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## OrBorJor launches new airport-shuttle service

By Natcha Yuttaworawit

**MAI KHAO:** In another small step forward toward solving Phuket's long-standing public transport woes, the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) together with Airport Limousine and Business Service Co-operative (Airport Taxi Co-op) have launched a new airport van service direct to Phuket City.

With the introduction of the new service, the Airport Taxi Co-op has announced that it will suspend or even terminate the service of van drivers who are caught stopping on the bypass road to sell tours or other services to passengers.

The new 100-baht airport van service direct to Phuket City was launched August 12 to improve the existing van service, which has long been criticized for being unreliable.

In the past, the vans would accept passengers headed for destinations both on the west coast and in Phuket City, resulting in lengthy waits for connecting rides, during which tours operators and touts would approach stranded passengers.

Manote Chupak, president of Airport Limousine and Business Service Co-operative, conceded that the old service was unpopular with tourists.

"Tourists are not happy with the way the vans have been running. We receive many complaints about the airport vans always stopping on the bypass road, with the drivers telling them that the van has to pick up extra passengers or change the van altogether," he said.

According to new Airport Taxi Co-op rules, any van driver who stops in this manner will be suspended for three days, then



**With the introduction of a new van service direct to Phuket City, the Airport Taxi Co-op says that the days of delay and confusion for passengers waiting at the bypass road have finally ended.**

for seven days for a second offense. A driver will be banned altogether for a third strike.

The new direct van route to the city will be down Thepkrasattri Rd, then right on Rassada Rd and on to the terminus at Ranong Rd near Suriyadej Circle, he said.

"Although most of the passengers are Thai, we are hoping that tourists will start to use the service more," said K. Manote.

One van will run the new route every hour on the hour between 9 am and midnight, he added.

The vans will depart from directly outside the door of the airport terminal, dropping passengers anywhere along the route. Babies can travel free of charge.

It is unclear if the new service will spell the end of the Airport Bus service. Launched in October 2005, the Airport Bus route starts at the bus station on Phang Nga Road and travels west through the city before turn-

ing north to the airport along the bypass road.

K. Chatchawarn, chief of Phuket Provincial Transport Office (PPTO), said the Airport Bus route might be changed to collect passengers at the new bus station that is to be built on Thepkrasattri Rd in Rassada, near Supercheap.

Routes of the *OrBorJor* green buses serving Phuket City and environs may be adjusted to shuttle passengers between the old bus station and the new station once it opens.

Plans for Phuket's new bus station made progress this week with the announcement that the owner of the 10 rai of land sought for building had agreed to sell up.

K. Chatchawarn said, "I have asked for a budget of 48 million baht for construction of the station from the Department of Land Transport. We are now awaiting cabinet approval. The land owner will transfer the land to us next week," he told the *Gazette* on August 14.

## Kathu concrete factory scrapped

By Pathomporn Kaenkrachang

**KATHU:** Construction of a Siam Cement concrete factory in Kathu has been scrapped after objections by local residents, the *Gazette* has learned.

Montri Promrit, chief of Kathu Municipality Public Works and Town & Country Planning Division, said that that Siam Cement bought about two rai of land on Phra Phuket Kaew Rd in Kathu in 2005 and leveled the ground in July this year. A building permit was then issued by Kathu Municipality.

However, construction could only proceed if it did not adversely impact local residents, he said.

"After we received complaints from the residents regarding dust and noise we filed a complaint to Phuket Provincial Public Works and Town & Country Planning Office - because construction was done without a public hearing," K. Montri said.

"On July 25, representatives from Siam Cement came to Phuket to meet with the residents in the area, Kathu Mayor Prasert Khaokitpaisarn and myself," K. Montri said.

After discussions, Siam Cement decided to comply with the order from Kathu Municipality to stop construction and is now searching for an alternative site, he said.

Local resident Peter Garrett, who has lived in the nearby Chalekeree housing estate for 12 years, earlier told the *Gazette* that the development of large residential projects in the area like The Heritage and The Valley clearly show that the area's future lies in residential development, not heavy industry.

## Man hangs himself in 'Burmese cemetery'

By Sompratch Saowakhon

RASSADA: Volunteer rescue workers early on the evening of August 8 recovered the body of an unidentified man, believed to be Burmese, hanging by the neck from a tree in a mangrove forest off Soi Honsaitong.

The body was discovered near the fishing port by a man looking for shellfish in the area, about 100 meters off Soi Kobkulnusun, Lt Maj Keerati Triwai of Phuket City Police told the *Gazette*.

Kusoldharm Foundation volunteers had trouble recovering the body, which was suspended about five meters off the ground by a nylon rope tied to a mangrove tree, he said.

As the man was dressed in a blue T-shirt and Burmese-style sarong, police presume the man was Burmese, Lt Maj Keerati said.

Local residents were unable to identify him and no ID card was recovered, he added.

Muddy footprints on the tree indicate that the man had climbed the tree and hanged himself, Lt Maj Keerati said.

There were no signs of foul play, he added.

Police estimate the man was in his early- to mid-30s and died at least 12 hours before his body was discovered.

Police will continue to try to learn the man's identity, Maj Keerati said.

The apparent suicide is an oddity in the area, which has become notorious for the frequent stabbing murders there, earning the area the nickname the "Burmese cemetery".

Three other Burmese workers were found dead near the end of August, all apparently stabbed to death. None of them have been identified.

# New market brings art to town

PHUKET CITY: In an effort to establish Phuket as a regional art hub, the Culture Ministry's Office of Contemporary Art and Culture has provided initial funding of 100,000 baht to establish a "Phuket Weekend Art Market" in Phuket City.

The event was announced at a ceremony on the night of August 9 at Queen Sirikit Park on Thalang Rd, where the first market will take place on August 17 and 18. Special performances will take place both nights from 6 pm to 9 pm.

Attending the announcement were Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) President Anchalee Vanich-Thepabutra, Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) South Region 4 Office Director Suwalai Pinpradab and other officials.

A wide range of art will be on display and for sale at the event, which will be followed by more Phuket Weekend Art Markets taking place on the first weekend of each month, beginning September 1.

The events are being organized in cooperation with Phuket Province, Phuket City Municipality, *OrBorJor* Phuket, the TAT South Region 4 Office in Phuket, Thai Hotels Association, Heroine's Foundation and other government agencies and private sector groups.

The objective is to provide a forum for all aspiring artists – especially youth – on the island to exhibit their works and exchange ideas with other artists.

More than 50 artists are expected to attend the first event, which will include exhibitions of painting, sculpture, mixed media, graphics, photography, music, cultural performances, puppet shows, performance art and many other genres.

Admission is free of charge. For more information on how to participate or sponsor the event call: Somrid Pejpong (Tel: 086 2735440), Ardchima Nookong (Tel: 086-6854223), or Narong Promjit (Tel: 089-4745253). *See also: First Person, page 27*



A performance artist uses lightbulbs and wicker baskets to create a novel version of the traditional *phii krahang*, or long-tailed spirit. A wide variety of art forms will be on display at the Phuket Weekend Art Market on the August 17 and 18, then on the first weekend of the month for the next year.

## Suspect confesses to killing mom-in-law

By Sompratch Saowakhon

CHERNG TALAY: A man who allegedly confessed to strangling his mother-in-law in a fit of rage on August 7 faces charges of premeditated murder, but police were still gathering evidence in the case and had yet to question the victim's daughter or forward the case to the court system as this edition went to print.

Neighbors of Srila Kanchorn, 52, a native of Phayao, found her body lying face-up in a coconut plantation in Baan Pasak, part of Cherg Talay's Village 4 at about 9 am on August 7. She was dressed in a yellow shirt and light-blue sports pants.

Cherg Talay Police Investigation Inspector Lt Col Jetsada Sangsuree said police believe she was killed between five and six hours before her body was discovered.

There were signs of bruising around the victim's neck consistent with strangulation, he added.

When police went to question the victim's family, her son-in-law 28-year-old Vutthichai Jittrarat, a native of Suphanburi province, admitted to strangling K. Srila in a fit of rage after she verbally abused him for being lazy.

"He said that he did not intend to kill her," Col Jetsada said.

As both the confessed murderer and his victim were members of the same family, the testimony of the K. Srila's daughter will likely play a key role in future court proceedings, he said.

The woman is in Phuket, but had not yet been questioned by police a full week after her mother was found murdered.

She has not attempted to arrange police bail for her husband, who was still being held at Cherg Talay Police Station as this edition went to press.

Nevertheless, police say they will question the daughter soon and prefer charges of premeditated evidence to the court as soon as all the evidence has been collected.

## New NGO to hold contest

PHUKET: Phuket Community Foundation (PCF) was launched August 13 to provide the island with a new channel for dealing with pressing local issues and concerns.

PCF President Niyom Tassaneetipagorn outlined the Foundation's goals during the launch at Phuket Merlin Hotel, saying, "PCF brings all layers of society together with a common goal to improve Phuket for locals and visitors alike.

"We are confident in the community's ability to know itself and the problems that exist within it, and we think the community is therefore best suited to decide on the issues and challenges that need to be addressed," he added.

Residents are being called upon by PCF to identify community-related problems and possible solutions that might be carried out with the help of the Foundation.

To start its work, PCF is holding a competition – open to all Phuket residents – to submit their ideas for improving society.

Winners will receive an all-expenses-paid trip to observe the workings of a successful charity project.

The deadline for entries is September 15 and winners will be announced two weeks later.

For more information visit: [www.phuketcf.org](http://www.phuketcf.org) or contact K. Piyarat at Tel: 081-7190967; Email: [kpiyarat2000@yahoo.com](mailto:kpiyarat2000@yahoo.com)

## Scheduled August blackouts

PHUKET: The Phuket Provincial Electricity Authority (PPEA) has announced scheduled blackouts in August.

The blackouts, which will occur from 9 am to 5 pm, will affect the following locations:

**August 21, Rawai to Laem Phromthep:** along the entire Rawai beachfront to Laem Phromthep, including the Happy Home housing development, Soi Yanui and Soi Baan Laem Phromthep.

**August 23, Kathu:** Phra Phuket Kaew Rd, from the Tesco-Lotus intersection to Kathu Temple, including The Valley, The Heritage, Moo Baan Chalekeree, Baan Kathu, Soi Dara, Soi Ban Kathu School, Kathu Thani Village, Hope Land 2 housing development and Soi Kathu 3, 4, 5 and 6.

**August 30, Samkong:** the north side of Yaowarat Rd, from Samkong Shrine to the Samkong three-way intersection, including Soi Samkong 1 and Phuket Garden View housing development.

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

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## Police raid tea shop, hookahs seized

PHUKET CITY: During a raid of the Khiew-Tong cafe on Thalang Rd on the evening of August 8, police found 16 minors smoking flavored tobacco through a hookah.

The 10 males and six females, all under 18, were arrested and later released to their parents. The shop owner, Phuket native Veerasak Abdulla, 49, was charged with aiding or abetting a minor to engage in wrongful behavior for commercial gain.

Police entered the downtown tea shop about 9:30 pm and found a full house of smokers. As hookahs are legal, police did not order the venue closed or arrest other patrons.

The police confiscated two water pipes and two packs of tobacco from the shop, which sells fruit-flavored molasses and tobacco packets for 100 baht each.

Lt Somsak Thongklieng of Phuket City Police Station told the *Gazette*, "We told the shop owner that if we find him serving minors again we will shut down the shop, so we will keep an eye on him."

Smoking through hookahs has become increasingly popular in Phuket in recent years, due in large part to the increasing popularity of the island among tourists from the Middle East.

Early in his term, Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit expressed concern with the custom, saying he feared the water pipes could be also used with illegal drugs such as marijuana and hashish.

-Somprach Saowakhon

## Significant rise in Juvenile Court cases

By Pathomporn Kaenkrachang

PHUKET: Figures released by the Phuket Juvenile Observation and Protection Center for the first seven months of 2007 show a total of 364 youth crimes. If youth crime continues at the same rate there could be as many as 624 cases in 2007, which would mark an 11% increase on 2006 figures.

For the first seven months of 2007, there were a total of 82 inhalant-abuse cases reported, such as for the huffing of rubber cement or glue.

The majority (68 cases) involved boys aged 15 to 18.

Of the total 559 youth-crime cases in 2006, most were related to drugs - particularly the use of inhalants. There were a total of 147 such cases reported in 2006, the majority (117 cases) again involving boys 15 to 18 years of age. Only five such cases were reported of girls in all age brackets.

The other two drugs popular with Phuket's adolescents were marijuana, with 32 cases of arrest in the first seven months of 2007, compared with 35 cases in 2006; and *ya bah* (metham-

phetamine), with 16 cases of arrest for the first seven months of 2007, compared to 23 in all 2006.

For theft, there were a total of 83 cases in the first seven months of 2007, while 115 were reported throughout 2006. Snatch-and-run crimes appear to be on the decrease, with only two cases reported so far this year, compared with 38 in all of 2006.

There have been six cases of premeditated murder by youths in the first seven months of 2007, compared with seven for all of 2006.

Sangpreteep Komonlabut, director of Phuket Juvenile Observation and Protection Center, downplayed the apparent increases, saying that the number of court case tends to rise and fall over time.

He said his center's role is to rehabilitate and reform troubled teenagers so that they can return and live happily with their families.

The greatest problems in achieving this goal come with children from broken homes or those whose parents have migrated to Phuket and now spend all their time working, he added.

## Welcome to Phuket



TAH CHAT CHAI: The countdown to the official opening of the Phuket Welcome Gate continues. The complex is already open to tourists but will have a grand opening ceremony September 9. The 50 million baht structure is heralded as "the first living room" for visitors to Phuket.

## Korean tour operators shy away from action on illegal guides

By Semacote Suganya

PHUKET CITY: Only eight of 57 Korean tour operators invited by the local office of the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) to discuss the hotly-debated topic of illegal Korean tour guides in Phuket were represented at a meeting on Tuesday organized by Phuket Governor Niran Kanlayanamit's office.

Being a tour guide is a profession reserved for Thais, yet many Koreans continue to work illegally as guides, last year serving some of the 239,093 Korean tourists who came to Phuket and spent more than 16 billion baht.

In a bid to at least restrict the increasing number of illegal Korean guides, the governor's office announced at the meeting a memorandum of understanding (MOU) that requires Korean operators to employ Korean-speaking Thais as guides.

On August 29 and 30, about 300 Thai guides will sit a Korean-language test set by the provincial administration and the Professional Guide Association (PGA).

According to the MOU, those who pass the test, which

will be overseen by Korean-language experts, will begin working immediately for Korean tour operators.

The PGA called on the governor's office to charge operators who illegally employ Korean guides and refuse to sign and abide by the MOU.

Korean tour operators at the meeting raised concerns that after employing Thai guides, many of them would quit and set up their own companies or work freelance, leading to staffing shortages.

The MOU was signed August 14 by the Korean tour operators who were willing to abide by the agreement.

Korean operators at the meeting said that they would hold a separate meeting to discuss the

MOU, informing other operators who were not able to attend the August 14 meeting.

The MOU is the latest development in a series of events that have seen the TAT and the governor's office criticized for failing to crack down on Koreans working illegally as tour guides in Phuket.

Last November, some 25 Thai tour guides marched on Phuket Provincial Hall demanding the resignation of Suwalai Pinpradab, director of Tourism Authority of Thailand's Southern Region 4 office.

In a letter written to Governor Niran, the Thai guides alleged that government officials had been taking bribes from Korean tour operators to allow them to continue hiring illegal guides.

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# Diving under pressure

For more than a year the provincial government has struggled to implement dive-industry regulations requiring dive operators to register their companies and declare their income. The dive operators have resisted the new regulations and very few of the companies have followed the provincial guidelines.

The latest provincial-level meeting to discuss the regulations was held August 6 at the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) Southern Region 4 Office on Thalang Rd in Phuket City, drawing many high-ranking officials.

Chaired by Phuket Vice-Governor Worapoj Ratthasima, the gathering included representatives from the Phuket Provincial Administration Office, TAT, Phuket Marine Police, Phuket Marine Office, Phuket Area Revenue Office, Phuket Employment Office, Phuket Marine Biological Center (PMBC) and Phuket Provincial Immigration Office. Representing the private sector were representatives of the Thai Diving Association (TDA) and Phuket Eco-tourism Association.

V/Gov Worapoj told the meeting that while the new regulations remain suspended by the court, the dive industry continues to reap huge profits.

At the same time, various government agencies continue to face difficulties in forcing dive operators to comply with a variety of regulations, including those on tax payment, issuance of work permits for foreign workers and environmental protection.

The recent underwater attack of a Thai diver by a foreign dive instructor also highlights the

With last year's controversial regulations imposed by the province on the local dive industry suspended by the Administrative Court pending a ruling on their legality, Phuket's dive industry has continued to operate as normal.

Whatever the final outcome of the ruling, however, the province is determined to push for a more integrated approach to regulating the multi-billion-baht industry.

*Gazette* Senior Reporter Janyaporn Morel and News Editor Stephen Fein report on the latest developments, including a recent high-level meeting of provincial officials regarding the industry.

## THE REGULATIONS AT A GLANCE

Now suspended under a court order pending a ruling by the Administrative Court in Nakhon Sri Thammarat, controversial new regulations imposed on the Phuket dive industry and signed into law on August 25, 2006, by former Phuket Governor Udomsak Uswarangkura are divided into three parts:

The first part covers environmental concerns and protection of coral; the second gives companies instructions on how to register as dive operators; the third sets out plans for the formation of three committees:

The first committee would receive applications for permission to operate a diving business; the second would examine the applications; the third would inspect licensed businesses and deal with illegal operators.

The regulations would require dive operators to register with the Phuket Marine Office and present registration documents, tax information, work permits for foreign staff, all boat registration documents (including the names of captain and crew), records of salaries and wages, details of any related websites, company bookkeeping and payment systems, diving courses and students.

Dive businesses granted permits from the province would then have to submit monthly reports giving details of income, current staff and dive trips.

Any dive company that fails to submit the reports, or fails to provide all required documents, would risk having their permits revoked.

need for greater regulation, V/Gov Worapoj said.

TDA Vice-President Pragon Gategun said that his organi-

zation agrees that better regulation is necessary, even if it comes in the form of a new set of laws imposed nationwide on the industry.

However, he reiterated that the now-suspended regulations that his agency is challenging in the Administrative Court would require a major overhaul before they could be applied nationally.

In their current form, the regulations are not only impractical, but reflect a real lack of understanding of how the dive industry works, he said.



ABOVE: At the most-recent meeting, panel members were told that it is only a matter of time before the Phuket dive industry comes under some centralized form of regulation, either at the provincial or national level.

BELOW: Opponents of increased dive-industry regulation say it will increase operating costs and send dive enthusiasts to nearby countries. Photo courtesy of birdfar@yahoo.com



Tawicha Chaitong, chief of Phuket Provincial Administration and Justice Enhancement Group, reminded the group at the meeting that the regulations now suspended by the court were never intended to impose new restrictions or make life difficult for law-abiding dive operators.

By consolidating information in one place, they were meant to facilitate enforcement of existing regulations.

The goal was not to create hardship for those who comply with the law, but to make it easier

to catch those who don't, he said.

Although the regulations are still suspended pending the court's ruling, the Ministry of Interior (MoI) has since acknowledged the need for diving-industry regulation nationwide. The MoI is studying the possible nationwide use of regulations put in place in Phuket and later suspended by the court, he said.

"Regardless of whether the Administrative Court rules to revoke the new regulations, the law is on our side. All related agencies will still have many ways to ensure compliance.

In addition to the MoI, both the Ministry of Natural Resource and Environment and the Ministry of Tourism and Sports are planning to push for their regulations' enactment when a new government is installed, he added.

Phuket Marine Police Inspector Pol Lt Col Prathuang Srilamontri said a good first step to better regulating the industry would be to force operators to give notice every time a dive vessel leaves port with passengers. Such a move could be implemented immediately under existing regulations, he said.

"We already have a law requiring captains of all vessels

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# THE PUSH FOR REGULATION: A CHRONOLOGY

**April 5, 2006:** A provincial-level committee chaired by then-Governor Udomsak Uswarangkura is set up to discuss ways to better regulate the dive industry amidst accusations of tax evasion, foreign dive instructors working without permits and environmental damage at dive sites.

After the meeting, then-Phuket's Chief Administrative Officer (*Palad*) Nivit Aronrat claimed that Phuket's dive industry was "concealing" facts and that the government was receiving insufficient information about operators and their employees.

Placed in charge of the effort, *Palad* Nivit said he hoped to establish a committee that would comprehensively vet dive outfits before they can register with the TAT, as is already required.

**June 15, 2006:** Gov Udomsak accepts for consideration and possible approval the first draft of a set of provincial regulations drawn up by *Palad* Nivit and other committee members.

Gov Udomsak has 30 days to sign the draft, which, if approved, would require all dive companies operating in Phuket to register with the province within 30 days. Once registered, the shops would then have 30 more days to submit all required documentation and apply for a permit to operate a dive business in Phuket.

**July 18, 2006:** After the 30-day period to sign the draft into law has passed, *Palad* Nivit tells the *Gazette* that Gov Udomsak has accepted the general concept of bringing the dive industry under closer provincial scrutiny, but that he first wants to hear the opinions of the dive industry and relevant government agencies before putting new regulations in place.

A public hearing is scheduled at Phuket Provincial Hall on July 26, with all related organizations invited to attend.

**July 26, 2006:** At the public hearing, dive operators are given Thai-language copies of the draft regulations and allowed seven days to suggest changes. The governor said the regulations were not designed to make people's lives more complicated, but to protect the environment and to ensure compliance with existing laws.

**August 8, 2006:** *Palad* Nivit, noting that the committee has received no formal opposition from the dive industry, says he believes the new regulations will be signed into law by the governor "soon".

Although the signing of the documents was delayed,

their provisions will still come into force on September 1, he maintains. Nivit's secretary said one major change made to the draft regulations since the meeting would require dive operators to report to the Phuket Marine Office which dive sites they use. Privately, dive operators express frustration over the province's refusal to compromise.



Scrutiny for dive operators first came from the office of then-Phuket Governor Udomsak Uswarangkura.

**August 15, 2006:** *Palad* Nivit's Secretary tells the *Gazette* that the draft regulations are being scrutinized by Phuket Chief Prosecutor Bantoon Thongtan at the governor's request to ensure no loopholes exist for dive operators to avoid compliance. As a member of the drafting committee, K. Bantoon is not asked to review whether the province actually had the legal authority to impose or enforce them. Meanwhile, the *Gazette* learns that members of the dive industry have retained lawyers to study these very issues.

**August 25, 2006:** After two weeks of review by the prosecutor, the dive regulations are signed by Gov Udomsak. Dive operators have until September 30 to register with the Marine Police.

**August 28, 2006:** The new regulations and related documents, all in Thai, are published by the government and posted on the *Gazette* website.

**September 21, 2006:** Chatupol Chindapol, President of the Diving Sport Association of the Thai Diving Association (TDA), meets with Gov Udomsak to suggest changes and recommend that diving-industry regulations be applied nationwide – not just in Phuket. Gov Udomsak stands firm, saying changes could be applied in the future but that the regulations will be enforced "as is" until any problems with the rules become apparent.

**September 29, 2006:** The *Gazette* reports that the TDA filed a case in mid-September with the Administrative Court in Nakhon Sri Thammarat challenging the legality of the regulations and requesting that the court order them rescinded.

TDA Vice-President Pragon Geatgun tells the *Gazette* that TDA members find it difficult to comply with all the required paperwork. Phuket Marine Office Chief Surin Theerakulpisut tells the *Gazette* that about 40 dive operators have already registered.

*Palad* Nivit acknowledges receipt of a notice from the Administrative Court and says provincial lawyers will defend the new regulations in court.

Reaching civil service retirement age, Gov Udomsak does not address the issue during his last days in office.

**October 19, 2006:** Arguing that the regulations infringe on their privacy rights and are very difficult to comply with, TDA representatives formally request that the Administrative Court suspend the regulations until it rules in the case.

**October 30, 2006:** The Administrative Court in Nakhon Sri Thammarat suspends the regulations indefinitely, pending the court ruling. The court cited in its decision concerns that former Gov Udomsak may have overstepped his authority.

The court accepted that some procedures required under the regulations appear incompatible with the stated aim of environmental protection and noted that numerous environmental protection laws already existed.

Provincial defense attorney Aekachai Soonthorn says he intends to appeal the suspension to the Supreme Administrative Court in Bangkok within the 30 days allowed.

**October 31, 2006:** Newly appointed Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit becomes nominal defendant in the case with his promotion to the post of Phuket Governor.

**December 25, 2006:** After applying for a transfer, *Palad* Nivit leaves Phuket to take up the position of *Palad* of Samut Sakhon Province. He is replaced by Piya Pharatasinlapin, former chief of Nakhon Sri Thammarat's Muang District.

**June 12, 2007:** Gov Niran calls a high-level provincial meeting following reports that a foreign dive instructor attacked a Thai diver at Richelieu Rock in the Similan Islands.

