I had to work very hard to keep up with the American students because no special concessions were made to overseas students. Everyone was treated as if they were American.

"I am not saying that it is too easy for foreign students – in any country – to study these days, but my experience there made me very self-reliant. It forced me to study hard."

Her goal was to use her high level of education by returning to her native country and teaching again in a university.

"However, it didn't go as planned, and I remained in the US. I had fieldwork to do for my studies, and told my student counselor that I would focus on the Watts area of South Los Angeles.

"He tried to persuade me to choose another area of Los An-



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# THE MOST OF A LIFE



gang members encouraged parents to send their children, and little by little, beginning with just four children, the numbers grew.

The program grew to include adult education, with emphasis on learning arts and crafts to produce items to sell.

"It worked well," said K. Samruen, "and I believe it really helped many people."

"Bobby Kennedy visited the project during his 1968 presidential campaign and bought a number of paintings made by the community – they were very good."

She received her advanced master's degree from USC in 1970, and left Head Start to apply to the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD).

"The LAPD wanted more staff with master's degrees, and so I applied and was successful."

"But I didn't last long as a police officer. Even though I had spent a number of years in one of the toughest neighborhoods in the US, I was not used to violence; there was little in Chumphon when I was a child," she said.

"Using my success in joining the LAPD, I found I could

apply for a position in the FBI, but realized early that this job could also be dangerous, and anyway, I wanted to work on a more individual basis with people."

At the time, the LAPD and the Probation Bureau were both run by the County of Los Angeles, and it was quite easy to transfer from the police to the Probation Bureau.

"I became an investigating probation officer, dealing directly with defendants."

"There was a great deal of responsibility in this role. I visited people in prison to find out their side of the story behind their arrest. I wasn't working for them – it wasn't my job to try and have them found innocent – and nor was I working for the victim or the family of the victims."

"Rather, my role was to add balance to the judicial process. I could spend time investigating the defendants' circumstances, such as whether they were mentally unbalanced at the time."

"I am very proud of my work [with the Probation Bureau], and, with my colleagues, took great care to be balanced, impartial and fair to all parties."

One thing, however, that I will never forget, was the standard method of ending each report.

"We signed each report, 'Respectfully yours, Samruen et-cetera', before presenting it to the judge. I don't really know why, but there was something about those words, the importance of what I was doing, the effect my investigation and recommendations could have on another's life, that made me cry the last time I presented it."

"I was happy doing that work. I felt it," she said, placing her hand on her heart, "here."

K. Samruen worked for the Probation Bureau for 14 years until 1986, when she retired and moved to Louisiana.

She now splits her time between Phuket and Louisiana, and helps charities in both places.

There is a certain symmetry in her tale: through two American Peace Corps volunteers staying with her and helping Thais, K. Samruen then returned the favor, many times over.

Even in a nation where senior citizens are held in high esteem, K. Samruen is deserving of special respect.

geles, such as Pasadena or North Hollywood."

K. Samruen admitted that, despite knowing of the rioting that had taken place in the hot August of 1965, she did not grasp just how dangerous the area was. At least 34 people died in the riots, with a further 1,100 injured. More than 600 buildings were damaged or destroyed and 4,000 arrests were made.

K. Samruen paid her first visit to Watts soon after. "I wasn't scared because I simply didn't know anything about the real situation in Watts. I wanted to find out more about the area for myself," said K. Samruen.

Her first encounter gave her a stark lesson in reality.

"On my very first day in the area, as soon as I got off the bus – I remember it as if it were yesterday – seven or eight boys and young men approached me. The oldest – the leader – was around 28 years old while I suppose that the majority were in their early teens. Some, however looked to be no more than eight or nine years of age."

"They stared at me and surrounded me. Perhaps they couldn't tell how old I was; they were not used to Asian faces, and maybe they thought that I was far younger than I was, and a member of a rival gang."

"Their first question was, 'Who did you come with?' I was frightened, I thought I might be killed, but took a deep breath and said, 'Well sir, I will answer: I did not come to Watts by myself, but I came with God because I want

to do positive things for the people here."

K. Samruen explained more about why she was in Watts and that she was not American – "Or Mexican, which I was once mistaken for" – but Thai.

"The leader of the gang knew, and for the wrong reasons, where Thailand was. He said, 'Hey, that's next to Vietnam. My brother died in the Vietnam War.'"

The understanding that she posed no threat to them – in fact quite the opposite – made the gang protective towards her.

"Soon, I bought a car and the gang members 'guarded' it for me. If they had not, the wheels, the radio or the whole car might have been stolen," she recalled.

Having been made an American citizen – with approval being given by the then-Governor of California, Ronald Reagan – K. Samruen began working within the US government's "Head Start" program, an initiative set up under President Lyndon Johnson's War on Poverty.

"I received funding – subject to finding 16 young children who habitually skipped school – to set up a community education program in a local church. With 16 children, I could have three staff assisting me."

She explained that after long days walking around the area and receiving pledges from parents that they would ensure that their children came to school, on the first day none did.

"I was disappointed, but not put off. Incredibly, some of the

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This week



GM GETAWAY: Alan Wade (right), Executive Vice-President of Kata Group Resorts (KGR) Thailand, leads KGR General Managers and other senior management staffers in celebrating HM The King's Diamond Jubilee on the beach in front of the Kata Group's Kandaburi Resort & Spa on Samui.



RESPECT: Students at Satree Phuket School in Phuket City pay homage to their teachers during the annual *Wai Khru* (Teachers' Day) ceremony, held nationwide on June 8.



V2 LAUNCH: Phuket Vice-Governor Pongsak Plaivej (3<sup>rd</sup> from left), drinks a toast to A++ Software's launch of its latest accounting software, A++ version 2, at Central Festival Phuket on June 15. V/Gov Pongsak is joined by the company's founder, Mick Tonkin (wearing necktie), Prasit Yibmantasiri (4<sup>th</sup> from right) from business partner IT Life, A++ Software CEO Carol Fryer (2<sup>nd</sup> from right) and staff of the company.



MOTHERSHIP: Phuket Yacht Club (PYC) Commodore David Ratcliffe (center) and his wife and PYC Secretary Cindy Ratcliffe exchange yacht club pennants with Capt David Freeman LVO, Secretary of the Royal Thames Yacht Club (RTYC), at the RTYC in Knightsbridge, London. Capt Freeman was the last Captain of the *RY Britannia* before she was decommissioned.



GRADE 1 EDUCATION: Radi Medical Systems President Sauli Puomas Tulkki (rear, center, in yellow shirt), Pa Khlok Tambon Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*) President Panya Samphaorat and other *OrBorTor* officers on June 23 hand out learning games donated by Radi to children from Baan Pa Khlok, Baan Para and Baan Bang Rong pre-schools.



PARISIENNE PRIZE: Courts Megastore (Thailand) Assistant Managing Director Simon Maynard presents a "voucher" for 140,000 baht to Nattha Phakdeechai for a package tour to Paris for two people. K. Nattha won the prize, presented at the Courts national headquarters on the bypass road on June 23, in the Courts "Spend a thousand, get a million" lucky draw promotion.

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By Top Dog

Following the news coverage regarding Soi Dog Foundation's (SDF) apparent U-turn on its stance over the Mid Road Dog Shelter, Top Dog spoke with SDF board member Maxine Kent about the foundation's current view.

**Q:** In the past, SDF has strongly criticized the shelter and the way it was run. Why the apparent change of stance?

**A:** I think it is important to remember that SDF is now a Thai Foundation run by a board, and its decisions are made by that board.

In the past, the opinions expressed were very much those of individuals. SDF accepts that there is a need for a shelter on the island, but I think everybody appreciates that it is not the solution to the stray dog problem; with a maximum holding capacity of about 400 animals, that is a physical impossibility.

We also have to remember that we are guests here, and it is the view of the current board that it is far preferable to work together with the authorities to improve the situation than to stand back and criticize.

After all, we have the same aim, which is to see an end to the stray dog problem on Phuket.

**Q:** So what sort of dogs will be housed at the shelter?

**A:** Mainly dogs that have been abandoned and have nowhere else to go, dogs that are under threat or have been subjected to cruelty, and dogs that are a threat to either people or livestock.

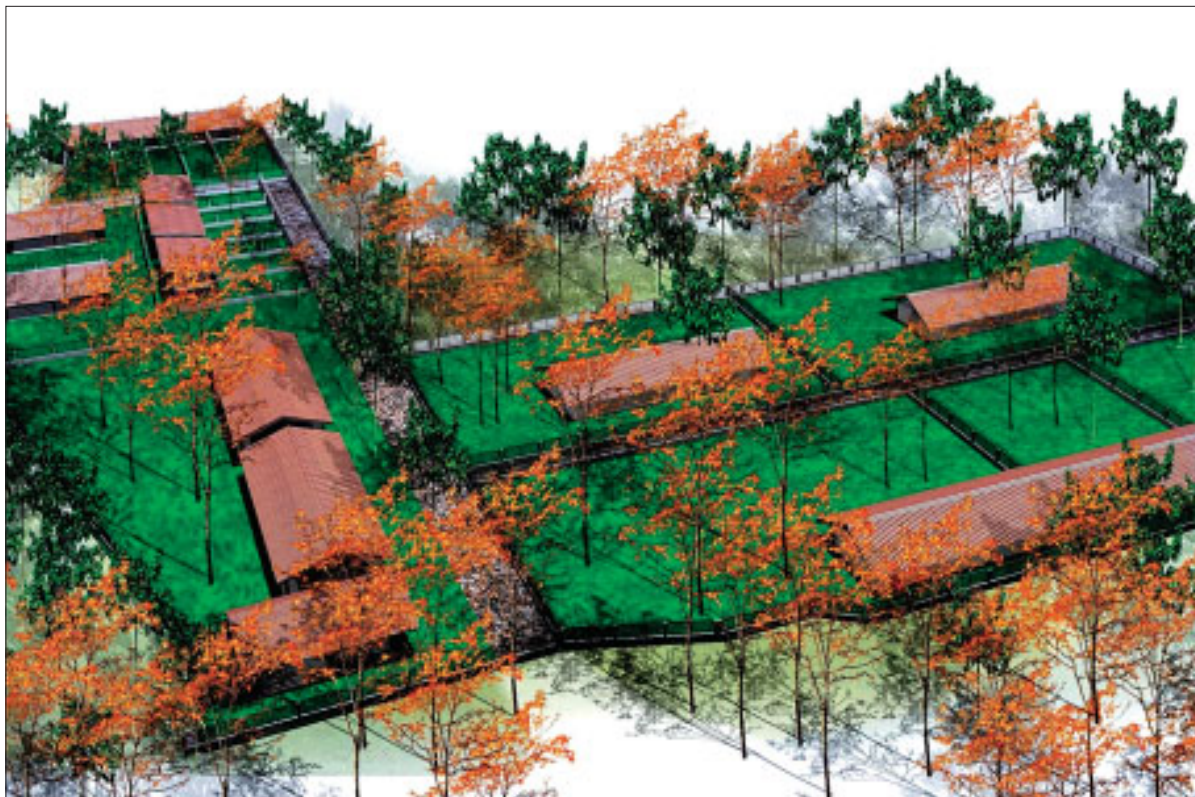
**Q:** Will euthanasia be carried out at the shelter?

**A:** Euthanasia is not generally practiced in Thailand and we must respect this.

Having said that, in the case of dogs that are clearly dangerous or suffering, then we have agreed that each case will be looked at on an individual basis.

**Q:** What changes will SDF make to the shelter?

**A:** The government has already made some significant improvements. SDF has drawn up plans that will see further improvements to drainage, security and wet weather protection.



SDF plan for the shelter

Graphic: Wanamakok Civil & Environmental Consultants Co Ltd.

# All working together to try to solve the problem of stray dogs in Phuket

In addition, a new clinic will be built to enable better medical treatment and provide sterilization facilities for dogs from the outside.

The existing staff are excellent but over stretched. Therefore we will provide additional staff, enabling us to work with the dogs on a one-to-one basis and make them suitable for re-homing.

**Q:** So the plan is that these dogs will be re-homed?

**A:** Yes. Not all of the dogs are suitable for re-homing, but the vast majority would make exceptional pets. In the West, the fashion for adopting dogs from rescue centers is such that many now have waiting lists.

In Thailand, however, the fashion is currently for exotic pedigrees, but hopefully that will change.

We have already had many dogs adopted from our center this year and hope this will continue.

**Q:** Will SDF continue with its center in Phuket City?

**A:** No. That center was never intended to be a shelter and is not suitable for that purpose.

Once improvements have been completed at the Mid Road shelter, any remaining dogs at our

center will be moved there and the old center will close. The staff currently working at the center will relocate to the Mid Road shelter.

**Q:** What sort of things can these volunteers do?

**A:** Everything from walking and exercising the dogs to bathing them and giving basic medical treatment.

**Q:** Does SDF still see sterilization as the answer to reducing the stray dog population?

**A:** Definitely. This year, we will sterilize more dogs than ever before, over 5,000.

With the Phuket Animal Welfare Society and the government also sterilizing, our hope is

that by the end of the year the majority of the stray population will be sterilized.

**Q:** Do you believe that we will ever see an end to stray dogs on Phuket?

**A:** That depends on a number of things. First, money! By the end of this year, SDF will have sterilized around 14,000 animals since starting work here in late 2003.

However, the reason we have been able to do this is primarily because of tsunami-based donations from overseas, particu-

larly from the World Society for the Protection of Animals.

Their sponsorship will finish at the end of this year, however. Unless we are able to raise further income from within Phuket, we will no longer be able to continue sterilizing at anything like the current rate.

If that happens, within a few years we would be back where we started, which would be bad for the island as well as the dogs.

The second factor is education. Too many owners continue to allow their dogs to breed indiscriminately.

Not a week goes by when we don't see unwanted puppies dumped at temples and other locations, adding to the problem.

We need to convince these people that there is nothing wrong with sterilizing their animals.

Third, large numbers of cute and cuddly puppies are being brought on to the island by traders looking to make a fast buck. Many of these puppies are simply dumped once they pass the cute stage.


We, along with the Governor, would like to see more control over animals being brought into Phuket, but whether this can ever be achieved is another question.


**Q:** There has been talk of introducing dog licenses in Phuket. Would this help solve the problem?


**A:** Dog licensing was abandoned a few years ago in Britain because it was unworkable and was actually cost more to administer than it raised in revenue.

I cannot honestly see how a license scheme here would work any better.

The cost of enforcing it would be prohibitive and it could actually add to the stray problem, as I am sure many people would abandon animals rather than pay for licenses.

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# The nose knows, you know...

By Andy Johnstone

As unlikely as it is to happen, were a celebrity punch-up ever to take place between two deceased people of my choosing, it would have to be between prolific writer Margaret Hungerford (d 1897) and philosopher David Hume (d 1776).

Why? Because both expressed the same basic opinion, although one was romantic while the other was almost harshly analytical.

Their shared opinion was that the beauty is subjective.

In her novel *Molly Bawn*, Hungerford wrote, "Beauty is in the eye of the beholder." A century earlier, Hume wrote, "Beauty in things exists merely in the mind which contemplates them."

Fast forward to Phuket, 2004, and the modern twist on the subject, uttered to the writer by a woman of Thai extraction at stupid o'clock in the morning: "Your big nose is beautiful."

Well, my nose is *not* big, but its shape has drawn envious comments in Thailand.

It seems that Asians are just as obsessed about the shape (or perceived shapelessness) of their noses as *any farang, gweilo, gweipo or gaijin*.

Countless is the number of cosmetic surgery clinics that will,

for a price, help the "afflicted" pick the nose they have always wanted. In Asia, the popularity of the Western nose is apparently running at an all-time high.

But why? It is certainly not as if the Asian nose is so ugly that it must be changed, nor is the Western nose so beautiful that it deserves to be copied.

I blame the beauty industry. As Baz Luhrmann pointed out in his 1999 hit *Everybody's Free (To Wear Sunscreen)*, "Do not read beauty magazines; they will only make you feel ugly."



You too can have a beautiful nose without undergoing surgery.

However, for Asian readers who hanker after an occidental nose but do not have the funds for a nose job, help is at hand from that fount of all ingenuity, the People's Republic of China.

The clamp-like device pictured here is called the Jiahe Nose Up. It is, according to the delightful blurb on the package, "ANTI-GERM & STINK-PROOF".

The potential buyer is further enticed with near-poetry: "In order to make your little nose clearer, more beautiful and full of happiness, this product is necessary for your nose!"

Hmm. Clamp your nose shut and, I am told, the chance of being able to have it "full of happiness" – surely a reference to Bolivian marching

powder – is zero.

The blurb on the rear of the package begins:

"Beautiful nose!! When? Where?" before offering handy hints in cartoon form:

Woman 1 (who does not look Asian): "When and where did you use Jiahe?"

Woman 2 (who also does not look Asian): "Idle talk, it's not the first time for me to drive!!" with the legend "...too when driving" underneath.

Woman 2, wearing the Jiahe and looking longingly at a Caucasian woman on TV, thinks: "The same as you." The legend reads, "...too when watching TV at home."

In the final frame we see Woman 2 asleep, still wearing the Jiahe and presumably dreaming of her new nose.

The legend reads: "...too when taking a nap after lunch or go to sleep at night."

Does the Jiahe work as a nose-altering product? Well, I'm no doctor, but I doubt it.

All it will do is cost you 65 baht and leave unsightly marks on your nose.

Better by far to ignore what is incorrectly defined as "The Perfect Nose" by those who seem so keen to have us all suffering from body dismorphia.

See your nose, instead, in all its glory, perfect as it is.

Just don't get me started on the subject of skin-whitening creams...

*The Jiahe Nose Up is available from Zeen Zone at Central Festival Phuket. Even if it doesn't fix your nose, it may be useful when buying durian (see right).*

What's that smell on every street corner?  
It's durian season again.  
The *Gazette's* Jenjira Ruengjarus and Stephen Fein tell you everything you wanted to know about the King of Fruits – in fact, possibly more than you wanted to know.

What tastes like heaven, smells like hell – and looks like it belongs in a medieval torture chamber? It's the one and only durian – praised by many as the "king of fruits", but whose regal status does not keep it from being banned from hotels, elevators and public buses thanks to its distinctive odor.

Writing in 1856, the British naturalist Alfred Russel Wallace wrote of its flavor: "A rich custard highly flavoured with almonds gives the best general idea of it, but there are occasional wafts of flavour that call to mind cream-cheese, onion-sauce, sherry-wine, and other incongruous dishes. Then there is a rich glutinous smoothness in the pulp which nothing else possesses, but which adds to its delicacy."

Sound tempting? Before you run out and buy one, consider English novelist Anthony Burgess' famous description: "Dining on durian is like eating vanilla custard in a latrine." Travel and food writer Richard Sterling remarked: "... its odor is best described as pig-shit, turpentine and onions, garnished with a gym sock."

Although durian is thought to have come originally from Borneo, there are an estimated 90,000 durian growers in Thailand, which is a major exporter of the fruit.

Commercially, the eastern seaboard provinces of Chanthaburi, Rayong and Trat are major producers, along with Chumphon in the South.

Although many varieties of the fruit are cultivated, commercial production in Thailand is dominated by just four. Probably the most popular is the *mon thong*, or "Golden Pillow" variety, which is also the largest. Also popular is the smaller *chane*, which means "gibbon", because the fruit tends to stick at the end of branches looking like a gibbon hanging on a tree.

The *kanyao* "long stalk" is so named because it is rather longer than other varieties, while the *kradumthong*, or "Golden Button" is named because its buds are relatively small.

Each variety has a distinct taste and its own group of supporters, many of whom will de-



pend their favorite with a fervor verging on religious zealotry.

*Chane* devotees tend to brand *mon thong* as a "sellout" variety, which – like the picture-perfect Washington apple or a blonde cheerleader – looks good, but comes up short in other areas, such as flavor.

Then there are the durian "purists" who say that all commercially cultivated durians have had the flavor "bred" right out of them, and that durian perfection can only be found in *durian baan*, or "house durian", which can be found growing in backyards all across southeast Asia.

Cheaper, smaller, more pungent, less yellow inside and with larger seeds, *durian baan* is in many ways comparable with the wild banana that comes with hard seeds inside.

Hardcore durian purists from Malaysia have been known to drive up into Southern Thailand during the June to October durian season in search of the intense flavors they crave.

They also hold as high trea-

**Buying a durian:  
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# Custard in the latrine

**‘Its odor is best described as pig-shit, turpentine and onions, garnished with a gym sock.’ It’s the magnificent durian.**



son the practice of eating a durian before it has ripened naturally and fallen from the tree under the strain of its own weight.

Any Thai will tell you that mixing alcohol and durian is a recipe for disaster, and that doing so will “heat up” the body or cause the imbiber to wake up with a fever the next day – or worse.

It’s a *ying* and *yang* thing, they say. Durian is “hot”, so if you eat it you should do so with equal quantities of “cool” mangosteen in order to balance out the potentially harmful imbalance.

The *Gazette* spoke to several doctors and conducted an Internet search, but failed to come up with any medical evidence to back up this widely-held claim – let alone implicate durian in any of those weird reports of spontaneous human combustion.

However, one of the writers of this column – back in his wild and crazy 20s – once bought a large durian and a bottle of Jack Daniel’s Tennessee whiskey, consuming both together over the course of an evening, with no ill-effects – or at least none that he can remember.

Getting back to the ever-present issue of smell, the *Gazette*’s Wanida Hongyok (aka Momma Duck) says that the solution to cleansing one’s palate

and fingers of durian smell comes not from a bottle of Listerine, but where one might least expect it: from the durian itself.

Here’s how to do it: After

gorging oneself on durian, take a section of the leftover husk, which will have a hollow, concave shape to it after the delicious pods and seeds have been removed. Fill the hollow portion with water, wait a minute – then drink it.

Somehow the white surface of the inner lining of the husk comes with its own natural anti-stinkproofing.

After drinking, fill another section with water and wash your hands in it and you will no longer be *persona non grata* among your colleagues or friends.

Locating and buying the perfect durian is a combination of art and science, the complexities of which are beyond the scope of this article.

Suffice it to say that real connoisseurs wouldn’t be caught dead buying pre-husked durian from a foam tray wrapped in

plastic, as you will sometimes see on sale at the market.

The definitive and highly humorous basics of durian selection are outlined in an article published in by 1989 Dr Alfred Tan, which can be found on the highly comprehensive Durian OnLine website ([www.ecst.csuchico.edu/~durian/](http://www.ecst.csuchico.edu/~durian/)): “Everything you want to know about the King but was [sic] afraid to ask!”

In summary, look for any holes in the husk, whether they be made by a squirrel, worm or curious buyer hoping to get a sneak preview. Pretend you are a Victorian shopping for a bride, not a fruit, and reject any and all durian that have a compromised husk.

After you have found one, shake it and listen. If you hear too much hollow movement inside it is probably all seed. If there is no movement and it seems heavy,

it may be overripe or even waterlogged. Reject in both cases.

After finding one with slight movement which seems about the right weight, give it the sniff test. If it is overripe, you will be able to smell it easily through the stalk. If there is no smell, it is probably unripe. Pick one that’s in between, with just a slight scent from the stalk.

After you have located the right one, do not let the prospects of eating it erode your patience: you will need this for bargaining.

Fortunately, here in Phuket, the durian that will fetch thousands of baht at a supermarket in Tokyo can often be found going right past your front door in a pickup truck for about 30 baht a kilogram, or even cheaper during a durian glut.

Attach your Jiahe Nose Up (see left), approach said pickup, and start your search...

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# Spa MAGIC



By Sangkhae  
Leelanapaporn  
**Cottara Spa**



# Double Delight

The Cottara Spa at the Diamond Cottage Resort & Spa in Karon has been open for two and half years, offering three kinds of treatments: Facial, Body Treatment and Body Massage, and package combinations of the three.

One can spend as little as 50 minutes or up to three hours at the spa and pay anywhere from 1,750 baht for a facial to 4,700 baht for a combination package.

I am welcomed by Sutinan "Jeab" Budsabok, Sales Executive & Acting Spa Manager.

"We have about five customers a day and most of them buy spa packages that take two hours or longer," she says. "Many of our customers book through the Internet. Our spa is popular because we are not expensive and we offer privacy."

K. Jeab leads me on a tour of the spa, which has six massage rooms – two of which have two massage beds apiece. Each room has a fan and air conditioning, so customers can have the room cooled to their preference, and each room is named after a flower – Orchid, Ylang Ylang, Rose, Frangipani, Jasmine and Lotus rooms.

A garland is hung on the

door of a room when it is occupied by a customer receiving treatment.

Every room has a shower and the double-bed massage rooms have two shower heads in the same shower cubicle for the guests who like to shower together.

I am alone, but I like the idea of having twice the space in the shower and the room – it makes me feel more relaxed than being in smaller rooms. Sadly, here I am in a beautiful spa, once again with no one to share the shower with. Maybe next time...

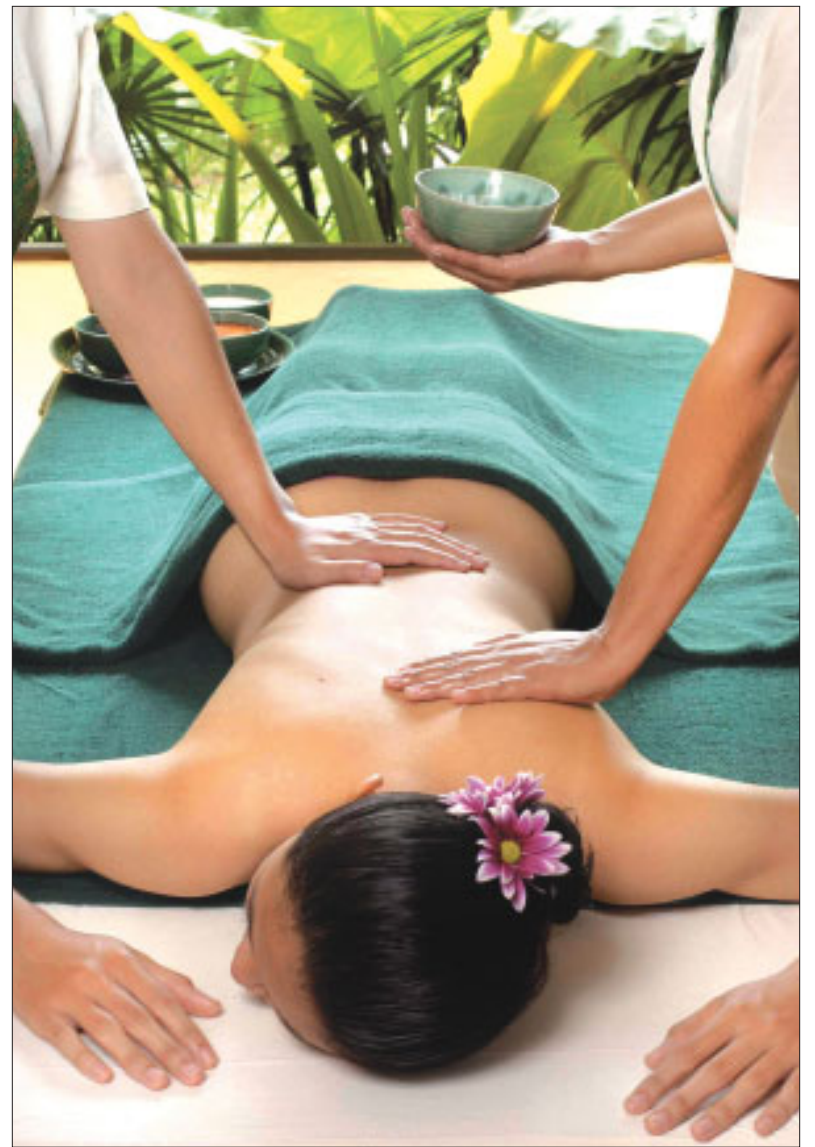
The spa is designed in a mix of Thai and Balinese styles, with the furniture made mainly of dark wood. I like the dark wood and the décor throughout the spa, which has a high-class feel.

Both the men's and women's changing rooms have a sauna and Jacuzzi, giving guests the chance to relax and open the pores of their skin before having their spa treatments. The hotel gym is also located at the spa, as is a hair and nail salon.

With the tour over, we get down to business, so to speak. K. Jeab explains that before carrying out any treatment, "We ask each guest for personal details and recommend certain treatments for them because some treatments are unsuitable for certain types of skin."

She explains that the spa uses only manufactured products from Jurlique of Australia because it is a quality brand most customers already know.

"We do not use Thai herbs



to make our own spa products because some guests are allergic to some of the ingredients, which is another reason why the spa uses Jurlique products – they are non-allergenic."

I opt for the Aromatherapy Facial to be followed by the Cottara Massage. K. Muay, who started working at the spa almost a year ago, is the therapist for my facial. She begins by removing my makeup and then uses a cleanser followed by an almond facial scrub to leave my face feeling fresh and clean.

She then applies the Jurlique Floral Water followed by Face Oil, before settling in with my facial massage. K. Muay says that the face needs to be massaged just like any other part of the body, "because we use muscles in our faces to create our expressions every day.

"People should have a facial massage twice a month because massaging the lymphatic glands around the face helps blood circulation to the face and helps to keep the face looking young and fresh," she explains.

After about 20 minutes, K. Muay cleans the mask off with a warm towel and uses the aromatic hydrating concentrate before applying face lotion and eye gel.

After the face massage it is time for the Cottara Massage, the spa's popular trademark massage performed by two therapists at the same time. For me it will be K. Muay along with K. Tiew, who has worked at the spa for more than two years.

The Cottara Massage, which takes about 50 minutes and costs 2,500 bant, is the zenith of massage experience. Four hands instead of two working my body at the same time – that's hard to beat.

The massage begins with one working my back and the other working my legs, though I can't tell who is doing what because I am lying face down and both masseuses are applying exactly the same amount of pressure. It really feels like I am being massaged by a four-handed masseuse.

According to the spa menu, the massage uses "unique combinations of four massage styles – aromatherapy, Swedish, Sport and Thai [to ensure] that every nerve ending is caressed ... hypnotic, exotic and euphoric". That sounds right; after 50 minutes of such a supreme workover, I feel unbelievably relaxed. And the next day my skin feels soft and smooth.

Customers who choose package spa treatments are offered a 30-minute foot massage or may have their fingernails painted free. I opt to have small flowers painted on my nails. This takes only 20 minutes – quick and cute.

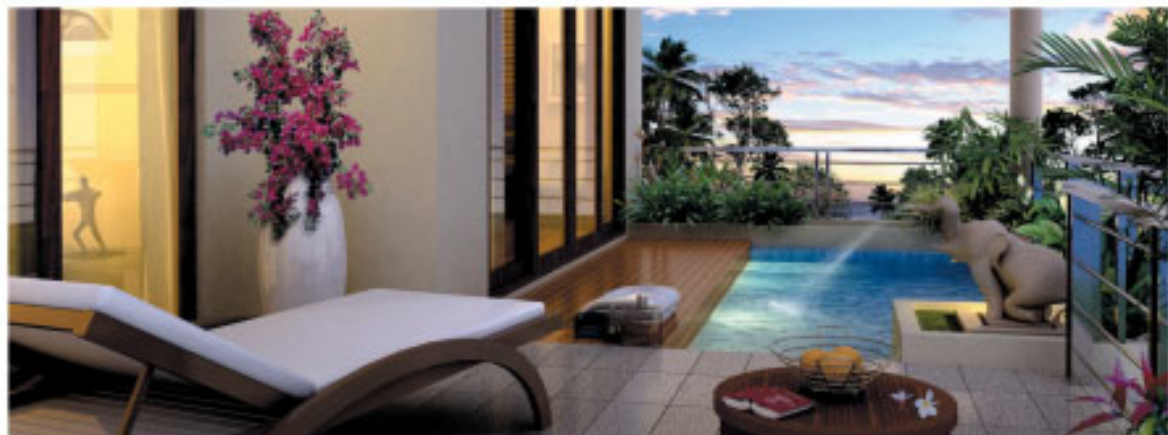
Back in the reception area, K. Jeab explains, "We are currently offering 40% discount to hotel guests and 30% discount off spa menu prices to the general public.

"Our current standard promotion for customers is that if a customer buys two spa treatments we will give them another spa treatment of the same value free."

*The Cottara Spa is at the Diamond Cottage Resort & Spa on Karon Rd, Kata, near Dino Park. Tel: 076-286447-50. Fax: 076-286451. Email: info@diamondcottage.com. Open daily from 10 am to 7 pm. All prices are in baht and include VAT. There is no service charge.*

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# UBIN THERE?

Every so often while on Pulau Ubin you have to stop to remind yourself that it is actually part of Singapore. You won't find any high-rises here, still less sealed roads. This island is the complete antithesis of the glittering boutiques of Orchard Road, the computerized road-pricing of downtown and the regimented fun of Sentosa Resort.

Two kilometers offshore, tucked up in a lazy backwater of the Johore Strait, Ubin is as uncluttered and disordered as can be imagined.

As soon as you step from Changi Pier into the oily bumboat that belches black smoke as it putters across to Ubin village, you'll get the idea that you're stepping through Singapore's looking glass.

There'll be few other passengers - perhaps a few school kids and a couple of mums who've been shopping.

There's little in the way of scheduled entertainment on Ubin; the shopkeepers seem to be marking time rather than getting on with running their businesses, and the whole place moves at pace of the ancients playing checkers in the brace of cafés near the waterfront.

## TALES OF A TRAVELER

By Ed Peters

The thing to do is pick up a mountain bike from one of the two hire shops, return and exchange it for one with brakes that work and a proper set of tires, and head off into the bush. Hand-drawn maps are available from the shops but they are not exactly stunning exemplars of the cartographer's art. It doesn't matter, though. The island is only seven kilometers by two, and on Ubin nothing much matters anyway.

Hornbills and straw-headed bulbuls sing from the trees on either side of the trails that wind back and forth over Ubin, and there is a genuine sense of wilderness.

Both smooth and Oriental small-clawed otters have been spotted on Ubin, and dugongs and pods of dolphin sometimes break the surface offshore. Troops of long-tailed macaques romp about the woods, and red jungle fowl, the ancestor of the domestic chicken, browse the forest floor.

Wild boar abound, probably



Above, board games rarely reach frenetic levels; below, the disused quarry is great for a quick dip.



due to the elimination of predators that used to keep their numbers in check. The tapir population has died out, but in 1997 rumors of a tiger swept the island.

Most incredibly, a herd of elephants swam over from Johore in 1990, but found the island too small for their liking and paddled back to the mainland.

Naturally, there are few sign-posts here. With a bit of trial and error, you'll probably end up at the old quarry from which Ubin, which means granite, draws its name. There you'll find a huge excavation partly filled with water that's ideal for a dip.

A seafood joint on the north shore, imaginatively called the "Ubin Restaurant", is usually cited as the best on the island, though the competition is not exactly stiff. Other offerings include Encik Ali bin Montail's Malay establishment by the jetty, and Ubin First Stop, which used to be a maternity clinic, both falling squarely in the cheap-and-cheerful category.

One of Ubin's more remote corners hosts a Buddhist temple decorated with scary images of the penalties awaiting evil-doers in the afterlife.

It is run by Phra Krusangarak Boonrai Panyataro, a monk who walked from Thailand to study and pray somewhere he could find solitude and peace. After a day here, it's easy to see why he chose Pulau Ubin.



Ubin's green and leafy trails are tailor-made for mountain bikes.

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# PUZZLES

# The Cryptic Crossword

## Spot the Difference

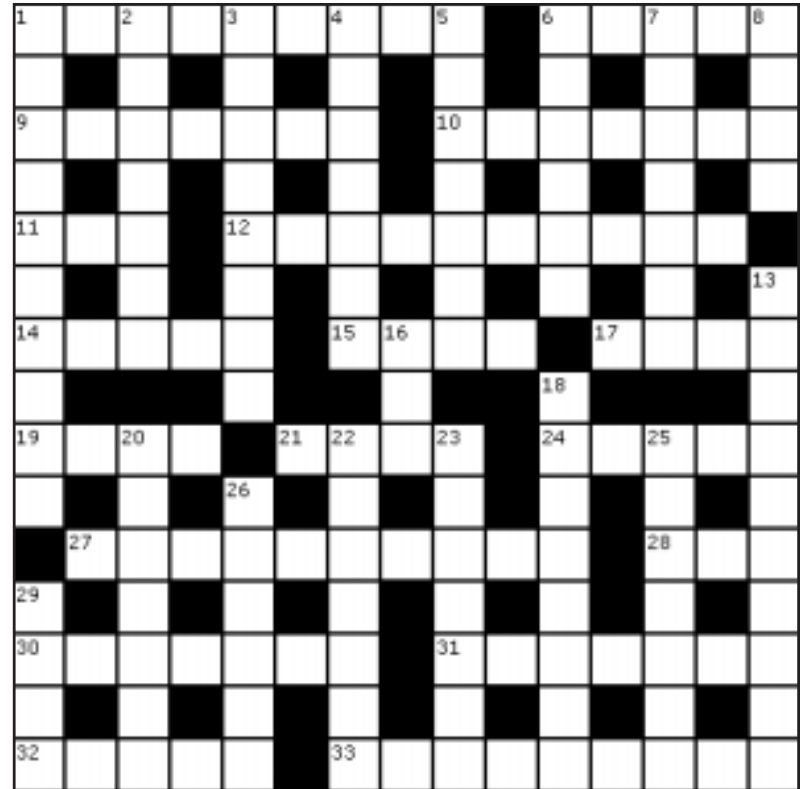


Can you find the seven differences between the two cartoons below? And can you find them faster than the rest of the family?



### ACROSS

1. Down-payment Ed put in bank. (9)
6. It's right, they say, or could have been. (5)
9. Con trick takes it brooding. (7)
10. Public speaking, or a Conservative. (7)
11. Virginia is after no eggs. (3)
12. Agreement to make new village. (10)
14. City in California with most of iron. (5)
15. Hotel gets court orders, they say. (4)
17. Employed second-hand. (4)
19. Was carried along the road, so to speak. (4)
21. Assist a wager. (4)
24. Help to feel poorly in Virginia. (5)
27. Agree with tenancy payment at the same time. (10)
28. Edible, but in the sky it's a fantasy. (3)
30. Red tape reversed and got slimmer. (7)
31. Mother's auto a make-up. (7)
32. King is sad I'm back. (5)
33. Poorly manage Delhi man's tangle. (9)



Compiled by Tortuus. © 2006

### DOWN

1. Disturb composure of Diana's performance. (10)
2. Down south, say, tap a leg joint gently. (7)
3. Scuttle after mistakes poorly made. (8)
4. Drunker and meaner. (7)
5. Lord! Pet chewed up a little bit of liquid. (7)

6. Siam Ma mistook for poisonous cloud. (6)
7. Bans from flying – for good reasons. (7)
8. Small dogs' playthings. (4)
13. Pollute grown-up – point to speed. (10)
16. Freeze drug. (3)
18. Disney movie in Phuket City nightspot?
20. Let go actor Johnny – with no road back. (7)
22. Boom about Communist tedium. (7)
23. Mother's wrecked the insulator. (7)
25. Show approval: a very quiet praise. (7)
26. As in cereal, nuts. (6)
29. Tiny bit of a male cat. (4)

Solution on next page

## Scribble Space



## su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

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

MEDIUM

The principle of Sudoku is very simple: each row, each column and each "box" of nine squares within the puzzle must contain all the numbers from 1 to 9 with, naturally, no repetitions. Guess if you will, but each Sudoku puzzle can be solved using logic alone. Beware: this puzzle has only one solution, which is on the next page.

## EZ Trivia Quiz

1. What is the largest moon of Saturn?
2. What is the capital of Vietnam?
3. Carbohydrates consist of what three elements?
4. Which province of Thailand has the smallest population?
5. When was the Berlin Wall torn down?
6. What are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet?
7. What tool does the Grim Reaper supposedly carry?
8. What message pops up when the cursor hovers over the start button in the Windows operating system?
9. What does HIV stand for?
10. Which scholarship, first awarded in 1902, provides successful candidates with two years of study at the University of Oxford?

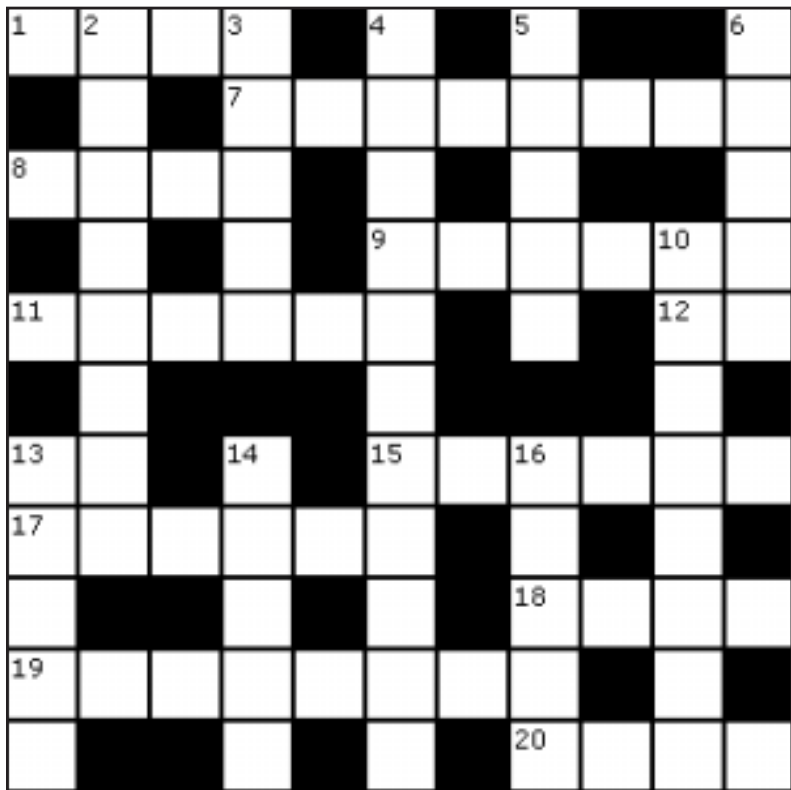
Answers on next page

## Rhyme Time

The words described below all rhyme with 'slime'. What are they?

1. A clock sound.
2. To ascend.
3. An offense against the law.
4. Dirt.
5. A citrus fruit.
6. A herb.
7. A silent actor.
8. Foremost.
9. Ten cents.
10. The fourth dimension.

Answers on next page



### Quick Crossword

- ACROSS**
- Canal surrounding a castle.
  - Green vegetable.
  - Nothing.
  - Gambler.
  - Wheat, for example.
  - Not available.
  - Saint or street.
  - Damage or hurt.
  - Non-stick stuff.
  - Fog-smoke mixture.
- DOWN**
- Financial records.
  - Not difficult.
  - Egg dish.
  - Type of steak (1-4).
  - Whining.
  - Religious or computer images.
  - Coronet.
  - Huge.
  - Water above 100°C.
  - Arm joint.
  - Mr James, train robber.

Solution below, right

## Get your brain in gear with The Monster Quiz



Kids! Ask Mum and Dad to help you find the answers to these questions. They're not easy but, if you do some research, you should be able to find the answers to all of them.

- Which actor, born July 8, 1958, is as famous for the game "Six Degrees of..." as for his acting?
- Glengarry Glen Ross*, *Cryptogram* and *Oleana* are works by which American playwright?
- Mansion House is the official residence of which British official position?
- Palladian is an adjective that refers to a style of what?
- The 38th parallel north roughly bisects which Asian peninsula?
- What is the name of the last ruling dynasty of Montenegro?
- What is the National Diet of Japan?
- Where and in which year was the first ATM brought into service?
- Who was the first person to use it?
- The Caged Skylark*, *The Wreck of the Deutschland* and *The Habit of Perfection* are works by which British Victorian poet?
- Which band released the album *Larks' Tongues in Aspic* in 1973?
- Bliss*, *The Doves' Nest* and *The Aloe* are works by which New Zealand writer?
- What did Simón Bolívar, George Orwell and Doc Holliday have in common?
- Although infamous as a gunfighter and gambler, Doc Holliday trained as what?
- Name the SI unit of luminous intensity.
- Name the statue on the Mamayev Kurgan overlooking Volgograd.
- In which city would you find statues nicknamed The Stiletto in the Ghetto, The Dolly with the Trolley and The Ace with the Bass to be found?
- Where is it thought that the dish *ceviche* originated?
- What are the two sizes of target – for prone and standing shooting – used in competitive biathlon?
- What is the capital of the self-declared Nagorno-Karabakh Republic?

Answers below, left

# Puzzle Solutions

### Monster Quiz Answers

- Kevin Bacon; 2. David Mamet; 3. The Lord Mayor of London; 4. Architecture; 5. The Korean Peninsula; 6. The House of Petrovic-Njegos; 7. The country's legislature; 8. Enfield Town, UK in 1967; 9. Comedy actor Reg Varney; 10. Gerard Manley Hopkins; 11. King Crimson; 12. Katherine Mansfield; 13. They all died of tuberculosis; 14. A dentist; 15. The candela; 16. *Rodina Mat' Zovyot!* or *The Motherland Calls!* 17. Dublin; 18. Peru; 19. 45mm and 115mm; 20. Stepanakert.

### Solution to Cartoon Puzzle



#### EZ Trivia Answers:

- Titan; 2. Hanoi; 3. Carbon, oxygen and hydrogen; 4. Ranong; 5. 1989; 6. Alpha and Omega; 7. A scythe; 8. "Click here to begin"; 9. Human immunodeficiency virus; 10. Rhodes Scholarship.