With the Administrative Court yet to rule on the legality of the suspended provincial regulations, the incident appears to rekindle interest in dive-industry regulation. Noting that the government lacks an effective mechanism for regulating the behavior of individual dive instructors, Gov Niran calls on the TAT to work together with the Education Ministry to set up a system of individual licensing similar to that required of teachers.



Current Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit has now taken over the charge.

over 60 ton gross weight to inform the Marine Office when they leave port. So far we have enforced the rule only on vessels going abroad.

"The Marine Police are authorized ready to carry out inspections on all aspects of the law, including whether or not dive instructors have work permits," he said.

Other problems discussed at the meeting included finding ways to limit damage caused by the industry to the marine environment and local ways of life, as well as maintaining standards on diving courses offered.

Before concluding the meeting, V/Gov Worapoj told all board members representing government agencies to list all the problems they were encountering with the dive industry and come up with possible solutions. These would be discussed at the next meeting, to be held within 30 days, he said.

After the meeting, West Coast Divers Managing Director and Phuket Eco-tourism Association President Pakdee

Khruthanang told the *Gazette* that all dive operators in Phuket are prepared to accept regulation of the industry because they understand that it is needed to avoid further problems.

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QUEER NEWS

# Rampant rapist eludes vengeful vigilantes, police

NAKHON SRI THAMMARAT: A group of irate villagers in Nakhon Sri Thammarat Municipality launched a vigilante squad July 31 to try to track down an inhalant-addicted rapist from whom not even dogs, pigs and banana trees were safe.

A meeting was held at 1:30 pm that day at the house of Phairot Mathayawut, head of the local Volunteer Crime News Reporting Squad and ex-chairman of the Ton Wah community group, to discuss what to do about a young local man known as Aek, 20, who had been terrorizing local women, livestock and fruit trees.

K. Phairot said that villagers in Ton Wah and nearby communities were so afraid of Aek that few women dared to leave the safety of their homes after nightfall and parents kept their children locked indoors.

Female market vendors were losing money because they were too afraid to venture out to the local market during the early morning hours, he said.

"Aek is addicted to inhalants and is very secretive, never associating with anyone. He has a sword as long as a man's forearm and a two-meter-long metal pole as his personal weapons. These he carries with him at all times," explained K. Phairot.

"As for his style of attack, apart from grabbing women when they are outside their homes, he also watches out for when women are home alone. When he finds one, he climbs onto the roof and removes tiles until he can jump down into the house," he added.

Aek's latest outrage was the knife-point rape in July of a young mother who had recently given birth. Despite knowing Aek's identity, police had been unable to find him.

At the meeting, the villagers decided they had waited long enough for police action and took matters into their own hands by sending out a group of local tough guys to hunt for Aek.

When the vigilantes arrived at Aek's house, they found he was not home. From there they went to a shack in the nearby forest where Aek was known to hide out, but again found no trace of him.

Villagers said that in addition to raping women, Aek had also forced himself on villagers' dogs, pigs and banana trees. Around his house, more than 10 trees were found to have small holes cut in them at about waist height that Aek allegedly used to pleasure himself.

Nakhon Sri Thammarat Provincial Police Commander Pol Maj Gen Sutjai Yannarat said that he had received a report of the incidents.

A subsequent investigation of Aek's background revealed that he was so heavily addicted to inhalants that he had become mentally unstable and posed a great danger to society. He has ordered Nakhon Sri Thammarat Police to track him down as quickly as possible, he added.

"The court has issued an arrest warrant for Aek, but we still have been unable to catch him. I have assigned Lt Col Chokdee Srimuang, deputy inspector of investigations at Nakhon Sri Thammarat Provincial Police, to work with Muang District Special Task Force to hunt him down.

"Two days ago they almost caught him, but he fought so hard that he lost all his clothes and managed to escape wearing only his underpants," Gen Sutjai said on July 31.

Source: Kom Chad Luek

STAMPS

# All become one

In honor of the 24<sup>th</sup> World University Games (Universiade) held in Bangkok from August 8 to 18, Thailand Post on the opening day released a stamp to commemorate the games.

The stamps cost three baht each. Only 1.2 million copies will be produced at a size of 27 x 45 millimeters.

The stamp features a hand holding a Universiade medal with the competition's slogan, "All Become One."

Universiade, launched in 1923, is played in a different country every two years and includes separate summer and winter competitions.

The stamps can be bought at all 10 Thailand Post offices in Phuket.



# Cook's helper saves the day

CAPE PANWA: Panya Torcharoen, commercial director of Thai Sarco Company, presented a gift basket to Anthika Hokhern, a cook's helper at Cape Panwa Hotel, to show his deep appreciation after K. Anthika helped K. Panya's elderly uncle safely home on the night of July 30.

After spending his day reading newspapers at the Samakee Tham Association about 50 meters from his home on Yaowarat Rd, near Timber Hut in Phuket City, K. Panya's uncle K. Engchoo, 91, was mistakenly dropped off by a well-meaning person outside his son's place of work at Makhm Bay, more than 10 kilometers from his home.

Hard of hearing and disoriented, K. Engchoo was wandering along the roadside about 300 meters from the Phuket Deep



Panya Torcharoen (2<sup>nd</sup> from left) presents Anthika Hokhern with a gift basket after she escorted K. Panya's elderly father home safely after he had been dropped off in the wrong part of town.

Sea Port when noticed by K. Anthika.

Fearing K. Engchoo would be run down by teenage motorcycle racers, she patiently waited

until K. Enchoo could explain where he lived and then drove him home safely.

K. Panya delivered the gift basket the following morning.



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# Thai language in 'dismal state'

**A** national artist in literature on August 8 urged the Education Ministry to highlight the importance of writing and reciting in Thai.

Naovarat Pongpaiboon said after a meeting at the Culture Ministry that children need to learn how to put their thoughts in order to use the language properly.

By his estimate, more than 50% of Thai children have problems forming long sentences because they do not know the basics of the language.

The government has declared 2007 as Year to Promote Thai Language. As part of the ministry's two-million-baht project, activities are being held at various department stores nationwide.

Youngsters can also take part in the Thai-language composition contest on the subject "good children embrace moral principles". Winners receive scholarships and a plaque of honor from the Minister of Culture.

**Boss does a runner:** The Labor Ministry has blacklisted a Taiwanese businessman who disappeared without paying workers after his firm failed.

In addition to legally-required severance payments, Lee Chen Fu will be subject to civil action to clear debts and will be barred from making future investments in Thailand, said Phadungsak Thephasadin, director-general of the Labor Protection and Welfare Department.

The department took action following the unannounced shutdown of Lee's Phoenix Furniture Group in Samut Prakan's Muang district last week. Lee disappeared without paying 6.5 million baht in back wages to 463 workers and a number of other full-time employees.

More than 100 workers last week gathered outside the Phoenix compound to demand their wages. The workers had earlier gathered outside the local labor welfare office to negotiate with Rewat Khantha-aree, a Thai manager, who had promised earlier to meet them there but later fled.

**THAI approves plan:** The board of directors of Thai Airways International (THAI) August 10 approved the flag carrier's 10-year strategic plan, including the upgrading of its fleet.

President Apinan Sumanaseeni said the board was considering whether to seek 53 or 64 new aircraft, reported Dow Jones Newswires.

The board will make a decision at its next special board meeting, he said, without providing a specific time frame.

The fleet expansion is part of THAI's plan to broaden its operating network.

THAI also reported that its net profit plunged 86% in its fis-



Members of the newly-founded 'Network of Tribal Peoples in Thailand' marched to Chiang Mai's Three Kings Monument last week to urge the government to establish August 9 as National Tribal Peoples Day and to enact laws to protect tribal rights.

cal third quarter, with earnings of 68 million baht for the April-June period, down from 473 million baht during the same period last year.

**GMO revival:** The Agriculture Ministry will ask Cabinet to allow field tests of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) again as Thailand is falling behind trading partners who already grow them.

GMO crops are farmed in 22 countries over an area of 637.5 million rai with a current trading value of US\$6 billion (203 billion baht) per year.

The Ministry and the private sector were ordered to stop field tests of GMO plants on April 3, 2001.

Adisak Sreesunpagit, director-general of the Department of Agriculture, said the government should consider allowing the resumption of testing.

The Thai government has not allowed anyone to grow GMO plants for commercial purposes because of concerns about bio-safety.

Over the past 11 years, the annual trading value of GMO crops has increased from US\$200 million to US\$6 billion.

**Trans-fatty acids targeted:** Health experts have urged the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to issue a regulation banning the import of all foods containing trans-fatty acids.

Visith Chavasit, a health expert at Mahidol University's Institute of Nutrition, said the results from a recent study of 309 food items in local markets found five items that were "high risk" and contaminated with trans-fatty acids.

Trans-fatty acid is made when manufacturers add hydrogen to vegetable oil, thus helping

to extend the shelf life of foods containing the fat.

Trans-fatty acid can be found in vegetable shortenings, margarine, crackers, cookies, snacks and food made with or fried in partially-hydrogenated oil.

Unlike other dietary fats, trans-fatty acids are neither required nor beneficial for health. Eating the fat increases the risk of coronary heart disease.

K. Visith called for the FDA to impose a regulation to ban the import of margarine, shortening and hydrogenated oil that contain trans-fatty acids.

Tippawan Parinyasiri, director of the FDA's food-control division, said the agency would issue a regulation banning the import of trans-fatty acids, but first needed to study the pros and cons of banning and controlling food production.

The study would be finished by next year, she said.

**New coins to save a mint:** Cabinet on August 7 agreed that adjustments be made to all nine coins in circulation, expecting to cut minting costs by 1.9 billion baht a year.

Chodechai Suwanaporn, a deputy government spokesman, said, "To continue producing the current coins, the Treasury Department will have to bear 1.1 billion baht in losses. In April, the price of metal rose sharply against levels during the same period last year."

He said the current cost of minting was 40% more than the coins' face values. New coins will be smaller, lighter and coated with cheaper metal.

A source at the Cabinet meeting said that the Finance minister had also said that the one-baht and the 25- and 50-satang coins would be gradually phased out and replaced by two-baht coins.

**Scheme in disarray:** The new version of the One District One Scholarship (ODOS) project will use stricter rules for its scholars after nearly 100 students during the project's first two years gave up their decision to pursue an overseas degree and returned to Thailand.

Launched by the Thaksin administration, the ODOS project has seen some 90 students returning to Thailand while 160 others were unsure whether they could complete their overseas undergraduate courses.

About 96 other grantees will need more time than usual to complete their courses.

Asked why the students were not achieving the desired expectations, Education Minister Wijit Srisa-arn said scholars in their first year were not properly prepared because they were rushed into going abroad.

K. Wijit said most of the students who had returned to Thailand had now chosen to pursue a university degree in social sciences at private universities in Thailand.

Since the interim government came to power late last year, it has renamed the ODOS project the Community Development Scholarship project.

K. Wijit has now asked the Office of the Civil Service Commission and the Office of the Higher Education Commission to draw up detailed reports on the scholars' choices of educational institutes and their fields of study.

The scholarships were intended to ensure that brilliant students receive education at great institutes so that they can make a contribution to the country's development, he added.

The students, under the conditions of receiving the scholarships, were required to return to Thailand after their educations were complete.

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

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# Samui-Krabi air service announced

**B**angkok Airways has announced plans to add new routes, including one that will connect Samui with Krabi.

The airline will offer three flights a week from Samui to Krabi on a turbo prop aircraft that can carry up to 70 passengers. A spokesperson for the airline commented that the addition of the service is to meet tourist demand for the route during high season, which begins in October.

The popular non-stop flight from Hong Kong to Samui will also begin daily flights during the busy holiday period.

The additional flights will be aboard a Boeing 717-200 carrying up to 125 passengers.

Bangkok Airways is the only airline currently serving Koh Samui and the surrounding islands.

The airline is also said to be planning new services to carry passengers from Bangkok to Vientiane and Krabi, as well as a new route from Chiang Mai to Siem Reap in Cambodia.

Bangkok Airways currently has regular flight services from Phuket to Bangkok, Samui and Pattaya.

**Bird drugs.** Samui's Marine Police announced that they have intercepted bird flu vaccine valued at more than 20 million baht smuggled in from China.

Police told reporters that three men were arrested at the bus station in the main port town of Nathon after they were discovered with 1,800 bottles of avian influenza vaccine intended for use with poultry. The men were loading the vaccine onto a bus getting ready to depart for Bangkok.

The three men, all Bangkok residents, turned up at Samui Airport to collect 30 parcels arriving on a direct flight from Hong Kong. The smugglers then transported the goods to the port in Nathon, where they were apprehended while loading them onto the bus.

The trio were charged with



## FROM THE GULF OF THAILAND

By Max Rogers

illegal smuggling of unregistered medicine into the kingdom and other breaches of Customs regulations.

Lt Col Kosol Kawnkaew of the Samui Marine Police said that they believe the contraband originated in China, arriving at Samui through Hong Kong in an effort to avoid a strict customs check in Bangkok.

The vaccine, intended for use on poultry, was banned in Thailand in 2005 for fear that its widespread use would cause the H5N1 strain of the virus to mutate into a possible pandemic.

The confiscated vaccine was later destroyed at the Samui incinerator.

**At your service.** The poor reputation of Samui yellow "meter taxis" took yet another blow following the savage attack by a driver on a group of foreign tourists.

The assault happened on the night of August 5, when a couple on holiday from Belgium reportedly took a yellow metered taxi from a popular night club in Chaweng to their nearby hotel. Once they arrived at the hotel, the driver then asked for a fare of 300 baht. The pair refused to pay the amount because the driver had not turned on the meter. The driver then exited the vehicle and began to physically attack them.



**TOLL CHECK:** (Above) Samui yellow "meter taxis" suffered another blow on August 5 when one of their drivers assaulted a group of foreign tourists.

**MALENE MAGIC:** (Left) Danish jazz vocalist Malene Mortensen and her sultry voice will return to Samui, this year with the impressive Kasper Villaume Trio.

Having witnessed the disturbance, two other foreigners stopped to intervene. The driver then allegedly produced a knife and began slashing at all four, causing multiple injuries, before returning to his taxi and speeding away.

The four tourists reported the incident to police and were taken to a local hospital. Between them they received medical treatment for more than 50 lacerations before being released.

The following day, police traced the rented taxi to a nearby hotel. Employees at the "99" hotel reported that the man had been picked up in an unmarked

car and fled, leaving the taxi behind. Police are continuing their investigation.

**Kasper class.** After a stunning performance at last year's Hua Hin Jazz Festival, the sultry-voiced Malene Mortensen returns to Thailand and will be at Samui's Bandara Resort and Spa on September 4.

Malene will perform with the Kasper Villaume Trio in the second installment of the "Colour Your Life: European Jazz" series.

Making a name for herself at 19 when she won the Danish Eurovision contest, the Scandinavian vocalist went on to master a

style of rich jazzy melodies and a fine tuned ear for innovation. She was awarded the Django D'or Prize for Best Young Jazz Musician of the Year in 2005.

The Kasper Villaume trio, who won the Danish Grammy Award for Best CD in 2005, bring with them a classy, internationally renowned style bound to balance brilliantly with Malene's honeyed voice.

The Samui performance will be held by the beach and will start at about 6 pm with a cocktail reception. Tickets are 1,300 baht. For more information call the Bandara Resort and Spa at 077-245795.



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# 160 detained as blitz on insurgents continues

The military on August 7 detained 31 people from Yala and Narathiwat provinces in connection with ongoing violence in the Deep South. More than 80 soldiers and police raided Ban Limud in Yala's Muang district at dawn, arresting 16 people.

All of the suspects were Muslims aged between 17 and 56. They were detained at a military camp before being transferred to the Fourth Army Region's forward command in neighboring Pattani.

In Raman district of Yala, more than 100 officers raided two villages and took 11 suspects into custody. They were taken to a Pattani military camp for questioning.

Meanwhile, in Rusoh district of Narathiwat, more than 100 military and police searched more than 50 houses and arrested four suspects. Personal effects believed to have been used in attacks were seized, as was ammunition for automatic weapons and documents with anti-government propaganda.

The raid was part of an ongoing operation that has seen several hundred arrests in recent months.

More than 160 suspects remain in detention at military camps in Yala and Pattani, according to army spokesman Col Acra Tiproch.

Another 252 were sent for job training in the Upper South after no evidence was found that they were involved in the insurgency.

Authorities believe the arrests are restricting violence in the predominantly Muslim region.

The following day, however, a roadside bomb killed two soldiers and injured four others on patrol in Ma-Yor district of Pattani. The six soldiers were traveling in a pickup on a road in Ban Klongchang. Command Sgt Maj Apinant Pethkamnerd and Cpl Waemausoh Doloh died at the scene.

**Teacher's mum honored.** The mother of the late Juling Panganmoon – the schoolteacher beaten into a coma by her abductors in Narathiwat's Rangae district – has been recognized by the Crime Press Association for the sacrifices she made for her dying daughter.

Khamme Panganmoon stayed at the bedside of 24-year-old K. Juling for eight months at Prince of Songkhla Hospital until she died this year.

K. Khamme was one of three mothers honored at the association's Mother's Day celebration on August 11 at Lumpini Police Station.

The two others were Nuannoi "Kru Noi" Timkul, who has devoted her life to helping orphans and underprivileged children, and Suleemas Suthisamphan, who has been helping victims of the southern unrest since 2004.

K. Khamme said she was happy to be recognized, adding that she was making peace with her loss. She said her daughter



**YOUNG CONSTITUTION:** Students from Yala Rajabhat University march through Yala Town on August 8 encouraging people to vote in the August 19 referendum on the draft constitution – the first national referendum to be held in Thailand.

sacrificed her life for the country. She encouraged all children to study hard, respect their parents and stay away from drugs.

**Prince grants medical aid.** HRH Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn has granted a second delivery of medical equipment to seven hospitals in Nakhon Sri Thammarat and the three troubled Deep South provinces and provided 99 annual scholarships to nursing students to tackle the five southern border provinces' shortage of trained nurses, a senior official said on August 10.

Public Health Ministry Permanent Secretary Prat Boonyawongvirote said 14 items of medical equipment worth almost 16 million baht would be given to Pattani Hospital, Mayor Hospital, Yala Hospital, Betong Hospital, Narathiwat Ratchanakarin Hospital, Sungai Kolok Hospital and Maharat Nakhon Sri Thammarat Hospital.

This was the second donation sponsored by 39 million baht raised from the Crown Prince's special charity flight earlier this year, K. Prat said.

The equipment is expected to boost the quality of medical services for people in the South – especially surgery for injuries from the ongoing unrest as well as mother and child care, he said.

**Militants killed in clash.** A three-hour clash in jungle in Narathiwat August 10 resulted in the death of three militants under the leadership of well-known cell leader Muhamad Nase Maruno, officials said.

About 9 am, nearly 100 police and military surrounded Ban

Doha, a village in Narathiwat's Sungai Padi district, to search for the militants after being tipped off by intelligence sources.

As the government forces arrived, the militants opened fire. Pilots flew a helicopter over the area to guide troops to the militants' position.

After the shootout, officials found the bodies of Sungai Padi residents Usaman Jeharee, Adam Ama and Hanafi Sarina.

Officials believed there were 11 militants in the cell under the leadership of Muhamad Nase Maruno, whose passport was found at the scene. The remaining eight, including the leader, managed to escape the fighting, said army spokesman Col Acra Tiproch.

Muhamad Nase, the top

commando of the cell, attended university in Indonesia and is on the authorities wanted list, Col Acra said.

During the firefight, Private Pavee Chart was injured.

Military officials confiscated electronic components used to detonate bombs and two M16 assault rifles with serial numbers indicating they came from the Fourth Development Battalion – a military camp in Narathiwat's Joh I Rong that was robbed by insurgents in 2004.

**Shocking result.** An electrical contractor was shot dead August 10 by a policeman in Phibun District Police Station, Nakhon Sri Thammarat. The officer responsible shot himself dead later the same day.

Officers reported first hearing a heated argument between Sen Sgt Maj Jaran Saelong, a Squad Leader in the station's Administration Department, and Phonphiphat Khumsang, 50, an electrician from Krabi.

After shots rang out about 1:30 pm, Superintendent Col Issra Charoenphun and Capt Nit Kanchanawong rushed to the scene. On the way, they passed Sen Sgt Maj Jaran rushing downstairs, gun in hand.

In the room from which Sen Sgt Maj Jaran had just emerged, the officers found the body of K. Phonphiphat. He had been shot in the head and right arm.

After inspecting the crime scene, Col Issra led officers to the home of Sen Sgt Maj Jaran, who had barricaded himself in.

Relatives and fellow officers attempted to persuade Sen Sgt Maj Jaran to turn himself in, but to no avail. At 3:30 pm a gunshot was heard, prompting Col Issra to order officers to break down the door. Inside they found that Sen Sgt Maj Jaran had shot himself through the temple.

Cap Nit said that K. Phonphiphat had been given the contract to re-wire the station's electrical circuits and before his death had gone to discuss the work with Sen Sgt Maj Jaran, who was on the board responsible for ordering the work. The motive for the killing is likely to have been related to a dispute over the quality of the work, he added.

The contract to rewire Phibun police station was worth around 100,000 baht.

There will be an investigation into whether there was anything unusual about the contract, he said.

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

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# PIWC just keeps on giving

By Nick Davies

Children and parents at Ao Por School enjoyed fun, games and feasting on August 10 at a children's day organized by the Phuket International Women's Club (PIWC). The event was held to celebrate Mother's Day and as part of an ongoing initiative by the PIWC and local sponsors to provide much needed support for the primary school.

The school kids competed for medals in traditional sports day games, including relays, sack races and competitions in bursting water-filled balloons while parents and teachers cheered them on. Adult members of the PIWC were no match for the determined youngsters in a tug of war to round off the games before lunch.

Back in the classrooms after lunch, the children lined up expectantly to receive colorful goody bags of sweets and useful items for their lessons, such as pens, scissors, rulers, erasers and pencil cases provided by the day's sponsors, which included Phuket TGR Group Asia, Ocean Villas, Sunseekers (Max Marine), Bovis, Hunter Sotheby's International Realty, Enhance, Jumeirah Private Island Resort, Engel & Volkers and Simpson Marine.

The *Gazette* kitted out the kids with caps and Oriental Leisure helped organize the day and provided transportation for equipment as part of continuing efforts by the PIWC to provide assistance with schooling and scholarships for the region's underprivileged children.

Ao Por, on the east coast of Phuket, is fast becoming home to many high-end projects, boasting several magnificent residential developments, yet many of the 260 children attending Ao Por School come from very poor homes and lack basic necessities; some of them walk to school barefoot while shiny chauffeur-driven cars glide by.



**FUN & GAMES:** (Above and top right) Students at Ao Por School take on Phuket International Women's Club (PIWC) members during the fun day.

**RIGHT ON:** (Right) Students give a 'thumbs-up' thanks to the PIWC for awarding scholarships that will see them continue their education.

PIWC Co-ordinator Carol Fryer explained, "The children here are desperately in need of help, both immediate and long term. Many come to school with no socks or underwear and lunch for most of them is often little more than a bowl of rice," she said.

"We are often asked to directly contribute to educational projects, such as providing kitchen equipment, computers or new toilet facilities, but after evaluating the school's immediate needs, we decided that our main contribution should be to provide ongoing funding for nourishing lunches for these growing children," Carol added.

Students from the Rajabhat and Prince of Songkla universities in Phuket, who are currently studying under scholarships provided by the PIWC, also lent a

hand on the day. K. Siriporn, 22, is currently studying to be a music teacher with the help of PIWC donations. She was also able to buy a saxophone, which would have been impossible for her without funding assistance from the PIWC.

K. Jeab, 20, and K. Koi, 21, are studying Information Technology on PIWC scholarships. K. Jeab is well on her way to becoming a competent computer technician and hopes to work as a system analyst, while K. Koi is looking forward to a career in graphic design.

The PIWC was established over 18 years ago with just five women, but now has a membership of more than 120 with about four new members joining each month. The club is currently headed by President Cindy Ratcliffe, who was awarded an



MBE by Queen Elizabeth II of England in the 2006 New Year's Honors list.

Mrs Ratcliffe sees the funding of scholarships as the best way to ensure donated money is well spent. "Our aim is for these students to eventually be able to give something back to society."

"The scholarships are not loans; the students are not expected to pay them back, but we hope that by helping them achieve success, their knowledge and experience will be a valuable asset to the community and will enable them to make their own contribution to society in the future," said Ms Ratcliffe.

The club's voluntary charitable efforts are geared towards providing educational scholarships for needy children in Phuket and the region by organizing fund raising events, such as monthly lunches and raffles.

The PIWC also organizes an annual Gala Ball, which has become one of Phuket's most glamorous social events, attracting the island's well-heeled movers and shakers.

Through the generosity of PIWC members, local businesses and members of the community, more than 500 scholarships have been awarded since 1988. More than 250 students currently receiving PIWC support for their education.

Scholarships have been

awarded to students studying medicine, nursing, dentistry, pharmacology, law, engineering, computer science, chemistry, music and art.

PIWC Treasurer Wipa Tanmanatragul explained on their policy on student funding. "As long as the students receiving scholarships show continued dedication and willingness to learn, we endeavor to help as much as possible with funding until they complete their studies," she said.