#### Rhyme Time Answers:

Chime, climb, crime, grime, lime, thyme, mime, prime, dime and time.

### Cryptic Crossword Solution



### Quick Crossword Solution



### Sudoku solution





Nic Dunlop is part of a small group of daring black-and-white photographers I think of as "The Sons of Phil".

Phil Blenkinsop, that is, the Australian photographer who came to Bangkok a decade before them, specializing in gritty and grisly scenes in Cambodia and Burma. Before Blenkinsop, Philip Jones Griffith of the Vietnam war era pioneered the style.

Dunlop's particular obsession was Comrade Duch, the commandant of the infamous Khmer Rouge torture center of S-21 at the Tuol Sleng secondary school in Phnom Penh, where 40,000 victims were savagely tortured before being led to the "killing fields".

"I first became aware of Cambodia from a National Geographic article in the early 1980s," Dunlop writes in his latest book, *The Lost Executioner: A Story of the Khmer Rouge* (Bloomsbury Publishing, London, 2005, 279pp).

"Along with the photographs from ancient temples in the jungle were images of mass graves that had just been exhumed. What struck me was how fertile and vibrant the countryside looked. Amid this emerald landscape clothes and skulls were mixed in the chocolate earth, as though the countryside had melted in the midday sun to reveal a terrible secret."

He watched the movie *The Killing Fields* 15 times in London and began doing serious research. Armed with a Leica, 19-

# The last great demon of the Khmers Rouges

year-old Nic Dunlop took off for Cambodia in 1989 on a personal mission: to track down Duch, who had disappeared when Phnom Penh fell to the Vietnamese in 1979.

"For me, Cambodia had become shorthand for all that was wrong with the world," he writes. "I wanted to understand how a movement that laid claim to a vision of a better world could instead turn people into instruments of overwhelming evil, producing a revolution of unparalleled ferocity ... And I wanted to know what it was that had turned a seemingly ordinary man from one of the poorer parts of Cambodia into one of the worst mass murderers of the twentieth century."

Armed with a photo of Duch, Dunlop scoured the countryside in his search. He interviewed Duch's mother and sisters, his teaching colleagues, his students, the guards and a handful of survivors of S-21.

What emerged was a complex portrait of a gentle child, brilliant student, idealistic teacher, hardened cadre, sadistic torturer. The mystery remained: how did Duch turn into a monster?

By 1999, Dunlop was growing discouraged. Cambodia was



## Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt

old news. Editors in London turned his photos down. Then one day, after hitching a ride with a mine-clearance team into the former Khmer Rouge district of Samlaut in Cambodia's northeast, he simply came face to face with Duch outside the district office.

"A short, wiry man appeared wearing a white T-shirt emblazoned with the initials ARC (American Refugee Committee). Shaking my hand he politely introduced himself in perfect English as Hang Pin," Dunlop writes.

"He told me that he had been a schoolteacher specializing in mathematics and that he had originally come from Phnom Penh and had recently worked in a refugee camp on the Thai border. He had worked with Ameri-

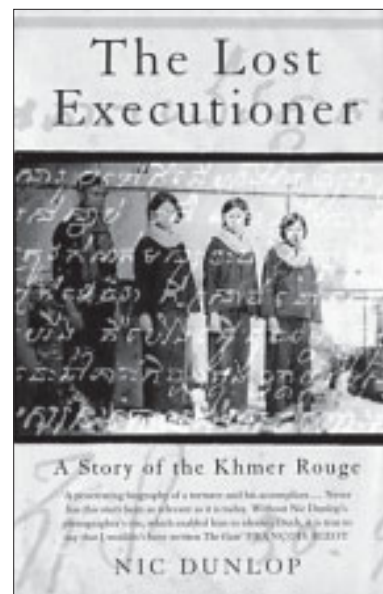
can aid organizations since 1997 ... Large ears, bad teeth, cropped hair – he had aged a little, but the likeness to the photograph tucked in my back pocket was unmistakable. Hang Pin was Comrade Duch."

Dunlop flew to Bangkok, developed his film of Duch, alerted the *Far Eastern Economic Review*, and returned to Duch's village with Nate Thayer, ace reporter who found Pol Pot three years previously. Confronted by Thayer, Duch confessed.

"It is God's will that you are here," he said. "I have done very bad things before in my life ... The first half of my life I'll remember for ever. Now my future is in God's hands."

He had been converted to Christianity in 1995 and baptized in Battambang by a Cambodian-American pastor. Now he said, "Then I thought that God was very bad, that only bad men prayed to God. My unique fault was that I didn't serve God, I served men. I served communism."

Duch eventually surrendered and has been awaiting trial in a Phnom Penh prison for the past five years. Dunlop never saw him again.



'It is God's will that you are here,' he said. 'I have done very bad things before in my life...'

This is a moving personal account, all the more powerful for being told in a simple, conversational style. There's no need to strain for literary effects here.



## Momma DUCK

By Wanida Hongyok  
momma@phuketgazette.net

Dear Momma Duck,

The other day I was talking with some Thai friends of mine about getting older and still being single, and the phrase *kheun khahn* popped up. It was explained to me that it was used to describe a single woman who was "left over".

I'm still not sure if my friends simply meant a spinster, which in English might have negative connotations for some people, but there is nothing inherently negative in the phrase's meaning of "a single woman".

Indeed, in my native Australia we have "Bachelor and Spinster balls" – better known as B&S balls – where young single people show they are proud to be single and have a hell of a good time while they're at it.

# Singularly unique among the leftovers

Can you please explain to me what *kheun khahn* really means? Is it slang? Can it be used for men as well as women? If it does simply mean "a spinster", then why the negative connotation?

Curious in Samkong

Dear Curious,

The phrase *kheun khahn* or to make it more modern *kheun khahn thong* is a word that would hurt the feelings of women from any generation. It means a single, older woman who has not found a suitor.

According to Kunvijitmatra, an expert on the Thai language, the word derives from the process of moving a boat into a dry dock for repairs. In cases such as this the boat is unusable.

Apart from *kheun khahn*, the phrase *sao kae* is also used to refer to older single woman. It is strange that both Thai and Western cultures regard older unmarried women in a negative light while older unmarried men seem to be regarded positively. Isn't this chauvinistic?

Nowadays women with a good education are looking for an equal partner. If they can find a suitable person, then of course they will take their chance. Many women may think it is necessary to get married, others, though, are

happy to lead a single life. Women can now have a leading role in the family, they can be both self-supporting and also take care of the children.

The first edition of *Bangkok Sunday* newspaper in 2000 featured a survey of the feelings and attitudes of single women in "preparing to live a single life". Of the 285 respondents, 178 said they preferred to be single and many of them felt they did not suffer any stigma from society in general. One in three single women, however, were not happy with remarks made by the others.

Those remarks can, often unintentionally, reveal the speaker's true thoughts about single women.

They imply that female singletons tend to have unstable moods or are unable to find any-

one to support them. Those who have been living independently long enough will find that freedom really exists.

Also, in our culture, there are many ways to help prevent single people from feeling lonely in their old age.

They can, for example, seek shelter in *dhamma* and meditation among those who share the same feelings. This is the best way for all of us.

I don't think the B & S balls would be successful in Thailand because of our culture and way of thinking.

There would be few single women who would dare to attend the balls; it would be too much for them to show their faces and be labeled as single.

A blind date or advertisement in the newspaper or on the Internet would be more acceptable.

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## Falling through the cracks

One thing people experienced in the media recognize well is the cyclical nature of events that qualify as "news". To be sure, there are one-off events such as natural disasters, brutal murders, particularly brazen corruption scandals or freak accidents that catch the media's attention and grab headlines.

These, however, tend to be superimposed upon other cycles that are more time-dependent, such as the Olympic Games or World Cup that come around every four years, annual budget deliberations [at least in counties with functioning governments], five-year economic plans, school holiday breaks and seasonal occurrences, such as flooding and drought.

Then there are the government-led crackdowns that more closely follow the time demands of political expediency; these focus more on the type of intractable social vices that help politicians and bureaucrats appear active and in control. Such vices include drunk-driving, teenage violence, drug abuse, land encroachment issues and threats to the national well-being posed by resident foreigners, whether they be Burmese fisherman, European property developers or dive instructors.

There are also, however, smaller issues that affect just about everyone on a day-to-day basis, but which seldom, if ever, generate enough "sex appeal" to make it into the news.

One such issue confronting Phuket is the deplorable state of our public sidewalks, where they exist, and the lack of functioning traffic lights and pedestrian overpasses.

In some countries, lack of facilities for the disabled is deemed newsworthy. Not so in Phuket, where even the most able-bodied will find trying to walk any great distance along a public road a source of stress and a safety challenge that only a "Free Runner" would voluntarily take on.

Pedestrians here are forced to maneuver along public pavements that more closely resemble obstacle courses, strewn as they are with everything from parked and moving motorbikes to vendors' stalls replete with vats of boiling oil.

The entire island suffers in this regard, but one good example can be found near the *Gazette* offices. The entire length of Yaowarat Rd, all the way from where it starts downtown to where it turns and heads left towards Tesco-Lotus in Samkong, has but one functioning pedestrian light – and not a single pedestrian overpass.

It is high time the local authorities cracked down on those who encroach on public walkways, and also provide means for pedestrians to get across streets with heavy traffic without having to resort to the "go halfway and pray" strategy.

– 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.

### Continuing fallout from Aftermath

The *Phuket Gazette* berates the makers of the television mini-series *The Aftermath* [Editorial, issue of June 24] for "a form of patronization bordering on racism in the way that Western extras have been paid far more than their Thai counterparts."

Is that fair comment or an unreasonable criticism bordering on hypocrisy?

It's standard practice in Thailand for Westerners to be paid more for performing similar tasks to Thais. In many cases, the law even ordains that foreigners must be paid more by setting higher rates, even nominating different rates for specific nationalities.

Perhaps, when reporting on, say, a pleasant experience at a spa, the *Gazette* pays its Thai reporters similar rates to its foreign reporters. After all, they are performing similar tasks. However, that would be very unusual.

Most companies in Thailand employing foreigners pay them much more than the Thais. If there is "a form of patronization bordering on racism" being practiced through pay rates, it's widely entrenched and it has the support of all those foreigners who accept higher rates as well as the companies and the government.

Singling out the BBC-HBO production for trenchant criticism is hardly just, given that they are probably obliged to offer more to attract foreign extras.

To lift the pay rate of the Thai extras to match that of the foreigners would be something no profit-driven organization operating in such a market place would attempt.

"Patronization bordering on racism"? If so, there's a lot of it about. And I wonder what the pay rates were for the extras who got to play the Burmese laborers.

Marcia Mallows  
Rawai

### Danger! Children on motorbikes

I find it very disturbing to see so many people with very young babies and children on their motorbikes, both Thais and foreigners. I find it very hard to understand because I know people love their children. Do they just believe nothing will happen? Or is it a lack of safety education and enforcement?

I can count on one hand how many times in the past three years I have seen a Thai child wearing a helmet.

Can you tell us the age ranges of the victims in their motorbike injury and death statistics? How many deaths and injuries were to young children and teenagers?

CS  
Kata

*The Gazette* obtains statistics from the Provincial Public Health Office (PPHO) which in turn receives them from the hospitals. The hospitals supply only the numbers of dead and injured, not their ages. –Editor

### Sadness over wildlife

I found your article about the illegal gibbon problem and lack of support by local police quite disturbing and sad. It seems simple to find the people breaking the

law. At least confiscating the gibbons should not be so hard. Also, Phuket is fortunate to have a gibbon rehabilitation center.

Recently, while at Kata viewpoint, I came across a pickup truck with four birds in it. All four birds were constrained with a rope around one foot. Is it possible that the owner has permits?

I have often seen touts offering tourists the chance to have their photo taken with birds in return for payment. Although people may be impressed to be so close to wildlife, clearly it is an indication that Thailand is still a developing nation.

I applaud K. Awat of the Wildlife Conservation Office for offering his own mobile number and speaking out about the lack of support from local police.

CS  
Kata

*Note: CS included a photograph of the truck. Nature Notes columnist Dave Williams was able to identify three of the birds. Two were white-bellied sea-eagles and one a brahminy kite. – Editor*

### Harrassment of dive industry is pointless

If I were Governor of Phuket, I would ask Phuket's Chief Administrative Officer (*Palad*) Nivit Aroonrat [see *Gazette*, issue of June 24] to collect information about the island's diving industry in a positive – not a harassing – manner, and to work together with the multi-billion-baht industry, not against it.

The dive industry is a vital part of Phuket's tourism industry

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Letters conveying views and suggestions are published here. Those seeking comment from government officials or business owners are published as *Issues & Answers* in the *Phuket Gazette* Online.

# Teachers must relate to their pupils to prevent violence

I don't know the reasons behind the recent serious violence between girl students that has made headlines. I was not there, but I believe the violence could have been prevented.

Even though I am now 60 years old, I still have to adapt to new things and to the behavior of new generations, even learning how they talk. Not all societal change is bad. We older people should change, too.

I have no children so, during my time as a teacher, I have always thought of my students as my children, whom I must love, care for and be responsible for. I give 100% of my heart to the students and I want to see them all become good people.

I was a teacher for more than 30 years before being appointed Director, in charge of managing the Vocational College. From this experience, I know that every teacher must have an understanding of teenage psychology if violence of this nature is to be prevented.

These days, many teachers graduate from university and go straight into teaching without being trained to be teachers first. They have no experience in handling student psychology.

Teenage students want to know everything, see everything and try everything, so it is important to organize activities to keep them busy.

We give them a lot of work to do in college so that they do not have much free time. Teenagers are full of energy and if they have too much time on their hands, they may do something that will get out of control.

We have the program of internships at companies, which allows them to use what they are studying and also gives them a taste of real life.

It's good for them to be in a

## FIRST PERSON

Frightening movies of girl students, in school uniform, beating other girls and captured on mobile video-phones, have been in the news recently. The beatings were not isolated incidents – two were recorded at different schools within a couple of weeks. In addition, a school-girl in Chiang Mai died recently after her head was smashed repeatedly against the floor at her school.

**Somjit Sutthangkul**, Director of the Phuket Vocational College, where 90% of the students are girls, argues that it is possible to prevent such incidents. Indeed, she believes, it is one of the gravest responsibilities of teachers to do so.

Here she explains how she has managed to prevent this happening in her college, and suggests remedies for schools that have already experienced such violence.



working environment because they will learn that working life is serious and requires discipline.

We have about 3,000 students at the college and 90% of them are girls between 15 and 18 years old. As we have only 56 teachers, this is a very heavy responsibility for them. Even so, I emphasize that teachers must get close to every single one of their students.

There are a number of points that teachers should know and understand.

- Girls enjoy talking without thinking. If they blurt out something that's not good, problems may result. So we steer them toward positive subjects by having them stand in front of the class or on the stage and talk about topics we choose, such as "How to be a leader".

- When teenagers fight and

others are egging them on, they want to show off and so they do it more, so that people will know they are tough.

- Sometime teachers are afraid of aggressive students and don't want to get involved. This is a big problem. Teachers must resolve problems, and quickly. They must find out the real reasons behind conflicts between students.

- Never force teenagers to do anything. Talk with them so that they understand better why they should or should not do something.

- Never criticize students in public. Do it one-on-one.

- The class teacher – who is responsible for a class of students – must get to know each of the students in that class individually, and be like a parent. They must know the students'

social background, and all about their family life.

- Know who the "risk" students are – the ones most likely to cause problems. Organize more activities for them to try to soften their behavior. With this group it is even more important to be a "mother"; a good mother can change a child's behavior.

I keep a list of the students in the risk group, with their pictures, and often have them visit my office for a general chat, or to teach them about life by using parables or fables.

- Educate the risk group in the potential dangers of their behavior. For example, I arrange for them to visit Aids patients so that they learn the truth. This costs money, but we need to invest to improve students' lives.

- Because I am close to them, the students will tell me their

problems and what they are worried about, and I can listen and help them solve these problems. I make an absolute guarantee that discussions such as this are strictly confidential and will never reach other ears. I don't even tell my husband about them.

- I tell students that it is alright to make mistakes – just don't make the same mistake twice.

- Do not stay aloof; I say "hello" to them, or touch their arm. If they wave to me, I wave back.

- Do not be confrontational. If I see a student wearing earrings in college, which is against the rules, I will ask her, "How old are you?" and then keep quiet until she asks, "Why?" Then I'll say something like, "I was just remembering when I was your age, and whether we

had this fashion in earrings or not." That way she will know that I have noticed she is breaking the rules.

It is tiring to keep an eye out all the time for details like this, but it is important, in order to stop bigger problems from developing.

- To prevent fighting, ensure that students from different courses frequently mix and work together. I have adapted our system so that students from the Commercial Faculty and the Catering Faculty, say, work together and do not end up feeling antagonistic toward each other.

If other school or colleges that have problems with students fighting, they can change their management style in line with the suggestions I have made. I think it could stop the fighting – and this applies not only to girls' schools but to boys' schools as well.

## Letters

and attracts business worth probably more than 3 billion baht a year [a figure put forward by Phuket Marine Office Chief Surin Theerakulpisut] in total, if one takes into account airfares, accommodation, visits to restaurants, the booking of other non-diving tours, shows, tailors and, of course, dive trips, dive courses and diving equipment.

Yes, there are foreigners employed in the dive industry, but so are hundreds of Thais directly and a much greater number indirectly, in, for example, hotels, restaurants, transport companies, caterers and many other service and supply industries.

Many years ago, the For-

estry Department researched tourism in Phuket.

The results of its survey showed that, typically, the diving tourist stays longer on the island than any other tourist and spends more money a day than any other category of tourist.

In other words, the diving tourist is one of the most valuable, and therefore he or she must be the most desirable tourist for Phuket.

Phuket is in stiff competition with the Red Sea, the Maldives, the Great Barrier Reef, the Philippines and other great dive spots around the globe. Why should dive tourists come here and spend their hard-earned

money in Phuket and not somewhere else? Remember: the fish chooses the bait, not the fisherman. Were I governor, I would issue an order to stop all harassment of the dive industry. This situation is doing great damage to the island's economy and to its reputation.

I would suggest that dive industry representatives – both Thai and foreign – and government officials sit down together to get to know and respect each other and to learn how to achieve the best possible result for all parties involved.

Instead of trying to destroy it, *Palad Nivit* and his com-

mittee members should spend time with members of Phuket's dive industry to find out how to attract more business to Phuket and to determine what it needs for further growth.

Yes, there must be regulations and a code of conduct as apply in every other industry. Pragmatism and a modern approach are called for. Open dialog, where people can freely give their opinions without fear of retaliation, is fundamental.

These meetings may include discussions about the work-permit situation. They may also generate more income tax for the government and protect guests in case of any unpleasant situation they may face.

Everybody [in the dive industry] must, of course, pay taxes and obey the law. The government must help the industry to bring jobs and income to the region and also to stay competitive with the rest of the world as one of the top dive destinations in Asia. It is very unfair to punish the industry collectively because there may be some black sheep.

The authorities should find those who are not following the law but at the same time respect and protect the legal operations. This would clearly benefit Phuket with the promotion, protection and preservation of one of the most beautiful environments on earth.

Name & address supplied

In The Stars

by Isla Star

**CANCER** (June 22-July 23): A friend's helpful gesture makes your day on Sunday, and could be worth its weight in gold in the near future. Meanwhile, if you are anxious to gain a stronger footing in the world of business, you should follow up even the most unlikely leads. The stars will encourage your efforts until the end of this month. If you are celebrating a birthday this week, the year ahead should bring more financial security.

**LEO** (July 24-August 22): If you are suffering from flagging energy levels you will benefit from a new physical exercise routine. This will also sharpen your reasoning abilities, and it's not too late to undo a bad decision made in the heat of the moment last month. An intriguing talk you have with Pisces this weekend could lead to a welcome romantic diversion. The color mandarin orange encourages creativity.

**VIRGO** (August 23-September 23): You will finally be in the ideal position to make some changes to your life this week. If you don't take the bait while it's in front of you, it could be a long wait until such auspicious circumstances come around again. Where romance is concerned, you may need to make more compromises than you had planned. This is definitely a case of nothing lost, nothing gained. The number 3 can bring luck on Thursday.

**LIBRA** (September 24-October 23): Keep ambitious schemes under wraps until you are assured of success. Pisces, in particular, would love to find out what's going on. Personal relationships will be subject to ups and downs during July. You are in danger of throwing away something that is worth more than you realize. Remember that the grass is definitely not greener on the other side. Wear the color plum red to encourage honest communication.

**SCORPIO** (October 24-November 22): You will be feeling less than driven this week. It is high time that you calmed down and re-evaluated life, so don't try to force energy out that's not on tap. A close friend or relative has a good idea that's worth following up; this could lead to travel. Mixing business with pleasure this weekend should not be taken too seriously. A small financial gain is highlighted midweek.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 23-December 21): Romance continues to blossom for you. You will have to strike a better balance between pleasure and work to avoid possible mid-month burnout. Be alert for communication breakdown early next week, when important details could get lost in translation. If you need to ask a favor, Thursday is the most auspicious occasion to do so. Number 5 comes alive on Sunday.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22-January 20): Sticking to routine is the best approach this week. If you are tempted to branch out in new directions you are advised to wait until later in the month. You will receive crystal-clear signs when it is safe to step into unknown territory. Romance is well-starred this weekend; at last you get the chance to reveal your true feelings. Allow Aries to have the benefit of the doubt early next week.

**AQUARIUS** (January 21-February 19): If you have been finding it difficult to keep your distance from an ex-partner you will make progress in leaps and bounds. As soon as you move on from this negative situation, new paths will begin to open up. On Saturday you overhear a conversation that reveals more about a troublesome business-related situation. Wear the color sky blue to help cultivate more patience.

**PISCES** (February 20-March 20): It appears that you have been tolerating someone's inconsiderate behavior for too long. If you find it difficult to be open about your feelings you can look forward to astral back-up this week. You will feel particularly powerful on Monday and Tuesday, so use this energy to get your point across. This is an auspicious time to focus on smartening up your image - ask a Taurean friend for some style tips.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 20): A chill in the air at home puts a dampener on your weekend. If your partner won't reveal what the problem is, take some time to be alone but don't stir things up by staying away for too long. Those who are single should not allow their pride to trip them up when making advances to an attractive Leo. On Tuesday, the coast is clear for finalizing financial agreements.

**TAURUS** (April 21-May 21): Your cash situation is looking increasingly healthy and you are advised to seek investment possibilities. Romance will benefit from sending clear messages; relating your feelings in code will only lead to confusion. Keep energy levels balanced by eating extra fruit and spending quality quiet time at home. Early next week you bump into an old acquaintance with surprising news to pass on. The number 8 can bring luck on Wednesday.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21): Business matters don't go according to your best-laid plans, but this will eventually have a positive outcome. In the meantime, you should tread water and be content with the success you have achieved so far this year. Your partner has a bee in the bonnet that won't go away until you pay some attention. Sunday is a good day to initiate a meaningful conversation.