The PIWC originally focused solely on providing girls with scholarships, but boys are now also considered. The first male student to be given a scholarship studied art in Bangkok. He has now returned to teach at Phuket Vocational College and made a name for himself as a successful artist.

This year, the PIWC Gala Ball will be held at the stylish Indigo Pearl Resort on November 24 and promises to be as glitzy as ever. More than half the 350 available seats already booked. Funds raised at the event will go towards the club's continuing efforts to provide scholarships and funding for Phuket's underprivileged children.

For more information regarding funding or to reserve tickets for the Gala Ball, contact Carol Fryer at 087-4178860, email: carol.fryer@piwc.info



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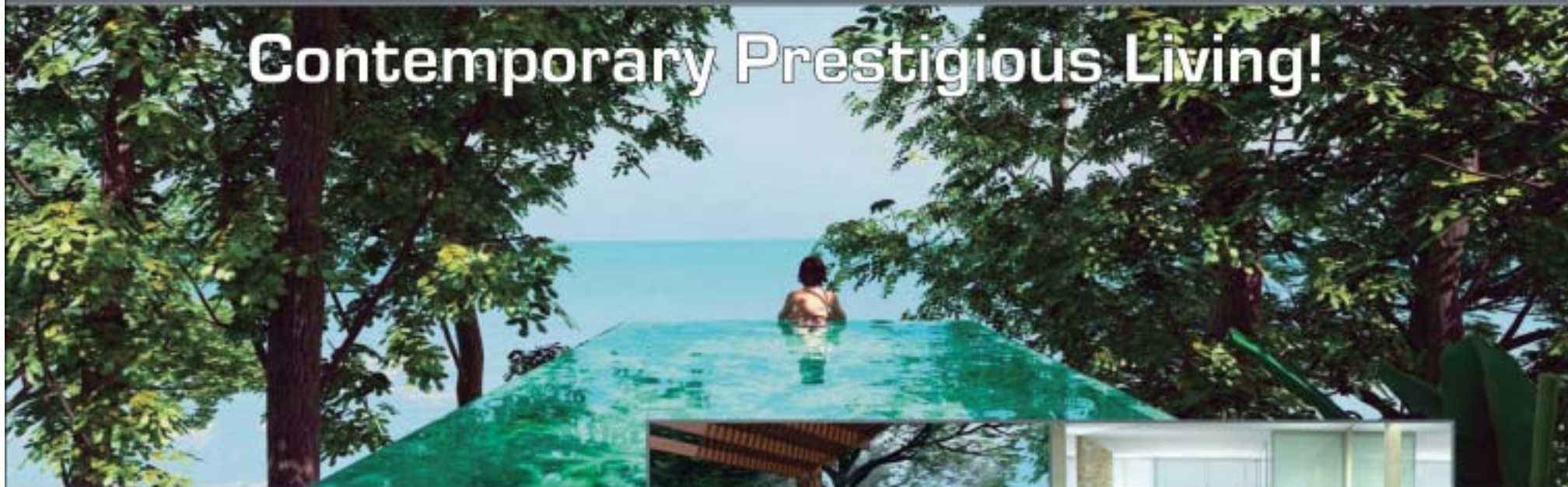
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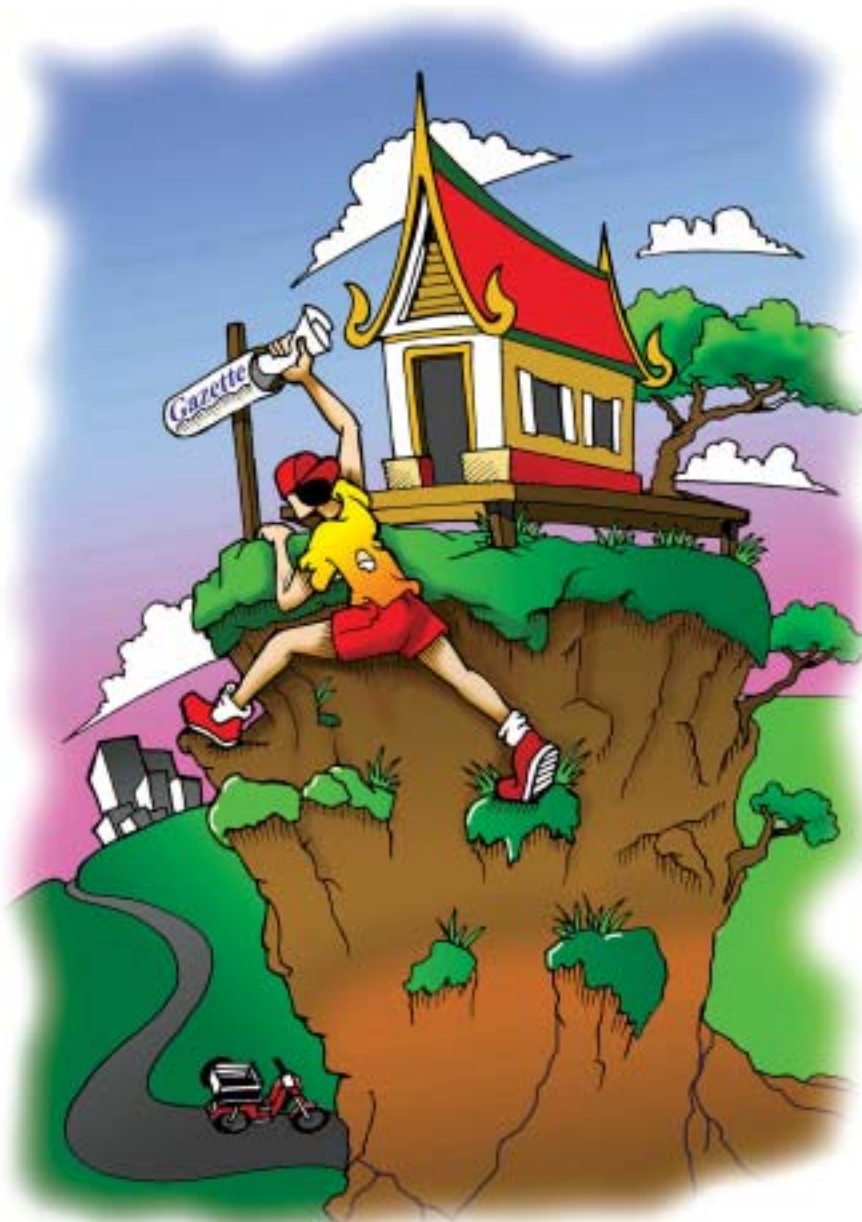
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# Dining with the Drunken Monkey

Whenever British or, in this case, English food is mentioned, a series of images appear before me: mother pulling a tray of mince pies from the oven, me queuing for a stodgy school dinner, Jamie Oliver being amazed at school kids not recognizing a turnip.

Never had the vision of being served the likes of bangers and mash and apple pie with cream in Rawai appeared before me. The Drunken Monkey has just changed that.

The dream child of partners and long-time friends Ian Martin and Martin Hyde, the Drunken Monkey was conceived on a wet and drunken night in Islington, North London. Tired of working just to pay the mortgage and afford a decent holiday, the two decided to take a year off and travel around Thailand and perhaps set up a business.

As Martin is a trained chef and Ian has a background in sales and marketing, the two realized that a restaurant was the natural choice. They traveled extensively and they admit that Phuket was at the bottom of their list of places to reside until they visited Rawai and fell in love with it.

They are both passionate about Thailand, the people and the culture, and Ian is learning the language in his spare time. But his spare time is fairly limited since the restaurant is open for lunch and dinner six days a week and offers a special roast every Sunday.

The Drunken Monkey's air-conditioned interior is an elegant arrangement of Lanna-style dark wood furniture and soft, rich-red furnishings from Chiang Mai – where a one-week shopping expedition turned into a six-week stay for the two.

The dining area is spacious, the tables spaced enough apart and Buddha images and paintings abound.

Adjacent to the bar is a delightful alcove with comfortable sofas and a table for drinks. The bar itself is dominated by Martin's Drunken Monkey logo in gold leaf hanging on the wall.

On the terrace, the table-tops are made from small ceramic mosaic tiles in hues of blue and green. This is apparently where most of the clientele congregate, under a bank of ceiling fans, hidden from the road by palms and bamboo trees.

Popular with lunchtime diners, Wi-Fi Internet access is available free to patrons throughout the restaurant.

Thinking that there might be a tale of adventures amongst the



**The Steak Diplomat is not to be trifled with. The thick-cut steak is topped with prawns and French Roquefort cheese, and served with over-sized, home-cut fries.**

wine brewing inebriated primates of Borneo, I ask Ian why they chose the name Drunken Monkey.

"We frequented the trendy places in London and the name was simply borne out of a desire to create something a little different, but trendy. We're just a couple of drunken monkeys anyway, really."

And so to drinking. The drinks menu is concise, with the usual house pours of spirits and a short but enticing cocktail list.

I first brave the concealed dangers of a "Drunken Monkey" cocktail.

The sweetness of the tequila, rum, chocolate-cream liqueur and Baileys mix disguise its potency.

"That's how the monkey got drunk," says the menu. The monkey could have also chosen from one of the several excellent frozen daiquiris available in a choice of raspberry, strawberry, black currant and local seasonal fruit flavors. All cocktails are 150 baht.

Although there is a Thai menu, I try the English cuisine, for which the place is becoming increasingly well-known. A deliciously sweet cream of pumpkin soup is joined by hearty English fishcakes and a triumphant chicken Caesar salad, all washed down with a glass of the Maitre de Chai house white wine.

For the main course, having established that the portions are not for the faint of heart, I opt for liquid assistance from the Lagarde Vin de Pays D'Oc red wine. The Drunken Monkey's wine list is extremely short, although I understand that a review is underway.

One white, one rose and one red is currently the choice, all from Lagarde. Ian, as he likes to

do, is seeking feedback from his customers before adding to the list.

The celebrated bangers and mash is unmistakable English fare. Three pork sausages lying on mashed potatoes and covered with onion gravy. Served with carrots, long beans and snap peas.

The splendid medallions of pork in a creamy mushroom sauce with mashed potatoes and vegetables remind me of a winter's dinner at the Grand hotel in Brighton many moons ago. I had difficulty rising from the table on that occasion, too.

Next up for my sampling is the Steak Diplomat. I'm not sure if it's named after the Diplomat Steakhouse in Regina, Canada, or the diplomatic use of French Roquefort cheese, but the Steak Diplomat is not a dish to be messed with.

Fillet steak topped with prawns and Roquefort blue cheese and served with home-cut fries and seasonal vegetables. This is the most expensive dish, at an incredibly reasonable 340 baht.

There is hardly room for dessert, but in the interests of a full review it has to be done. Homemade apple pie and cream and a chocolate cake with vanilla ice cream good enough to knock your socks off (without wishing to cross the cultural divide).

The performance of the kitchen is admirable and full marks must go to the two young and enthusiastic waitresses,

Rajana Nowpae and Kirisorn Prajantabut who prove to be competent, confident front of house professionals. The glasses are polished, places immaculately set, the explanations of food and beverages spot on and the recommendations a treat. It's also worth noting that the whole place is spotlessly clean.

The DM is in no way pretentious. "We concentrate on offering good, hearty, home-cooked food of consistent quality," says Ian. "Come back in two months and the standards will be the same."

I'll do just that.

*The Drunken Monkey. 21/6 Moo 4, Wiset Rd, Rawai. From Chalong Circle, it's on the right just before Saiyuan Rd. Tel: 081-0878742, 081-7871184. Average cost of a meal for two people, excluding wine, is less than 1,200 baht. Open Monday to Saturday, noon to 3 pm and 6 pm to 10:30 pm. Open from noon to 8 pm Sundays.*

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## Jazzin'

Dynamic jazz trio Allen Youngblood & Jazbalaya (above) got diners up and dancing during 'BBQ on the Boardwalk' at Les Anges restaurant, Royal Phuket Marina (RPM).

ABOVE: Allen Youngblood (right), bass guitarist Paul Candelaria (left) and drummer and vocalist Larry Hammond take time out with RPM's Jeanette Skelton.



RIGHT: RPM's Wilaiporn Pitimanaaree (right) and Karuna Tip-o-sot (center) pose for a photo with Central Festival Phuket's Marketing Activities General Manager Songphol Pongrapeeporn.  
BELOW: Ladies get down with a boardwalk boogie.



# Singing to

Hidden in the darkest depths of Phun Pol Plaza, tucked away down a shady alley in one of Phuket's more run-down areas, there is an unexceptional-looking building in the shell of an old shophouse. Take a step through the doors into a small, crowded room and a flurry of greeters welcome you and ask how you are.

People are milling about, friends are chatting and a group of about 150 people are finding seats, waiting patiently for the show to begin. It's 10:30 on Sunday morning, and while most of Phuket is still in bed a collection of Thais and foreigners are in this building waiting for a concert.

The lead singer and guitarist of the band casually saunters up to the front of the room, picks up his guitar and straps himself up. The backing singers are in place, the drummer takes his seat, the female vocalist signals she's ready and the lead singer plucks a few strings in preparation for the band's opening number.

An overhead projector beams a message onto a large, white screen to the back-left of the room: "Please honor God and turn off your mobile phone."

You get the impression that this isn't going to be your average concert.

The crowd rises to its feet, the band commences its set and the white screen displays lyrics in both Thai and English for the crowd to sing along with. Jesus, God, redemption and forgiveness figure heavily in the karaoke session. This is a typical morning at Phuket Christian Centre (PCC), located in the heart of one of Phuket's most infamous neighborhoods.

The lead singer of the band is Pastor Brian Burton – an enigmatic character from Wolverhampton in the UK who looks as though he might have been an Elvis impersonator in a past life. He's instantly likable and positively glowing as he strums and sings his way through a number of hymns.

The congregation at PCC sings with so much vigor that you wonder if the Man upstairs can't hear them. Some of the followers sing with beaming smiles, a few raise their hands to the roof in celebration, while others appear so lost in prayerful trances that it's difficult to tell whether they are awake.

A row of Thai children stands at the front of the room, clapping along with the grown-ups behind. This is the flock that Pastor Brian has worked for 17 years to build.

"God's great, isn't he!" exclaims Brian as the band finishes its set.

Sunday, August 5 was PCC's 17<sup>th</sup> anniversary; the ser-

vice was a birthday party with a divine twist.

He's a rock star, a secret agent and a comedian, but behind the one-liners and numerous TV appearances, Brian Burton has been working to help those in need in and around Phuket for 17 years.

*Gazette* Desk Editor Matt Crook reports on the Phun Pol pastor.



WELCOME TO THE FAMILY: Baby 'Not' was well-behaved as Pastor Brian dedicated the newborn in front of her mother and aunt during a service at Phuket Christian Centre.

vice was a birthday party with a divine twist.

After a brief call for offerings and tithes to help with the running of the church, Brian told his congregation that he had a treat in store for them. The lights were dimmed, the ambiance set and a movie began to roll.

Brian is a churchman with a sense of humor. The video his congregation watched was a parody of James Bond, starring "Pierced Burton" in *You Only Live Twice*. The holy 007 traveled across the world in search of a "faith promise". After traipsing from Phuket to Australia to London and back to Phuket via the magic of cheap stage props, 007 finally found his faith promise back at the PCC building.

The faith promise is a form that each of the congregation was asked to fill out, pledging a donation toward the construction of a new building for the church. Pastor Brian's troop has outgrown its home in Phun Pol, and 20 million baht needs to be raised – that's a lot of money for a church that has only 220 followers.

The service was sharp and to the point, with Brian throwing one-liners and gags into his delivery. "The *Gazette's* here today, so I've even worn a shirt and tie," he quipped.

During the service, Dave from Australia gave a testimony about how his life had improved now that he had found God and

joined the church. He told a story of depression and thoughts of suicide that eventually led him to Christianity and to meeting Brian.

Brian had called Dave over to him at the altar during a ceremony of worship at a PCC leadership retreat. He looked down and instead of seeing the altar, Dave said he saw God's throne. "It was so powerful to see the throne that I broke down and cried," he said.

After Dave's testimony, Brian said, "I think Dave gets the badge for the most improved man. Before he used to walk around looking glum, but now every time I see him he's got a smile on his face. He's even got a bit of a swagger. Praise God!"

Though his humor adds some spice to his services, Brian maintains an air of authority and seriousness that has earned him the respect of everyone at PCC.

"Seventeen years ago I came to Phuket with my wife Margaret. We started this church with just two people," said Brian, satisfied with the improvement in attendance since his work began.

As the service drew to a close, Brian dedicated a baby and posed for photos after a church birthday cake was cut. All in a busy day's work for Christianity's James Bond, but after the service Brian had some time to chat.

"I arrived in Phuket in 1990 as part of a program to start a Thai church," said Brian. I came

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**SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE:** (Above) Pastor Brian (left) and Pastor Nok pray for Aussie Dave (right) to acknowledge his new position in the church as spiritual parent, a type of church leader.

**FLOCK 'N' ROLL:** (Left) Pastor Brian leads the band with his guitar at Phuket Christian Centre during a service commemorating the church's 17th anniversary.

here with my wife and after a short period in Bangkok we came to Phuket."

The first meeting of PCC, attended by 34 people, was held April 1, 1990, at City Hotel Phuket. On August 1 of the same year, Brian and Margaret completed their move to Phuket and relocated the church to Nimit Rd, and then to the first of two buildings at Phun Pol Plaza.

"At first the church was just me and Margaret; then two more people joined, and slowly it built up to what we have now. We're here because God wants us to be," said Brian.

Brian recounted the story of how Nok, Youth Pastor and one of the churches earliest members, arrived at PCC. "Nok was just 14 when we found her on the bank of a canal near Phun Pol, abandoned by her mother," he said.

"She was looking after six younger brothers and sisters on her own. We took them in and looked after them. That was 16 years ago; now the brothers and sisters are members of the church, the mother has come back, and the family is restored,"

added Brian.

Church Services held by PCC are given in four languages: Thai, English, Burmese and a sea gypsy dialect. "After the tsunami, we took teams to the coast to help out at a sea-gypsy village that was destroyed on Koh Pratong," said Brian.

"There was an outbreak of chicken pox at the time, and the sea gypsies asked us, 'Why are you helping us?' I told them, 'Because God loves you'. They said that nobody had cared about them before. After that, they joined the church and now they come here about once a month."

PCC is involved in a variety of projects around the island. One of those projects is the New Life Foundation, which helped with the rebuilding of Baan Kamala School and the creation of Sussex House.

The projects are funded with money that resulted from Brian's meteoric rise to fame as he appeared on multiple major news networks following the tsunami.

Sussex House, in Phuket City, opened about one year ago and helps children in need, with

18 children currently being cared for.

"People saw me on TV and they were looking for ways to help," said Brian. "Sussex Police did a sponsored bike ride around Britain and raised money for both Sussex House and Baan Kamala School."

PCC also helped build a nursery school in Tai Muang, Phang Nga, which opened in May and is now attended by 56 children affected by the tsunami.

Not limited to aiding children, Brian said that PCC formed Self Help and Empowerment (She) group to help women working as prostitutes in Patong to find alternatives means of making money.

"We help five girls at the moment," said Brian. "We teach them to make jewelry that is then sold in the UK and the US. We are hoping that some of these girls will be able to go on and train new girls."

Construction of PCC's 20-million-baht church building will begin in December, said Brian. "We've been in this building for about eight years, but it's too small. The new building is near

this one, by the weekend market. It will be finished by the end of 2008 and will seat about 600 people."

Phun Pol, an area renowned for sleazy late-night hangouts, has been the home of PCC for the better part of a decade.

"The area needed the light," said Brian. "I remember one time after the tsunami when I had to travel to the UK and Sweden to raise funds: As I was leaving, a group of shopkeepers and residents, who had heard I was going, came to see me and asked, 'You are coming back, aren't you?' It's moments like that when you realize you've made a difference.

"After the tsunami, the church was used as an overflow

center for the island's hospitals. We had about 40 people being looked after here. The whole community pulled together to help: doing laundry, bringing food, tending to the sick. The people do know we are here," said Brian.

Brian admitted that charitable life can get tough sometimes, but his motivation to carry on is borne out of the realization that his work is not dependent on how he feels.

"I can't just stop because I had a bad day. I'm doing the Lord's work."

For more information, contact the Phuket Christian Centre at Tel: 076-246380; email: pcc@loxinfo.co.th; website: www.phuketchristiancentre.com

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This week



RESTORATION ROAM: Phuket Vice-Governor Smith Palawatvichai tours Baan Bangla, Baan Phak Cheed and Yamu Bay in Pa Khlok with some of the 1,000 participants of the mangrove planting project that resulted in the planting of 3,000 trees to restore the natural habitat of the area.



HEALTH AND HAPPINESS: At Panta Phuket Hotel, Executive Director Artitaya Temtripeth (center) and staff welcome Tourism and Sports Minister Dr Suwit Yodmanee (in yellow shirt) to Phuket during his tour to follow up on the *Yoo Dee Mee Suk* ('Good Life and Happiness') provincial development strategy.



MOVING FORWARD: Toyota Pearl Managing Director Chaipat Na-Ranong (right) joins Sakarin Tasanawiryakul (2<sup>nd</sup> from right), a competitor in the Toyota Vios One Make Race; Toyota Motors Thailand Public Relations Director Kit Mahajuntakarn (3<sup>rd</sup> from right); Muang District Chief Weerawat Janpen (left) and Thai model Araya "Chompoo" A. Hargate at the Toyota Motor Sport 2007 press conference at the Pearl Hotel, in Phuket City.



ADDED CONVENIENCE: Chairman of Operations for TMB Bank Public Co Ltd Kraithip Krairiksh (right) presents a gift to Phuket International Airport Director, Sq/Ldr Pornchai Eua-aree, during the grand opening of the TMB branch at Central Festival Phuket.



YOUTH ASSISTANCE: Prince of Songkhla University, Phuket campus, students gather with children at Child-Watch Phuket, where they presented money raised through donations and sales of homemade T-shirts.



THEIR CUP RUNNETH OVER: Mom Tri's Boathouse General Manager Louis Bronner (back, 3<sup>rd</sup> from left) joins F&B Manager Pinyo Thippimas, (front, in yellow shirt), Wine Director Georges Ciret (front, in striped shirt) and staff in a cheer for the Boathouse being awarded the Wine Spectator 2-glass 'Best of Award of Excellence 2007' – the only establishment in Thailand to receive this award for 2006-2007.

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Recently I told my friend Fardley Nerdwell about an item I'd read in the newspapers. The Thai authorities have introduced a new law that allows men to sue women who rape them.

"Sue them? Most men would pay them!" Fardley exclaimed. But then he thought a bit. "I didn't know women raped men," he confessed. "Why would they have to do that? Most men I know would happily succumb to even the crudest attempts at seduction."

"And how could a woman force a man? I mean, to perform sexually, he has to, um, get aroused. If he's aroused, doesn't that make him willing? And if he's willing, how can it be called rape?"

"The issue is fraught with moral, legal and biological complexities," I admitted. "But it sounds as if Thailand has a problem with women raping men. Otherwise the government wouldn't have introduced a law against it."

A new light began to dawn in Fardley's eyes. "We can do something with this," he murmured. "There are thousands of love-starved foreign men who would love to be raped by a Thai woman. I am thinking specifically of the brothers Tex and Bubba Hogwaller."

"No woman with a functioning brain would even look at Tex and Bubba, much less want to

# When altruism comes undone



rape them," I objected.

But Fardley wasn't listening. "We can do something with this," he murmured again. "I envision a charitable organization set up specifically to serve men who want to be raped by women. We'll recruit thousands of male volunteers to create a bank of victims for anxious women to choose from."

"We'll need a new terminology to deal with this concept. The

female could be called the rapista. The male victim, the rapee. The whole process could be called femrape.

"By bringing the two together in ardent congress we shall forge a new paradigm in human relationships, a new mode of interpersonal bonding, a grand new ideal of coming-togetherness."

"Wonderful!" I cried, delighted at Fardley's genius.

"Now," Fardley went on, "to implement this noble concept we shall first set up the volunteer, uh, 'victim' bank. Men will submit their data - including their statistics, qualifications, personal history, and a recent photo - to be posted on our website, www.femrape.org."

"Aspiring rapistas will submit similar data, so that we can match them up with their rapee of choice. This wise procedure will enable us to filter out the

kinky, the perverted, the degenerate and the diseased. We want no whiff of scandal to sully the reputation of our chaste organization."

"Bravo!" I applauded. You can always count on Fardley to uphold the loftiest canons of morality.

"Once the putative rapista and rapee have agreed on a match, we shall introduce them in an elegant social setting and let the voluntary rape begin," Fardley continued. "For emergency cases, we shall have a hotline. Our fleet of motorcycles will speed rapees to liaison with their rapistas when the latter are in urgent need."

I thought a bit. "There's a problem. Your volunteers on both sides - male and female - are likely to be hideously ugly, the sexual rejects of our society."

"How do you match up a

96-year-old wrinkled rapista with a face like Medusa the Gorgon and withered dugs hanging down to her knees, with a fat, bald, dirty old drunken rapee with rotten teeth, bad breath, body odor, erectile dysfunction, and a gut the size of the planet Jupiter?"