Trouts, speared frogs, bargirls and cramped coffins - yes, Lis has again been browsing through blogs to bring you all another week's worth of unedited true-life tales from Thailand.

**OUTSIDE**  
**IN**  
By Lis Kinswoman

# There's more to Phuket than sex

**Jumbo break:** "Patong is where it's all at, by all I mean everything you've ever wanted. A thousand bars & 10,000 bar girls, all in a 5 block radius, what more could anyone possibly ask for? There's more to do in Phuket than just sex, although sex is by far the most entertaining. Elephant riding is a good way to break up the routine." (1)

**INXS:** "A lot of people I have met

take the whole Thailand thing too far and, for want of a better expression, f#@k themselves up good and proper. They don't eat. They don't sleep. They drink so much that they collapse or fit. Some have more ladies of the night a week than there are days!" (2)

**Trout fishing:** "If you are a Patpong tourist, don't forget to bring your wife along too.

"The disapproving glare of an old trout with the missionary smile frozen on her face is exactly what every Thai gogo bar needs.

"Act like a giggling buffoon with the girls but ignore her completely. As she leads you out, hang back for as long as you can to say goodbye." (3)

**Boxing clever:** "As I approached the coffin all of a sudden it

didn't seem to be that big, I turned to the wife and asked are you sure that Luung is in there? She looked at me in a bemused way and asked me what I meant. I said, Luung was very tall for a Thai and this coffin is very small. "No problem they cut leg off and put under arm." (4)

**Doggone it:** "Family last night working get many Kop them Aroi Aroi Maag Maag."

"I'm then sort of dragged to the Thai kitchen and shown this bucket full of dead and dying frogs, it looked like something out of a horror movie, blood snot and shit and still pulsating from the poor things that did not die a quick painless death from the 3 prong attack.

"I instantly said, I am not going to eat those, give me the car keys, I'm going to drive to

town and get some proper food.

"Ok" was the reply in her Thai-glish accent, 'you not like Thai food but you think I like Farang food you buy in Tesco, meat in packet, bacon and expensive sausages you think I like, smell same as dog food in can to me. I give many things to the dog and she like, so maybe Dog Like Farang Food or Farang Like Dog Food, never know!!!!!!!!!!!!!!"

"A Thai smile was offered and that was that.

"So there we have it folks, The f\$\*&ing Rat-Dog has been fed on the most expensive food in Thailand." (5)

1. [http://www.travelersdigest.com/cheap\\_destinations.htm](http://www.travelersdigest.com/cheap_destinations.htm)
2. <http://helenfinesilver.travellerspoint.com/archive/062006/>
3. [http://www.mangosauce.com/nightlife/make\\_tit\\_of\\_yourself\\_in\\_thai\\_gogo\\_bar.php](http://www.mangosauce.com/nightlife/make_tit_of_yourself_in_thai_gogo_bar.php)
4. <http://www.thaivisa.com/forum/blog/thai/index.php?>
5. <http://www.thaivisa.com/forum/blog/thai/index.php?>



If one step in the process doesn't occur, then the subsequent steps cannot occur.

The crab-eating macaque, right, and the ghost crab, left, are linked by processes. Both are also linked to us.



Humans have, for the most part, taken themselves out of the "natural" world. We often overemphasize technological advances at the expense of the environment.

Rapid exploitation of finite natural resources and uncontrolled waste are acceptable in many businesses as the only way to grow.

The price that must be paid for this way of thinking is starting to become plain. Modern high-tech lifestyles are competitive instead of cooperative.

One effect of this competition is the human-created deserts in place of once lush forests. We have polluted virtually every corner of the planet. Instead of taking just what the environment can replenish, we tend to take it all.

Most scientific concepts involve breaking down living organisms into parts, labeling those parts, and treating those parts as something somehow separate from the whole organism.

Most people believe, as a result, that the universe comprises boundless building materials from which technological progress can flourish.

But there is a different way of thinking about our universe, a way that is probably more accurate: the Systems Theory, first put forward in the 1950s.

According to the Systems Theory, the basic principle underlying life is processes, not components.

# EVERYTHING is connected to everything

In a process, one thing depends on another. If one step in the process doesn't occur, then the subsequent steps cannot occur. The system comes to a halt.

In the Systems Theory approach to nature, the world and its inhabitants are seen to be interdependent. Everything relies on everything else for survival and prosperity. In contrast to many human institutions, the functioning of ecosystems is to establish cooperative relationships. The relationships promote the harmonious integration of systems.

In a natural setting, the competitive struggle for existence might at first glance appear to be mere brutality – one animal eats another animal.

However, the overall scheme is one of cooperation. Some species of fish, for ex-

ample, swim in massive schools. This is perhaps a part of the "acceptance" by this species that some fish are sacrificed for the good of the whole species.

The predator usually captures the weak or old fish. This may not be of comfort to the individual fish that gets eaten, but if you follow evolutionary theory, it is good for the species as whole, because it strengthens the species' genetics: the stronger fish will survive and they will produce stronger offspring. This is one of the main themes of evolution.

The Systems Theory is also seen in mangrove forests. Everything depends on everything else for both survival and prosperity.

For example, immature shrimp rely on the decomposing leaves for food. If there is an abundance of leaves, the shrimp

flourish. If there is a shortage of leaves, the shrimp population decreases.

If there is no mud in the mangrove forest, many species suffer the loss, including crabs, fish and humans.

In sum, everything in the world, no matter what it is, depends on something else for its existence.

If you understand and accept the Systems Theory, you see the need for a balanced ecological view of the world and the need for changes in the way we interact with each other and with the world around us.

It makes plain the need for a general shift in technology toward a more friendly use of the Earth's limited supply of natural resources.

Another example among the mangroves is the relationship between the mud and its many dependents.

The mud is made up of decomposing leaves and bark, as well as other sediment washed into the mangroves by the tides.

The mud is food for bacteria and plankton. The bacteria and plankton are food for immature crabs. The immature crabs are food for small fish. Small fish are food for bigger fish. Humans are at the top of this food chain. They eat the bigger fish.

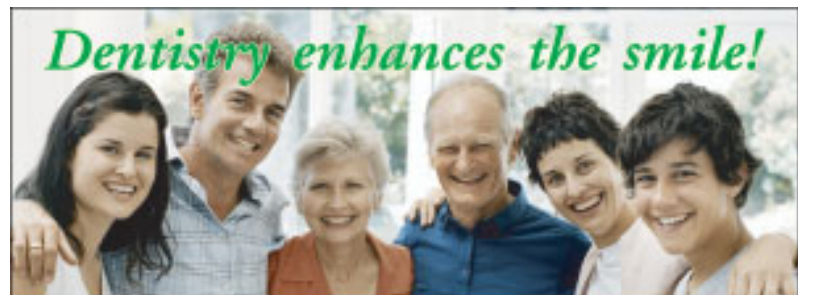
Dave Williams runs eco-expedition company Paddle Asia. For details, visit [www.paddleasia.com](http://www.paddleasia.com)

## NATURE NOTES

By Dave Williams

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IT ISSUES

By John Seebach

# The end of the peer show? Not at all

BitTorrent, the latest method of downloading movies and music online, is an amazingly simple and innovative method for peer-to-peer file-sharing downloads.

For those of you who have not come across the term "peer-to-peer", it's a way to use the Internet to connect directly with another computer that is using a browser in order to share files with other computers on the Internet.

This is different from the more conventional client-to-server network, whereby you (the client) can download files from a single central computer (the server). This is how web-hosting in a standard office network works.

The limitation is that the client-to-server architecture on the Internet requires a very powerful server and enormous bandwidth to feed information to hundreds of thousands of clients across the Web. With peer-to-peer, however, every client computer is effectively a server unto itself.

What does this have to do with BitTorrent? Imagine this: the full collection of all the seasons of the *X-Files* or *Star Trek* or perhaps every song performed by U2 or the top 10 music videos of last month, all available for you to download.

All of this amounts to gigabytes of data, but you simply log onto the BitTorrent network and, voilà! You're connected to hundreds of thousands of other computers just like yours that are sharing these files in a peer-to-peer network.

The amazing part is that the huge files are broken down by the software into tens of thousands of little "packets" and you connect to hundreds of thousands of

Using peer-to-peer technology to download music, games and movies free is illegal. But the fact is that no one has yet been successful in stopping this use - or misuse - of technology.

peer computers and download one packet from each file on each computer.

As you download each packet onto your hard disk, it immediately becomes available to users of all other peer computers for them to download from you. All the bits are then re-assembled by the BitTorrent software so, at the end of the process, you have a full DVD collection of any movie, music video or songs you want.

Just for fun, I did a search for TV game shows and got 450,000 matches. Some of them are in Russian or Chinese, but some of the ones I saw date all the way back to my childhood - and that was many years ago.

So, is it very cool? Yes. Is it easy? Sure. Is it legal? That depends.

In fact, BitTorrent technology itself and peer-to-peer file sharing are both totally legal. It's when they are used to share copyrighted material that they become illegal. Chances are that a torrent pointing to, say, a copy of *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* is not there with Disney's permission.

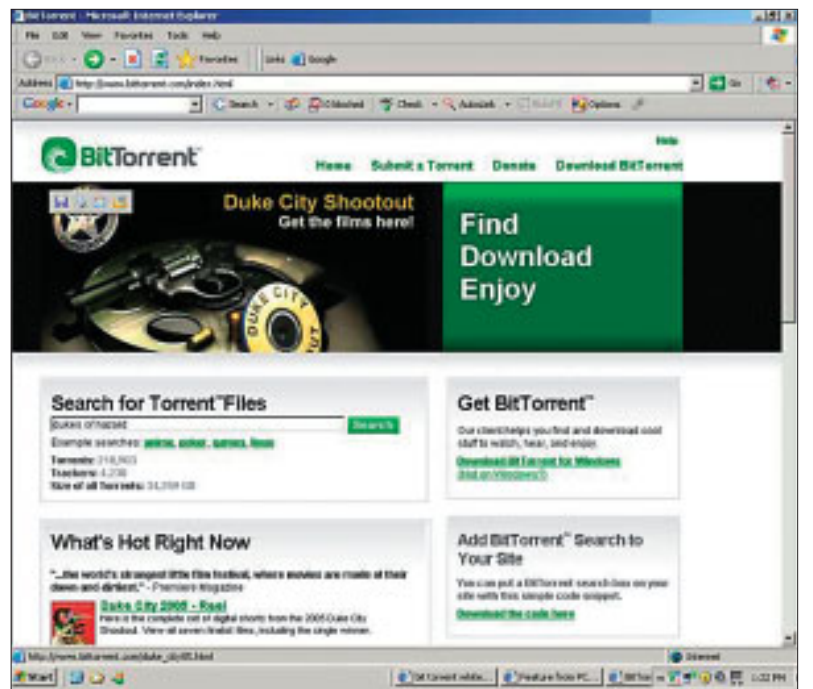
It might not even be *Snow White* - or even a video. It could be some kind of nasty Trojan horse virus.

What? You thought there was some code of honor among illegal file traders?

Some allege that these viruses are actually seeded by entities, such as the Motion Picture Association of America, looking to curb illegal downloads or catch the downloaders. I think that's probably a touch paranoid, but I do know that viral payloads do pop up from time to time.

Illegal it may be, but the fact is that no one has yet been successful in stopping this use - or misuse - of technology. Its popularity is growing so fast that Hollywood has found itself having to jump on the bandwagon.

Warner Brothers (WB) has just invested millions of dollars in BitTorrent technology. Its belief is, apparently, that if you can't beat 'em you should at least try to get them to the negotiating table.



Above: the BitTorrent home page. Below: Azureus has a good download manager.



WB is banking on the idea that honest people would gladly pay a small fee to the production company for a legal, clean version of the file. Everyone is hoping that other companies will soon follow suit.

Imagine going to HBO.com or iTunes and paying, say, 50 baht to search for a movie or a song you really hanker after, and then to download it to a DVD or iPod or other device.

Here in Thailand, the bad news is that most of the Internet Service Providers (ISPs) limit the speed at which you can connect to any peer-to-peer network to just below 5Kbps. (I know, I know, many people would be happy and amazed if their ADSL connection would actually stay connected for any length of time at 5Kbps.)

The point is that if you are limited to that speed, a 40-gigabyte file, even using BitTorrent, would take about four days to download.

The good news is that any time you connect to any Internet connection, the BitTorrent software automatically resumes its download right where it left off the last time you were connected. So in reality, four days may not be such a bother.

To get into BitTorrent, all you need is a broadband connection and a web browser such as Internet Explorer, Firefox or Opera. Visit [www.bittorrent.com](http://www.bittorrent.com) and search for anything; you'll be amazed at what's out there.

Then you'll need a download manager from somewhere like [www.Azureus.com](http://www.Azureus.com). After that, it is very easy to begin downloading. However, to get really proficient takes a lot of study and research, so keep it simple and you'll get hours of enjoyment and remember: respect copyright and keep it legal.

John Seebach has 25 years' consulting experience in Information Systems and Business Process Re-engineering. His company, Island Technology offers IT solutions and Broadband services throughout Southeast Asia. Contact john@islandtechnology.com for more information.

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## ON THE MOVE



**Alessandro Cordogli**, 41, from Italy, has been appointed Chef de Village (General Manager) at Club Med Phuket. He graduated in finance and administration from the Instituto Tecnico Commerciale Alberto Magri in Italy, and started his career in the hotel industry in 1984 at the Hotel Carriage House in Quebec, Canada. Mr Cordogli joined the Club Med group in 1990 and became Chef de Village of the Club Med resort in Val d'Isere, France, in 1999. He has also worked at Club Med resorts in Italy, Portugal, Switzerland, Martinique and the Turks and Caicos Islands.



**Adam Glass**, 34, from New Zealand, has been appointed Director of Food & Beverage at the Sheraton Krabi Beach Resort. He graduated with a culinary degree from the College of Tourism & Hospitality in Brisbane, Australia, and has worked with hotels in many countries, including a period as the Executive Chef/Director of F&B at the Malolo Resort & Spa in Fiji and as Executive Chef at the Melbrook Resort & Spa in New Zealand. Before moving to Krabi, Mr Glass was Director of Food & Beverage at the Dhaka Sheraton in Bangladesh.



American **David A Johnson** has been appointed Director of Revenue Management for Le Méridien Thailand Resorts, based at Le Méridien Phuket Beach Resort. He has 14 years' experience in the hotel industry, including as Director of Revenue Management at The Westin St John Resort in the Caribbean and as General Manager at Days Inn Superior at Lake Superior, Wisconsin. He moved to Starwood Hotels and Resorts in 1999. Before coming to Phuket, Mr Johnson was Director of Revenue Management at The Westin Maui and Westin Ka'anapali Ocean Resort Villas in Maui, Hawaiian.

## Phuket rubber planters benefit from rising oil prices

By Natcha Yuttaworawit

**S**oaring prices have been boosting Thailand's rubber industry over the past few years, and they have rocketed as fuel prices have risen.

Thai rubber planters have benefited from three factors: the rise in fuel prices, rising demand for both natural and synthetic rubber, and natural disasters that hit output in Thailand's main rival in the rubber trade, Indonesia.

In Phuket, which produces about 20,000 tonnes of rubber sheets every year, the situation is no different. Chaiwat Ruengthaweesup, Director of the Rubber Foundation in Phuket, said, "The price of rubber is now 101 baht per kilogram for Grade C smoked rubber. This is higher than last year. In fact prices have been rising since 1998-1999."

He added, however, "I think we are now reaching the peak; the price is hovering around 90 to 100 baht. I don't think it will go above 110."

At 100 baht a kilo, Phuket's rubber production makes a contribution to the province's economy of about 2 billion baht a year.

The biggest factor driving the increase in prices is the rise in oil prices, K. Chaiwat said. "Without this, the change in the cost of rubber would not be nearly so dramatic. Oil is used in the production of synthetic rubber, which now meets 70% of market demand, so any change in oil prices will have a knock-on effect on rubber prices, both synthetic and natural.

"Another factor is natural disasters in Indonesia. These have decreased rubber production there. The ongoing insurgency in the three southernmost provinces of Thailand, Yala, Pattani and Narathiwat, has also led to a fall in production in Thailand. Prices are also being influenced by the continuing strong demand coming from China," he added. The rising wealth of mainland Chinese has fueled a boom in car sales over the past decade and, with it, a boom in sales of tires.

K. Chaiwat said, however, that there is a danger that the price rises may eventually have a negative impact on rubber producers. "I think the high rubber prices are good for plantation workers as it means they can increase their incomes," he explained.

"If prices remain high, however, it may hurt our competitiveness in the export market."

He noted that Thailand's most important markets for rubber are the US, Japan and China. "The main competitor in these markets is Indonesia; Malaysia is less of a threat now.

"Rubber prices do vary from country to country, but not by a huge amount. In my opinion, only around 50% to 60% of Thai rubber is of optimum quality.

"Although rubber prices are increasing, the quality remains the same."

Though the soaring prices

may be good news for the planters, they are not so welcome for domestic industries reliant on natural rubber for their output.

Locally, the biggest user of natural rubber is Great Glove (Thailand) Co Ltd in Baan Manik. Wanna Chidcheaw, Manager of the glove factory, told the *Gazette* that the company's head office in Malaysia dictates production levels.

"The rubber price increases ... have led to a decline in the quantity of products that the head

office orders us to produce," she noted.

However, she added, "We are the only exporters in the market here so we are not concerned about competition in Thailand, although we do have to compete with Great Glove factories in other countries."

No staff have been laid off, she said, and no base salaries have been cut, although some workers have been moved, at the same salary, to shifts that in normal times would pay a higher rate.

## Best Western to run Phuket resort

AO POR (*Nation, Gazette*): Best Western International (BWI) is to manage the new Supalai Resort and Spa, currently under construction at a cost of around 33 million baht on a site looking out at Phang Nga Bay.

This will make BWI the first international hotel chain to become involved in a hotel on the east coast.

The three-year management contract with the resort's owners, the Supalai Group, takes immediate effect. BWI is the world's largest hotel chain, with more than 4,200 properties in 80 countries.

"This is going to be our first management agreement in Phu-

ket," said Glenn de Souza, BWI's Vice-President of International Operations (Asia).

It is not BWI's first foray into Phuket, however. In September 2003 marketing agreements were signed with two locally-owned properties, one in Karon and one in Bang Tao.

Both properties were re-branded, one as the Best Western Phuket Ocean and the other as the Best Western Premier Bangtao, giving them access to BWI's massive marketing network.

Management, however, remained in the same hands, although BWI demands a minimum set of standards be met.

The Supalai resort is expected to have an occupancy rate of more than 70% in its first year and will focus on international tourists.

The four-star resort is set on 12 rai of land and, when complete, will have 164 guest rooms, eight spa chalets and meeting and banqueting facilities for 300 people.

Prateep Tangmatitham, Chairman and President of the Supalai Group, said the property's location offers a marketing advantage, as it is close to the airport and Phang Nga Bay, while Phuket's west coast side faces an over-development of hotels and resorts.

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A recent story in *The Nation* newspaper began, "The Federation of Thai Capital Market Organizations is to propose a series of short- and long-term capital market stimulation measures to the caretaker government in the hope of being able to turn the bearish stock market into a bull run."

The Thai stock market has recently seen 1 trillion baht wiped off its capitalization as foreigners, mainly financial institutions, sold their holdings. The Federation suggested that a state contingency fund be established, to be used to intervene in the market to hold prices up.

I appreciate the Federation's position, especially with a "caretaker government" in place that cannot change legislation.

However, despite the recent sell-off in stock markets, which has had its severest impact in emerging markets, including Thailand, this is a time to review the situation calmly.

The introduction of some form of contingency fund sends all the wrong messages. Stock markets all have their periods of rising prices and periods when prices fall. That is their nature. Participants, especially institutional investors, are very aware of this and live with the situation.

What they never want to see, though, is official intervention in the market; a free market should remain free, regardless of how well-intentioned proposed intervention may be.

Naturally, with the present negative sentiment toward emerging markets and a political vacuum in Bangkok, there are two major negative factors in play. Investors in general detest uncertainty and that is what they face in Thailand. Naturally, they sell.

Thailand has one big advantage; with a price/earnings ratio of around 9, the market is cheap compared with most others. That will eventually attract investors.

The idea of contingency funds to prop up an ailing stock market is not new. Hong Kong tried it in 1998, when it faced continuing fallout from the 1997 Asian financial crisis and uncertainty after the handover from British rule to China, also in 1997.

The Hong Kong government's intervention, using taxpayers' money totaling around 80 billion baht, was met with screams of protest. One institutional man-

# Stop messing with the free market



## MONEY TALKS

By Richard Watson

**Mahathir Mohamed, while he was still Prime Minister of Malaysia, changed the law to allow foreigners to buy limited amounts of land.**

- Photo EPA/Ahmad Yusni



ager said that his institution had been considering investing in Hong Kong because prices had become attractive but dropped that plan when the government entered the market.

An even worse ploy to protect the market was devised by Malaysia in 1997; it decided to bar foreigners from taking their money out of the country if they sold shares. One French bank portfolio manager said his bank would consider fresh investment in Malaysia "some time after Bangladesh became a major investment theme". In other words, "Not in our lifetime".

Improvements that should be considered by Thailand - and which would be met enthusiastically - are tighter corporate governance and greater attention to stamping out insider trading. In stock markets the only people who do not benefit from a level playing field with clear and transparent rules are the "bad guys".

I have written about "carry trades" in this column before, and these are of particular relevance at present. Carry trades are, essentially, a simple concept. Financial institutions, usually on behalf of a fund or in a "proprietary

trading" role, borrow money in one country where interest rates are low and invest it in other countries where anticipated returns from cash, bonds or equities will be greater than the interest that has to be paid on the loans.

'Thailand seems to have gone out of its way to make life difficult for individual foreign entrepreneurs.'

When interest rates start to rise in the country where the money was borrowed, or when markets in which investment has been made are expected to fall, the carry trade is "unwound": the investments are sold and the debt repaid.

This scenario looks like being sparked by Japan, up to now a major source of carry trade borrowing. There, interest rates are likely to rise, especially if Bank of Japan Governor Toshihiko Fukui's recommendations are accepted. That will cause carry trades to unwind.

Carry trades may also unwind when interest rates in a major market rise, making investment in that market attractive. The recent rise in US interest rates has increased the attraction of holding cash assets in US dollars as long as rates remain on an upward trajectory.

Thailand needs new foreign investment; recent political uncertainty has caused more than half of all foreign investment projects to be postponed. There are two main types of foreign investment: investment in financial markets and foreign direct investment (FDI), whereby funds are invested in long-term businesses, factories and so on.

Thailand has concentrated for too long on attracting large-scale FDI by foreign corporations. Certainly, it makes the headlines when XYZ Inc invests in a factory in Thailand and announces it will create 5,000 new jobs. This is good for the economy; often, the employment this new investment eventually cre-

ates indirectly may be double or even triple the total number of directly created jobs.