"That's part of the challenge, man!" Fardley cried. "They must learn to rise above shallow considerations of physical repulsiveness - yes, and of superficial shortcomings such as senility, obesity, personal filthiness and foul odors emanating from every pore."

"They must look deep within, beyond the vulgar limitations of the flesh, and appreciate the rich spiritual treasures that shine within. We'll drug them, blindfold them and make them use their imagination."

Fardley's idea might have alleviated the suffering of thousands of sex-starved men and women and contributed significantly to the moral and spiritual elevation of our species. But alas! When a lawyer friend warned him that he'd be prosecuted for running a prostitution ring, he reluctantly abandoned it.

Thus always do the base perceptions of petty minds bring the soaring altruism of idealists crashing down.

*S. Tsow can be flamed at tsow@yahoo.com, except when his soaring altruism is crashing down.*



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Location Map

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By Heiko Haupt, dpa

**T**he debate about clean air and lowering carbon dioxide emissions has been raging for years and has come to overshadow another important side effect of heavy traffic: noise pollution.

Phuket's roads are notoriously busy, with buses belching out black clouds, tuk-tuks racing across town, motorbikes whizzing from one lane to the next and souped-up pick-up trucks thundering down the highways.

The island's blaring traffic is definitely in need of some noise reduction.

Over in Europe, legislators are preparing a host of new laws to curb noise levels in densely-populated city areas.

"The issue of noise is a growing problem, especially in cities," said Dietmar Oeliger of Berlin-based eco-group Nabu.

By mid-2007, a European Union directive will take effect, making it compulsory for urban areas to compile "noise maps" indicating in which sectors and roads noise levels are highest.

In Phuket, it's a safe bet that those areas won't be stationary, thanks to the multitude of pick-ups driving around advertising Thai boxing or the latest movies at full volume.

Initially, measurements will be taken in European cities with more than 250,000 inhabitants and main traffic arteries with more than six million vehicles annually.

The program will later be expanded to cities with populations of 100,000.

Some of the solutions could include special road coatings that cause less noise and sound barriers along roads near homes.

Car-makers have made much technical progress in reducing the noise levels of vehicles, but cars are still far from silent.

The German Federal Environmental Office in Dessau conducted a study in 2005 showing



Noise pollution caused by traffic is a common complaint in Phuket, but the damage being done could be greater than people realize.

With the high-revving motorbikes and cars driving by, the risk of permanent damage to the residents' hearing is high.

# Noise nuisance a 'growing problem'

that cars are still as noisy as 25 years ago.

Engine noise has progressively been reduced in line with new legislation, but the noise pro-

duced from tires was never included in new directives.

"In reality, the noise coming from tires at speeds of over 40kmh is dominating," said Michael Niedermeier, traffic expert with Germany's ADAC automobile association, who added that engine noise is heard mostly when cars stop at traffic lights.

Progress made on reducing engine noise is not as significant as it could be, according to Gerd Lottsiepen from the German traffic association (VCD).

In addition, noise fluctuations cause different perceptions of the noise levels. "Two cars each producing a noise level of 71 decibels are perceived as one vehicle producing 74dB, while four cars with 68dB are also heard as one vehicle with 74dB," said Gerd.

"What is disturbing is the sudden sound coming from a heavy truck pulling a trailer or a loud motorcycle," said Michael.

According to Gerd, motorists can do their bit to reduce noise levels. What is crucial is whether the engine is revved up. Most cars can easily be driven in city areas at a rev count of about 2,000 revs per minute, he said.

Gerd offered an idea of how big the difference can be, saying,



The sheer number of motorbikes on Phuket's roads mean that, although small, the high-revving engines result in much-increased road noise.

"32 cars driven at 2,000 revs are as loud as one car driven at 4,000 revs."

So next time you're cruising around Phuket and near the

shophouses and homes, keep your revs in mind. Hearing experts say that prolonged exposure to noises louder than 70dB can lead to irreversible hearing loss.

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# Stepping in style

By Sompratch Saowakhon

**A**part from the current craze of finding unusual body parts to pierce, ankle bracelets or anklets are one of those fashion accessories that sometimes receive looks of disapproval from more conservative observers.

Because of the social connotations regarding the feet, many Thais are cautious about drawing attention to a part of the body that can be used offensively but today's youngsters are throwing caution to the wind and dressing up their ankles.

If you have been thinking of adding an anklet to your attire but are worried about the negative reactions you may get from some people, a jade or hematite Feng Shui anklet is a good style to start with, as they are not only fashionable but are said to bring peace, harmony, protection and prosperity to everyday life.

Ladies who like wearing short skirts but are self-conscious about their legs have found that anklets help divert attention from their not so shapely legs.

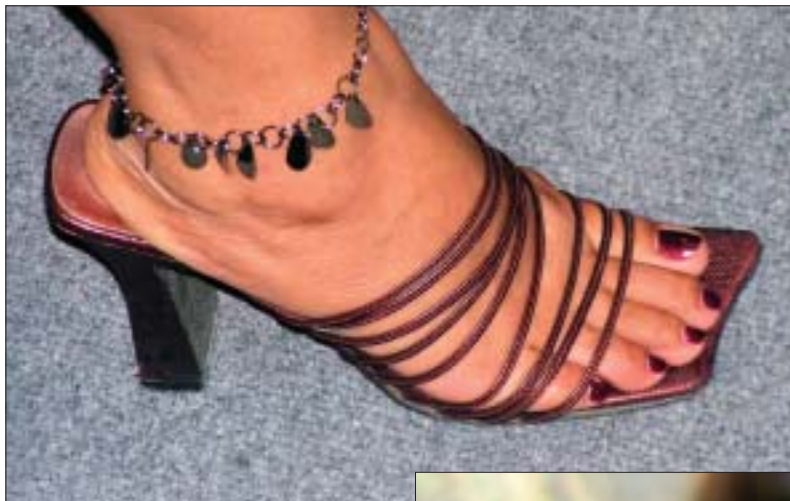
Anklets can be worn on wedding days to symbolize femininity and fidelity. A pearl blue anklet is a good choice to wear at a wedding as it symbolizes honesty, purity and self-acceptance. Pearl is said to help lift our spirits and is guaranteed to make a woman look and feel more beautiful.

The range of styles of anklets is so varied that even men can wear them. It's also important to choose a style that goes with the rest of your outfit. An anklet with big beads, for example, will look trashy if you wear it with a dressy outfit.

A simple, sterling silver or gold anklet will work just fine whether you are attending a formal or casual event. It probably goes without saying, but I'll say it anyway, that anklets should never be worn under stockings.

Anklet advocate and 31-year-old Phuket City resident K. Lalana has worn anklets for nearly half her life. "I've been wearing anklets since I was 15. I like trying different styles but I prefer gold or silver ones because they look classy," she said.

"I don't follow each and every trend, but I do like to wear accessories all over. Anklets are just another addition to rings, ear-



**Top, right: Phet Gift Shop has more than 100 handmade styles to choose from.**

**Right: Anklets made with colorful beads are popular with foreigners.**



rings, necklaces, watches and bracelets," K. Lalana added.

K. Lalana did receive a negative comment from an older gentleman once, who said that her anklet made her look like a strumpet. "I didn't take it to heart though because he wasn't a friend and he was at least 10 years older than me," she said.

Phet Gift Shop on Bangkok Rd in Phuket City has more than 100 varieties of anklets hanging on the wall among the shop's other affordable accessories.

The anklets range up to 30 centimeters long and can be used as bracelets. They sell for 39 to 69 baht apiece.

Shop owner Phuangphet "Phet" Wongwai, 36, makes the anklets by hand. "Most of my customers are foreigners, but more young Thais are buying anklets these days. They are going for the natural look, rather than gold or silver," she said.

"Most anklets I sell are decorated with natural materials, such as shells, fish bone, glass beads, coconut shell, wood, bamboo and stones.

"Foreigners really like the handmade Thai-style anklets as they consider them original works of art and more valuable than the more-common gold or silver anklets," she added.

*Phet Gift Shop is on Bangkok Rd, near Suriyadej Circle, in Phuket City. Open Monday to Friday, 10 am to 7 pm. Tel: 076-256499 or 089-7290989.*



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## BEHIND THE WHEEL

By Jeff Heselwood

French automaker Citroën, part of the PSA Peugeot-Citroën alliance, is producing a broad range of cars these days, but one of its most innovative is the C3 – a so-called “supermini” vehicle.

Equipped with either a 1.4-liter gasoline engine with 75bhp or a slightly more powerful 1.6L 16-valve motor with 110bhp; the C3 is extremely frugal and yet offers brisk acceleration and a reasonable amount of low-speed torque.

Top speed is around 165kmh to 190kmh, depending on the specifications of the vehicle, with a leisurely 0-100kmh sprint time of slightly over 12 seconds, or 10 seconds for the larger-engine model.

Citroën has a remarkable history, with several innovative creations emanating from its French designers. It was in 1907 that Andre Citroën was brought in to assist the troubled Mors automobile factory in Paris.

Citroën turned the company around and significantly improved its financial situation, and in a little over seven years the company saw an 18-fold increase in production.

In 1919, Citroën began selling cars under his own name, but, more relevant perhaps, in 1902, after completing his military service, he patented a gear-cutting technique that he had discovered in Poland, which produced gears with chevron-shaped teeth. Hence the Citroën logo of a double chevron that is featured on all of its cars.

Five years later, André Citroën displayed his all-steel



The Citroën C3 offers an impressive selection of features available at a reasonable cost. The compact design and overall low-running cost add appeal to the car buyer who seeks an alternative to the grandiose SUV world.

# Good things do come in small packages

B10 model at the 1924 Paris motor show. The steel body had been developed in the United States by the Budd Company.

Virtually all other auto-

makers used wood as a basis for their cars, but Citroën's metal body revolutionized the industry.

The biggest step forward was in 1934 when Citroën introduced the Traction Avant. The vehicle featured front-wheel drive with independent front and rear suspension housed in an all-steel monocoque body.

One of the most memorable Citroëns is the venerable 2CV, which was initially built in 1949 and was designed for farmers and city types.

With long-travel front and rear suspension, the car could ride the highway or traverse a plowed field. It could also accommodate sheep, goats and chickens in its spacious, hard-wearing interior.

Remaining in production for a remarkable 41 years, the 2CV was, in turn, an urban vehicle, a rural car, cheap student wheels and a vehicle that could be taken around the world.

These days, despite its unique heritage, Citroën generates around 70 % of its sales outside France.

Its unprecedented success in the World Rally Championship (WRC) with current world champion Sebastien Loeb has contributed to a surge in Citroën's international recognition, even though



Loeb is behind Finland's Marcus Grönholm by a slim margin at the time of writing.

The WRC machine is the larger C4 model but the C3 available here in Thailand is no less a winner.

A five-door hatchback, it also has a fairly high roofline, allowing ease of access as well as plenty of headroom inside.

The rear seats fold flat to increase load area and front, side and curtain bags are fitted. Six exterior color options are available.

In the stringent European New Car Assessment Program

crash tests, the C3 scored four stars, which is perfectly acceptable for this size of car and better than most others.

André Citroën created a number of motor cars that changed the industry and while the C3 may not offer anything startling in the way of engineering excellence, it represents a serious alternative to the ubiquitous Japanese clones.


At a starting price of around 1.3 million baht, the C3 also offers excellent value.

Jeff Heselwood can be contacted at [jhc@netvigat.com](mailto:jhc@netvigat.com)

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# The Great Escape

As a news editor with an energetic two-year-old daughter and a workaholic wife, it wouldn't be too much of a stretch to characterize my typical day as a steady stream of stress, interrupted by periods of pandemonium.

Back in the days of my extended bachelorhood, I really knew how to relax; routinely going for two-hour ocean swims and then drinking beer by the beach all day – never doing any more than was necessary. After all, what is the point of moving to Thailand if it isn't to exit the rat race and enjoy life to the fullest?

With a simple exchange of rings and a switch from English teaching to news reporting, my life changed dramatically – too far the other way. "Where's the balance?" I sometimes ask myself during the few precious moments alone.

At times it seems that my life is like a pendulum; one that swung so quickly from one side to the other that I didn't even notice it passing through the center, where ideally it would remain all the time.

I have to get my hits of relaxation as and when I can – and there is no place on the island better for that than The Spa at the Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa in Karon.

Our baby left in the capable hands of our next-door neighbor, my wife Piya and I headed to The Spa for some badly needed Equilibrium Therapy, The Spa's signature treatment.

For Piya, whose workday usually starts at 3:30 am and ends when she falls asleep exhausted around midnight, it was her first ever spa treatment.

We started by drinking refreshing cups of chilled Roselle juice in the lobby, where Assistant Spa Manager Noriyana Prayut introduced us to K. Jaree and K. Siriwan, our therapists. Carefully holding umbrellas over our heads to shelter us from some light rain, the two visions in violet escorted us to a private villa named "Sanctuary Suite".

One of 15 villas purpose-built for spa treatments, the suite was state-of-the-art in design, with every conceivable spa-related convenience, including a two-person sauna. The ambiance was luxurious yet casual, with a large image of Buddha in the *abhaya mudra* position, standing with right palm exposed, at one end calling for peace.

Two raised treatment beds filled the main chamber. While totally private, the chamber had a high ceiling and offered an impressive view of the outdoor whirlpool, shower and garden area through oversized windows. As we disrobed together, Piya laughed when I put on a disposable undergarment that was little more than a paper jockstrap.

Never missing a chance to chide me about my waistline, she joked, "You look just like a sumo



As part of The Spa's signature Equilibrium Treatment package, the Royal Thai honey and sesame body scrub gently exfoliates the skin and opens the pores.

wrestler with that thing on," as we hung up our clothes and switched off our mobile phones.

Once in robes, we sat side-by-side on a comfortable teak bench for the first phase of treatment. K. Jaree gently washed and scrubbed my feet in a large ceramic bowl filled with warm water, kaffir lime and yellow marigold flower petals.

With Piya sitting by my side getting the same treatment, I thought about the many advantages of getting a couples' massage. The first and most obvious for a married guy is that you don't have to endure the suspicion-filled cross examination that normally follows a trip to a massage parlor.

On top of that – and at the risk of sounding like Ned Flanders – it was simply pleasant to share a relaxing and stress-free experience

together, because it was in such contrast to normal routine; any free time either of us can get seems to come at the expense of the other.

The next step in the treatment was a scrub with Royal Thai honey and black sesame. Every inch of my body was lathered with the scrub except the eyes, which remained covered by cool slices of cucumber.

The scrub, which took about half-an-hour, gently exfoliated the skin and opened the pores. After the scrub, we showered side-by-side in the outdoor garden underneath two large overhead showers next to an azalea tree.

Then it was back into the massage room for the main course: a wild mint, hot oil massage together with a special herb press.

Although I have had hundreds of massages, this was my first oil massage using a herbal press – known in Thai as *luuk prakawb*.

Starting in a face-down position, the treatment again covered my entire body. At The Spa, no sense was overlooked. As I lay face-down I saw below me through a hole an attractive plate containing palm fronds placed in a geometrically arranged sunburst pattern with two yellow marigolds and violet orchid flowers.

The room was filled with pleasant scents from an aromatherapy burner. The temperature was perfect and soothing music was playing in the background.

It was almost impossible to keep my eyes open. I briefly entertained the thought of calling over to Piya to ask how she was enjoying her first oil massage, but with K. Jaree rubbing hard into my gluteal muscles I was somehow rendered incapable of speaking.

I was "in the zone", and there I would stay for the next hour. I can't put my finger on exactly what happened. Either my consciousness had left my body and was floating around the room – or perhaps I had just drifted off to sleep and had a lucid dream.

Of the multitude of massages I have had, this was by far the best. K. Jaree has 10 years' experience in massage. I would nominate her in an instant for the Nobel Prize for *sabai*, if such a thing existed.

After the session was over, we were told not to shower again so that the oils could continue to work, moisturizing the skin. We sat on the terrace overlooking the hillside, enjoying a cup of ginger

tea and talking with K. Noriyana, who said that even though it is low season business is good at The Spa, with resident expats and tourists from the Middle East among those keeping all 15 spa villas in use. Clients are strongly advised to book in advance, she said.

Later, we met Nampetch "Nikki" Tipaxsorn, Marketing and Communications Manager at the resort, for a quick tour of the Kidz Paradise children's activity center. Open 9 am to 6 pm, guests can leave kids over four years old at the center free – though sometimes there are small materials costs for the various arts and crafts activities on offer.

One thing I really liked about Kidz Paradise was its location in the middle of the 185 rai covered by the Hilton Arcadia, Phuket's largest hotel.

It is one of the few places I know on the island where kids can play safely in a natural environment, which means the parents get to relax.

Kidz Paradise also arranges babysitting services for younger children for 150 baht an hour – something I will likely take advantage of in the future.

*The Spa at Hilton Arcadia Resort & Spa. Open daily from 10 am to 9 pm. The signature Equilibrium Therapy is 3,200 baht before tax and service charge. For more information contact The Spa at Tel: 076-396433-1. Fax: 076-396136. Email: spa.phuket@hilton.com*

## Spa MAGIC

By Stephen Fein

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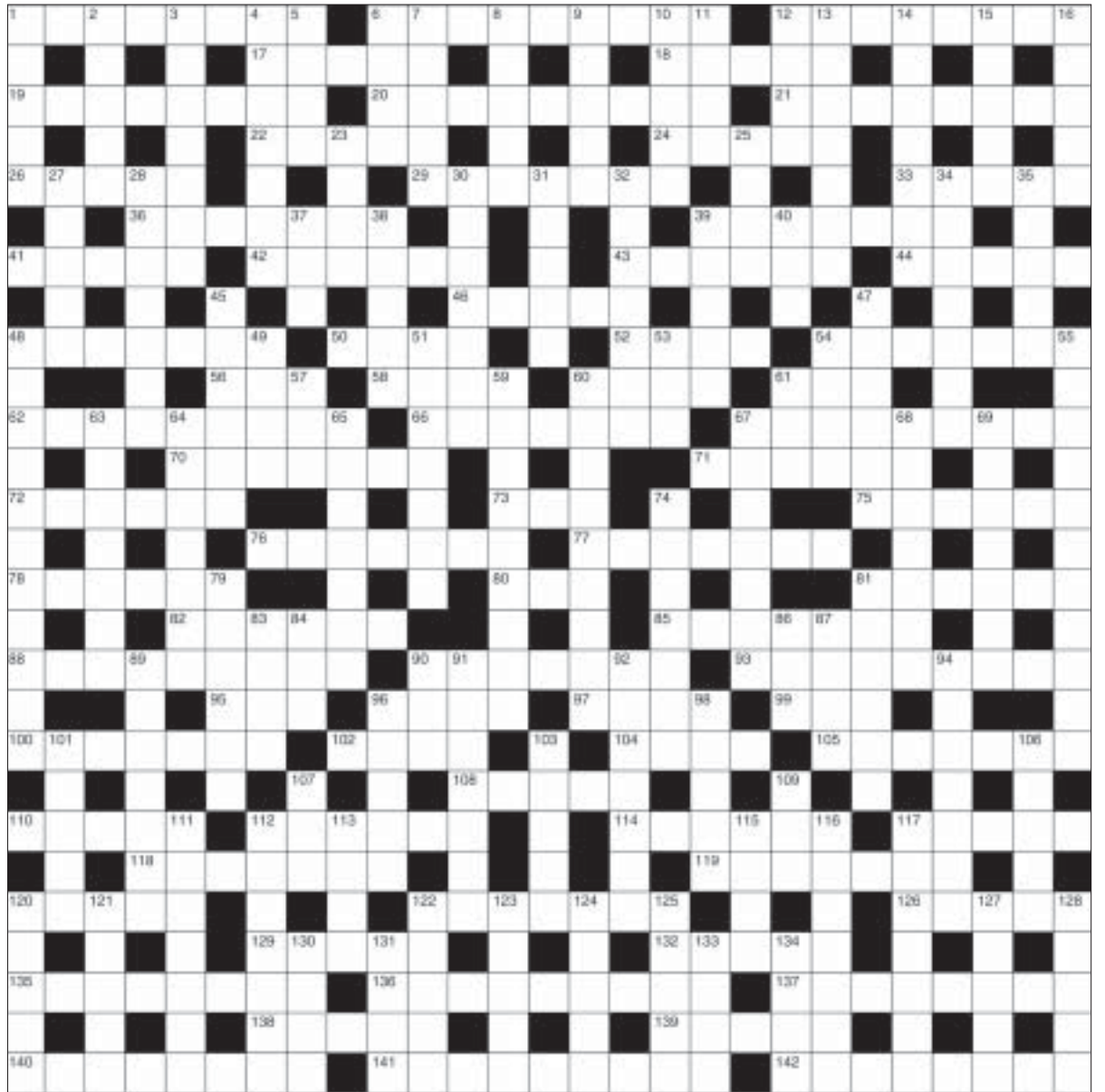
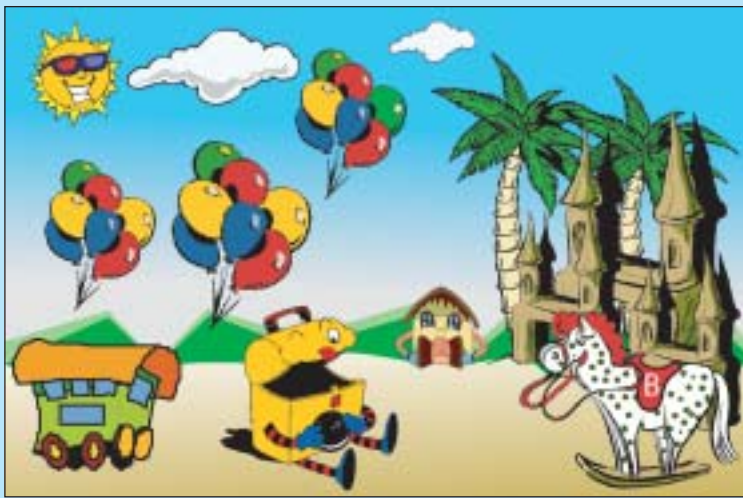
# Puzzles

# The BIG Crossword

## Spot the Difference



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



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**Across**

- 1. Basin
- 6. Moving stairway
- 12. Scurries
- 17. Gangway
- 18. Main artery
- 19. Thick scarves
- 20. Photos
- 21. Show of wealth
- 22. ...& females
- 24. Piles
- 26. Duchess of York
- 29. Encrypts
- 33. Windmill blades
- 36. Originator
- 39. Pilfer
- 41. Pointed
- 42. Vehicle depot
- 43. Type of beard
- 44. Manservant
- 46. Rent contract
- 48. Drink cooler (3,4)
- 50. Dedicatory verses
- 52. Fathers
- 54. Trade ban
- 56. Rowing aid
- 58. US sledge
- 60. Brazilian jazz style, bossa ...
- 61. Car safety cushion, air ...
- 62. Forest ape
- 66. Tentacled creature
- 67. Mislacing
- 70. Scrutinise
- 71. Used horn
- 72. Embrace
- 73. Belonging to us
- 75. Ploy
- 76. Crushing snakes
- 77. Stupidly
- 78. Strolls
- 80. It is (2'1)
- 81. French Pacific island
- 82. Smashed into

- 85. Barrier attendants
- 88. Incompetence
- 90. Settler
- 93. Figure-hugging
- 95. Delve
- 96. Cat sound
- 97. Lug
- 99. Conclude
- 100. Made from clay
- 102. Sixth month
- 104. Was in debt to
- 105. Helicopter's landing place
- 108. Nigerian city
- 110. Person, ...being
- 112. Philippines capital
- 114. Mrs Marcos
- 117. Timepiece
- 118. Rational
- 119. Additional wager (4,3)
- 120. Whip marks
- 122. Borders on
- 126. Allows use of
- 129. Comes closer to
- 132. Tropical fruit
- 135. Protestant denomination
- 136. Points of view
- 137. Vitamin C, ...acid
- 138. Florida metropolis
- 139. Suspended state
- 140. Walked arrogantly
- 141. Searches for gold
- 142. Simple earrings

- 9. Plant louse
- 10. Sworn promises
- 11. Fragrant flower
- 12. Halt
- 13. Astronaut's cabin
- 14. Israeli port (3,4)
- 15. Early Soviet leader
- 16. Pips
- 23. Lustful look
- 25. Lie adjacent to
- 27. For a specific purpose (2,3)
- 28. The A of ANC
- 30. Scary Movie 4 star, Leslie...
- 31. Chat show hostess, ...Winfrey
- 32. Incited (5,2)
- 34. Lawlessness
- 35. Turn out
- 37. Beaver-built barrier
- 38. Invasions
- 39. Black & white Chinese animal
- 40. Engine turn
- 45. Be plentiful
- 47. Sharp road bend
- 48. Not functioning
- 49. Dines
- 51. Great joy
- 53. Hymn, ...Maria
- 54. Sunbake
- 55. Miserly
- 57. Rebuke, ...over the knuckles
- 59. Bank investor
- 60. Fed
- 61. Receptacle
- 63. Friendly
- 64. Sullivan's operetta partner
- 65. Lies snugly
- 67. Tiny amounts of time
- 68. Unrelenting
- 69. Permeating