But in the "real" world it is not giant corporations that create the most jobs, it is small businesses. A good example is the US, where 70% of people are employed by firms with fewer than 100 workers.

Sadly, Thailand seems to have gone out of its way to make life difficult for individual foreign entrepreneurs and small investors. Companies must have 51% Thai ownership and at least seven shareholders, a major barrier. Foreign entrepreneurs may not even own land for their own home in Thailand; some welcome mat.

Everybody who has been here for more than 10 minutes knows how the real system works: if in doubt, consult your Thai lawyer or accountant. That's not encouraging; convoluted methods should not be necessary to achieve simple business aims.

The diving industry comes under constant attack from a variety of government departments, most recently accusing dive operators of tax evasion.

Nobody in the halls of power seems willing to accept that the diving industry, driven to a large extent by small-scale foreign investors, brings in plenty of tourist dollars. That is only one example. Xenophobia rules, OK?

Even Mahathir Mohamed - then the Prime Minister of Malaysia and a man with a reputation for being suspicious of foreign intentions - decided six years ago that foreigners could buy up to two properties each, including land.

How much have investment regulations, company laws and other impediments cost Thailand? No one will ever be able to quantify the loss, but it must be many billions of baht. I love Thailand and want to see it progress. It is a pity more politicians and bureaucrats don't share my opinion.

*Richard Watson runs Global Portfolios Co Ltd, a Phuket-based personal financial planning service. He can be reached at Tel: and Fax: 076-381-997, Mobile: 01-0814611. Email: imm@loxinfo.co.th*

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CALL US FOR FREE REPORT ON BUYING PROPERTY IN THAILAND

By Dominic Earnshaw

**W**ith speeds of up to 80 kilometers an hour and gravity-defying leaps into the air, kiteboarding is just the thing to liven up a windy day on the island.

Those wanting to get the adrenaline pumping and know how it feels to fly above the waves can learn this new and rapidly developing sport here in Phuket.

Kiteboarding, or kitesurfing as it is sometimes known, doesn't have to be all rushes and adrenaline though; those of a more sedate nature can enjoy being gently pulled along by the breeze.

The vibrantly colored kites sailing above the beach are also a sight to inspire; the increasing popularity of kiteboarding images in advertising is testament to this. "Painting the sky with colors" is how Israeli Eran Forsleger, one of the owners of Thailand-based Kiteboarding Asia, describes the scene.

"Kiteboarding combines all kinds of watersports into one unique sport. You can surf, wakeboard, jump or just skim along the water. You can get large amounts of 'hang time' in the air – the record is 14 seconds.

"It really feels like you're flying. All this without an engine, heavy equipment, pollution or noise. Sometimes I go far out on my own; all you can hear is the swish of the board in the water. It's incredible.

"When the wind gets stronger and you start jumping and doing tricks, the adrenaline starts pumping. It can be a very calm sport but if you want to go extreme then you can do that as well.

People of any age can learn to kiteboard, he says. "The youngest student we've had was six years old and the women's world champion is only 13. At first, the athletes in the competitions were mainly in their 30s. Now it's getting younger.



# GO FLY A KITE

"Kiteboarding is not hard, you don't need to be strong to do it, and there is equipment to suit all people. You don't need experience in other watersports – kiteboarding is about flying a kite; that's the most important skill.

"Once you have mastered this you can do other forms of kiteboarding too: using three-wheeled buggies on the beach; modified skateboards; rollerblades; skis and snowboards," Eran said.

He explained that he first became interested in kiteboarding while on a three-month trip to Asia. "I was sitting on the beach on Koh Samui, a bit bored with nothing to do. Suddenly I saw a guy with some kind of parachute. He would launch it and then jump on a small board and ride along. It looked interesting.

"Then I saw him jump into

the air. I was instantly hooked. I ran over and asked him about what he was doing and to let me have a go.

"At that time I didn't even know it was called kiteboarding but I really wanted to give it a proper try. I did some research and found a shop in Hong Kong that sold equipment and then I started learning by myself.

"At that time, around five years ago, the sport was still not too developed. I had to learn the hard way. I loved it and I loved being in Thailand, so I told my business partner in the States to help me sell my apartment, my car and all my stuff, and since then I have been here kiteboarding in Thailand."

Kiteboarding has its own organization, the International Kiteboarding Organization (IKO), which certifies students and sets standards for instructors.

For students there are three levels of achievement. After the three-day introductory course offered by Kiteboarding Asia most students are able to com-



**Above, people of any age can learn kiteboarding, says Eran Forsleger. And if it all gets kinda boring, you can always try doing it upside-down.**

"People who are just getting into the sport can be having fun in a really short space of time. After a three-day course most people are able to ride the board. Because of the equipment and the experience of the instructor the progress curve is very steep," Eran explained.

Kiteboarding Asia has centers on Koh Samui, in Phuket and in Hua Hin, and next year will be opening a new center in Chumphon.

"Most of our customers find us through our website and come to Thailand just to kiteboard. For the first three years there were very few Thai people wanting to learn, but now more and more Thais are getting into it.

"The problems we faced in marketing the sport to Thais is that a lot of them cannot swim well and many do not want to be in the sun and get dark skin. But we now have two Thai instructors in Phuket. They are the first Thai instructors qualified by the IKO.

"We have other instructors from all over the world – many professionals want to spend a season or two in Thailand," he said.

The Kiteboarding Asia Phuket center is next to the Nai Yang Beach resort.

Courses start at 4,000 baht for the one-day Kiteboarding Discovery course. The recommended three-day complete beginner course is 11,000 baht.

Private one-on-one tuition is also available. The center has all the necessary equipment for sale or rent.

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## Rassada to hold day of races

PHUKET: Tambon Rassada will organize a day of running races on August 13 to honor HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej's Diamond Jubilee.

There will be a half-marathon, 10.5k race, and 4k fun run, with entrants competing in male and female categories. Entry fees are 250 baht for the half-marathon, 200 baht for the mini-marathon and 150 baht for the fun run.

All races will start and finish at Rassada Tambon Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*) on Rassada-Anusorn Rd. The opening ceremony will be at 5:30 am and the races will start at 6 am. All competitors should arrive early to allow time for registration.

The top five finishers in each category will receive a trophy. Sixth- to 10<sup>th</sup>-place finishers will get a souvenir and the first 200 finishers will get a shirt and commemorative coin.

In order to claim prizes, winners must show identification (either an ID card or house registration form) within 30 minutes of finishing.

Registration can be made at the Rassada *OrBorTor* Educational Affairs Office from July 1 to August 10.

Thai applicants must bring their ID card and a copy of their house registration; foreigners may register by presenting a passport.

For more information, call Tel: 076-213151 (ext 137).

# Phuket amateur boxers to compete in Bangkok

By Stephen Fein

PHUKET: The Phuket Amateur Boxing Club (PABC) will take a team of six promising "international-style" amateur boxers to compete in the Thailand Mini-Junior Open Championships, to be held July 14-18 at The Mall Ngamwongwan in Nonthaburi.

The event, divided into nine weight classes, is open to boxers aged 14 to 17 years old. The competition is part of the Amateur Boxing Association of Thailand's efforts to find the next generation of amateur boxers who will go on to represent the country in international competitions, including the Olympic Games.

Leading the team will be trainer and PABC Vice-Secretary Sawarin "Master Jay" Pinkaew of Surakit Gym. The PABC organized a fund-raising fight featuring Surakit Gym Muay Thai fighter Anthony Gilbert, who was set to defend his Patong Boxing Stadium championship belt against a Dutch challenger on July 6.

The fight card on July 6, with eight to 10 bouts, was also expected to feature the first-ever "ultimate fighting" match staged in the province. The results of the matches, held at Patong Boxing Stadium next to Rock & Bowl bowling alley on Soi Kepsup 2 in Patong, will be included in the next edition.

Master Jay told the *Gazette* that 50% of the proceeds from fight tickets bought directly from



**GOING FOR GOLD:** Five of the young boxers who will represent Phuket at the Thailand Mini-Junior Open Championships in Nonthaburi stand with their trainers. Flanking them are Patong Boxing Stadium Muay Thai belt-holder Anthony Gilbert (left) and stablemate Ned Carpenter of Scotland (right). Master Jay can be seen second from left.

the PABC would be used to sponsor the trip to Bangkok and offset the costs of organizing the fund-raiser, which he estimated at about 150,000 baht.

Master Jay has high hopes for his own son, Thanawat, who will be fighting in the 51kg class and is the only member of the group with a pure Queensbury

rules background. The other boys are converted Muay Thai fighters.

Among the PABC fighters representing Phuket will be: Sirimate Nakdee (40kg), Tiwakorn Khaemdam (42kg), Sarawuth Kanyaniam (45kg), Thanawat Pinkaew (51kg) and Pinyo Kadamduan (63.5kg).

## MoPH takes top honors in battle of the bureaucrats

PHUKET CITY: The Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) proved to be the fittest department, snatching first place in the chairball and the tug-of-war events in the Phuket round of the Government Games, held between May 31 and June 27 at Sanam Chai.

In the football tourney, the Department of Local Administration (DOLA) team took top honors, beating the Interior Ministry 5-3 in the exciting and high-scoring final. The Education Ministry squad came third.

The superior fitness of the MoPH ladies proved decisive as they pushed the Ministry of Education team into second place in the women's chairball competition.

The DOLA team came in third.

In the tug-of-war, the physical prowess of the MoPH officials again showed through as they managed to defeat a strong Ministry of Interior team in the grueling event, held at Surakul Stadium.

## Cyrene supreme in ACYC regatta

AO CHALONG: Mark Horwood on *Cyrene* made the most of near-perfect sailing conditions on July 2 to win the Multihull class in Race 7 of the Ao Chalong Yacht Club (ACYC) Keelboat and Multihull Race Series 2006.

With winds blowing at a steady 12 to 15 knots and little swell, the fleet quickly completed the course around Koh Lone.

Regatta veteran Mark Pescott on *Summersalt* finished third while Roger Kingdon, who is waiting for his super-quick *Moto Inzi* Firefly catamaran to return from the Samui Regatta, came third on *Charro*.

In the Racing class, Kevin Gillow on *Minx* was too quick for *Cinders*, which sailed without usual skipper Stuart Crowe. Ao Chalong icon K. Boo, however, gained permission to borrow the boat and sail with Nils Elstron at the helm.

Kevin Ashman on *Lily* won the Cruising class, with Harry Usher on *Eos* finishing second, and John Fenn on *Four Winds* finishing third.

The next ACYC race day will be on July 16 - the club's last race day before the Phuket Race Week regatta, which will be held July 27-30.

For information call Tony Knight at Tel: 01-7470074.

## Patong Darts League

PATONG: Didi's had another strong performance, taking all three points against Queen Mary to remain in first place. Tony of Dog's Bollocks scored a 180 in a match that saw newcomers TaiLife pick up their first point by winning the beer leg. Team captains are asked to reschedule the July 11 matches for other days if, as expected, the bars close to observe Khao Pansa Day, which is a Buddhist holiday.

**June 27 results:** TaiLife\* 3 Dog's Bollocks 6; Footrot Flats 2 Amigos\* 7; Shakers 5 Valhalla\* 4; Jungle Juice\* 4 Offshore 5; Didi's\* 7 Queen Mary 2; Coyote Bar\* 3 Piccadilly 6. (\* = winner of beer leg) **Note:** The June 13 match between Coyote and Dog's Bollocks was previously reported as Coyote Bar 2 Dog's Bollocks\* 7 (0-3). It should have been Coyote Bar\* 2 Dogs Bollocks 7 (1-2). The points have been adjusted in the standing.

**Standings:** 1. Didi's (10 pts.); 2.= Amigos (9); 3.= Dog's Bollocks, Valhalla, Piccadilly, Jungle Juice (7); 7.= Queen Mary, Coyote Bar, Offshore (6); 10. Shakers (4); 11. Footrot Flats (2); 12. TaiLife (1).

**July 11 matchups:** TaiLife v Piccadilly; Footrot Flats v Offshore; Shakers v Queen Mary; Jungle Juice v Amigos; Didi's v Dog's Bollocks; Coyote Bar v Valhalla.

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### CORRECTION

In the issue of July 1 the *Gazette* reported that all participants in the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Phuket Invitational Volleyball Tournament held on June 24 and 25 in Rawai were from the sponsor companies. This was incorrect; only three of the 18 players came from sponsor companies. The *Gazette* regrets the error.

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It is just a five-minute drive from one of Phuket's most desirable beaches, Nai Harn, and is within easy reach of local amenities such as shops, restaurants and bars.

The four-year-old property offers spacious accommodation. It has 200 square meters of living space over two levels with sea views from the upper-floor balcony and sits on a 660-sqm plot with well-maintained, mature gardens.

Tiled floors throughout the property offer easy maintenance, while giving a cool, clean feel to the interior. The home is located at the end of a small cul-de-sac, so there is no traffic noise, only the gentle sounds of the local wildlife. Ample parking and garage space is easily accessed from the road.

The main entrance to the property leads to a large open-plan living area which includes a sitting area, a dining area, an office and the kitchen. In the living

area there are large timber-framed windows letting in plenty of natural light. The Western-style kitchen is spacious and has fitted storage units, granite worktops and both electric and gas cooking facilities.

From this area, French doors open out onto a patio, ideal for alfresco dining. From the patio, steps lead to a small lawn and pool area. The newly-constructed swimming pool is 4m x 9m and has a small decked area partly shaded by mature palm trees.

A staircase leads to the balcony where the view can be best appreciated. It is also a good place to catch the evening breeze. The house has three air-conditioned bedrooms leading off the balcony, all with en-suite bathrooms and fitted closets.

The house comes with UBC satellite TV, a telephone line and a 120,000-liter water storage tank built underneath.

The property, on Chanote-titled land, is for sale at 16 million baht.

For more information contact Mark Clifton of Andaman Thai Property Group at Tel:076-388685, [www.andamanthaiproperty.com](http://www.andamanthaiproperty.com), [info@andamanthaiproperty.com](mailto:info@andamanthaiproperty.com)

Decor

by Natch Yuttaworawit



A kinnaree takes a rest in John Sature's shop on the bypass road.

# STONE AGE

Motorists daring to take a sideways glance while driving along the bypass road may have noticed the collection of sandstone sculptures, motifs and bas-reliefs set up by the roadside opposite the Big C supercenter.

The shop is called Phuket Sand Stone and offers a range of carvings varying in style from modern to traditional, Thai to Balinese to Cambodian.

Among the mosaics and sculptures are some depicting scenes from classic Thai literature, such as the 30,000-line epic poem *Phra Aphai Manee*, which the revered poet Sunthorn Phu

took more than two decades to write some 200 years ago.

Most of the pieces at Phuket Sand Stone were made in Buri Ram Province, home of the Cambodian style of carvings that can be seen at historic Phanom Rung castle, and a province where skilled masons today still create bas-reliefs in rock.

Shopowner John Sature, the son of an English father and a Phuket-born mother, shares his love of sandstone with his wife, K. Wanpen, who is originally from Buri Ram. John retired from working as an engineer and his wife gave up working as a nurse to open the store last December.

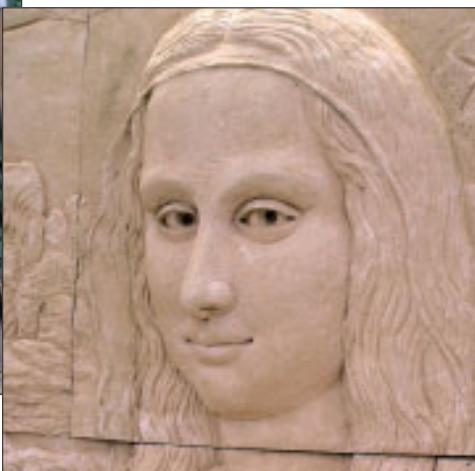
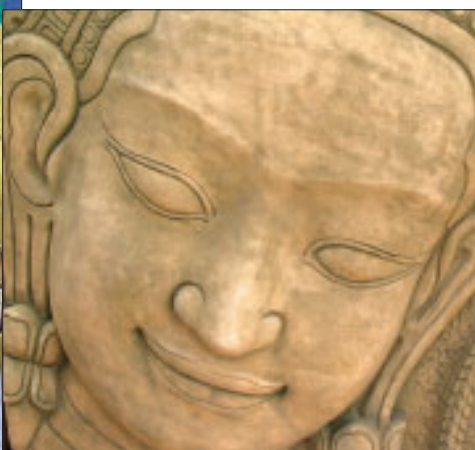
The cheapest item on site,

at 50 baht, is a colorful starfish, while the most expensive item, at 120,000 baht, is a depiction of a herd of elephants.

It is a hefty 2 meters high by 5.5m wide. Luckily, Phuket Sand Stone delivers. The company will also export to England, Spain, Italy, Australia or Germany.

Other items ranging in price anywhere in between include sculptures and mosaics of angels, knights, lions and a host of other animals, as well as traditional scenes of Thai rural life.

*Phuket Sand Stone is open daily from 8 am to 6 pm. For more information call Tel: 09-4245389 or 06-9407374.*



Above, John Sature with the largest piece, the elephant family. Right and above right, faces include calm Cambodians and a suitably enigmatic Mona Lisa.

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## Gardening

with Bloomin' Bert

**W**hy do some people believe they can predict the future? I'm not talking about weathermen with bad suits and large mustaches who spend their days looking at satellite photos and measurements of wind speeds in Outer Mongolia – at least they have a chance of getting it right.

Even the dreaded marketing consultant – dreaded by anyone working in sales – has the right intentions, basing his predictions on past sales and trends, and attempting to provide “a direction for the way forward” for the unfortunate individuals on the receiving end of his bountiful knowledge. He may be a complete prat, but at least he's basing his theories on facts.

## YAK FUR

It's the less scientific side of predicting the future that I don't quite understand.

Ladies, usually in comfortable shoes and hand-kitted shawls made from yak fur, and who probably smell a bit because they use biodegradable soap, are convinced they can predict someone's future by emptying grubby tea leaves out of the victim's cup, or even by doing weird things with a pack of cards with rather depressing pictures.

Astrology is probably one of the most amusing forms of fortune telling. All you need to do is explain that the stars incline but do not compel, and then invent a few lines about how the conjunction of a rising moon in the third house and a setting sun in the fifth is an indication that the customer



Golden cane palms grown in pots tend to be more yellow than their counterparts planted in soil. But not to worry – that's natural.

has a bright future ahead of her, and that her personality is a

healthy balance between head and heart, mind and spirit, intellect and intuition. Any believer will nod in agreement.

All complete nonsense, of course. In the interests of science, I went to an online palm-reading website, which in all likelihood was about as accurate as going through the same process with some aging vegan lady called Brendella who held my hand in hers. These were some of the results:

“You'll star in a movie with a hermaphrodite park ranger; you'll have arguments, but ultimately you'll be friends.

“You will meet a person to whom you are very much attracted but with whom you have little in common. Don't get involved – you'll be sorry.

“You'll have some business dealings with a rehabilitated vegetarian, and will end up in court.” As an aside, I'm not even sure that I know any rehabilitated vegetarians.

The best one was toward the end, and was about the only accurate thing they came up with: “Be careful what you wish for. It might not come true.”

The only kind of palm reading you can rely on is the kind of palm reading you do every day in Phuket. There is certainly no shortage of trees of this ilk on the

island. Palm trees are everywhere – I'd be surprised if any Phuket resident didn't have at least one of them in his or her garden.

There had to be a tenuous link with palm reading at some stage, so let me start with an admission; an admission from the days before I became involved with this gardening column. I had no idea where those characteristic rings on the trunks of most palm trees came from – how did they appear?

You can buy a 'pre-grown' royal palm around three or four meters tall for less than 1,000 baht, including delivery

It wasn't until I planted my very first palm that I realized they were made by the leaves falling off. I know that sounds a bit dumb, but that's how it works. Each frond, as it grows, emerges from the trunk itself – there are rarely branches as such on palms. The base of the leaf is wrapped all the way around the trunk, and once it's reached the end of its useful life it turns brown and drops off, leaving a circular scar on the trunk.

You can even tell a bit about the tree's past life from the distance between the scars. I bought a few royal palms several years ago when I didn't have a garden to put them in, so they all had to be grown in pots.

The rings for the first few years of their lives were fairly well-spaced. The size of the gaps halved after they were potted; their roots were confined, so their growth slowed. Later, they were replanted in soil, after which the new rings were once more further apart.

In Phuket, royal palms are most commonly seen in the gardens of hotels and government buildings, and along the roadsides. Why are they so common? Because they're cheap. You can buy a “pre-grown” one around three or four meters tall for less than 1,000 baht, including delivery to your door.

The golden cane palm, or *maak luang* in Thai, is another common sight in Phuket. This one is perfect for gardeners such as myself who would rather sit back and drink a Heineken in the shade of it than tend to it. It needs very little work, and is happy to be left to its own devices. It's tufted, which means that it has several trunks growing from a central root system.

The golden cane also grows differently in pots. For some reason, potted versions are more yellow – sometimes to the point that you might think that they're coming down with something, as my grandmother used to say. But they are not – it's perfectly normal. Put them in the ground and their yellow tendencies fade.

Coconut palms are probably the coolest palm around. Thais know this predictable favorite as the *ma-phrao* or *maak-uun*. The only thing to bear in mind with these trees is where you put them – a fully-grown palm dropping a coconut from 20 meters up will give anyone on the receiving end more than a bit of a headache.

These things are ludicrously easy to grow – it's as easy as sticking a coconut in a hole in the ground and watering it. I've got a couple in my front garden that were propagated by that same method about three years ago; the highest fronds are now about five meters off the ground.

I wonder what palm readers would make of the coconut palms in my front garden? I'm sure they'd be able to come up with some form of history; they might even be able to identify my more beery seasons. I should invite some round, though I hope none them is called Brendella.

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Construction

by Sangkhae Leelanapaporn



# Municipal office design keeps the public in mind

The Karon Municipality is building a new office block that will also, it is hoped, be a pleasant place for the public to relax.

The building, on one rai of land next to the Kata Beach Resort, will be four stories high with underground parking.

Wanchai Saeton, Director of Karon Municipality's Public Works Division, said that the building will cost about 53 million baht.

The old single-story building, built 20 years ago, has been torn down, he said. "It had deteriorated and there was not enough space for our 50 office staff who were in very cramped conditions," K. Wanchai explained.

The bottom three floors of the new building will have offices while on the top floor there will be a large meeting room.

"The building will be open for visitors to see Thai government officials at work. On the ground level there will be a large fish pond and lotus pool in the middle of the building and a visitor information center with information in English on topics such as how to be safe when swimming in the sea, along with other services from the Municipality.

"There will also be toilet facilities for public use, and all signs will be in both Thai and English.

"I want people to feel that visiting Karon Municipality office is similar to visiting a department store – they should not feel nervous about coming into a government office. Around the building there will be a nice garden with water features – a place where people can sit and relax," he added.