- 74. Love Story actress, Ali...
- 79. Smoothed (wood)
- 81. Nursed
- 83. Chinese dish, chow...
- 84. Food enhancer (1,1,1)
- 86. Use frugally, ...out
- 87. Formerly Saigon
- 89. Snag
- 90. Humorous ambiguity
- 91. Eire, Republic of...
- 92. Process of wearing away
- 94. Copy
- 96. Student
- 98. Heredity units
- 101. Esk shade
- 103. Eskimo dwelling
- 106. Traveled through curve
- 107. Bladder
- 109. Tot up
- 111. Most inquisitive
- 112. Wrongly dub
- 113. US space organization
- 115. King of beasts
- 116. Spray can
- 117. Greeting
- 120. Droops
- 121. Modify
- 122. On the move
- 123. Prisons
- 124. Render accustomed
- 125. Extract (metal)
- 127. Lordly
- 128. Uses straw
- 130. Writer, ...Blyton
- 131. Sloped walkway
- 133. In existing condition (2,2)
- 134. Babbles

## su | do | ku

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

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

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

Answers on next page

**EZ TRIVIA QUIZ**

1. What do omnivores eat?
  2. Arthritis is the swelling of what?
  3. In physics, what do we call the unit of force equal to the force needed to accelerate a mass of one kilogram one meter per second squared?
  4. A pound of body fat contains approximately how many calories?
  5. Who is famous for being the "King of Pop"?
  6. Which golfer is nicknamed "The Golden Bear"?
  7. What is the full name of Barney, the purple dinosaur?
  8. What is the capital of Serbia?
  9. Bangalore is in which Indian state?
  10. Which chemical element has the atomic number 6?
  11. Cats sleep for how many hours a day on average?
  12. What is the average life span of a pig?
  13. What is the most abundant metal in the earth's crust?
  14. What are the three most common elements in the universe?
  15. Which is the only planet in our solar system that rotates on its side?
  16. Which world commodity is second only to oil in value?
  17. How many hairs are on the average human scalp?
  18. What is the only kind of rock that floats in water?
  19. What kind of animal is a polecat?
  20. How many trees can the average beaver cut down in a year?
- Answers below*

**Get your brain in gear with The Monster Quiz**



1. What is the real name for the Italian Mafia, which translates as "our thing"?
  2. Al Capone's business card described him as what?
  3. What was Al Capone convicted of in 1931?
  4. How many died in the St Valentine's Massacre?
  5. How did notorious Chicago gangster John "No Nose" DiFronzo lose his nose?
  6. How many robbers took part in the Brinks Matt Robbery?
  7. How much gold bullion did they discover?
  8. How much was the bullion worth at the time?
  9. Where is Jimmy Hoffa reputedly buried?
  10. Who plays Jimmy Hoffa in the movie *Hoffa*?
  11. Early Chicago mob boss James "Big Jim" Colosimo was also known by what nickname?
  12. Brooklyn mob boss Dominick Napolitano had a tattoo of what animal on his right forearm?
  13. Where did the Messina Brothers operate in the post World War II years?
  14. What was the name given by the media to flamboyant mobster John Gotti for avoiding convictions of racketeering and assault?
  15. What permanent disfigurement did Charles "Lucky" Luciano sustain in an attack by fellow mobsters?
  16. What was the bloody power struggle following the attack on Charles "Lucky" Luciano between 1927 and 1931 called?
  17. What is the title of the book about Joey Massino by Simon Crittle, which was released in March 2006?
  18. A chance discovery by New York law-enforcement officials of the Apalachin Meeting in 1957 confirmed the existence of what?
  19. Which 1990 film is the true story of mob informer Henry Hill, based on the book *Wiseguy*?
  20. Who directed that film?
- Answers back*

**Puzzle Solutions**

**EZ Trivia Answers**

1. Combinations of meats and vegetables; 2. Joints; 3. A newton; 4. 3,500; 5. Michael Jackson; 6. Jack Nicklaus; 7. Barney T. Dinosaur; 8. Belgrade; 9. Karnataka; 10. Carbon; 11. 16 hours; 12. 15 years; 13. Aluminum; 14. 1) Hydrogen; 2) Helium; 3) Oxygen; 15. Uranus; 16. Coffee; 17. 100,000; 18. Pumice; 19. A weasel; 20. 200.

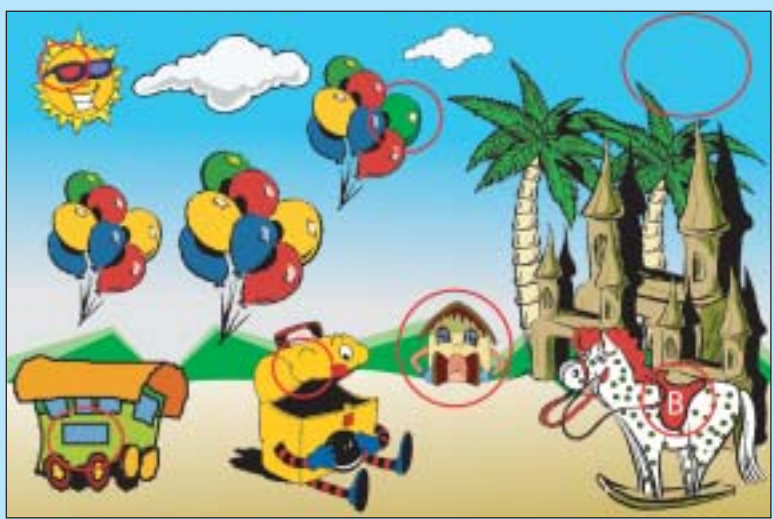
**Monster Quiz Answers**

1. Cosa Nostra; 2. A used furniture dealer; 3. Income tax evasion; 4. Seven; 5. Jumping out of a window to escape the police; 6. Six; 7. 10 tons; 8. UK£26 million; 9. The Giant's Stadium, New York; 10. Jack Nicholson; 11. Diamond Jim; 12. A black panther; 13. London, England; 14. Teflon Don; 15. A droopy eye; 16. The Castellammarese War; 17. *The Last Godfather: The Rise and Fall of Joey Massino*; 18. The National Crime Syndicate; 19. *Goodfellas*; 20. Martin Scorsese.

**Solution to this week's Sudoku puzzle**

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

**Solution to this week's Cartoon Puzzle**



**Solution to this week's BIG Crossword**

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



Michael Deveney takes his readers on an amiable ramble by bicycle through Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand and Laos.

A middle-aged Brit expat with wife and kids and job in Ho Chi Minh City, he took up cycling to gain a modicum of fitness. "I do what I can to make sure the tones are not quite jelly and are a bit firmer than blancmange," he writes.

"I am aiming for a midriff that's not so much a six-pack but more a bag of shopping. From nice shops."

*Lollipop Fury* (Bangkok Books, Bangkok, 2007, 268pp) is the name of his book and he'll explain why. The author adopts a breezy, jokey, conversational tone throughout which can be greatly entertaining but also irritating as rambles off on maddeningly irrelevant tangents.

But the main trunk of his story is fascinating. Four glorious bike trips: from Ho Chi Minh City to Pattaya, from Luang Prabang to Vientiane, from Ubon Ratchathani to the Bolaven Plateau in Laos and from Mae Hong Son to Chiang Rai.

On his first trip he leaves home at six in the morning and reaches the Cambodian border in three hours.

"Miracle rice, miracle irrigation, work, work, work - Vietnam is a verdant and vibrant advert for the earth's fecundity. Doing! You cross the border and the green turns to brown. Mile upon mile in every direction, tough, unforgiving vil-

# Biker in paradise



## Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt

lages. No rain for ages, no crops in sight, not a plant, not a worker; the contrast couldn't be greater. This is Svey Rieng Province in Cambodia, one of Cambodia's poorest at the best of times and now as raggedy-ass as could be...

"This reminds me of the old adage which was told to me when I came to the region some years ago: 'The Vietnamese plant the rice, the Cambodians watch it grow, the Laotians listen to it grow, and the Thais sell it.' Hmmm."

On the beach in Sihanoukville, he checks into a hostel where "Rule #1" posted on his door reads: "No condoms, no sex". And behind the reception desk

are "a dwarf, a transvestite and a man in a black vest with a body-builder's physique. How did I miss this?"

On he pushes to Pattaya where he devotes 20 pages to the mores of bargirls. Nothing new here.

He comes into his own in Laos where he's overwhelmed by sheer joy as he cycles alone through the mountains outside Luang Prabang.

"One thing I notice is that I am listening to the sound of silence, something that I have not heard for a long time - a tautology but you know what I mean.

"After living in Ho Chi Minh City for a while this is like brain medicine. Let's call it aural therapy. Happy ears, happy thoughts. It's more like a kind of gestalt therapy commissioned by the music of the void. Wow, who said that? Kerouac? Teilhard de Chardin? Me?"

"This is a beautiful stretch of road, the limestone peaks soaring ahead of me - it's a bluetooth landscape. The descent,

when it comes, is an adrenalin rush so I let go of the brakes to see what it's like but

when I pass 60kph I rein things in [...] This is almost perfect cycling: warm sunshine, the fields being cultivated, the air smells alpine fresh and it looks like Grindelwald or somewhere. You wouldn't be surprised to see this vista as the subject of a 1000-piece jigsaw."

He is equally exhilarated on trips along the mountainous Burmese border in northern Thailand and in the Bolaven Plateau in southern Laos. And in his

intimate chatty style, he brings the reader along with him.

Where he loses the reader, or at least this one, are his boring asides about his favorite books, movies, TV shows, football games and jokes. We really don't want to hear it. You feel the urge to thump him and say, "Get back to the story!"

But this is a minor irritant. When he's on track, Deveney tells his stories very well and I can't wait to hear more of them.



## EVENTS CALENDAR

[www.phuketgazette.net/calendar](http://www.phuketgazette.net/calendar)

### August 18. Australian Winery at Wine Connection Chalong.

A special evening of high-quality wines from the exceptional Rutherglen Winery from Victoria, Australia, will be at Wine Connection Chalong, along with an appetizer buffet and live band at just 500 baht net per person from 7 pm to 9 pm.

For more information contact Pascal. Tel: 087-8896074. Email: fb.phuket@wineconnection.co.th

### August 19. Meditation retreat.

Free monthly meditation retreats on the third Sunday of every month from 1:30 pm to 3 pm at Wang Kung restaurant, located behind Suan Luang Park in Phuket City.

The sessions will include an introduction to meditation, relaxation exercises and meditation practice, as well as a question and answer period.

Instruction is provided by English-speaking Thai monks and people of all nationalities and religions are welcome to attend.

For more information call 081-3704005, 089-6476424 or 087-2838185; email: mananya@hotmail.com or poolsuk@asianpremier.com; or visit [www.meditationthai.org](http://www.meditationthai.org)

### September 5-7. KTO Junior Golf Challenge Golf Tournament 2007.

The inaugural KTO Junior Challenge Golf Tournament will be held at the Laguna Phuket Golf Club. This international tournament is open to children 6 to 17 years of age who hold a current handicap card from a recognized golf club. Registration is US\$285 (approx 9,975 baht) per

player, including welcome reception, three-day greens fees and caddy fees, awards luncheon and more. Registration closing date is July 31. Special events, discounted greens fees and special hotel rates at Laguna Beach Resort have also been arranged. For more information visit [www.kids-tee-off.com](http://www.kids-tee-off.com)

### September 15. Splash for Trash Underwater Clean Up.

Take the plunge on International Clean Up Day with Dive Asia and Sea Fun Divers, Phuket's only PADI fiev-Star CDC Centers. Participants must be certified divers and must pre-register due to limited space on the boats.

Participation is free of charge and everyone is welcome to join. Boats will leave from Chalong Pier at 8:30 am, returning at 5 pm.

For more information call 076-330598 or 076-330124, email [info@diveasia.com](mailto:info@diveasia.com) or visit [www.diveasia.com](http://www.diveasia.com)

### September 22. The 8th Phuket International Beer Fest.

A celebration of probably the best beers and most ardent beer drinkers in the world at the Watermark bar and restaurant.

This is your chance to show to the world, or at least Phuket, your favorite beer. Yes! YOU supply the beer - in the hope that it wins the prestigious accolade of "Winner of The 8th Phuket International Beer Fest". Each competitor must supply 12 bottles or cans of their nominated international beer. All entries are required to register in advance.

Entry fee: 12 beers plus 800 baht.

Tip: bring back the best beer

from overseas while you're traveling this summer! For more information call Stuart Bird at 081-7376184.

### October 11-19. Phuket Vegetarian Festival.

This festival is an annual event held during the ninth lunar month of the Chinese calendar, which normally falls in late September or early October.

Sacred rituals are performed at all Chinese temples in Phuket.

The processions from each temple show spectacles of strict vegetarians, known as devotees, ostensibly possessed by gods, piercing their tongues, cheeks and other parts of the anatomy with sharp implements.

### October 21-27. Phuket Film Festival.

Phuket will see this festival realized with the Gala Opening on October 21.

On that day, the festival will present the newly restored Thai film *The King of the White Elephant* (1941), the only remaining full-length, English-language feature film made entirely in Thailand.

Check the *Gazette* for more detailed information.

Want to be one of our volunteers? Please call 076-209000 or email [filmfestival.phuket@gmail.com](mailto:filmfestival.phuket@gmail.com).

For further information visit [www.phuketfilmfestival.com](http://www.phuketfilmfestival.com)

### October 23. Chulalongkorn Day - Public Holiday.

Chulalongkorn Day commemorates the reign of Rama V who is best remembered for abolishing slavery in Thailand.

### November 14-17. Chalong Bay Fishing Tournament 2007.

Registration night is November 14 and the fee 7,000 baht per team, including beer. Fishing will be November 15-17 with prizes given on November 17 from 8 pm.

For details contact Uwe Schitteck at 081-7195766; email: [uwe-schitteck@yahoo.com](mailto:uwe-schitteck@yahoo.com)

### November 24. PIWC Gala Ball.

The Phuket International Women's Club will hold the most prestigious event this year - the annual Gala Ball - November 24 at the Indigo Pearl, Nai Yang Beach.

Contact Carol (Tel: 087-417-8860, Email: [carol.fryer@piwc.info](mailto:carol.fryer@piwc.info)) or Sue (Tel: 087-2776948, Email: [arnulphy@loxinfo.co.th](mailto:arnulphy@loxinfo.co.th)) for details.

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## Raising the bar

While Phuket's dive industry could benefit from better regulation, without doubt the same can be said about many other tourism-related industries operating in the province.

The attention focused on dive operators in the past few years [see Inside Story pp 4-5] raises the question why they have been singled out while tuk-tuk drivers, jet-skis and parasail boat operators, car and motorbike rental agencies and many others continue to operate with little or no regard for law or regulation.

Part of the answer may be that dive businesses in Phuket tend to be heavily financed by foreigners, who are deemed to be getting more than their fair share back from their investments.

Of course, the initiative by the Phuket provincial government to deal with what it sees as a case of "foreign domination" is just a microcosm of the larger issue that has been in the news recently, as the military-installed government failed to get its version of proposed amendments to the Foreign Business Act passed by the National Legislative Assembly (NLA).

Long-term foreign residents on the island are quick to point out that many successful, high-profile businesses run by foreigners in Phuket eventually fall under an intense regulatory scrutiny that well-connected, local businessmen seem to avoid.

Over the years the local Thai-language press has also played a large role in this by capitalizing on nationalist sentiments and repeatedly sensationalizing stories involving foreign businessmen, while ignoring far more egregious scandals involving Thai investors. Patong's now-defunct Shark Club nightclub and allegations over land-use rights in and around Laguna Phuket are just two examples.

The provincial government's attempts to tackle the dive industry is notable in that an entire industry – not just one company – is under the microscope. While the draft charter being put to a nationwide referendum on August 19 provides a good framework for political and administrative decentralization, it hardly calls for or facilitates the establishment of industry-specific regulations imposed at the provincial level.

Recent comments seem to indicate that the provincial view regarding the ongoing court case is "we don't mind losing the battle as long as we win the war" and that victory will come when the next government uses the controversial measures as a template to impose similar regulations nationwide.

Only time will tell whether this will happen, but in the meantime wouldn't it be nice to see the province move with the same vigor to crack down on interests that pose far greater, albeit homegrown threats to our all-important tourism economy?

– The Editor

**Do you have an opinion you want to share?**  
Email [editor@phuketgazette.net](mailto:editor@phuketgazette.net)

**The Phuket Gazette**

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## 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](mailto: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.

### Stray lovin'

I would like to share with you the joys that my Thai dogs have brought me. My husband and I moved to Phuket and decided to adopt a dog back in November. We went over to the Soi Dog Foundation, where they had an ample 35 orphaned puppies to choose from – all absolutely flea covered and adorable.

They broke our hearts and on the spur of the moment we decided to take two very different, very adorable pups with no idea of how they would look in the future. It turns out that they were only two months old.

One year later, we have had our share of adventures with getting to know the Thai dog breed – and they are different! Our yellow dog Tio and our shaggy black mutt Ina have been the source of many joys – great swimmers – and costs – what happened to the couch?!

They came with some trust issues even being so young, but with lots of TLC, almost a year later they have become the sweetest and funniest pair of friends. We have taken the time to train them and they in turn charm our guests who are always surprised at the sensibility of these strays.

The best thing that we can recommend to someone interested in helping a Thai dog is to take the time to train them – leash and all. These dogs have sometimes had a rough start and they need the security of leadership or a parental figure in their lives. And second: get two! They will keep each other entertained all day and we can leave them at the house guilt free. It's so wonderful to see how they love each other to bits. We thank the Soi

Dog Foundation for giving us these delightful dogs.

Tiffany and Lionel Ladebat,  
owners of IT-Gigs.com

### Dub be good to me

Any kind censorship is a violation of human freedom. In the US, the ratings system only helps kids pick out which movie, video or music they want – if it isn't rated "R" or "parental advisory", the teenagers won't buy it.

As for the money made by Thai movies, I am astonished that Thai filmmakers want so little in return for their work. For every baht made in Thailand, there is another 100 baht made in the rest of the world.

The Thai film industry needs to understand that something as simple as English subtitles would more than double its income; a full English-language audio track would triple it.

*Suriyothai* made good money abroad, but many people had difficulty reading at the pace of the dialog, so an English soundtrack is needed.

*Khan Kluy*, the cartoon feature, is just one example – an excellent kids movie, but no one in the rest of the world can understand it.

*The Legend of King Naresuan* could make a fortune if done with an English-language soundtrack.

Michael Weldon  
Udon Thani

### Barking mad

While welcoming constructive criticism, it never ceases to amaze me how many readers who put pen to paper have clearly not read properly the article they are criticizing.

Mr McBride's criticism of the Top Dog article is a good example.

The sections of the article he refers to were clearly explaining the situation in Asia generally, and not specifically Phuket; and yes, there have been numerous studies carried out in many different parts of Asia on the hereditary aspects of street dogs.

It was pointed out that these dogs have and continue to interbreed with domestic pets, but take a purebred dog that was bred for the pet market and place it on the streets after living in a home for a while, and it will not survive for long unless a human takes it in.

Road kill has very little effect on the overall population of dogs. When the bypass road became dual carriageway there was a huge increase in the number of dogs killed on that section of road until the remainder learned how to use it.

The number of dogs on that section has now decreased, but it is because nearly all the dogs there are sterilized. Were they able to breed then the numbers would have rapidly increased to whatever that area could support, and would continue to do so no matter how many were killed on the road.

That sterilization is the only long-term, effective method of stray-dog control has been extensively researched and proved.

While Phuket has a refuse problem something will feed on it. If there are no dogs left then there will be an increase in the feral cat population. If they can be controlled then rats will take over. Wild pigs will not be a problem here because of the reasons clearly stated in the article.

Top Dog  
Phuket

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

# Showcasing art in Phuket

**W**e have had the idea of creating a central forum for art in Phuket for a long time, but until the establishment of the Phuket Weekend Art Market, feedback from local government agencies and the private sector had been poor – nobody seemed interested in it.

We would like to see the project succeed as a monthly event over the first year, but unfortunately the entire 100,000 baht granted by the Office of Contemporary Art and Culture was spent getting everything ready and in place for the opening two days on August 17 and 18. After that we will be on our own.

We put all our hearts into making this happen because we really want to have something like this for the arts scene in Phuket. We don't have any budget left to stage shows or other public activities after the launch, but we do have leftover materials to use in creating more art. What budget we can get we will need to use for labor and transport costs.

To make the market project a long-term success, what we really need is public support. This may come in many forms, from donated meals and audio equipment to financial funding – though we are not focusing too much on the financial aspect at this point.

If we all work together, I think we can develop the Phuket

## FIRST PERSON

**P**huket is home to a large number of both professional and amateur artists, all keen to see the island develop into a Southeast Asian center for the arts.

This effort received a boost when the Office of Contemporary Art and Culture in Bangkok provided 100,000 baht to turn Queen Sirikit Park on Thalang Rd into the 'Phuket Weekend Art Market' on the first weekend of each month for one year, starting August 17 and 18.

One of the primary forces in getting the monthly project off the ground has been 37-year-old freelance artist **Samrit Petchkong**, who is a member of an informal network of artists living and working in Phuket. A native of Trang who has lived in Phuket for 19 years, K. Samrit explains here why Phuket needs greater support for the arts.



Weekend Art Market into a long-term success that could be a real benefit to Phuket City and the entire island by giving young artists a suitable forum to display and possibly sell their works.

I love Queen Sirikit Park for this project because it is suitable in many ways. As it has different levels, we will be able to sepa-

rate exhibitions into different areas. It also has both outdoor and covered areas, allowing us a good deal of flexibility in terms of lighting and dealing with the elements year round – rain or shine, hot or cool.

Another idea behind the project is to get across to the public the concept that art is not nec-

essarily something that needs to be confined to a frame. That is why we want to bring art out into the communities, as we did over an area covering 40 rai at the Halal Food, Halal Town event at the end of last month.

We would love to see Phuket develop into an arts center for Southeast Asia. Don't for-

get that although we are an international province with tourists coming from around the world, so far there hasn't been any serious commitment to the arts. I would like to see Phuket serve as a showcase for all kinds of art, but so far we have lacked the kind of organized approach needed to make it happen.

When we talk about presenting cultural shows, no one seems to listen. They just act bored and disinterested because they don't see the value, thinking that culture is something best preserved within the walls of a museum.

The situation is different in many other countries, where they realize the value of culture and the need to put it on display so that younger generations can understand and take part in their own cultural heritage.

When we ask for government support for such things they often tell us it is too late because we haven't given them enough warning to arrange a budget in time. I don't know, maybe that is just a convenient excuse.

Fortunately, right now there seems to be an increasing interest in the arts in Phuket and many young people want to learn more about art and participate in cultural activities.

People interested in developing arts in Phuket can call me at 086-2735440.

– *Compiled by Sangkhae Leelanaporn*

## Is there a new road from Patong to Phuket City?

Having read your news article about German architect Frank Witzel facing deportation, I checked out the Patong View Talay website as the project site is on Phra Baramee Soi 3, where I also have a property.

On the company's website is a map showing a road running parallel to Phra Baramee Soi 3 marked as the "New Road to Phuket Town".

As I overlook this new road, I wonder if someone in local government could provide further planning information on it?

Tim Goodman  
Patong

**Patong Municipality Public Works Director Sompon Khwunyueng replies:**

Our department has no plans to build a new road to Phuket City. The road you refer to simply serves as an access road for a community of about 20 families to get to the main road. It is a dead end and I can confirm that there are currently no plans to extend it to serve as a new road to Phuket City.

## Issues & ANSWERS

**Want to know how to get something done? Want to pitch an idea to Phuket's authorities? Submit your queries or suggestions to us and we'll ask the appropriate people to respond.**

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

### Can we play poker with chips?

I heard that it is illegal to play cards, particularly poker, in Thailand. But what's the deal if me and my friends, who are *farang*, play poker games using chips?

We play with chips in a kind of tournament. The cost to enter is 500 baht and the prize money is split between the top three players. It's really no different than a golf, pool or chess tournament.

In the rest of the world this is a popular thing to do among friends. Can I do this here in Thailand? What would happen if

I was doing this with my buddies and the police came?

FST  
Patong

**Pol Lt Gen Chatchai Piphonon, Crime Suppression Inspector at Kathu Police Station, replies:**

Poker is classified as a gambling card game. It is illegal in Thailand, no matter whether money is used. If you do this, there is always a chance the police will stop you playing.

## Sidetracked senior seeks sidewalk solution

I recently took the occasion to stroll down Sawatdirak Rd in Patong, which runs between Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd and the beach road.

Although I have an artificial limb and ambulate using a walking stick, I generally have little difficulty in walking short distances.

On Sawatdirak Rd, however, I found that the sidewalk surface was all cracked and uneven – a situation which I am sure poses a safety threat to even the most able-bodied.

In my case, I was fortunate enough to happen upon a friendly young woman sitting in a roadside bistro who, despite my advancing age, seemed to take a real liking to me.

She explained that the sidewalk surface had been completely redone after the tsunami – which means it is less than three years old!

She also commented that several of her colleagues in the establishment had complained

that walking to work in their high-heel shoes was indeed difficult.

Although I made it safely back to my pension later than night, I remain concerned for the safety of these fine young lasses and wonder whether there are any plans to improve the sidewalks in that area.

Johnathan A Marks  
RAF (retired)

**Patong Municipality Public Works Director Sompon Khwunyueng replies:**

We are aware of the problems with the sidewalks in that area and plan to fix them as part of a 1.5-million-baht budget to improve sidewalks throughout Patong.

However, the project still requires final approval by Patong Municipality. If the budget is approved as we hope it will be by the end of September, then repairs could begin in October.

# Is sipping from the soup bowl wrong?

Dear Momma Duck,

When I go to my local restaurant, they often give a small bowl of soup with the one-plate lunch I order.

However, they don't provide any soup spoon. As I find it difficult and time consuming to get the soup to my mouth with the tablespoon they provide, is it okay to just sip it straight out of the little plastic bowl, like the Chinese do?

I would like to drink the soup this way, but I am afraid to because I never see any one else doing it.

Regards,  
Stefano



**Momma  
DUCK**

By Wanida Hongyok  
momma@phuketgazette.net

Dear Stefano,

You are probably talking about the popular *khao mun gai* (chicken on rice) dish that comes with a bowl of clear soup.

I agree that it is difficult to eat when you do not have the proper utensil.

However, unknown to you, the local restaurant may already provide a Chinese-style soup spoon – usually stainless metal with a flat bottom and ridged sides.

There might be several already on the table in either a cup-like container or perhaps a rectangular stainless box with a hinged lid.

If not, try asking for a soup spoon, which is called *chorn ta gaeng* or *chorn glang* in Thai.

If the waitress doesn't understand, you may have to give up.

In this case, do what you like and just be yourself.

Feel free to drink the soup out of the little plastic bowl like the Chinese do. Nobody will raise an eyebrow or say anything here in Phuket.

Dear Momma Duck,

On the balcony of my rented home there is quite an attractive spirit house with a small ladder from the ground all the way up to the entrance.

Do you know why spirits need ladders? I thought they could fly or otherwise transport themselves without having to deal with the effects of gravity...

Just curious  
Samkong

Dear Just curious,

In most Thai homes or surrounding gardens, there is usually a spirit house, called a *Saan Phra Phum* in Thai, either with or without a ladder, or one of each situated close to each other in the same garden.

According to our myth of the Guardian Spirits, the king of Phle City had seven sons and he sent all of them to protect inhabited areas.

They became known collectively as *Phra Phum*, or guardian spirits. A *Saan Phra Phum* is a residence or home for guardian spirits. With the influence of the Indian culture, we believe *Phra Phum* are *Thevada*, which translates as a higher-ranked spirit or almost a divinity.

They are powerful and can do all sort

of things, and certainly don't need a ladder to climb home.

A spirit house is the home of a *Phii* or ordinary local spirit associated with the land upon which your home sits.

A *Phii* is therefore a lower-ranked spirit in the same manner as a guardian spirit, an ancestor spirit or even a wood nymph.

Since a *Phii* is associated with the land and is not as powerful as *Phra Phum*, a *Phii* needs a ladder to climb up to the house. In some cases, a spirit house is painted the same color as the birthday color of the home's owner. For example if the owner was born on Tuesday, then the color would be yellow.

Related to this custom, you might have seen a larger type of shrine in front of an important building. These come from the Indian Bhraman tradition and are also seen to be a guardian spirit of the land and building. Such Bhraman shrines are more prominent than a *Saan Phra Phum*.

The Ploenchit and Ratchadamri intersection in Bangkok probably has the most famous shrine of this type, with Thais and tourists knowing it well.

People come to make a wish and promise a giving ceremony if their wish is granted.

## In The Stars

by Isla Star

**LEO (July 24-August 22).** It may be necessary for you to penetrate a thick hedge of opposition in order to get a new work project off the ground. However, your powers of persuasion should do the trick and success will be highlighted. Where romance is concerned, a midweek misunderstanding needs to be clarified quickly. Don't be afraid of admitting you got the wrong impression. Wear a piece of amethyst to encourage a soft approach.

**VIRGO (August 23-September 23).** Your dreams of a better future are not going to come to fruition this year unless hard work takes precedence. Those of you who are feeling jealous of friends' healthier finances should start seeing how hard those friends worked to reach that zone of comfort. There will be every opportunity during the remainder of

August to improve your circumstances. The only thing required is your input.

**LIBRA (September 24-October 23).** Your luck in love is strong until the end of the month. Those who have been wondering whether Cupid has forgotten about them have a pleasant surprise in store. Those of you already in a committed relationship will discover that your partner still has ways to show how much he or she cares. Career matters are well highlighted on Wednesday and Thursday, so schedule important meetings for those days.

**SCORPIO (October 24-November 22).** Your financial judgment is clear and strong until the end of August. Those of you who have been looking into property investment are advised to seal the deal before then. A complicated

situation at work can be simplified by taking some distance; if possible, a long weekend away will help you to view the matter more objectively. A Taurean friend is waiting for you to make amends for words spoken in the heat of the moment.

**SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21).** A twisted tale begins to unfold at work this week. Some of you will be shocked at what is unearthed; others will have seen it coming. Either way, you will have to set new standards for trusting colleagues. At least you will know that Pisces is a shoulder to lean on. Travel is forecast toward the end of August and this week you will receive information about this. The color beige encourages strength.

**CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20).** The remainder of August is due to pass smoothly. Finances are well highlighted after Tuesday, so put important negotiations on hold until then. Your career-related ambitions are gradually growing stronger, but this is not the right moment to act

on rumors. Start sowing seeds quietly to reap a fruitful harvest later this year. The number eight can be lucky on Wednesday.

**AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19).** Your ability to charm the snakes out of the rubber tree could be too much of a good thing this week. It's likely that some of you have underestimated the power of your competition. All will be revealed midweek when a business negotiation doesn't go according to plan. However, the stars will support your efforts to get back on track at the end of the month. Wear the color indigo to encourage a sensible outlook.

**PISCES (February 20-March 20).** The chase is on for those of you ready to pursue a long-term goal. Gemini will be of particular help, as long as you are ready to listen to some advice. Wednesday is the most auspicious day for scheduling meetings. If you are single, you will have good reason to give someone a second chance when they learn what went wrong. The number five can bring some luck on Sunday.

**ARIES (March 21-April 20).** Your luck is strong this week, so make the most of the auspicious circumstances by setting your sights higher. Career matters will benefit from a chance meeting with an ex-colleague who has struck gold since you last saw them. Take some tips, but don't try to copy their moves exactly. Your chances of success will be

influenced by your unique touch. The scent of sandalwood encourages romance.

**TAURUS (April 21-May 21).** You are advised to take some of what you hear with a pinch of salt. For down-to-earth information, listen to another Taurean or a Capricorn. You still need to cultivate more strength of mind; if this doesn't happen, you will be too easy for a strong Scorpio to convince. Monday is the best day for splashing out on something you've wanted for a long time. Number three is lucky on Thursday.

**GEMINI (May 22-June 21).** There are indications of a business breakthrough this week. A deal that you believed turned sour last month is being given further consideration by someone with the power to make dreams come true. Don't count your chickens before they've hatched as last minute hitches are forecast. Family concerns require careful handling this weekend. Wear a piece of clear crystal to encourage the truth to be seen.

**CANCER (June 22-July 23).** A candid conversation with someone close to you is highlighted this weekend. Even if the person concerned appears to be avoiding this, find a way to make it happen. Leo can be of use if you are searching for a new job, but there are indications that a radical change of career will be necessary if you want to earn more money.

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# Beyond Bangla

Patong never ceases to amaze me with the array of characters you meet on a night out trawlin'. Jilted lovers, entrepreneurs and friendly, accommodating bar-owners make it an interesting place to snoop around, collecting stories of woe, joy and indifference.

My column aims to show visitors and residents that Bangla is not the only place kicking it in Patong; if you venture out a few blocks you can find a diversity not normally found on that well-trodden thoroughfare. If you're bored with the same old places, then do what I do: get trawlin'.

**Great Craic.** Let's face it; Irish pubs are ten-a-penny in Patong, but did you know that the first one in Phuket was opened in 1987 by a Phuket local named Sateep? K. Sateep currently owns the "1 Irish Pub" on the south side of Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd.

It does not have aircon or live music, but it makes up for this with affable staff and a real character often lost within Bangla's touristy-style Irish bars, which seem to cater more to holiday-makers and less to local drinkers than one would expect of a true Irish pub.

K. Sateep is a wonderful host with a history so colorful that books should be written about him. He is happy to spin a yarn or two for your pleasure. With draft Tiger and Heineken on the menu, canned Guinness and a very happy hour that lasts from 10 am to 7 pm, you cannot find many cheaper places to enjoy a good tongue wag.

Also, on my last visit, the pub was installing a tap so that Guinness draft – the "gold standard" of any Irish Pub – will be available soon.

**Italian Invasion.** For centuries the Romans held a sort of cultural stranglehold over the Western world. While Italy may not be the force it was during the days of the Roman Empire, a resurgence of sorts has begun on Soi Post Office, halfway up the beach road.

Six Italian Restaurants dominate the soi, including Roma Pizzeria, Marco Polo's, Napoli Restaurant and the Dolce Vita. But the place of choice for most Italian ex-pats is Maccaroni's. With its simple yet stylish décor



## TRAWLIN'

By Alas Swan

and exquisite culinary delights, the place is gaining an awesome reputation among tourists and locals.

Italians dine here, so you know you're in for a treat. I would recommend the gnocchi in bolognese sauce, cooked by an Italian chef that plied his trade for decades in his motherland.

I found Soi Post Office to be full of surprises, and was rewarded with my discovery of a little English bar and guesthouse named The Tavern. Owned by Chris and Ann and serving the cheap beer and cocktails my column exists for, The Tavern boats a great, friendly atmosphere.

The Tavern is defiantly worth a visit after consuming Maccaroni's sumptuous offerings. After 30 minutes you feel like you've known The Tavern's staff and regular imbibers for years.

The only drawback of the Soi is the minor form of harassment the ever-present tailor touts have become famous for.

If you adopt my approach there should be no problem: simply reply to the question, "Where you come from mate?" with a swift, "Immigration, have you got a work permit?" That should see the annoying hand extended in mock friendship retracted quickly enough.

**Absolutely:** The recently opened Absolute Ceylon Pub at Jungceylon has three pool tables, air conditioning, live music and a vast selection of cocktails and spirits at surprisingly affordable prices, given the type and location of the establishment.

Sit back and relax with the maroon and wooden interior while listening to cool jazz music; Absolute Ceylon is the perfect pit stop to enjoy a stiff drink while your wife mercilessly destroys your credit rating on shoes and handbags.



An excursion off Soi Bangla will lead to the discovery of many gems, including the '1 Irish Bar' on the south side of Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd – the first "Irish pub" in Patong.

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This is my third article in the Pushing Buttons series, and since I'm incredibly busy with my day job – IT security – I thought I'd whip out an article to let you know what I am *not* going to be writing about in the near future.

**Windows Vista.** Microsoft has been hyping this for two to three years now and IT writers have followed suit, in large part because many of them need to perpetuate their existence and fill space.

As late as August 2006 I was still using Windows 2000 (with Service Pack 5) and Office '97 and you know what? I never said "I wish I had XP" or "I need Office 2000 to get that needed functionality".

Even Microsoft isn't following its historic pattern of dumping the old version of Windows as soon as the new version is released – one week the software is the most innovative creation in history and the next week it stinks because a new version is out.

Resistance is futile, though, because it will be crammed down our throats by the PC and laptop vendors who pre-install it.

If you think that Windows Genuine Advantage anti-piracy system is bad in XP, wait until you see the Digital Rights Management features that are conveniently built-in for your entertainment displeasure in Vista.

If you are buying a new PC in the near future, I highly recommend buying it from a manufacturer that still offers XP SP2 preloaded. Acer is finding this out the hard way. At least wait for Vista Service Pack 1, as Microsoft might start getting it right by Version 3. So, in short, I might start writing about Vista in about 2010.

Microsoft has already announced that it's working on the next version of Windows, called Windows 7 until they figure out a really hip name for it like "Sierra", "Taj Mahal" or "Orgasmatron".

**The current ICT Minister.** I'm trying to fly under the editorial radar with this topic – so let's see if this gets by. To loosely paraphrase a few of his oral gems: IT conventions in Bangkok aren't important because Thais can't innovate anyway; since Open Source software is free then it must be of poor quality and who would want to work for free? And

# Windows genuine disadvantage and other unmentionables



A genuine copy of Windows Vista Home Basic bought online will set you back about 4,000 baht – about half the monthly salary of a teacher at a Thai government school. The far superior Windows Vista Ultimate on DVD costs over 8,000 baht from the same website, but our sources say pirated copies are readily available at places like Pantip Plaza in Bangkok for about 150 baht. And that's the last this author is going to talk about it...

YouTube was supposedly unblocked weeks ago, but in fact it was still blocked as this went to press – and he's the guy in charge of this.

Yes, this is our ICT Minister. To sum it up, every day that he is ICT Minister, Thailand falls one day further behind Vietnam in ICT development.

**Gadgets.** Why am I not going to write about electronic gadgets: 1. I'd have to be famous enough to get the gadgets free to try out and review, which I am not; 2. this type of information is readily available on the Internet (see my previous column); 3. they would have to be available in Phuket, which is far from a sure bet; and 4. I'd need a lot of spare time and patience to fiddle around with them and try them out, which I don't have.

To be honest, I have a difficult enough time being the taskmaster of all of the electronica in my house as it stands now:

remotes for the TV, DVD player and stereo, computers, mobile phones and so on.

Then there are the kids' toys, which are all from China and have safety standards that fail to reach those in Japan 30 years ago when it was the fledgling electronics manufacturer of the world. Often I wish that I could take a hammer and just beat these to smithereens for some instant gratification; so far I have managed to refrain from violent action.

As for digital cameras and even the microwave oven – many of these gadgets are so complicated that you'd have to be a rocket scientist just to access the damned gadget in your own language. And our lives are more enriched with all of this crapola?

**Politics.** There's nothing worse than being a regular reader of IT experts columns and have them use their podium to espouse their political views and say something

stupid and alienate large chunks of their audience – including me.

It's like Sheryl Crow telling me that I need to use "one square of toilet paper per restroom visit".

I'll never figure this one out: from a musician I want to hear or see music, from an actor I want to see acting, from an IT columnist I want to read or listen to IT. What's so difficult about this? Of course, if IT and Thai politics hit the road at the same time then I might

be obligated to report on it – as above concerning our brainiac ICT Minister.

**Another Life.** Second Life is a virtual world modeled after the Metaverse in Neal Stephenson's classic novel *Snow Crash*.

You can be a resident, buy property, trade Linden dollars (the fictional currency created for use in Second Life) for real US dollars and travel around in the form of your avatar, your virtual being

that represents you in Second Life.

Its creator, Linden Lab, has been criticized recently for claiming that the number of Second Life residents is 6.5 million (8.7 million at the time of going to press), as many other pundits have speculated that regular users are about a quarter million or even as low as tens of thousands.

Despite that, big-name corporations such as IBM, the BBC, Playboy and Comcast are involved in it one way or another – mostly through advertising, marketing and hosting meetings.

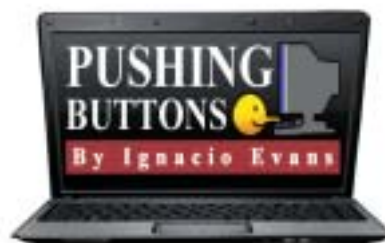
Sweden has even set up an "embassy" called the Second House of Sweden. Sadly, I don't think they've invented effective virtual drunkenness yet.

I watched my friend sign in and try it out for 30 minutes before exiting out of sheer boredom. I've read that it does have some positive uses, one of them being that people are more likely to speak up in meetings while hiding behind their avatars than they would be face-to-face in the real world.

However, I am guessing that lots of the inhabitants hang out there because their real lives are extremely dull.


Probably 75% of the "residents" are guys in the US, Canada or Europe who can't get chicks. Thank you Asia – I have an interesting enough First Life.

*Ignacio Evans is an information security consultant based in SE Asia who tries to be in Phuket whenever he can. Email him with questions, complaints, or any other comments at iggy69@gmail.com*



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# US subprime mortgages only one side of the coin



## MONEY TALKS

By Richard G Watson

**T**he issue of subprime mortgages – meaning that the quality of the borrower and his ability to repay are below standard – coupled with falling residential house prices in the US has brought fear to investment markets. A substantial portion of new jobs created in the US since the previous recession relate to residential housing. These occupations include the obvious, such as construction workers and estate agents, but there are many other categories.

The consumer accounts for two-thirds of the US economy, and the business sector the balance. Hence, the consumer and his spending patterns are vital to the economy. Consumer confidence is at a multi-year high with low unemployment boosting both confidence and spending power. Business investment is still running strong.

However, this can change and the next few months are going to be potentially problematic. Markets, as always, are watching the situation closely. Markets hate uncertainty and this is likely to be felt in terms of volatility. Many market participants believe that a correction would be healthy and long overdue.

This opinion is often stated after looking at graphs of the major stock market indices, which have risen almost without interruption since March 2003. On the other hand, global growth is strong at an increased rate, the Interna-



**Despite fears of the US economy cooling off, some mergers and takeovers are going ahead unabated, such as the battle between Barclays and Royal Bank of Scotland for control of ABN-AMRO, Holland's largest bank.**

tional Monetary Fund (IMF) has raised its growth estimates globally, from 4.8% to 5.2% so far for the calendar year 2007.

In general, US stocks are not expensive. The Standard & Poors 500 (S&P 500) index, which is the broadest popular index of large caps (large-market capitalization, usually meaning large companies) is at a six-year low on value, with Bloomberg citing a price-earnings ratio of 15:4.

Stocks in other markets around the world are generally fairly valued, though there are exceptions, such as Vietnam and China. Even India is not "cheap", but that can be expected considering their "boom" economies.

The introduction or increase in the "fear factor" evident in markets is healthy and welcome. Markets that forget risk always complete their education. Perfect examples of this were evident in 1986 when stock markets, having already enjoyed four years of growth, suddenly rose at an

alarming rate and continued to rise until the "crash of 1987".

It is interesting to look at a long, dated graph of the market. Today the "crash of 1987" looks like a blip on the chart, especially as most markets reached record highs within 18 months to two years of the "crash". In short, it was more of a huge correction in a strong-bull market rally than a "crash".

In the late 1990s investors piled into the stock market and were awarded first-class degrees from the School of Hard Knocks. This is another period of investors' "irrational exuberance", as described by US Federal Reserve ex-chairman Alan Greenspan.

Much has been made of the fact that some stock market indices have risen to record levels this year, in some cases only weeks ago.

However, to equate 2007 with 2000, when previous highs were reached, requires a few adjustments and inputs. The global

economy is much larger; price-earnings ratios are much more subdued. Corporate profits support current prices and even moderate inflation from 2000 to 2007 allows for higher prices.

US bond markets have reacted dramatically to the new fears. Treasury bonds have increased in price (reducing yield) as there has been a "flight to quality" and corporate bonds are now cheaper. This appreciation of "risk" has widened the "spreads" – that is, interest rates for borrowing have risen from "appropriate for conditions perceived as safe" to those for a "speculative" market. This is known as "re-pricing of risk".

This is going to at least temporarily dampen the spirits and opportunities for private equity buyouts. CNBC and Bloomberg have both reported that underwriting banks issuing bonds for the leveraged buyout of pharmaceutical group Alliance Boots still have half of their bonds unsold

more than two months after the event.

Other mergers will continue, and the ongoing battle between Barclays and Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) for control of ABN-AMRO, Holland's largest bank, is a perfect example.

It is also an interesting story. According to the BBC, ABN-AMRO placed itself on the market for sale. Bank of America (BoA) approached Barclays Bank to take over the bank. However, BoA did not really want to acquire Barclays, their real target was Chicago-based Lasalle Bank, a subsidiary of ABN-AMRO.

A deal was reached for Barclays to acquire ABN-AMRO and then sell Lasalle Bank to BoA.

BoA certainly was not amused when a consortium led by RBS, including their long-time allies Spanish Banking Group, Banco Santander, and a new ally Fortris Bank of Belgium put in a rival bid.

RBS is also after Lasalle Bank to reinforce its existing US operations – they already own Charter One Bank.

This battle has waged for months, RBS currently has the highest and better offer and ABN-AMRO have now reversed their decision to back the Barclays bid. This will be the biggest takeover of a bank in world history.

There are many other mergers taking place without using leveraged buyout techniques, as many companies have strong balance sheets.

While there may be worries about subprime in the US market, the underlying economic strength is unlikely to disappear overnight and this is true for many countries.

Reviews by publications such as *The Economist* reveal that most global economies are expected to grow at moderate to strong rates for 2007 and 2008.

It is healthy for markets to have an element of fear, otherwise they can become too focused on greed and this, as history has shown, is when trouble occurs.

Second quarter profits for S&P 500 companies were around double what analysts had expected; coins have two sides. Maybe the analysts were too pessimistic.

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**ON THE MOVE**



**Anthony Armas** has been appointed director of the JW Marriott Hotel Bangkok, JW Phuket Resort & Spa and the Renaissance Koh Samui Resort & Spa. He will also oversee the opening of three new Courtyard by Marriott properties in Bangkok, Patong and Surin. Mr. Armas started working with Marriott in 1995 and has been director of sales and marketing for several properties in South America and the Caribbean.



**Dararat Bourtong**, from Trang, has been appointed IT manager of Dusit Laguna Resort.

Holder of a degree in business systems management from Monash University in Australia, she has experience as a network analyst for the Victorian Employer Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Australia and later as help desk team leader and security engineer for Electronics Data System (Thailand) Co Ltd.



German **Jens Schuster** has been appointed director of engineering at Dusit Laguna Resort.

Mr Schuster holds a bachelor's degree in applied technology from a polytechnic educational institution.

Before taking the position, he was technical and quality control director and head of the technical department at Tauzia Hotel Management in Indonesia as well as a consultant for Accor hotels.



Despite the occasional downpour and the rough surf, Phuket is enjoying one of its best "low seasons" ever.

# Phuket enjoys strong tourist 'low-season'

By Semacote Suganya

**PHUKET:** This year's green season has seen a healthy increase in the number of holidaymakers visiting Phuket, said Suwalai Pinpradab, director of Tourism Authority of Thailand's (TAT) Southern Region 4 Office.

Hotel occupancy rates are reportedly about 80%, marking a 20% to 30% increase on last year, with Patong being one of the busiest places on the island, according to TAT figures.

Phuket Tourist Association (PTA) President Maitree Narukatpichai reported that the PTA's statistics were less impressive but he was still happy with the situation, saying that hotel occupancy in Phuket was currently between 60% and 70%.

K. Maitree told the *Gazette* that hotels such as the Holiday Inn Phuket Resort and the Phuket Merlin Hotel are operating at up to 90% occupancy. Hotels in Kata and Karon are running at about 50% occupancy, while Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort and Spa is at 60%, he added.

Methee Tanmanatragul of

the Thai Hotels Association Southern Chapter said, "The occupancy rate has increased partly because there are more Middle Eastern and Indian people visiting Phuket."

Other reasons for the busy green season include other Asian source markets, such as Hong Kong, China and Taiwan, experiencing particularly hot seasons; TAT's tourist-enticing roadshows held in Middle-Eastern countries; and more direct flights servicing Phuket from places including Australia, Hong Kong and Taiwan, said K. Suwalai.

"We are all doing our best to promote tourism during the green season. For example, for Phuket Walk & Run on September 30 we have been working with 21 Japanese tour operators to sell about 500 packages for people to visit Phuket. The Japanese like this kind of sport," added K. Suwalai.


"Tourism in Phuket has been gradually improving since the tsunami. I think that next year will be even better, especially with more charter flights from places like Scandinavia," said K. Methee.

**VITAL STATISTICS: COMPANY REGISTRATIONS FALL**


	July '05	July '06	July '07
Limited company registered	125	129	100
Limited partnership registered	34	20	35
Limited companies restructured	196	289	324
Limited partnerships restructured	29	30	39
Limited companies deregistered	13	10	14
Limited partnerships deregistered	1	13	6

Source: Phuket Business Development Office

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By Zach Fridell

# The might of Mickey

**M**ickey Stratton had waited seven years for his big moment. Waking before 6 am and training for hours every day with a world-renowned coach, Mickey's first Muay Thai fight was a symbol of dedication and devotion. At the age of 55, it was also a risky gamble.

Mickey, a multimillionaire from Las Vegas, was about to step into the ring against a man 30 years his junior in a crowded Patong stadium. He had never fought in the ring; his opponent had more than 50 bouts under his belt. Mickey is fit for his age and under the tutelage of the Thohsaphon "Master Toddy" Sitawatjana he felt up to the challenge.