He said that he believes people will come to the building outside government working hours because it will be an attractive area to relax in.

K. Wanchai said that demolition of the old building started on April 5 and took a month to complete. Currently, the underground parking garage is being built.

"The construction contract specifies that work will be finished on September 6 this year – which is only five months for the entire project. However, I believe that it will be finished earlier than that because we are using a pro-

fessional contractor, Orakarn Engineering Co of Bangkok, which has many workers," K. Wanchai said.

The most difficult and most expensive part of the building is the underground parking, particularly ensuring that it does not flood, he said, explaining that the Municipality wanted to keep "everything looking orderly by keeping the vehicles underground."

The car park will have space for about 44 cars and some 30 motorcycles.



Computerized graphics show how the building will look when complete.

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at Nai Harn. Views to Phi Phi, 640sqm, with Chanote. 3.2 million baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-288047, 01-8941660. Email: [cottrell@loxinfo.co.th](mailto:cottrell@loxinfo.co.th)

### BEACHFRONT 4-BEDROOM HOME

This beautiful, fully furnished 4-bedroom, 2-bathroom home has everything you want: swimming pool, gardens and a great view of the Sarasin Bridge, on a secluded, unspoiled beach. Modern kitchen and baths - all for only 5 million baht. Located at Tah Chat Chai at the northern end of Phuket. Must be Thai owned or on long-term lease for a foreigner. Please call K. Noi at 01-8167875 or K. Somporn at 07-2849676 for more information. Email: [tammyb@nustyle.net](mailto:tammyb@nustyle.net)

### A RARE OPPORTUNITY



Stunning plots, 14 rai and 22.5 rai. One of the last beachfront (250 wide) properties in Phuket. Chanote titles. Price: 6.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 01-0866303. Email: [putchai@hotmail.com](mailto:putchai@hotmail.com)

### HOUSE FOR SALE

or rent. In subdivision, 1km east of Heroines' Monument, 3 bedrooms, furnished. For sale at 2.2 million baht or for rent at 18,000 baht per month. Tel: 06-2778461. Email: [brunuiviv@hotmail.com](mailto:brunuiviv@hotmail.com)

### RAWAI, 2 RAI

50m from the beach, water, electricity, road, Chanote title. Great for a small apartment. Tel: 07-8938747.

### SMALL PLOT, RAWAI

200sqm, Chanote title, near beach, square shape, water, electricity. 600,000 baht. Tel: 01-5376866.

### ECO-COOL THAI HOME IN RAWAI



The open-air design of this award-winning home affords a true tropical lifestyle. Traditional Thai design and modern materials are combined to beat Phuket's tropical heat without aircon. A large naturally cool patio surrounded by a pool and a cooling lotus/fish pond. Priced at only 11.9 million baht, this large 3-bedroom, 3-bathroom plus office area (240sqm) home sits on a 400sqm lot and features designer kitchen & bathrooms, hardwood floors & underground water tank for rainwater collection and storage. Call Gary at Tel: 07-8987062.

### LAND FOR SALE 5 RAI



Chalong. Electricity, water, road access. Price: 2.7 million baht per rai. Tel: 07-8896074.

### SECRET BEACHFRONT

In the south. Top location, very exclusive. No brokers. Please call for more details. Tel: 09-6525664.

### LOVELY DETACHED

home. Detached, fully walled-in 2-3-bedroom home on a quiet road in the beach village of Kamala. Spacious Western-style kitchen. Separate 2-car garage. Large, pretty lawned garden with palms and plantings. Appliances included in sale. Potential for swimming pool or further housing. Very clean & tidy. Land area: 450sqm. 5.85 million baht. Please contact for more details. Tel: 07-9372754. Email: [phuket4u2@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:phuket4u2@yahoo.co.uk)

### APARTMENT IN PATONG



New freehold apartment (85sqm) located near Simon Cabaret, on a hillside in a green and quiet environment, overlooking Patong with sea view, on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor. Low monthly maintenance.



2 bedrooms, 2 balconies 2 bathrooms, luxurious, modern European standard, fully furnished, ready to move in. Price: 5.9 million baht. Tel: 06-2771204. Email: [alfred.keller@isofta.ch](mailto:alfred.keller@isofta.ch)

### HOUSE FOR SALE KAMALA

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, garden, swimming pool, poolside bar, Jacuzzi, security alarm + camera system, UBC, 400sqm. 6.9 million baht. Call David Bergen. Tel: (86) 13-621793971 (China); 076-385531 01-2732058 (Thailand). Email: [bergen.marine@fastmail.fm](mailto:bergen.marine@fastmail.fm)

### HOTEL FOR SALE

and land for rent. Pen Villa Hotel, Surin Beach, Phuket. 20 rooms with swimming pool. Area: 2,400sqm. For sale at 40 million baht. Also, Koh Yao: 9,825 sqm. 2 million baht for 15 years' rent. Call K. Nuttavat. Tel: 05-1283328.

### BAN THAI NAI HARN

For sale: 120sqm, 2 stories. Ground floor: 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 aircons. Top floor: all wood. 5.9 million baht. Tel: 01-4763242, 07-6282182.

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MONEY - BUY  
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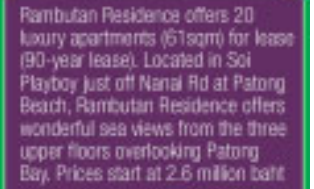
Very exclusive completely furnished new villa with swimming pool in best residential area of Patong. Two floors, three bedrooms with aircon, three baths, jacuzzi, Western kitchen and dining. Living area 200sqm, free hold land 150sqm. 8.5 million baht.



Three new connected prestigious modern villas fully furnished in Patong, Nantai Hill. Only one left for sale, ready to move in. Four floors, three bedrooms, three baths, big balcony, roof garden with jacuzzi, sea and mountain-view, garage. Living area 200sqm, free hold land 100sqm. 6.2 million baht.



Rambutan Residence offers 20 luxury apartments (61sqm) for lease (90-year lease). Located in Soi Playboy just off Nantai Rd at Patong Beach, Rambutan Residence offers wonderful sea views from the three upper floors overlooking Patong Bay. Prices start at 2.6 million baht.



Please contact Peter at  
**Tel: 01-8928526.**  
For details please see our website at:  
[www.phuket-besthomes.com](http://www.phuket-besthomes.com)

**SEA PROPERTY PHUKET**  
Looking To Buy or Sale CALL US

**House for sale**  
Rawai. 150sqm, common pool, 3 bedrooms. Absolute privacy and security. 6.2 million baht.

**New villa for sale**  
Chalong. 350sqm, pool, double car park, 4 bedrooms plus office. Absolute privacy and security. 16.9 million baht.

**Condo for sale**  
Rawai. Sea view. 126sqm, common pool. 4 million baht

**Villa for rent**  
Nai Harn. 275sqm, 1,200sqm of land, 10m pool, 3 bedrooms, fully furnished. 70,000 baht per month.

**Hotel for sale**  
Naka Island. 200m beachfront, 80 villas; total: 120 rooms. Price on application.

Contact  
07 88 960 74  
01 89 161 43

[www.sea-property-phuket.com](http://www.sea-property-phuket.com)  
[info@sea-property-phuket.com](mailto:info@sea-property-phuket.com)

### ABSOLUTE BEACHFRONT FOR SALE



2.2 rai of absolute beachfront land with Chanote title at Khok Kloy. 25 mins from Phuket International Airport.

No agents please.

Please contact. Tel: 07-8891717.

Email: [wayne\\_phuket@yahoo.com](mailto:wayne_phuket@yahoo.com)

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in these pages are

**PAID!**

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....because they're real.



# Property Gazette

**HOUSE FOR SALE**

in Patong. 2 stories, 5 bedrooms, fully furnished. For more details, please call Tel: 01-9563061. Email: sohail\_carpet@yahoo.com

**KATA APARTMENTS**

3.5 million baht. Sea view, pool, fitness, fully serviced. 90% sold, building now. Be fast. Tel: 09-6525664.

**LAND FOR SALE**

We have land in prime locations all over Phuket and surrounding areas. Please contact for more details. Email: info@siamlandbank.com

**4.1 RAI, NAI THON**

Chanote. 100m to the beach, gentle slope, partial sea view. 6.5 million baht per rai. Email: ek\_phuket@hotmail.com

**HOUSE FOR SALE**

Baan Maneekram, Kwang Rd. 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, aircon, large garden, car park. Price: 7.1 million baht. Tel: 06-9536881.

**BIG HOUSE FOR SALE**

5 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, 5 aircons, big garden, car park area about 1 rai. Asking 15 million baht. Please contact Julie to view the house. Tel: 01-5698345. Email: julie\_phuket@hotmail.com

**HOUSE FOR SALE**

or Rent. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen rooms, 80 sq wah. Big garden, cable TV, Tel + ADSL, 25 minutes to Phuket City, 10 minutes to international school and boat lagoon, furnished and quiet place, 1km east of Heroines' Monument, 18,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-527020, 09-4740222. Email: mammos56@hotmail.com

**5-BEDROOM**

seaview home for sale. Located in Baan Suan Kamnan, the most exclusive residential area in Phuket. Quiet, safe and offers easy access to the rest of the island and its beaches. Email: pococonnor@hotmail.com

**PANORAMIC**

sea view. One of the most beautiful plots left in Phuket, with a real panorama and sea view. Includes company formed in 1998. Perfect for a small project with big earning potential. To inquire or to view, please contact by email to: info@aimin.ch or call Tel: 01-3652020.

**TOWNHOUSE**

2 stories, unfurnished, 1 minute from Chalong Pier, 35.3 sq wah. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Price: 2.9 million baht. Tel: 076-236590, 01-8955628. Fax: 076-236590. Email: molly\_boon@hotmail.com

**KAMALA GREAT DEAL**

Prime location hotel for sale. 12 rooms, 11 million baht. Email: bbq@loxinfo.co.th

**NEW HOUSE**

Chalong view. 2 stories + attic. Overlooking Chalong Bay. 3 bedrooms with aircons, pool villa, and private swimming pool. Furniture & kitchen appliances. 3-phase electricity & own well-water supply. Asking price: 11.5 million baht. Tel: 01-7782979. Email: teeradejr@hotmail.com

**NICE & CHEAP: 1 RAI**

Mai Khao. Access to Bankduk Hill, Chanote, flat land, quiet area, electricity supply. 1.1 rai for 1.8 million baht. Email: ek\_phuket@hotmail.com

**3-BEDROOM HOUSE IN KATHU**

Detached 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom house in quiet village close to Patong and major shopping areas. Master bedroom has en-suite and hot water. ADSL phone line, own water well. UBC TV, fitted curtains, 3 aircons. 72 sq wah, Chanote title. Offers in region of 3.6 million baht. Please contact for full details. Tel: 076-203064, 01-0876702. Email: davestacey16@hotmail.com

**CUSTOM-BUILT**

2-bedroom villas with private pool. Only 2 villas being offered in a small development just 5 minutes from Laguna's 5-star hotels and shopping. Living area 250 sqm. Land area 400sqm. Furniture package available for 400,000 baht. Price: 7 million baht. Call Jimmy at Tel: 01-08-75828 or visit www.phuketparadiseproperties.com/Listing#0220018

**SMALL BOUTIQUE**

hotel. 6 guest rooms, 1 maid's quarters/office with bath, 1 owner's residence with rooftop terrace (sea view). Kitchen and bar with 2 refrigerators, 1 cool unit, washer/dryer. Only 2 minutes to the beach. 9.8 million baht. Tel: 01-0875828 Please see visit at: www.phuketparadiseproperties.com/Listing#0120034

**KATA SEAVIEW**

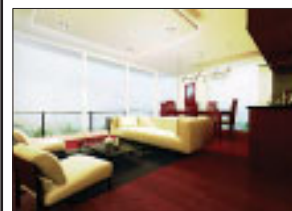
9 houses on 2 rai. 15 rooms. 17 million baht. Including 7 rai: 38 million baht. Tel: 076-280-447, 01-0808557. Fax: 076-280447. Email: admin@no1phukethomes.com

**BALINESE VILLAS**



Villa Suksan is a quiet, secluded development of Balinese villas with private swimming pools combining luxury and affordability. Starting from 5.9 million baht. Only 2 plots left. Agents welcome. Tel: 06-0043008, 04-0535780. Fax: 076-341372. Email: info@ayudhya.net For further details, please see our website at: www.villasuksan.com

**KATA SEAVIEW**



New development of modern ocean-view apartments in Kata. 2/3 bedrooms offered at pre-construction prices starting from only 3.2 million baht. Reserve now. Tel: 06-0043008. Fax: 076-341372. Email: info@ayudhya.net For further details, please see our website at: www.ayudhya.net

**16 BCIS HOUSES**

with lift & pool. All our houses under Grace Gardens projects near BCIS. For rent at various rates or for sale with financial package up to 5 years with 0% interest. All houses with pools. Options of 3-, 4- or 5-bedroom houses. Also, new project, the Lantern by Grace Gardens, 16 "zen" houses with 3 bedrooms, Smeg kitchen, lift, office for parents and 20sqm pool. For rentals call 01-8779292. For sales call Tel: 05-2111107, 05-211-1198. Fax: 05-2111198. www.gracegardensphuket.com

**LAND FOR SALE**

27 rai on Koh Lanta, Krabi, 2 million baht per rai. 40 minutes from airport. 13 rai on hill with panoramic sea view and 14 rai absolute beach front of 245 meters length. Please contact for more information. Tel: 01-5350060. Email: famar5@hotmail.com

**HOUSE FOR SALE**

A very well-designed detached home is now available freehold (Chanote). 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, living room, kitchen and dining area, covered parking and garden. 2 telephone lines. Private water. Free space around the house for Jacuzzi. Land size: 394sqm. House size: 153 sqm. Price: 5.2 million baht. Tel: 076-264776, 09-871-8572. Fax: 076-264769. Email: info@decoratearts.com Please see our website at: www.decoratearts.com

**LAND FOR SALE**

Point East project. Chanote title. 1 rai, 179 talang wah. 4km from Heroines' monument. Tel: 09-8718327, 01-8953649.

**NICE HOUSE**

Nice house at Sai Yuan, on the way to Nai Harn Beach. Price: 15 million baht. Tel: 076-239444, 09-7276672. Email: utohom@hotmail.com

**HOUSE IN PATONG**

for sale. 180sqm, aircon, cable TV, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms. Tel: 09-6620804. Email: renoothailand@gmx.net

**35 RAI, BEACHFRONT**

Chanote title. Two access roads. Flat land, located at Nai Yang Beach. 8.8 million baht per rai. Please call for more details. Tel: 09-7298365.

**PRIME RAWAI LAND**

2 rai 41sqm in developing quiet area close to Chalong, Soi Suksan 2. Chanote title with Thai company. Electricity, water, flat land. Tel: 01-4776662. Email: vermdono@yahoo.com

**SHOPHOUSE**

3-story shophouse. Total indoor area: over 200sqm. Strategically located between Hilton Hotel and Crown Plaza Hotel. Very good opportunity for business people. More than 5,000 hotel beds within 500m. 300m from the sea. Tel: 01-8927847, 01-787-3716. Email: patrick@diving-thailand-phuket.com

**BUNGALOW RESORT**

on Phi Phi. New bungalow resort for sale. 18 rooms, good location, good view. On 5 rai of leased land. 15 years left on lease. Plenty of room for expansion. Must be seen. Tel: 01-7193375. Email: precarious\_phil@hotmail.com

**HOUSE FOR SALE**

in Kata. Kitchen, living room, 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, 2 sat TVs, aircon, water tank. Furnished. All included. 1.45 million baht. Tel: 09-591-2813.

**NICE PLOT OF LAND**

in Rawai. 472 sqm. Flat, ready to build with concrete road and electricity in luxury Western-style housing development area. 2.1 million baht. Tel: 076-396548, 06-2663710. Fax: 076-396548. Email for details at: info@butterfly-it-service.com

**FLAT LAND SALE**

500 meters from Laguna project. 4.5 rai with 2 access roads. Price: 3.65 million baht per rai. Tel: 09-7279927.

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- 4 b/r villas on large land plots
  - Views over the Andaman Sea
  - 3 designs, 5 min. to Phuket
  - 15 min. to intl school
- Baht 30 - 36 Million**



- 2-3 b/r condo & P/H on Bangtao
  - 169-339 sq.m., large pool
  - Sea views, beach across the road
  - 5 star hotel management
- From Baht 16 Million**



- Studio, 1-2 b/r resort apartments
  - Plantation house design
  - 24-hour resort services
  - 5 min. to Bang Tao Beach
- Baht 3.5 - 7.15 Million**



- 23 rai beachfront land on tourist destination island
  - 125 m. beach frontage, 5 min. by speedboat from Phuket
- Baht 120 Million**



- 3 b/r villa at the entrance of Laguna, private swimming pool
  - 220 sq.m. of living space
  - Short drive to Bang Tao Beach
- Baht 160,000 / Month**

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All advertising must be paid for in advance.

**Deadline for Property Gazette page: Friday 3 pm.**

**Deadline for all other ads: Saturday 12 noon.**



# Property Gazette

### SEAVIEW HOUSE FOR RENT



Large garden, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. 600sqm, in Phuket City, near shopping area. Tel: 06-2741345. Email: suksavat@hotmail.com

### DETACHED HOUSE

for rent. Chalong area, close to Palai Beach, furnished, 2 bedrooms with aircon, bathroom, phone line, carpark. Tel: 09-7288311.

### FOR RENT

3-bedroom house. Pool, walled garden, near Nai Harn beach. 25,000 baht a month. Minimum one year, no agents. Tel: 01-3971835.

### VILLA WITH POOL

4-bedroom villa available for long term rent. Located in Rawai. Fully furnished with swimming pool. Tel: 06-004-3008. Email: info@ayudhya.net For further details, please see our website at: www.ayudhya.net

### HOUSE FOR RENT

Samkong area, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, living, dining, fully fitted, kitchen, one maid room, UBC, ADSL, 42,000 baht per month. Tel: 09-7294084. Email: psirikaning@yahoo.com

### BIG SHOPHOUSE

in Patong. Located in Soi Patong Resort, off Soi Bangla, the commercial hub of Patong Beach. Approx 180sqm on 2 open-space floors. Suitable for commercial purposes, unfurnished. Tel: 076-340290. Email: paciugo89@yahoo.com

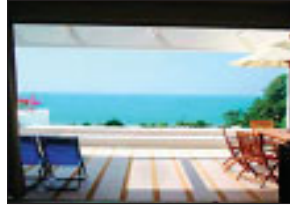
### KAMALA VILLA

Fully furnished to a high standard. Western kitchen. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Lounge and dining areas. Large balcony overlooking a swimming pool and landscaped gardens. Stunning sea views, only meters from the beach. Private gated parking with storage. UBC & ADSL. One month rental. 70,000 baht a month. Tel: 04-8436837. Email: info@phuket-island-homes.com For further details, please see our website: www.phuket-island-homes.com

### DETACHED HOUSES

4 new detached houses for rent at Pa Khlok, just 5km from an international school. Each has 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms. Asking 13,000 baht per month. Please call Tel: 04-8516115. or contact via email for further details at: suksavat@hotmail.com

### KAMALA SEAVIEW CONDO



At The Plantation. Brand new, 240 sqm, 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 1 study, huge patio overlooking Andaman Sea, outdoor bath. Tastefully furnished with appliances. Pool, gym in complex. 80,000 baht/month (min 3 months). Short-term rate at US\$ 1000-1200/week. Email: jessandsteve@netvigator.com

### 3-BEDROOM HOME

Chao Fa Rd. 207 sq wah, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, nice living room, good kitchen, cool garden, parking for 3 cars. Fully furnished. For sale at 6.7 million baht or rent at 40,000 baht per month. Tel: 01-597-8315. Email: phuket8@hotmail.com

### 4-BEDROOM VILLA

in Chalong. Unique! Quiet and safe area on the hillside near Chalong Circle. Resort-style villa with aircon, UBC TV, ADSL, tropical garden, Jacuzzi, 4 bedrooms and 4 bathrooms. Long term only. 30,000 baht a month. Tel: 01-6079020, 01-8235410. Email: frank@bathline.info

### HOUSE FOR RENT

Home & office, 1,500sqm, Phuket City area, Wichit Songkram Rd. Fully furnished, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Tel: 04-0629587.

### FOR RENT IN KATHU

3-bedroom home near Loch Palm Golf Course and British international school. Swimming pool, telephone line with ADSL Internet access, fully furnished, UBC TV, garden and pool maintenance included. 45,000 baht per month. Tel: 09-6498703.

### OLD BUILDING

On Dibuk Rd for rent at 20,000 baht a month, and room with cable TV at 2,500 baht. Tel: 01-6072489.

### PHUKET B.L.

apartment. New in Kathu. Big room, 1 bedroom, aircon, cable TV, Internet, hot shower, garden, car park. 8,000 baht per month. Tel: 01-692-3163.

### LARGE NEW LUXURY

house for rent. Rawai-Nai Harn area, 5 bedrooms, large garden, swimming pool. 50,000 baht a month, min 1 year. 3-bedroom house with pool, 2 minutes from Nai Harn Beach. 30,000 baht a month. Please call for full details. Tel: 01-3971835.

### CHAOFA THANI

House for rent at this popular, secure estate. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, living/dining room, kitchen, garden, furnished, ADSL, UBC TV. 36,000 baht per month. Long-term rental. Please contact for more information. Tel: 04-8439579. Email: somsrijenner@lycos.com

### BEAUTIFUL VILLA

2 bedrooms. European standard. Fully furnished, aircon, telephone, UBC TV, swimming pool, tropical garden. 2 minutes to Rawai and Nai Harn Beaches. Long-term let at 25,000 baht per month. Please call for more information. Tel: 07-2810452.

### CHALONG HOUSE FOR RENT

New 2-bedroom, 2-bathroom, 2-aircon. Quiet area Call now. Thai and English Tel: 06-1205435.

### LAKE HOUSE

New, in Kamala, fully furnished. Has 2 bedrooms, UBC and air conditioning. Asking 17,000 baht per month. Tel: 01-8928208.

### LAND & HOUSES PARK

New house, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully equipped, 2 air conditioners. 23,000 baht a month. Contact K. Tik at Tel: 09-7280999.

### FURNISHED & NEW

incl. kitchen + hot and cold bathroom. 5 mins walk to bus/beach. Farang comfort in local area. Tel: 01-9683546. Email: robin46@gmail.com

### 2-BEDROOM HOUSE

Nice 2-bedroom house, furnished, 5 minutes to Phuket City. Quiet area, huge yard, perfect for kids and dogs. 8,000 baht a month. Tel: 01-0340651. Email: ajarnlogan@gmail.com

### LUXURY 3-BEDROOM

house. Near Laguna, furnished, aircon, spa, pool, poolside bar. Rai landscaped land. Lease: 40,000 baht a month. Tel: 09-5944067.

### APARTMENTS

Chalong. Titima Mansions; 2 bedrooms, furnished, aircon, hot shower, security and gardens. Please contact for full details. Tel: 01-8914964. Email: beachcomberwa@yahoo.com.au

### NICE HOUSE

for rent. Long term. Beachfront house, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, with hot shower, 3 aircon, fully furnished, kitchen, fridge, washing machine, 2 phone lines, UBC, big fenced-in garden. 2 minutes from Chalong Circle, in a very nice area with security. Please call for more details. Tel: 01-8931121.

### PATONG APARTMENT ON HILL FOR RENT

A large fully-furnished apartment in exclusive area on Blue Point hill above Patong near Hotel Ban Yin Dee. Double bedroom + bedroom/study, living room, kitchen, UBC & TV, big balcony in garden setting. Peaceful & quiet, yet 5 mins from Patong nightlife. Tel: 07-8909075. Email: gaz\_dao@yahoo.com

### PHUKET CITY

3-bedroom house within 15 minutes or so of the British curriculum International School. Near Lotus. Good for home office. Rent: 38,000 baht per month. Tel: 01-691-1982.

### FULLY-FURNISHED

apartment in Rawai. Aircon, swimming pool, kitchen, cable TV, Internet, daily maid service. Must be seen. Tel: 01-0804702. Email: colin1216@hotmail.com

### LAND FOR RENT

1 rai flat land near Phuket Golf course in Tung Tong, Kathu. Long-term rent, good for warehouse. Please call. Tel: 09-7279927.

### HOUSE FOR SALE

or Rent. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, 80 sq wah. Big garden, Cable TV, Tel + ADSL, 25 minutes to Phuket City, 10 minutes to international school and boat lagoon, furnished and quiet place, 1km east of Heroines' Monument, 18,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-527020, 09-474-0222. Email: mammos56@hotmail.com

### SPECTACULAR

views. Yamu house, Cape Heights, Cape Yamu. An outstanding period property, set in delightful gardens with amazing sea views towards Phang Nga Bay. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 2 receptions, study, kitchen, maid's room, swimming pool, furnished. Close to BCIS. 70,000 baht per month. Tel: 06-2796283.

### RAWAI HOUSE

2 bedrooms, farang bath, driveway, garden, no yard. 5,500 baht per month. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-288175. Email: dltudge@hotmail.com

### RAWAI SALE/RENT 2-STORY HOUSE

130sqm living space. 5,000 baht/month or will sell for 850,000 baht. 400 meters from beach. Please contact for more details. Tel: 06-6865567. Email: chotip\_5@hotmail.com

### UNCLE CHAI



Phuket Private Home, a special style for the discriminating renter. One bedroom. Long lease preferable. Average 15,000 baht a month. in Chalong area. Please call Tel: 01-4926883 or visit: www.unclechaihome.com

### APARTMENTS

for rent. 2 mins from Nai Harn Beach, fully furnished, kitchen, aircon, cable TV, wireless Internet, swimming pool and daily maid service. Tel: 09-0491785. Email: eltonkirk@hotmail.com

### TOWNHOUSE

for rent at Phuket Villa California. 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, 21 sq wah, unfurnished. Ready to move in. Rent: 6,500 baht a month. Tel: 076-283374, 01-8928165. Email: panjamar@hotmail.com

### NICE HOUSE, CHALONG

2 bedrooms, big kitchen, cable TV, aircon. 8,500 baht, utilities extra. Tel: 076-344487, 06-2677245.

### NAI HARN TOWNHOUSE

No garden, 3 large bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. 2.8 million baht. Furnished. Will rent 18,000 baht month on a yearly basis. Tel: 01-3709661.

### NEW 3-BEDROOM

house in Thalang. 2 bathrooms. Gated community, 24-hour security, 10 minutes to international school and Boat Lagoon. 15,000 baht per month. Please call for more information. Tel: 01-8928208.

### KATHU

Close to Phuket Country Club golf course. 2-story townhouse, 2 bedrooms, bathroom, terraces, big kitchen. Quiet house, 10 minutes to Patong and Phuket City. Fully furnished. 120sqm. 20,000 baht per month. Please contact for more details. Tel: 09-8726895. Email: jostein.pedersen@eunet.no

### EXOTIC KATA

seafont. Aspasia: luxury 2-bedroom, 3-bathroom apartment. Spa, pools, gym, ADSL, quiet area. June to December. 50,000 baht/month. Tel: 09-9726017. Email: asiasail@yahoo.com Please see: www.koumbele.com/kata2

### FOR RENT - RAWAI

2 bedrooms, Western bath, driveway, garden, no card. Tel: 076-330015.

### BOAT LAGOON WATERFRONT Luxury Townhouses FOR RENT



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### APARTMENT FOR RENT

Nai Harn area. Swimming pool, Hot water, balcony, beautiful surroundings, aircon, UBC, furnished, kitchen. Rent: 10,000 baht/month. Please call Tel: 06-5969601.

### NEW VILLA

Nai Harn/Rawai. Off Baan Sai Yuan. 3 double bedrooms (1 aircon), 2 bathrooms, hot water, lounge, entrance hall, kitchen, driveway and walled garden. Only minutes from Rawai & Nai Harn Beaches, and close to local shops. Long-term rental at 16,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-388604, 01-8943966. Email: info@thailand-sail.com

### FOR RENT IN RAWAI

Soi Suksan 2. Beautiful villas of 220sqm in a quiet resort. Asking only 32,000 baht per month, electricity not included. For a long-term rent, minimum 1 month, maximum 6 months. 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, TV, UBC, ADSL, aircon, swimming pool. Please call Tel: 07-2678389. For more information, please see: www.christianesblue.com

### KAMALA LONG LET

2 bedrooms, 3 aircon, furnished house, UBC, phone line, parking 11,000 baht per month. Please call for more information. Tel: 07-1789273.

# Property Gazette

## Property Wanted



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**LONG-TERM RENTAL**  
wanted. Expat family looking for a long-term rental in Phuket, as follows: Near BCIS (maximum 20 mins), minimum of 4 bedrooms + maid's room, unfurnished, large pool, garden. Lease to begin August 6 for a minimum of 12 months. Email: pravin@iim.com.sg

**BUNGALOW RESORT**  
or guesthouse. I am looking to rent a bungalow resort or guesthouse in the Rawai or Chalong area. Please email: tomDEXTER2001@yahoo.de

**HOUSE WANTED**  
Looking to buy a 2- to 3-bedroom house in Phuket or Krabi. Maximum price: 4 million baht. Please contact. Email: wanphenstephen@hotmail.com

**AUDITION ROOM**  
I am looking for an audition room to rent. The room must be at least 7m long and 4m wide, with white walls (for background). One of the short walls should be without windows (background). Would be great with aircon. Tel: 06-6285292.

**GUESTHOUSE**  
and restaurant in Phuket City, Patong, Karon or Kata. Please contact me by email or phone if you have or know of something available. Email: chrillearning@hotmail.com

**PROPERTY EXCHANGE**  
I am looking for a villa-style property with a minimum of 4 beds on at least 1 rai of land. Just the land alone is an option. If possible, I would like to exchange for a UK property in Scarborough on the UK's east coast. The property is 4 stories and is licensed as a guesthouse. Its value is around UK£250,000, so cash adjustments can be made either way. Email: mrpaulharland@hotmail.com

**NEED SEAVIEW LAND**  
I am looking for prime seaview land at Patong Beach. It must be overlooking the bay and city. Tel: 07-0540120. Email: richard.market@gmail.com

## Accommodation Available

**ROOMS AT PATONG**  
Aircon or fan, ground-floor rooms, hot shower, close to beach. Tel: 076-342280, 01-9781956. Email: palm@phuket.ksc.co.th

**3 BEDROOM HOUSE**  
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**TO LET OR FOR SALE**  
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near Loch Palm. 58sqm apartment: bedroom, living room, kitchen, bathroom terrace, swimming pool, aircon, fan, cable TV, telephone line, hot water, fully furnished. 12,000 baht per month. Long or short term 600 baht per day. Tel: 076-202725, 01-8916632. Email: golflandview@gmx.de

**ROOM FOR RENT**  
in the city. Tai - Tan court: Unlimited Internet access. Fully furnished, including fridge, cable TV, aircon, hot water, car park and shared kitchen. 6,000 baht/month (including water). Visits by appointment only. Tel: 076-243118, 09-1885300. Email: passakornhongsyok@yahoo.com For details please see our website at: www.taitancourt.com

**PATONG CONDOS**  
Studio room and one-bedroom apartment for rent. 28sqm and 56 sqm. 8,000 baht and 12,000 baht per month. Tel: 09-8726895. Email: jostein.pedersen@eunet.no

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**2-BEDROOM APT**  
Patong hillside luxury 2-bedroom, 2-bathroom apartment available for rent now. Fully furnished, pool, aircon, satellite TV, etc. Clean apartment in desirable area. 25,000 baht per month. Please contact for more information. Tel: 05-0717134. Fax: 076-346158. Email: robinsonkevin@mac.com

**NEW APARTMENT**  
Fully furnished, big apartment for rent at Nai Harn Beach. Max 4 persons. 500 baht per day, 9,000 baht per month. Tel: 04-8519072. Email: goodtasteforgoodlife@yahoo.de

## Accommodation Wanted

**DETACHED HOUSE**  
I am looking for a new (or not old) 3-bedroom detached house in the southern end of Phuket, for sale at no more than 2.5 million baht. Email: richard.market@gmail.com

**LOOKING FOR VILLA**  
to rent. We are looking for a big, furnished house (good standard) with pool and 4-5 bedrooms to rent for the period 15 November, 2006 till 15 January, 2007. Prefer areas of Nai Harn, Chalong and Rawai - but other areas possible. Please contact for further details. Tel: 06-167-4607. Email: krzysioc@phuket.ksc.co.th

**HOUSE WANTED**  
to rent. Looking for a house in Patong area to rent from September 2006, for 6-12 months. Email: john\_m\_king@hotmail.com

**APARTMENT/CONDO**  
Nice location in Patong wanted from Nov 2, 2006 until Jan 31, 2007. Must have 1-2 bedrooms, kitchen, balcony (prefer with sea view), TV/UBC and a possibility of maid service. Good references from retired Swedish flight captain. Email: anders@orvemo.com

**HOUSE OR APT**  
I'm looking to rent a house for at least 1 year. I require air conditioning and ADSL or a phone line that can have ADSL quickly. I have 2 small parrots. ADSL is needed without exception. Email: howardbloom@pcman.com

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- Tempered glass dining table w/ timber frame (seats 6-8): 10,000 baht  
All furniture brand-new and dark oak in color. Tel: 076-383059, 06-2817605. Email: nigelnpixie@yahoo.com.au

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**Taurus Travel**  
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tel/fax: 076 238 729  
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Phuket Wittayalai school urgently requires native English-speaking teachers to teach English. Bachelor's degree a minimum requirement. Please contact Ajarn Antika for info. Tel: 01-5372886. Email: [english@pkw.ac.th](mailto:english@pkw.ac.th)

### LOUNGE/BAR RESTAURANT

The Blue Frog is coming to Rawai. Looking for motivated staff: cook, kitchen help + waitress. Tel: 06-2832279, 04-7454523.

# Island Job Mart

## OFFICE MANAGER/ ADMIN JOB



H3-Digital is a home-entertainment company based in Karon. Due to expansion, we are now looking for an Office Manager or Administrator. Must speak good English and be very well organized. Good salary paid and a fun, young working environment. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-286552, 06-266-2786. Email: travellingben@hotmail.com For further details, please see our website at [www.h3-digital.com/home\\_digital.htm](http://www.h3-digital.com/home_digital.htm)

## QUALIFIED PRIMARY TEACHER

Enthusiastic Thai national teacher with a solid command of the English language required to teach a full Thai curriculum to a small group of bilingual 6-8 year olds within a home schooling program. You will be working alongside a UK-trained qualified teacher and you will be expected to take part in all aspects of the school timetable.

### WORKING HOURS

Mon to Fri, 8am till 4pm. 4-5 non contact hours per week.

### HOLIDAYS

We follow the international school calendar and have a total of 8 weeks holiday per academic year.

New school year begins 14/08/06.

### SALARY

9,000 baht per month for academic year. Total yearly salary 94,500 baht. Half-monthly salary will be paid over the summer if contract is renewed for the following year.

Send a letter of application, your CV and copy of certificates. Closing date: July 15. Tel: 09-7253826. Email: [aonammaohomeschool@hotmail.com](mailto:aonammaohomeschool@hotmail.com)

## URGENTLY REQUIRED

Asian Wind Spas requires female office assistant. Good English, computer skills and pleasant personality. Please contact: 07-2843732 or [deviee@asianwind.biz](mailto:deviee@asianwind.biz)

## HOUSEMAID NEED

Fulltime, hard working, no English required. 6,000 baht per month. Tel: 01-5376866.

## BLUE FROG RAWAI

Looking for full-time cook for foreign/Thai food, must speak English. Tel: 06-2832279.

Thailand's Leading Marine Brokerage and New Yacht Dealership have a vacancy in our Boat Lagoon head office to be part of our growing team.

**Position: Senior Accountant**  
**Qualifications:**

- ▷ Thai national male or female
- ▷ Bachelor's degree in Accounting
- ▷ A minimum of 3 years experience in a senior accounting position
- ▷ Proficient in QuickBooks programme
- ▷ Good communication skills and command of spoken & written English

We offer attractive salary and fringe benefits. Please submit a resume stating educational background, working experience, expected salary. Contact telephone number and a recent photograph to Khun Supaluk cah@leemarine.com. For more information, please call 076-238 803

**DESTINATION AIR SHUTTLE**  
Destination Air, based in Phuket Thailand, will fly over the beautiful crystal clear blue waters of the Andaman Sea. We are looking for the following dynamic and qualified persons to work and grow with us.

**Project Manager** Qualifications:

Bachelor's degree or MBA, to assist expatriate managing director, must have at least 5 years project management experience, preferably in at least 5 years in airline business, travel industry, or hospitality business, ability to establish and implement business plan, prepare budgets and capex proposals, strong interpersonal and presentation skills, problem solving skills, proficiency in English communication, computer literacy

Please submit your application to [pat@destinationair.com](mailto:pat@destinationair.com) or visit us at [www.destinationair.com](http://www.destinationair.com)

**PROJECT BAAN COCOON**  
Anuphas Pirom Resort Co., Ltd., a real estate company developing luxury houses in Phuket Country Club Golf Course, currently seeking qualified candidates to fill the following positions:

**1. Marketing Manager 1 Position**

- Female, age over 30 years.
- Min. 3 year experience in marketing
- Good command of both spoken and written English.

Please send your CV and recent photo to:  
Ms. Kantheera Rungsang-anotal  
☎ 076-202189, 076-319084-5, ☎ 076-319083  
[info@anuphaspiromresort.com](mailto:info@anuphaspiromresort.com)  
[www.anuphaspiromresort.com](http://www.anuphaspiromresort.com)

**POOL MAN/**  
gardener. Full time, hard working, no English required. 6,000 baht per month. Tel: 01-537-6866.

**DAY MAID**  
English-speaking day maid for American-Thai family. Maid must be able to speak English with American farang. Will have to clean farang house and cook farang food. Sometimes will have to care for farang baby. Maid must show references at interview. Please contact. Tel: 07-8848374. Email: [mythai.phuket@yahoo.com](mailto:mythai.phuket@yahoo.com)

**DIVING INSTRUCTOR**  
PADI diving instructor required for dive center on Phi Phi. Email: [jkgk24@hotmail.com](mailto:jkgk24@hotmail.com)

**RESERVATION STAFF**  
Diethelm Travel (Phuket) is looking for highly qualified operations staff/supervisor. Good command of English. Computer literate, service minded, good team player, good interpersonal skills. Experience in travel industry is a plus. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-216607, 01-8927714. Fax: 076-213-934. Email: [max@dto.co.th](mailto:max@dto.co.th)

**STAFF WANTED!**  
New nightclub opening in November 2006 is seeking enthusiastic staff of all levels for an exciting venue!

**Manager**

A busy and varied role, this job requires someone with superb organisational skills. At least 3 years experience in a managerial role (preferred) within the hospitality industry. Minimum of 3 years living within the area of Phuket as well as good oral and written English.

- Attention to detail
- Ability to prioritize
- Good communication skills
- Good knowledge of IT systems (Microsoft Office)
- Numerate skills (this role involves processing and monitoring incoming invoices)

Please enclose an open application, a full CV as well as a salary request to [santeri.nurmi@sk-ravintolat.fi](mailto:santeri.nurmi@sk-ravintolat.fi)

**Head Bartender / Bar Supervisors**

Working as a member of our bar teams you will be responsible for serving guests to the high standards set out by our clients. The position will involve service of drinks from behind a bar of which you are responsible for. If you are motivated, well presented and enjoy working in lively environments and meeting new people then this is the position for you. Previous relevant experience of at least 3 years in a similar position is necessary. The successful applicant should also have experience of cash handling and relevant knowledge of cash registers. The successful applicant will be flexible and reliable with good written and spoken English. Full and paid training will be given in Europe.

Please enclose an open application, a full CV as well as a salary request to [santeri.nurmi@sk-ravintolat.fi](mailto:santeri.nurmi@sk-ravintolat.fi)

**Bartender / Waiter**

A bartender / waiter background would be beneficial and you will be communication at all levels so you must be confident with good English language skills. You must be polite, well presented and an enthusiastic team player. Your shifts will be in rotation on a weekly basis, therefore you need to be flexible.

To apply please call 01-9702146 between 2pm - 4pm or email [santeri.nurmi@sk-ravintolat.fi](mailto:santeri.nurmi@sk-ravintolat.fi)

SK Restaurants is a privately-owned European company operating within the restaurant service sector. At the moment it comprises of a total of 40 different restaurants operating in 20 cities in Finland and Estonia.

SK Restaurants will continue its growth in the following years and offers great career opportunities for anyone willing and wanting to develop themselves in the future. For additional information please visit [www.sk-ravintolat.fi](http://www.sk-ravintolat.fi)

**SUNWING RESORT & SPA**

Sunwing Resort & Spa, Phuket  
M.5 T. Cherng Talay, Thalung,  
Phuket 83110  
[www.sunwingphuket.com](http://www.sunwingphuket.com)

Fully contained family resort with its own restaurants, entertainment programs and a host of activities for all ages is looking for highly-motivated and service-minded individuals committed to grow within the expanding Ocean Resort Group in the following positions:

- **Chef, Cook**
- **Restaurant Service Manager**

- Degree from cook, restaurant school or similar
- Managerial experience in a Western & Thai a la carte kitchen
- Hotel knowledge and/or experience
- Leadership and (kitchen) organizational skills
- Fluent in English

**\*APPLICANTS FOR ALL OTHER POSITIONS ALSO WELCOME\***

Candidates should send a detailed resumé starting current and expected salary and telephone number together with a recent photograph to:

**Personnel Department**  
Ocean Resort Group: 562 Patak Rd, Karon Beach, Muang, Phuket 83100, Thailand  
Tel: +66 (0) 76 396599-601 Fax: +66 (0) 76 396470, +66 (0) 76 396177  
Email: [wisaroot@oceanresortgroup.com](mailto:wisaroot@oceanresortgroup.com)

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# Island Job Mart

# Tout, Trader & Trumpet




Safari Beach hotel right in the center of Patong Beach. Our hotel was established in 1980. We are currently seeking energetic team workers to apply for the following positions:

**Front Office Supervisor 1 position**

- Bachelor's degree in any field.
- At least 3-5 years' related experience in hospitality industry.
- Computer skills required

**Food & Beverage 1 position**

- At least 5 years' experience in restaurant management.
- Good personality; innovative and able to work under pressure.
- Hard working and dedicated

**Chief Hostess 1 position**

- At least 3 years' experience in hospitality.
- Good interpersonal skills.

**Bar Supervisor 1 position**

- At least 5 years' experience in Beverage industry

\*\*\* All above positions require a good command of English. \*\*\*  
 Please contact via e-mail: [hr@safaribeachhotel.com](mailto:hr@safaribeachhotel.com) or Tel: 076 - 341171-4  
 136 Thaweewong, Patong Beach, Phuket 83150.

## The Phuket Gazette

**The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following positions:**

**I. REPORTER**

The successful candidate will be a Thai national, with initiative, an outgoing personality, and plenty of experience about the world and how it works. Also essential are the ability to communicate in English, both spoken and written, and a car.

Good salary for the right candidate.

**II. ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANT**

The successful candidate will be a Thai national with an outgoing personality. Also essential are experience in sales and/or administration, a good command of written and spoken English, good management and organizational skills, and knowledge of PageMaker and Office software.

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV to Wipa Putkeaw, 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: [fon@phuketgazette.net](mailto:fon@phuketgazette.net)

**GRAPHIC ARTISTS**

A leading design and publishing company is looking for highly motivated graphic artists to assist on a new weekly magazine. Experience with Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Illustrator is essential. Good level of English is also required. Thai nationals only. Please make applications to K. Nee for an interview.

Tel: 01-9281530.  
 Email: [kammanees@hotmail.com](mailto:kammanees@hotmail.com)

**ELEMENTARY teacher wanted.** QSI International School of Phuket seeks an elementary school teacher. The position begins on August 17 and the successful candidate will have the following qualifications: fully certified to teach elementary school, native English speaker, female, elementary teaching experience, non-smoker. Send resum and supporting documents. Interviews start June 19 and continue until position is filled. Please contact for more info. Tel: 076-354077. Fax: 076-354076. Email: [alansiporin@qsi.org](mailto:alansiporin@qsi.org)

**TWO OFFICE POSITIONS**

Office Manager with strong administration/financial background and General Office Staff. Applicants must have good English and computer skills. Starting salaries will depend on experience and proven ability. Car and/or license an advantage. Please email/fax application with a CV or contact.

Tel: 076-232960, 01-9703028.  
 Fax: 076-232961.  
 Email: [bookings@sailing-thailand.com](mailto:bookings@sailing-thailand.com)

### Employment Wanted

**BAR + RESTAURANT MANAGER**

German bar-restaurant Manager wants to work again in Asia! Have worked 10 years in Hong Kong and Malaysia. At the moment, I'm back in Germany. Can start from November 2006. Seeking long-term position only! Looking forward to coming back to Asia. Tel: 49-6146846529. Email: [hakdagdo@yahoo.de](mailto:hakdagdo@yahoo.de)

**PROFESSIONAL HOTEL MANAGER**

Asian male, 36, Have been in Thailand for 9 years. Hotel graduate from British institution, experience as Sales Marketing Manager, FOM, RDM and GM. Looking for new challenge. Contact. Tel: 01-0801004. Email: [executives@ehotelier.com](mailto:executives@ehotelier.com)

### Articles for Sale

**ROASTING SPIT**

Stainless steel, year 2004, 380V, capacity: 20 chickens. Price new: 300,000 baht. For sale at: 200,000 baht. Please call Tel: 09-2898628 for details.