"I feel good. I feel ready," he said a day before the fight. "Master Toddy wouldn't put me in if I wasn't ready."

An entire ringside section was taken up by Mickey's friends and family – along with 10 students from Khao Lak. The students, from the Tsunami Children Foundation (TCF), were there to receive a check for 1.188 million baht from Mickey. By soliciting friends and business associates in America, Mickey had raised the money for the school of tsunami-affected children.

The money will be used primarily for staff, beginning with a school librarian and a kindergarten teacher: the kindergarten has only one teacher per 80 students.

This isn't the first time Mickey has donated large sums to the TCF. When it was first established he gave nearly an equal amount.

Mickey has been involved with Phuket ever since Phuket and Las Vegas became sister cities in 1996. A prominent landowner and businessman, Mickey was asked by the Las Vegas mayor to represent the city in a delegation sent to Phuket. That's when Mickey became interested



Mickey came out swinging and didn't let up until Promlikit was down for the count.

in Muay Thai and began training with Master Toddy.

The years training together – an hour and a half in the early morning and concluding the day with two more hours – has left both men with a mutual respect for each other.

The day before the fight, Master Toddy explained that Mickey is a source of inspiration for him because of his "never say never" attitude. "This fight is to let the world know that anything you want to do, you do," he said, as Mickey was sitting in the Tiger Muay Thai gym beginning his pre-fight workout with trainer Anupong "Saohin" Chrisuk.

"He's my hero because when he makes a decision, whatever it is, he keeps to it."

Master Toddy, creator of the Fight Girls TV series in America,

operates a Master Toddy gym in Las Vegas, where Mickey trained in the morning before flying to work in his private jet.

"One of the biggest excuses people use is, 'I'm too old,'" Master Toddy said. But for Mickey, being old wasn't enough for him to give up his dream of competing in a Muay Thai fight. Neither was living with chronic hepatitis C, a liver disease that has interrupted Mickey's training schedule for months at a time as he recovered.

Mickey explained that having hepatitis C is like the second day of flu when you feel miserable – but all the time.

The hepatitis also means that Mickey has to watch what he eats and not exert himself excessively. His wife, Vivian, said that although she was nervous for him

to get in the ring against a younger opponent, the training has helped Mickey to handle his illness.

"He has to keep a healthy lifestyle," she said. "I think the intense training has increased his discipline."

Mickey agreed. "Muay Thai has been a lifesaver for me. My day is built around it," he said. "Muay Thai is not just for the young. It's a great aerobic exercise. Being older, the healing process is the hardest. I pull muscles a little easier, and there are more aches and pains."

Mickey was slated for the second bout August 9, against fighter Promlikit. Both fighters were listed at a dubious 180 pounds – although Mickey didn't look like he lost 30 pounds since his weigh-in the day before, and Promlikit wasn't lacking in extra weight either.

The TCF children would receive the check from Mickey and friends regardless whether Mickey won or lost, but there was some doubt whether Mickey would be standing after the fight to present it personally.

Will McNamara of the Tiger Muay Thai & MMA Training Camp was on hand for the event, but like everyone else, he wasn't prepared to make any promises about the outcome. "Am I worried? He's been trained by one of the best Muay Thai fighters in the world," McNamara said. "But guarantee he will win? Not a chance."

The same realism extended to everyone associated with the fight. Master Toddy said, "It's not about winning or losing. It doesn't matter about the result, he will have achieved his goal and inspired people."

The coach went on to explain that he did think Mickey would win, but he too was unwilling to guarantee it.

Vivian was worried. "You have to understand that he's 55. There's a 30-year age difference here."

Mickey strode out to the ring first, stone-faced and ready for action in the red corner. During the *wai kru* (pre-fight ritual during which fighters pay respects to their trainers), Mickey stood with Master Toddy in the corner of the ring, with Master Toddy speaking in a low voice while holding Mickey's head in his hands. The students from TCF sat near Mickey's corner with a large sign reading "MICKEY U.S.A."

The fighters walked to the middle of the ring where they met with the ref. Mickey, at 6' 2" (188cm) stood about 3" (7.6cm) taller than his opposition. He only broke his solemnity when Promlikit ("Destiny", in Thai) gave him a pat on the stomach as they parted.

The bell rang and Mickey charged out of his corner, throwing punches as fast as he could. Promlikit got a good kick in to Mickey's outer leg, but Mickey responded with a series of hard right jabs as his coaches yelled at him to punch even harder. Within 15 seconds Promlikit was down on the canvas.

Mickey stalked away and as Promlikit stood again, Mickey repeated the maneuver, charging with a flurry of punches and knocking Promlikit down for the count. The referee quickly jumped in and called the fight a TKO.

Visibly relieved, Mickey allowed his expression to break into a wide grin as he hugged Master Toddy in his corner and began calling Vivian over to the ring.

The kids received their check, Mickey was doused with water and the victor prepared to celebrate his win with friends and family. Seven years of training had paid off in a lightning-fast victory.

Will he do it again? "Well, that's up to my wife," Mickey said. But he'll let his muscles recover first.



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# Call for entries for annual Kamala surfing contest

KAMALA: Surf's up at Kamala Beach, where Phuket's next open-invitation surfing event will be held August 25 and 26.

The Kamala Surfing Contest, organized by Kamala Go Surfing Club and Phuket Boardriders Club, will take place at the northern end of Kamala Beach, near Laem Singh, from 9 am to 6 pm each day.

The island's top wave riders will battle it out in three divisions – longboard, shortboard and bodyboard – for the chance to win cash prizes and trophies.

Chalong Thong Suk, winner in the shortboard division at

Kalim Surfing Contest in July, will be looking to fend off international opposition and do the double.

Entry costs 300 baht, with competitors receiving a T-shirt and a pass to the after-tournament party at the Best Western Phuket Ocean Resort on August 26, starting 9 pm.

To register visit [www.phuketboardriders.com](http://www.phuketboardriders.com) or send your name and entry fee to 371/41 Yaowarat Rd, Talad Yai, Phuket 83000 before August 24.

For more information contact K. Joob (Tel: 081-9565854, Email: [joob@phuketboardriders.com](mailto:joob@phuketboardriders.com)).

## PATONG DARTS LEAGUE

With Dog's Bollocks already clinching the title, interest in the last week of play on August 7 focused on who would snag second place. In the end, Queen Mary managed to claim the spot by taking all three points against Valhalla.

At the captains' meeting held in the afternoon of the same day, it was decided to keep the league at the current eight teams and to play a 14-week schedule starting August 21 and ending November 20. Several teams' venues had shown interest in joining but weren't sure if they could muster a full side every week.

Among the changes agreed upon at the meeting was one provision to help out teams who only have five players on the night of competitions – not an uncommon occurrence during the low season. Rather than force them to automatically cede both a singles and doubles game, which the captains agreed was too harsh, there will instead be a random drawing among the five available players to decide which player will play twice in singles and again as a partner in two different doubles matches.

Captains are to report each time this happens to league secretary Steen to ensure that teams do not take advantage of the situation.

Word has it that David Brook at Island Lager Bar is relocating from Soi Lion to Sukhumvit Road Entertainment Complex at the end of August. The new bar will have one, and possibly even two, dart boards. John Lowe will be back in January for around a month, during which time his wife will celebrate her 50th birthday.

In April, Swedish darts legend Stefan Lord is expected to visit as well. When the time comes, the Patong Darts league will try to arrange some sort of special event allowing league players to take a crack at some of these darts superstars.

Players are requested to keep sending all results to Steen by 6pm on Fridays. Send additional information to: [darts@phuketgazette.net](mailto:darts@phuketgazette.net)

**August 7 results.** Offshore\* 5 Piccadilly 4; Dog's Bollocks 7 Shakers\* 2; Queen Mary\* 6 Valhalla 3; Simply Red\* 3 Beach House 6.

**Final standings.** 1. Dog's Bollocks (35 pts; 11 beer legs); 2. Queen Mary (27, 7 beer legs); 3. Offshore (26, 8 beer legs); 4. Shakers (24, 10 beer legs); 5. Beach House (23, 7 beer legs); 6. Piccadilly (18, 4 beer legs); 7. Valhalla (10, 6 beer legs); 8. Simply Red (5, 3 beer legs).



## Trang team snatch Dusit tennis victory

CHERNG TALAY: The newly-upgraded tennis courts at the Dusit Laguna Resort were the site of the Dusit Laguna Doubles Tennis Tournament 2007 held August 10 to 12.

In the men's open category, the team of Somporn Suwanarat (in blue shirt) and Somkiet Pahurat (in gray shirt) from Trang walked away with first-place honors, bagging a trophy and one night's stay at Laguna Holiday Club.

In the men's hotel-workers competition, Preeda Thongpeng and Phanumat Thepthong of the Sheraton Grande Laguna Phuket defeated Le Meridien Phuket Beach Resort's Prasan Insoi and Praipan Riyapan for the first-prize trophy and one night's stay at Allamanda Laguna Phuket Resort Hotel.

## 9<sup>th</sup> Patong Cup soccer tourney set to kick off

PATONG: The ninth Patong Cup Against Drugs, organized by Phuket Municipality, got underway August 12 with 89 football teams from the region entered to compete in the month-long competition.

To officially launch the tournament, Phang Nga City Municipality took on Patong Municipality in an exhibition match, with Phang Nga emerging victorious with a final score of 5-3.

The first match of the tournament saw a team from Khok Makham edge 2-0 past a team from Chaiwat.

The competition will take place daily with six 40-minute matches between 2 pm and 7 pm until September 17.

There are five divisions: Teams of any nationality will compete for the Gor Gai cup and a top prize of 79,999 baht; Thai nationals and Patong natives will battle it out for the Khor Kai cup and first prize of 40,000 baht; the Thai-only Khor Kwai 16-and-under cup has a winning purse of 25,000 baht on offer; Ngor Ngoo is the 13-and-under cup for Thai students in Patong Municipality with 20,000 baht going to the winner; and the over-35s cup has a winning prize of 25,000 baht.

Each division has individual prizes for the best player and top scorer.

For more information call Patong Municipality at 076-342078.

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Home Works with Andreas Ruthe



Mechatronics locks such as this use a combination of computers, mechanics and electronics so that people given radio frequency identification (RFID) cards or keys are allowed access to certain parts of the house during specific periods of the day.

# MECHATRONICS: A new opening in home security

**Y**ou've got an alarm system on your Picasso and a safe for your blue diamonds, but the first line of protection for your home may be woefully outdated and prone to security breaches. The standard lock and key is protection only if only one person has the key.

As keys can be copied in under a minute, the security this type of protection affords is quickly limited when your key is given to your contractor, your builder, your maid, your real estate agent and any neighbors who took care of the house plants while you are away.

Any time a key is given out there is a chance that it may have been copied, and if a key is lost

there is no choice but to replace all the locks it opens in order to keep the house secure.

Locks were first developed by the Ancient Egyptians nearly 4,000 years ago, and pin-and-tumbler locks have been around since 1778 with few changes over the years, so why are we still using this archaic technology? One reason is that the alternatives – keypads, biometric scanners and computer-controlled locks – are too expensive to be practical in the average home.

A recent development that bridges the gap is "mechatronic" locking systems. Mechatronics

uses a combination of computers, mechanics and electronics to provide locks that will open with a radio frequency identification (RFID) card or key.

Just a few years ago RFID locks would have put a big hole in your pocket, but with the latest technology it's possible to have this type of security by merely changing the

cylinders in your door. One of the main advantages of this technology is that you can specify when the lock will open for particular users. If your maid needs to have access to your home, mechatronic locks allow you to restrict when the maid can enter the property.

The locks are powered by batteries, so island blackouts will have no effect. They can be controlled and programmed via computer or PDA to easily set limits on each RFID tag. Simple and effective.



**Home WORKS**  
By Andy Ruthe

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*Andreas Ruthe is Managing Director of Technical Construction Materials Asia Co., Ltd. (TCM Asia) He has lived in Phuket for five years and consults with hotels, developers and home owners in using modern construction materials to solve environmental problems and reduce costs. He can be contacted at [ruthe@tcm-asia.com](mailto:ruthe@tcm-asia.com)*

Home of the Week

Kamala

# Making the most of Kamala comfort

This inviting Thai-style home is located within a private estate of 14 high-quality homes with hill views set in a tranquil setting in Kamala.

The home is situated on a 600-square-meter plot with landscaped gardens featuring native tropical plants and a terrace surrounding a 50sqm private in-ground swimming pool. The home itself has 280sqm of living space spread across several single level pavilions.

The property is bordered by a wall, giving its residents complete privacy. Access is by either the main separate, secure front gate or through a covered garage suitable for two vehicles.

The spacious interior of the main pavilion includes living and dining areas that overlook the swimming pool and garden. Adjacent to these areas is a large, fully equipped Western-style kitchen.

The home has three bedrooms, each with an en-suite bathroom and built-in wardrobe. The master bedroom is in its own pavilion overlooking the pool and gardens and features a bathroom that, in addition to a shower, in-



This private three-bedroom home in Kamala includes a pool and garden in addition to the many amenities within easy access of Kamala Beach.

cludes a comfortable Jacuzzi bathtub set in a relaxing nook.

Each of the fully furnished pavilions have air conditioning fitted throughout. Amenities include a laundry room, telephone line, broadband Internet connection, UBC TV, three-phase electricity,

septic tank and a mains water supply and a water heater.

The home was built in 2004 using quality materials in all aspects. Most rooms feature hardwood flooring, with ceramic tile flooring used where appropriate. All windows feature aluminum

frames and tinted glass to help keep interior temperatures low.

Although the home is already set in a private estate, security guards are provided to give residents extra peace of mind when at home or away from their property.

The home is for sale at 14.8 million baht with Chanote title.

For details contact Richard Lusted at Siam Real Estate at Tel: 076-288908, or visit [www.siamrealestate.com](http://www.siamrealestate.com) or email: [info@siamrealestate.com](mailto:info@siamrealestate.com)

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Construction

by Janyaporn Morel

# Kamala Regent hits market with sales blitz



The modern design of the Kamala Regent villas have proved popular with the Phuket market.

**KAMALA:** Kamala Regent is a new residential development offering living solutions for long-term residents and vacationers, with a choice of pool villas and condominium units for sale and long- or short-term rental.

With the show units completed since March, and nearly half of the properties in the development already sold, construction of the remaining homes and condominium buildings is planned to commence in November and should take just over a year to complete.

10 guest-room units for holidaymakers are also under construction and should be completed in time for the start of the high season in November and will be available for rental from 1,000 baht a day.

G-1 Land Co Ltd is the de-

veloper of Kamala Regent, which is located on six rai about 20 meters from the main road through Kamala. When complete, the project will comprise six modern pool villas and four condominium blocks containing a total of 79 units.

Project Manager Supatra Maneepaisarn said, "Although Kamala Regent is our first project in Phuket, the developer has extensive experience, with involvement in eight condominium projects in Pattaya and Rayong. We have several land plots at our disposal here in Kamala and plan to develop those, too."

"Kamala Regent is designed with young to middle-aged expatriates in mind and we feel it is ideal for foreigners who are living and working in Phuket long or short term, or just coming here

for a brief vacation," she added.

The pool villas cover 250 square meters on plots between 320sqm and 476sqm costing between 8.9 and 9.9 million baht. The package and pricing seem to be the right mix, as 50% of the villas have been sold with just

three remaining available.

The contemporary three-bedroom villas come furnished with Modern Form furniture and include several built-in luxury features, including en-suite bathrooms for all bedrooms, sun deck on the top floor, private swimming pool and parking spaces two cars.

Four of the five-story condo buildings will have sea views from the top two floors and will feature four types of two- and three-bedroom apartments ranging from 106sqm to 223sqm, with prices starting at 4.4 million baht.

The more exclusive penthouses start at 9.3 million baht and feature a private roof deck with a Jacuzzi, a sunbathing area and an alfresco shower.

"We are pleased to report very good sales so far this year with 40% of the condominium units already sold since putting them on the market in May this year," K. Supatra said.

"Although our previous projects have been of Balinese, contemporary-tropical and Thai styles, we chose to build ultra-modern looking condominiums for Kamala Regent because Phuket home buyers find contemporary styles and designs attractive and it matches the modern image of Phuket.

"We emphasize stylish black and white in the decor, so that

furniture of various tones fits in easily, although buyers are free to request any changes they like and we are happy to advise on decor and furniture to fit the overall design concept," she added.

Communal facilities overseen by the on-site management include a swimming pool and paddling pool for kids, sauna and gym.

K. Supatra expressed confidence that the development will compete well in the market due to its location. Kamala Beach is a 10-minute walk away and being near a main road means easy access to Patong and Surin with a 35-minute drive to the airport.

"Kamala Regent stands out from other projects; not just in design but by using industry standard materials in the construction we are able to offer value for money with affordable end prices for the buyers.

"Although this project is somewhat speculative on Phuket's property market, we are confident that we are entering at a very competitive level, which is reflected in the number of sales so far," K. Supatra said.

*For details contact Kamala Regent Sales Office. Soi Kamala OrBorTor, Moo 4, Kamala, Kathu, Phuket. 83210. Tel: 089-9219983, 089-9219986. Website: www.kamalaregent.com*

An artist's impression of the completed Kamala Regent project.



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## Gardening

by Bloomin' Bert

I think I must be showing my age. I recently asked someone a few years younger than me if he remembered the phrase, "Kids in water – they love it." He didn't have the faintest idea what I was going on about with my cheesy Australian accent. I was doing an impression of Rolf Harris, of course, telling the British public to teach their offspring to swim.

I should probably start this week with another apology, as what follows will only have meaning to Brits who are middle-aged or older. Youngsters, Americans, continental types and colonials should probably skip to the next page altogether. Unless, of course, you've actually heard of British public-information films.

They were weird, condescending, hilarious, cheesy and informative, all at the same time. How can anyone forget that old bloke on his push bike – 90 years old I think he was – who had managed to "stay alive for so long" by being extra careful on the roads?

Or how about Jimmy Saville, with his dodgy haircut, advising us to "Clunk, click, every trip"? Then there was the Amber Gambler, who always had to be the first one away and the last one through traffic lights in his Ford Fiesta. Some of these 30-second classics cemented themselves in our brains more effectively than others – scarily, to this day, I still remember the words, "Only a fool breaks the two-second rule" for keeping your distance in traffic.

The worst (or the best, depending how you look at it) was about a young lad in a park with his cat Charley. "Charley and I were in the park. Then this man came up and said would I like to see some puppies." That really is what he said. Then, "Charley reminded me my mum says I shouldn't go off with people I don't know," as the cat saves the day. Kenny Everett did the voices for that, by the way.

One of my favorite campaigns featured a couple of animated characters called Joe and Petunia. They appeared in a lot of ads. I remember the country code one where they thought that opening a farm gate so that the cows could "take themselves off for a walk down t'road" was a good idea. They then notice an irate farmer with a purple face jumping up and down and presumed he was "doing one of those country dances".

Then there was the film about Joe and Petunia watching a distressed gentleman floundering off the shore in his boat. "He's having a lot of fun out there in his little dinghy [pronounced dinjy]. That's what they call them, you know – sailin' dinjies". It finishes with a plummy voice-over telling us to dial 999 and ask for the coastguard in such circumstances. Cheesy enough to be superb.

I even managed to find a

# Thinking of sweet Petunia



**PURPLICIOUS:** The bright colors of petunias are hard to deny, and sometimes hard to believe due to their overwhelming burst of color.

few of these things on-line; have a look at <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/films/1964to1979/filmindex.htm>

Unfortunately, I can never hear the word "petunia" without thinking about Joe and his lovely wife. Petunias aren't just a plant for pensioners in the UK – they're common here, too. Thais know them, not surprisingly, as puh-toon-yur.

Do you remember that naff TV show where contestants had to predict answers to surveys? If they had to name a flower, I'd bet that the petunia would be in the top five. Predictable is its middle name. Having said that, even cynics will admit that the *Petunia integrifolia* is stunning. It would take a hard man to deny that the purple hues of this drably-named plant are among the most vivid in the floral world.

This is one of the founding fathers of modern hybrids. Originally from Mexico, the flowers are about five centimeters across, with an intense, magenta color coupled with an almost-black throat. The *Gazette's* photo editor is going to hate this photo – he'll be desperate to turn down the purple. Good luck.

It bursts with color and style, blooming profusely and consistently. Best of all, you can hack it right back to the base, and with a bit of added composty stuff, it will return for a repeat performance. It does its job in pots, and it's spot-on at the edge of borders.

Petunias can spread like wildfire if left to their own devices at ground level. A single plant can ramble over a meter.

As solid as these plants are, they do make a few un-negotiable demands. Give them full sun with good air circulation, and provide fertile, loose, well-drained soil. That basically means avoiding soggy soil. That's it, really.

ents from other blossoms to develop and open. Just pull a dead flower off and have a look at what's growing there.

You'll probably find a cone-shaped pod, which will eventually open and drop little black seeds all over the leaves around them. Pinch these pods off and the petunia will bounce back with even more blooms than before.

Whether or not to bother collecting the seeds is debatable. There are gardeners who will tell you not since petunias are hybrids. The natural offspring these things produce

are small flowers (if they bloom at all) and will probably not even bloom the same color as the mother plant. Who cares? Try

growing them anyway.

One thing to watch for is hanging baskets from garden centers. They look incredible when you first bring them home, but you may find that they quickly lose interest and start to die off. The problem is that many flowers you buy pre-potted are often fairly root-bound.

The answer is simple: just buy another hanging pot and some potting soil and separate the plant in half, one in each pot. This gardening lark is hardly rocket science; they'll be as good as new, and you now you have two for the price of one.

Joe and Petunia would have loved this. "It's raht nahce in't it, Petunia."

Who knows, they may well have made a public information film about it; "safe gardening", perhaps, explaining the perils of a misplaced trowel.

Want advice on your garden?

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[bert@bloominbert.com](mailto:bert@bloominbert.com)

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# Property Gazette

## Properties For Sale

### AFFORDABLE LUXURY



Immaculate villa. Private area, big lush garden, pool, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, living room, Scandi kitchen, huge patio, fully furnished, contemporary Bali-Thai style. Living area: 450sqm. Land area: 1,400sqm. Near Heroines Monument with scenic hill view. Chanote. 14 million baht. Tel: 084-6907057.

**1 RAI KAMALA LAND**  
Chanote, electric, water, main road access, 600m from Kamala center. 5 million baht. Tel: 076-292596, 086-2678477. Email: tourniechristian@hotmail.com

### KATHU GOLF VIEW LAND

1.9 million baht per rai. Near Loch Palm Golf Club and BIS. The land totals 70.5 rai (Nor Sor 3 Kor). Quiet and scenic with access to water, electricity and road (800 meters is roadside). Contact Sumon for details. Tel: 076-352069, 081-6919346. Fax 076-261028. Email: sumon@ridethailand.com

### BIG GOLF VILLA

Big luxurious villas for sale from 9 million baht. Only 25 meters to Loch Palm Golf Club. Please contact for details at Tel: 081-9685963. Email: m@bayproject.com

### NICE HOUSE FOR SALE

Perfect house, 4-5 bedrooms, ready to move in. Close to Central and Rawai Beach. Please contact Tel: 081-8915296. Email: hkthomesale18@yahoo.com For details, visit our website at <http://www.jikkycar.com>

### AO POR LAND URGENT SALE



150rai, Chanote, panoramic sea view. From 2.3 million baht per rai. Contact for more information. Tel: 081-5597456. Email: se\_rim@hotmail.com

### PHUKET RESIDENCE 4 NEW HOUSES FOR SALE!!! (Nai Ham)

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### RAWAI 2-STORY HOUSE

140sqm, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, close to the beach. 1.5 million baht. Tel: 086-9408914. Email: freeholdprop@yahoo.com

### NAI YANG LAND

for sale. 1km to the beach. Three plots: 20m x 22m (440sqm each), road access. Price: 900,000 baht. Call Tel: 089-7241140.

### RAWAI BEACH DUPLEX

30-year lease, 107sqm duplex house with pool, parking, garden. Price: 2 million baht. Tel: 086-9408914. Email: freeholdprop@yahoo.com

### OCEANVIEW SHOPHOUSE CHALONG

Fantastic location near Chalong pier with sea view from top floor and road access. 3 stories with shutter gate. Tel: 081-5544140. Email: gunnar@oilcanvas.com

### FAMILY HOME



3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, aircon, security bars, quiet area. 1km from Heroines Monument. 2.9 million. Tel: 086-9510123. Email: wing\_michael\_77@hotmail.com

### NEW 3-STORY COMMERCIAL

building. 2 bathrooms. Price: 4 million baht. Please contact Tel: 086-7432011.

### RAWAI BEACH CONDO

Sea view, foreign freehold. 550,000 baht. Tel: 086-9408914. Email: freeholdprop@yahoo.com

### 7 RAI OF LAND FOR SALE

Chanote, Thai owner, 5 min to JW Marriott, 50m to main road. Sell: 2.3 million baht per rai. Contact Pipop. Tel: 081-5372599.

### LAND FOR SALE

8 rai in Patong. 1.2 million baht per rai. Sea view. Located on 50 Pi Rd. Please contact Khun Terawut at Tel: 081-5361365.