**PHOTOCOPIERS X 2**

Xerox, Ricoh reconditioned desktop copiers with service by farang 25,000 baht/each. Call George for more information. Tel: 06-972-4805.

**HOT TUB SELL-OUT SALE**

USA hot tub-hot spring spa. Strong massage jets. 30-40% discount. Only 3 tubs remaining. 3 x 6 seats. Spa design. Please call for more information. Tel: 09-195-0610.

### 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  
 012732053 (Scandinavian),  
 019564031 or 018912895

### Business Opportunities

**GUESTHOUSE WITH LAND SALE**


10 ground-floor rooms. Half rai of land. Offers up to 8.5 million baht. Please contact. Tel: 076-342280, 01-978-1956. Email: [palm@phuket.ksc.co.th](mailto:palm@phuket.ksc.co.th)

**RESTAURANT**

for lease. Best location at Chalong Circle. Aircon, phone, fully equipped, UBC TV, pool table. Includes 2 x 2-room upstairs apartments. Rent 36,000 baht per month. Please contact for more information. Tel: 09-5934193. Email: [tonydudley@eznet.co.nz](mailto:tonydudley@eznet.co.nz)

**Office/Showroom Space for Rent**  
**The Plaza Del Mar -**  
**Entrance to Laguna, Phuket.**

Last two superb, 40-square-metre, first-floor office/showrooms in the recently completed Plaza Del Mar.



Fully fitted with concealed air-con, security system, kitchenette, floors, 2 telephone lines with broadband capability, etc.

Please email Khun Nong at [plazadelmar@gmail.com](mailto:plazadelmar@gmail.com) for more information

**PHI PHI ISLAND**

Great business for sale in the best location. 14-year contract. First to see will take. Please contact David for more information. Tel: 09-2923711. Email: [patong05@gmail.com](mailto:patong05@gmail.com)

**RAWAI RESTAURANT FOR SALE**

Restaurant opportunity in Rawai. Please contact for more info. Tel: 09-8605007. Email: [meccar@msn.com](mailto:meccar@msn.com)

**DISCOTHEQUE**

in central patong. 550 sqm w/ imp advgs & att hotel seeks serious financial partners. Initial start-up 9.3 million baht according to business plan. Please contact for more information. Tel: 01-9684541. Email: [j\\_vpartners@hotmail.com](mailto:j_vpartners@hotmail.com)

**GUESTHOUSE**

for lease. Located in Kata Beach with 8 rooms + restaurant and shared swimming pool. Long-term lease contract. No key money. Rental fee of 100,000 baht per month. Ready to run! Please contact. Tel: 06-0043008. Email: [info@ayudhya.net](mailto:info@ayudhya.net) For further details, please see our website: [www.ayudhya.net](http://www.ayudhya.net)

**OFFICE/SHOWROOM**

for rent at Laguna Plaza Del Mar. Ground floor 22,000 baht per month. 2 telephone lines, aircon & security system. Ready to move in. Please contact. Tel: 01-9586805. Email: [kris.derweduwe@th.g4s.com](mailto:kris.derweduwe@th.g4s.com)

**2-STORY SHOP FOR RENT**

On Phuket Rd. Good location next to a dentist. 5m x 30m. 240,000 baht a year. Tel: 01-8924311.

**RESTAURANT**

Urgent sale, Mango Tree, Nanai Rd. Inspect and make offer. Please call Brian for more information. Tel: 07-0679960.

**BOUTIQUE HOTEL LEASE/SALE**



This 3-story boutique hotel has a good Patong Beach location. It features 10 lovely rooms, a stylish restaurant and a cozy mini spa. For sale or long-term lease. Ref #DHK T 1 2 0 5 1 5. Please contact. Tel: 06-0043008. Fax: 076-341372. Email: [info@ayudhya.net](mailto:info@ayudhya.net) For further details, please see our website at: [www.ayudhya.net](http://www.ayudhya.net)

**BEAUTIFUL SCHOOL franchise!** Beautiful Text-And-Talk Academy franchise, including world-famous TEFL course, now available in Patong, Phuket. Fully staffed with principal, marketing managers and TEFL Course instructor. Very easy terms. Building purchase optional. Please contact James on 01-8477248. (This offer won't last long!), 02-5613443, 02-5614381. Email: [parmelee@langserv.com](mailto:parmelee@langserv.com)

**BEACHFRONT business.** Looking for a beachfront restaurant or business property to buy or to lease. Please call Tel: 09-0543505 with full details.

**BAR and accomodation.** Kamala large bar, beer garden, 5 letting rooms, for sale at 1.2 million baht. Email: [thomaspatong@gmx.de](mailto:thomaspatong@gmx.de)



# Tout, Trader & Trumpet

**BAR RESTAURANT**  
Extremely profitable bar and restaurant on Nanai Rd is for sale due to birth of a baby in the family. Call for details. Tel: 01-7411963.

**RESTAURANT FOR SALE**  
50 seats with new equipment. Long lease and good rent. Perfect location. Company and work permit can be included. 1.3 million baht. Tel: 076-319032, 09-7291113. Email: richard\_melen@hotmail.com

**SHOP/OFFICE**  
50sqm in Sky Inn, Patong Condotel Complex for rent. Ground floor unit No 47/17. 6,000 baht/month. Tel: 06-6865567.

**FOR SALE/RENT**  
Restaurant on Klong Dao Beach, Koh Lanta. 28 seats inside, 12 outside. Lease until 31-March 2009. Rent 200,000 per year, asking price 900,000 baht. Includes rent for 2006-2007. Everything newly renovated. Contact Conny for more details and photos. Tel: 09-9858309. Email: crockstrom@hotmail.com

**KATOYS 'R' US**  
partner. After 6 years, Patong's famous Cabaret bar is for sale or may consider share/partner as Nick is retiring. Personal calls only to Nick at 076-292746, 01-8922824 or Ning-Ning at 01-8955242. No email info.

**BUNGY JUMP**  
Due to other business commitments our Pattaya site is now for sale. Tel: 09-289-1703. Email: kiwitez@hotmaill.com

**INVESTMENT**  
Min investment of 10,000 euros for 1 year = 10% interest net, payable after 4 weeks. Legal contract. Email: adventuraintern@hotmail.com

**O'MALLEYS IRISH PUB**  
Small business, big opportunity! Recently refurbished pub & restaurant, located in Phuket City. Package includes all paperwork, visas, 2 work permits and all licenses for a smooth takeover. 400sqm, live-music stage, sound and light system, UBC TV, 3 new pool tables (incl pool room), 15 tables, 40 bar stools, 5 fridges and freezers, kitchen equipment and over 300 taxi-bikes with O'Malleys vests driving around the city! Offers considered. Available as leasehold or freehold. Tel: 09-7292846. Email: scottshaw77@lycos.co.uk

**FOR SALE**  
German carwash technology from importer. Wash 100 cars or more a day. Selling, installation, service, training, investment. Email: carwash\_phuket@hotmail.com

**BEST FOR OFFICE**  
Ownership for sale: 2.3 million baht. 4-story unit next to Joe Mansion, before Lan Nawamin Park, near Pearl Hotel. Important places within walking distance. All recently renovated. Fax: +81-92-6064133. Email: hiro-phuket@nifty.com

**BUSINESS FOR SALE**  
- Restaurant  
- Internet caff  
- Beauty salon  
- Thai massage parlor  
All separate and fully equipped in the best spot in Chalong. Comes with 5 x 2-room apartments. 1.75 million baht. Lease 45,000 baht per month. 3 x 3 years. Tel: 09-5934193. Email: tonydudley@eznet.co.nz

**FOR RENT**  
Shophouse at Chalong Circle. Good location. Would suit dive shop or similar. Aircon and phone. Rent: 14,000 baht per month. Please contact for more information. Tel: 09-5934193. Email: tonydudley@eznet.co.nz

**PARTNER**  
for busy bar wanted. 50-seat bar on the beach road in Patong seeks partner. Current farang owner 7 years. Good all-year-round business. No monthly rent. 50% share for 1.75 million or sell outright with 3-year lease for 4.5 million baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 01-2715311. Email: mentor@phuket.ksc.co.th

**NICE SHOP**  
Kata Center. 300m from Karon and Kata Beaches, near zoning bars. Everything included. Only 400,000 baht. Clothes delivered from Singapore, trained staff, will act as consultant for new owner. Tel: 076-333140, 04-1853295.

**BAR/RESTAURANT**  
Restaurant on Rat-U-Thit Rd. Apartment above. Must sell 1.4 m baht. Bar/rest, Nanai Rd. Price now 900,000 baht. Inspect today, call Brian. Tel: 07-0673360. Email: batone86@hotmail.com

**BAR FOR SALE**  
Patong. Lounge bar/caff, Bangla, 4-floors, low rent, long lease. 4 million baht. Tel: 07-8817600.

**Business Products & Services**



**Complete Magical Entertainer**  
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07-8887676



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Email: info@siam-legal.com.  
[www.siam-legal.com](http://www.siam-legal.com)



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**MR CARPET**  
Oriental hand-knotted carpet, rug and kilim dealer (specializing in washing and repair). Tel: 01-9563061. Email: sohail\_carpet@yahoo.com Please see our website at [www.mistercarpet.com](http://www.mistercarpet.com)

**ONLY EVE VISA RUN**  
To Andaman Club, promotion price till Aug 2, 1,650 baht includes lunch at The Hotel, transfers, insurance, breakfast, soft drink, visa, aircon boat. Call Tel: 09-1954877 (QISMI) 01-595-2637 (EVE) 076-289201. For further details, please see our website at [www.evevisarun.com](http://www.evevisarun.com)

**Personal Services**

**PHOTOCOPY REPAIRS**  
Friendly farang fixes copiers and faxes and has laser toner refills. Please call George for more information. Tel: 06-9724805.

**FREE, NO CATCHES**  
Ex-professional and British cycling champion would like to offer advice on nutrition and personal training. Please call for more information. Tel: 07-1466622.

**LEARN THAI**  
at home. Charming Thai lady teacher gives Thai lessons at your home. Full course with conversation practice and home study material. Beginners or more advanced. Please contact for more information. Tel: 01-7971497. Email: churee77@hotmail.com

**TEFL TEACHERS**  
language academy. Central Festival. Training specialists in Toeic, Toefl, Gmat, Ielts. International Tefl certificate, 3 July. Learn Thai. Please contact. Email: tefl@loxinfo.co.th, info@teflschool.com Please see our website at [www.teflschool.com](http://www.teflschool.com)

**TEFL TEACHER**  
available. Native English speaker with years of experience with children available. Will babysit too. Please contact for more information. Email: lboyea01@yahoo.com

**PERSONAL TRAINING**  
Chalong Gym (opposite Land & Houses Park)  
- Aerobic classes also available  
- Thai & foreign trainers  
- All staff qualified to help you meet your goals  
- Lose weight  
- Gain muscle  
- Nutritional support  
Stay Healthy! Results guaranteed. Call or stop in for consultation. Tel: 076-282-349, 04-8412830. Email: islandmuscle@gmail.com

**AEROBIC CLASSES**  
AT CHALONG GYM  
Opposite Land & Houses Park  
**Monday:** Body Sculpting, 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm  
**Wednesday:** Cardio Variety, 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm  
**Friday:** Pilates for Beginners, 10 am - 11 am  
Tel: 076-282349. Email: islandmuscle@gmail.com

**HOME TEACHER**  
Teach Math, Science, Physics, Chemistry. Grade 1-12 (Teacher graduated Computer Science). Please contact for more information. Tel: 01-8970535. Email: kan\_thm@hotmail.com

**Personal Services Wanted**

**MIDWIFE, NURSE OR MAE BAAN**  
In early August I will give birth to my fourth baby, and I would like to do this at home. Is there any midwife, nurse or doctor in Phuket interested in natural birth who would come to our home? Also looking for a "mae baan" who knows how to take care of mother and baby after birth in traditional Thai style. If you know somebody, please let me know. Thank you. Contact. Tel: 076-270027, 01-0827703. Email: suntree@phukethomemassage.com

**Personals**

**BACKGAMMON**  
Retired businessman looking for backgammon players on Phuket Island. Please call for more information. Tel: 076-386113, 01-577-8443.

**YOUR FUTURE FORETOLD**  
Richard de Meath, internationally renowned clairvoyant and Tarot Grandmaster, will reveal the secrets of your future. Please contact. Tel: 44-(0)12028. Email: richarddemeath@tiscali.co.uk

**Pets**

**NEAPOLITAN MASTIFF MALE**



Hello, my name is Pablo. I'm 10 years old (father an International Champion and mother a French Champion) and looking for a beautiful, big female. Neapolitan Mastiff female is preferable, but any other big size is ok - Rotweiler, Labrador, Doberman, etc. Please email my owner. Email: poloyaux@yahoo.fr

# Wheels & Motors

## Saloon Cars

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Old Mazda pickup truck. 4 doors. 1.4L engine: needs only 7 liters of diesel per 100 km. Truck is 15-18 years old and still runs very well. Needs new tires. Right window not working well. Manual gears. 99,999 baht. Please email me at [24moskito@gmail.com](mailto:24moskito@gmail.com) or call me at Tel: 07-2148384 between 8 am and 8 pm.

## 4 x 4s

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2006 model Isuzu D-Max 4X4 LS 4-door. 5-speed manual, leather seats, tinted windows, front nudge bar, roll bar, 18" imported alloy wheels, silver. Only 13,000 km. Fully serviced and in excellent condition. Cost 1.07 million baht with all the extras; will sell for 750,000 firm. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-239768, 07-0391011. Email: [grant.saunders@simpsonmarine.com](mailto:grant.saunders@simpsonmarine.com)

### HONDA CR-V 2003

53,000km, black, regularly serviced, very good condition, non smoker. 650,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 06-6826099. Email: [holger@divesupply.com](mailto:holger@divesupply.com)

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### MAZDA TRIBUTE V6

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### TOYOTA TIGER 4X4

4-door. 2001, 83,000km, full Toyota service history, gold color, expat owner, never off-road. 4-door crew cab. Liner, 6-CD changer, tinted windows, manual transmission. Mint condition. 420,000 baht. Tel: 074-442895, 09-882-2186. Email: [mikep88@hotmail.com](mailto:mikep88@hotmail.com)

### WILLYS JEEP 1964

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### RANGE ROVER 250,000 BAHT



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# Wheels & Motors

**TOYOTA HILUX 4X4**  
pickup. Silver two-tone, full leather, 4-door, CD, owned since new in 2002. Service book by Toyota. Only 30,000 km. Mint condition, no modifications. For sale by owner. You won't find a better one. 630,000 baht or nearest offer. Tel: 01-8926534. Email: jbiervolf@yahoo.de

**TOYOTA SPORTRIDER**  
3.0i diesel, 4-wheel drive, Dec 1999, 120,000km, black, very good condition, no accidents, service records, foreign owner. 490,000 baht ono. Tel: 01-8469981. Email: ursaebi@gmx.net

**1991 SUZUKI JEEP 4X4**  
White, radio, aircon, new exhaust. Engine in good running order and body good considering age. Reason for sale: we are upgrading to a car. Please contact Rod or Shannon Meyer for more information. Tel: 09-1252794. Email: roddymeyer@yahoo.com

**ISUZU D-MAX 3L**  
Turbo SLX Jan 2004, 2WD, 4-door, manual, gold color, full service history, expat owned, Canvas Creations tonneau cover, load bay liner. No accidents. Excellent condition. 25,000km. Selling at 550,000 baht. Tel: 076-238231.

**WILLYS FOR SALE**  
Willys 1942 Ma2 jeep. 100% original, 4-speed 4WD submersible. Tel: 06-2766626.

**FORD RANGER 4X4**  
Hurricane model, Sept 2004. Only 17,000 km. 4-door, manual, dark blue. 580,000 baht. Tel: 01-8919461.

**NISSAN TURBO**  
4x4 pickup. Nissan Frontier 2500cc turbo diesel. 110,000km. July 2001. Good condition and maintenance. 320,000 baht ono. Tel: 076-282170, 01-4761271. Email: leduc@csloxinfo.com

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**CARIBIAN JEEP**  
An 8-year-old Caribbean jeep for sale. Green. Good condition. Asking 145,000 baht. Tel: 01-2715291. Email: bertrandroggo@hotmail.com

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**HONDA 110 S**  
for sale. Old timer, 40 years old. Please contact for more information. Tel: 09-6620804.

**YAMAHA VIRAGO**  
Not used much over the past 4 years. Not a Phuket motorcycle. Asking 60,000 baht, open to offers. Call anytime at. Tel: 01-270-0203. or contact via Email: stevennakon@hotmail.com

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**HONDA PHANTOM**  
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**YAMAHA NOUVO**  
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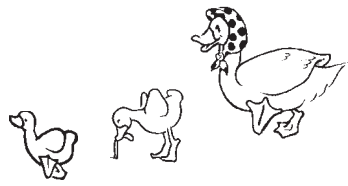
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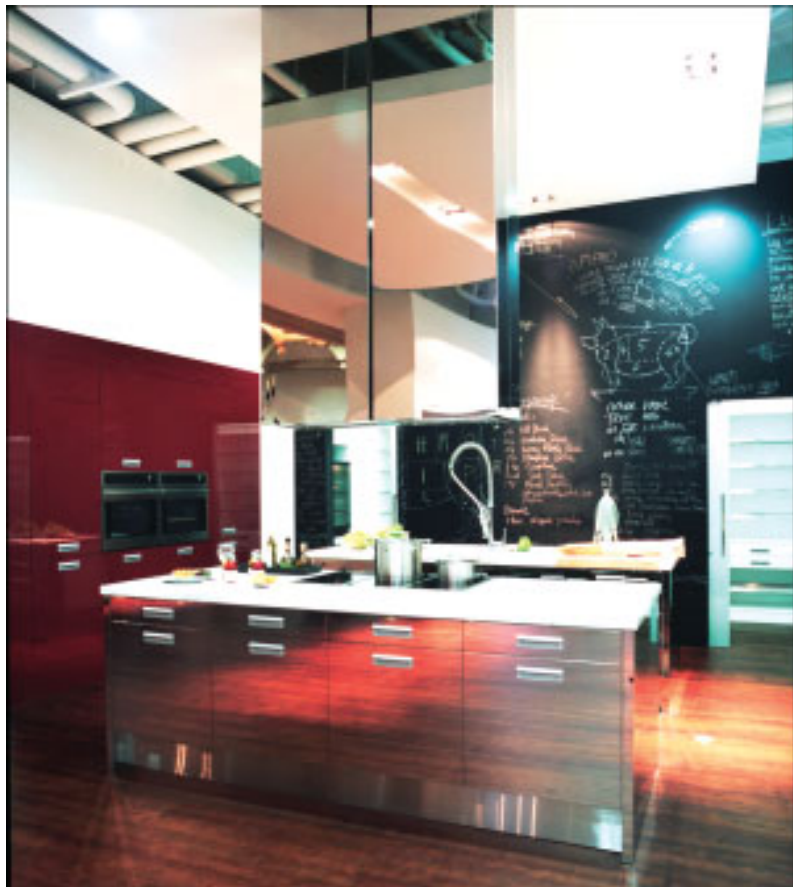
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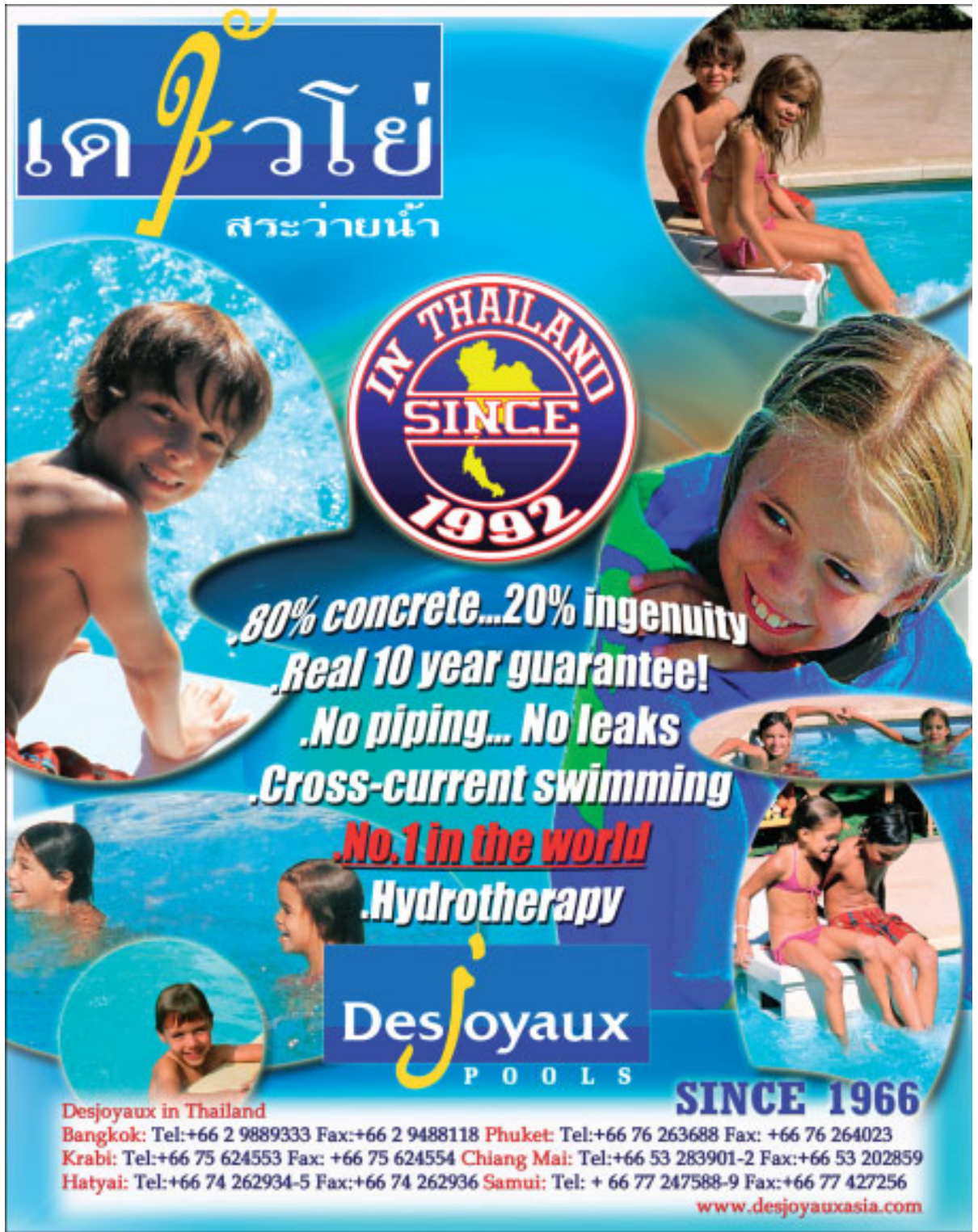


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