### FOR SALE OR LEASE

3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 1-story, fully furnished, new modern house on private road in Kathu. Electric gate, nice walled garden, large terrace, private parking, telephone and Internet. 6.2 million baht ono. Must sell due to move to Bangkok. Tel: 087-3865200.

### LUXURY SEAVIEW VILLA

Direct from owner. 32 million baht or rent. No agents. Tel: 089-4742958. Email: tm\_thanida@yahoo.com

### NEW 3-BEDROOM

quiet home. Lovely outlook, 2 bathrooms, pool, kitchen, carport with storage. Land: 450sqm. 5.5 million baht. Tel: 086-2817605. Email: nigelnpixie@yahoo.com.au

### BEAUTIFUL NAI YANG LAND



5 mins to Phuket airport, close to the beach, 10 rai. 120 million baht. Must see. Tel: 089-7727012. Email: gyb\_giff@hotmail.com

### LAND WITH VIEWS

Quiet, green area. 970sqm plot: 2.5 million baht. 732sqm plot: 2 million baht ono. Contact Tel: 086-2817605. Email: nigelnpixie@yahoo.com.au

### NEW HOUSE FOR SALE

3 bedrooms, living room, kitchen, swimming pool, sat TV, Internet, automatic doors, fully furnished. Priced from 5 million baht to 9 million baht. Tel: 084-8516121.

### LAND FOR SALE

10 rai in Bang Wad. 1 million baht per rai. Please contact K. Terawut at Tel: 081-5361365.

### 1.5 RAI PRIVATE LAND SALE

1.5 rai (2 x 0.75 rai) of secluded, flat land located at Cape Yamu. Chanote. Tel: 076-239432, 081-0879237. Email: crob58@gmail.com

### NAI HARN LOTS FOR SALE

Taking reservations for 1 rai plots. Starting at 1.8 million baht. Please call for details. Tel: 081-3709661.

### LUXURY APARTMENT IN PATONG

with lots of elegant furniture. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, well-equipped kitchen. Club house including swimming pool, snooker, sauna and bar. Comes with new Toyota Fortuner. You can have private swimming, just open the side door. Best views of Patong, especially when standing outside on the balcony. 190sqm in a nice location. Take your baggage to stay immediately. Please contact the owner. Tel: 085-1982577.

### LUXURY HOUSE WITH GREAT VIEW



House with the most amazing view of Patong bay for sale or lease. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, living room. This property, if improved slightly by adding an infinity pool, extending the living area and doing some general upgrading would resell for minimum US\$2 million. Very sound investment. Tel: 081-8921108. Fax: 081-345821. Email: giulio@phuketrealestate.com Visit our website: [www.phuketrealestatesolutions.com](http://www.phuketrealestatesolutions.com)

### JACUZZI LOVE PADS IN BANGLA

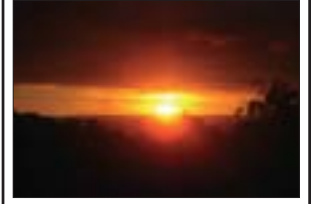


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### LAND AND HOUSE FOR SALE

Leam sore. Southern area of Samui island. A great investment for the right person. This house is situated in Leam sore, 1km from beach. A Thai-style house on stilts, located in an up and coming area. It was built about 1 year ago, a truly lovely house, 2 double bedrooms, 2 ensuite bathrooms, kitchen, split-level floor lounge, aircon in all rooms, balcony halfway around the house, 1.6m-deep, 9m x 4m swimming pool, underground filter & pump system, 70m deep, drilled well, guarantee you will have no water problems. Originally on sale for 8 million baht, government electric, concrete road. Bargain price at 6 million baht. Full Chanote title. Please contact Roy at Tel: 084-8519798. Email: roycutler@o2.co.uk

### BLUEPOINT THE VIEWPOINT



You want the best? The hotspot on the island is now available. Bluepoint the Viewpoint next to Baan Suan Kamnan. Overlooking the sea with great views and stunning sunsets. High price range. Come and pass by for talks only. Call Edwin at Tel: 086-7866350. Email: buurmanb@hotmail.com

### SOUTH END OF PATONG BAY



Patong Bay. Beautiful house in a top location. For detailed information about this house and the location see our website. Tall, spacious, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, pool and amazing sea view in the daytime and with stunning scenery over Patong in evening time. Located in Baan Suan Kamnan. A green, clean, quiet and lovely residential area at the south end of Patong Bay. House for sale at 30 million baht. Owner also open for lease or rental talks. Possibilities for first mortgage directly from owner. Party off-shore payments are possible. Please call Edwin at Tel: 086-7866350. Email: buurmanb@hotmail.com For further details, visit our website: [www.patongbluepoint.com](http://www.patongbluepoint.com)

### KOH YAO YAI

1 rai, Chanote, water, electricity, close to the beach. Perfect vacation home. Price: 800,000 baht. Please contact for more details. Tel: 081-8928208.

### LAND FOR SALE

756sqm in Jomthong village, 15 mins from Phuket City, 150 meters from main road, suitable for villa or shophouse 4.5 million baht. Please contact Tel: 084-0908811. Email: inthira81@hotmail.com

### HOUSE FOR SALE

2-stories in a desirable and secure estate. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, study, living room, kitchen, laundry room, set in fenced garden. Furnished, ABSL, UBC. Price: 7.0 million baht obo. Tel: 084-8439579. Fax: 076-323421. Email: somlerdee@yahoo.com

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### Surin Beach - Modern Seaview Apartments for sale

Within 100 metres of the beach, 80 sqm. of living space. One bedroom, living room, European-style kitchen, fully furnished, air conditioning, hot water system, home security system, internet connection, television and satellite TV. The price starts from 6.5 million baht for the first-floor apartment. Please contact Ann 66 81 868 7676



# Property Gazette

### LUXURY 3-BEDROOM HOUSE



Thalang/Ton Sai waterfall area. Luxurious 3 bedrooms, all with aircon and en-suite bathrooms, spacious living/dining rooms, swimming pool, beautifully landscaped, fully furnished, ADSL, UBC, phone. Off the beaten track (not a housing development). 1,600sqm of land, 10 mins to BIS, airport, 15 mins to Central. Tel: 076-321062, 086-8194373. Email: cswift1@swift-mail.com For further details, please visit our website at <http://www.swift-images.com/phukethome/>

### BEAUTIFUL HOUSE FOR SALE



51.47sqm, in Chanakran Property Village, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Behind TOT Public Co Ltd (Chalong). The house is under construction and will be ready within one month. Price: 3.9 million baht. Please call for more details. Tel: 081-9562406.

### LAND AT SAI YUAN



Sea view over Rawai Beach with private access. Nor Sor Sam Kor. 7-3-81 rai at 6.5 million baht per rai. Contact Tel: 081-5384989. Email: mnobnorb@hotmail.com

### 58 RAI BEACHFRONT LAND

On Koh Yao island. Chanote. Half the land is flat with 300 meters of beach front and behind a calm river crossing. Ideal for yacht pier. The rest of the land has a little slope with nice sea view. Thai owner. Price: 3.5 million baht per rai. Contact Sakorn. Tel: 087-6050365. Email: tim.kamalaparadise@hotmail.com

### LAND INVESTMENT

30 rai full of palm trees in Kapong, Phang Nga. Priced at only 120,000 baht per rai. Financing available. Email: bourlis@hotmail.com

### LEAM SORE LAND

Land for sale. South side of Samui. Plots range from 0.5 rai plots to 2.5 rai plots. The land is situated in a great and up-and-coming area. Government electric, 100m concrete road. Last few years many houses and flats have been built in this area. Out of the 20 rai sub-divided, more than seventy percent have been sold in the last year alone. 1 rai plots from 800,000 baht. 1.5 plots: 1.4 million baht. 2.5 plots: 3 million baht. All of this land is of great value. Chanote title for all. A great investment for the right person. Contact K.Roy. Tel: 084-8519798. Email: roycutler@o2.co.uk

### PATONG CENTER HOTEL

for sale. 1 year old, proven success. 18 rooms. 60 million baht. Tel: 085-7839062, 086-2767510.

### 2 BEACHHOUSES FOR SALE

Kamala: 15 million baht. Rawai Beach: 29.5 million baht. Both are ready to move in. Contact Marc at Tel: 085-7839062.

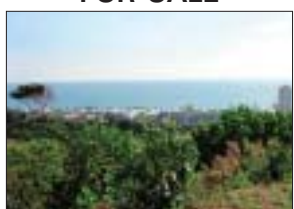
### 4.5 RAI LAND FOR SALE

Prime location in Trang off main road & near university. Price: 14 million baht. Also, 2 rai at same location. Price: 7.5 million baht. Please contact for specific details at Tel: 089-6513479.

### RAWAI LAND

3.25 rai development site for condo, etc. Good sea view from 2nd floor, power on the block. 6 meters from road. 5.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-0825707.

### KARON LAND FOR SALE



15 million baht per rai, Chanote, hillside, panoramic sea view, quiet area. Please contact for additional information. Tel: 081-5597456. Email: se\_rim@hotmail.com

### BEACHFRONT SEAVIEW LAND

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### LUXURY VILLAS



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### 3-STORY HOUSE FOR SALE



405sqm, fully furnished, 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, aircon, garage for 2 cars. Good location for your business. For info, contact Tel: 089-8742960. Email: pwarunee@hotmail.com

### 6 RAI IN KAMALA



Nice land with sea view and good road access. Chanote title. Thai owner. 6 million baht per rai. For more info, please contact Sakorn at Tel: 087-6050365. Email: tim.kamalaparadise@hotmail.com

### ABSOLUTE BEST BEACHFRONT

Land and villas for sale at the best prices in Thailand. Email: [admin@ideacon.biz](mailto:admin@ideacon.biz) For info, please visit our website: <http://www.thaisunshinedevelopments.com>

### LUXURY VILLA AT KATA HILL

Set in the exclusive gated estate of Beverly Hills, this villa comes with a pool, 3-5 bedrooms, modern Western-style kitchen, etc. Show house is now open. Only one villa left with completion due in September. Price: 15 million baht. Contact Tel: 084-0639223, 081-7888280.

### HOUSE FOR SALE

New 2-story house with open-plan kitchen, dining room, living room plus 2 separate living rooms, 4 bedrooms, 3 en-suite bathrooms, laundry room, big verandas, 2 carparks. Chalong area. Call Frank. Tel: 086-6831964.

### PROPERTIES FOR SALE

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### LAND IN KAMALA

All with Chanote. 5.5 rai in the most exclusive area near Kamala center on flat land: 8.5 million baht per rai. Also, 6 rai with good sea view: 6 million baht per rai. 20 rai with best sea view in Kamala: 6 million baht per rai. Tel: 086-2742308. Email: [kim@kamalafalls.com](mailto:kim@kamalafalls.com)

### BEACHFRONT HOUSE

at Kamala. 2 bedrooms, 2 stories. Only one left. Price: 15 million baht. Contact Tel: 085-7839062.

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# Property Gazette

### RAWAI/NAI HARN



New, large, luxury house for rent. Large swimming pool, garden, 5 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, big sala. Minimum 1-year lease: 75,000 baht per month. 30-year lease: 18 million baht. Contact Tel: 081-3971835.

### TROPICAL VILLA



near Rawai Beach. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, European kitchen, aircons, UBC TV, telephone, furnished, private pool and garden and fully maintained. Minimum 6-month lease: 35,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-2810452, 087-8931180.

### HOUSE FOR RENT



2-story furnished house, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 2km from Lotus on the way to Patong. Located in safe ville. Tel: 089-6458463.

### HOUSE FOR RENT



From Heroines Monument, 1km to Paklok. New single house, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, furnished, 60sq wah. 16,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-6900626. Email: suksavat@hotmail.com

### HOUSE FOR RENT IN CHALONG



Fully-furnished house for rent in Chalong. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms and 2 aircons. The house is 2 years old, set in the quiet and beautiful Baan Maneekram Estate. The home comes with its own private garden, TV, DVD, fridge, microwave, washing machine, telephone line & internet access, etc. Rent is 15,000 baht per month, with a minimum 6-month contract. For more details, please email Marc Husted or call Chris after 7 pm. Tel: 087-8874659. Email: marc\_husted@yahoo.com

### HOUSE FOR RENT

Private, relaxed, 2 bedrooms w/ aircon, large living and dining area, large balcony overlooking bay. Furnished, 24" TV, cooker, refrigerator, microwave, grill, rice cooker, utensils. Long-term rent: 14,700 baht per month. Please contact Tel: 076-200-440, 083-5046565. Email: rogersolidgold@yahoo.com

### HOUSE FOR RENT OR FOR SALE

We currently have 2 houses available. For more details, call Tel: 089-4740222. Email: mammos56@yahoo.com Website: <http://www.thehoteldeals.com/photos/>

### BUILDING FOR RENT

3-story shophouse for rent on Soi Bangla in Patong. Contact for information. Tel: 081-7875121, 089-5929908.

### HOUSE FOR RENT

Fully furnished, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, aircon, cable TV, ADSL. 18,000 baht per month. Contact for more information. Tel: 089-9732917. Email: brunuiviv@hotmail.com

### RAWAI BEACH STUDIO

Furnished, kitchen, ADSL, UBC, aircon. Price: 4,500 baht per month. Contact Khun Noki. Tel: 086-6865567.

### CHALONG HOUSE

for rent in Land & Houses. 3 bedrooms, fully furnished, aircon, TV, UBC. Tel: 081-9560241, 089-4740645.

### B.L. APARTMENT

New in Kathu. Big rooms, 1 bedroom, 1 living room, aircon, cable TV, ADSL, hot shower, garden, car park. Price: 8,000 baht per month. Contact for more information. Tel: 081-6923163.

### CHALONG SHOPHOUSE

This new 3-story shophouse is available for long-term lease. Ideal for home office/shop accommodation. Inquiries at Tel: 089-6521473.

### PANWA BEACH HOUSE

2 rooms, nice terrace. For rent in September or for long term: 12,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-2717071.

### BEACHFRONT HOUSE

with a wonderfully unique, breathtaking panoramic seaview. 2 stories, 220sqm, fully furnished, telephone, ADSL, sat TV, cold + hot water, only 20 meters to the beach, located in a very nice and quiet area (dead end lane). Yacht owner has possibility to moor the yacht directly in front of the building. Master bedroom: 58sqm with seaview, Jacuzzi, wardrobe, bathroom, shower, toilet and a 40sqm terrace next to pool. 2 kingsize bedrooms, living room, dining room, kitchen, storage, 1 bathroom with shower and toilet, guest toilet, 33sqm terrace (15sqm under roof). Private 7m x 4m pool, 4 aircons, parking space. Asking price: 89,000 baht per month. Minimum 1-year lease. Call K. Bhatayanond. Tel: 081-2596052. Email: surapong@gmx.de

### PATONG SEAVIEW APARTMENT

2-bedroom apartment with kitchen, aircon, UBC, swimming pool, quiet location. 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-2790837.

### RAWAI FLAT

for rent. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, Internet, cable TV, fully furnished. Tel: 081-6067410.

### STUNNING SEAVIEWS

Colonial mansion set in gardens with amazing views in every direction. Recently restored to high standard. 3 large bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, furnished, swimming pool. In Cape Yamu area, central east coast. 10 mins to BIS. No dogs. 80,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-2796283.

### BEACHFRONT CONDO

Kalim Patong, high standard. fully furnished, 2 bedrooms, kitchen, pool, many facilities. For more details, please call Tel: 081-8920038.

### KATA HILL HOUSE FOR RENT

My village has 2 houses available. First: 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 18,000 baht per month. Second: 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, 9,500 baht per month. Both houses: living and dining areas, kitchen and fully furnished. Located on Soi Patak 4. 5 minutes to Kata Beach. Tel: 076-216036, 081-6062827. Email: nij017@hotmail.com

### SHOPHOUSE BLOCK

5 terraced houses for rent on the bypass road. 35,000 baht per month. Please contact K. Vachira. Tel: 081-3269495.

### HOUSE AND CONDO

Rawai location, 2 stories, 8 rooms, aircons, 170sqm, ideal for 2 families. Long-term rent: 2,800 baht per month. Condo with aircon. Rent: 5,000 baht per month. Tel: 084-4454614.

### 4-STORY BUILDING

for rent. 6 bedrooms, opposite Tesco Lotus. Please contact for more details. Tel: 089-4743575, 085-9095191, 089-4744839.

### PATONG 2-BEDROOM APARTMENT

Large, fully furnished, close to Bangla Rd, aircon. Price: 25,000 baht per month. Contact Tel: 087-8817600.

### CHALONG COUNTRY HOMES

Single house for lease: 2 floors, 4 airconditioned bedrooms with bathrooms w/ hot water, living and dining areas, European kitchen. Fully furnished, phone/fax. Please make an offer. Available immediately. Email: mpiaget@fedex.com

### VILLA FOR RENT

Beautiful boutique villas with private pool, 2 or 3 bedrooms available on daily, weekly, or monthly basis. Contact Tel: 076-282394, 086-0043008. Email: info@ayudhya.net

### SECLUDED VILLA

One of three sharing a beautiful swimming pool and tropical garden near Rawai Beach. 2 bedrooms, full aircon, furnished, UBC, TV, telephone. Minimum 6-month lease. Price: 25,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-2810452, 087-8931180.

### STUDIO APARTMENT W/ INTERNET

Modern apartment off Nanai Rd. Fully furnished including TV, DVD, large fridge, hot water, fan, aircon and kitchenette. From 7,500 baht per month. Internet an option. Tel: 087-2650652. Email: gisbert1@gmx.net

### HOME FOR RENT/SALE

Located on quiet, private estate by Central Phuket. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, hot/cold shower, 5 aircons, Western kitchen, fully equipped and furnished, laundry, office, ADSL, UBC, 24-hr security, 2 car parks. Tel: 085-3449976. Email: kurtzhod@yahoo.co.uk

### BRAND NEW PATONG CONDO

Beautiful 1-bedroom condo in best location, quiet. Sea and hill views, all amenities. Long-term rent. Call for details. Tel: 081-9701479. Email: caltirol@hotmail.com

### PATONG APARTMENT

300m to the beach, clean, modern decor, aircon, pool, fridge, double bed, parking. Tel: 081-0825707. Visit our website: [www.phuket-accommodation.info](http://www.phuket-accommodation.info)

### THE ONE AND ONLY

Beachfront house directly on Kamala Beach. Available now. Newly decorated, 2 bedrooms w/ aircon, 2 bathrooms, open plan, fully furnished, ceiling fans throughout & ocean breezes offer a fresh-air alternative. Dining sala, huge upper sundeck. Western kitchen w/amenities. 200sqm of privacy. Aug-Nov: 50,000 baht per month; Dec-Feb: 85,000 baht per month; 6 months: 55,000; 12 months: 50,000 baht per month. Price excludes utilities, UBC, ADSL. Includes cleaner, gardener. 3-month minimum booking. Tel: 081-8943839. Email: donandinge@csloxinfo.com

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PHUKET	
<b>K.L. Mart</b> Patak Rd, Chalong	Tel: 076-280400/3 Fax: 076-280403
<b>Earth Language School</b> Phang Nga Rd, Phuket City	Tel: 076-232398/9 Fax: 076-232398
<b>Sin &amp; Lee</b> Thalang Rd, Phuket City	Tel: 076-258369 Fax: 076-211230
<b>Taurus Travel</b> Aroonsom Plaza Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd, Patong	Tel: 076-344521/2 Fax: 076-344523
<b>41 Minimart</b> Srisoontorn Rd, Chermg Talay	Tel/Fax: 076-324312
<b>Deli Supermarket</b> Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd, Patong	Tel: 076-342275 Fax: 076-344314

# Property Gazette

## Property Wanted

**LONG-TERM RENTAL WANTED**  
Retired British couple presently living in Phuket require a 2- to 3-bedroom spacious villa or apartment with pool, all in secure environment. Internet and cable TV required. Must be of high standard and well presented. Your property will be very well taken care of! Contact via email: phuketgraham@yahoo.co.uk

**PATONG TOWER**  
condo with a sea view. Keen buyer ready to purchase. Please contact if you have one available for sale. Tel: 084-4471978. Email: diggerresort@hotmail.com

**KARON BUILDING PLOT**  
We want to purchase a building plot in or around Karon or Kata suitable for one small house or bungalow. 200 to 400sqm plot size ideal. Must have Chanote, electricity, water and telephone available. Owners only. Please email with your complete details. We will reply to all responses. Email: ken.devitt@btopenworld.com

**LAND WANTED**  
Suitable to build house, quiet area with trees, prefer sea view, near electricity/water, access to road, proof of ownership. Will pay up to 1.5 million baht. Please contact David at Tel: 085-7908241.

**RENTAL HOUSE**  
I'm looking for a house in a quiet location with Internet access in Kata, Karon, Nai Thon or Nai Yang. Needed from December 2007 until March 2008. Maximum payment per month: 30,000 baht. Please contact me with details and photos. Email: pekfpe@yahoo.dk

**LAND WANTED**  
Cash buyer would like to purchase around 2 rai of seaview land, preferably sea and island views, on the northeast coast of Phuket. Land must have electricity and good access road. Should not be overlooked and should be suitable for building a house. Immediate decision and payment offered for right plot. Prefer details by email. Tel: 086-9446288. Email: phuketgraham@yahoo.co.uk

**RESTAURANT WANTED**  
for rent. Guesthouse or room for open restaurant only. Patong beach road around central Patong area. Please contact for more information. Tel: 084-8448353.

## Property Services

**HANDYMAN SERVICES**  
Installation, repair & maintenance of electrical, plumbing and boiling systems. Painting & pool cleaning. Reasonable prices. Contact for more details. Tel: 086-9487489 (Thai), 081-5384989 (Eng). Email: mnobnorb@hotmail.com

**ALL AROUND CLEANING SERVICE**  
For your cleaning problems call Spick N' Span professional cleaning service for your house, office, hotel, apartment or condo for daily, weekly or monthly services at affordable prices. Tel: 076-280801, 084-0581217. Fax: 076-281067. Email: legalinside@siamproperty@gmail.com

**NO JOB TOO BIG**  
or too small. Looking for someone to take care of your home when you're here or away? Need someone for odd-job work? Need someone to clean the house? Tel: 076-282485, 089-5878173. Email: info@phuketLP.com

**JUST ASK ME**  
what kind of property you want to buy and I'll find it for you. Contact Marc Tel: 085-7839062. Email: sale@phuketmarbella.com

## Accommodation Available

**Sinthavee Hotel Phuket**  
Sinthavee Hotel is truly like a first class hotel providing international travellers an ideal stay at very reasonable rates.

**Special Promotion:**  
Standard Type, 390\* baht/night (room only\*)  
Superior Type, 700\* baht/night (room only\*)  
Deluxe Type, 900\* baht/night (room only\*)

Every room offering individually controlled air-conditioning, bedside control panel for lights, television, radio, in-house movies are shown on the colour television, direct dial telephone, hot water and a fully stocked refrigerator.

**Hot Promotion** : for Backpacker, 250\* baht/person/night (room only\*)

**Sinthavee Hotel Phuket** 89 Phang-Nga Road, Phuket 83000  
Tel: +66 76-211186 Fax: +66 76-211400  
Email: sinthavee@hotmail.com Website: www.sinthaveehotel.com

**PATONG APARTMENTS & ROOMS**  
Monthly: 8,000-25,000 baht. Daily: 600-1,200 baht. Contact receptionist. Tel: 076-512151-2. Website: www.brommathaihouse.com

**SMALL SAIYUAN PLOT**  
13 plots in Saiyuan. Only 400,000 baht per 27sq wah. Please contact for more details. Tel: 076-381755, 083-3888076. Fax: 076-381755. Email: preeyapong@hotmail.com

**VERY PRIVATE VILLA**  
Walled, good-sized garden with pool and electronic entry. 2 double bedrooms, one single, study room, 3 bathrooms, aircon in all rooms. Fully furnished. Telephone & UBC. Available until mid-October. Contact Tel: 076-200923, 081-8452160. Fax: 076-200924. Email: dobermanns@loxinfo.co.th

**PATONG LUXURY**  
apartments. Located in central Patong, 1 or 2 bedrooms. For information and photos, call Tel: 076-341827, or email: suites247@yahoo.com

**CHALONG ROOM**  
Hot water, aircon, TV, DVD, Wi-Fi and fridge. 5,500 per month. Tel: 089-4727304.

**ALLAMANDA**  
Cherng Talay duplex apartments, 1-2 bedrooms, 80-135sqm, 6-13.5 million baht. Short- or long-term rent. Please contact Tel: 081-802-2131. Email: nprateepasen@yahoo.com

**PATONG GUESTHOUSE**  
Newly renovated mini-suite with kingsize bed, aircon, bath, cable and security. Utilities included. Lawan Residence, 191/3 Rat-U-Thit Rd (behind The Gym and across from Water World Asia), just 2 minutes from Jungceylon. Great value. Must see! Price 6,000 baht per month. Call Tel: 085-7932477. Email: garyteets@yahoo.com

**KATA SMALL LAND PLOT FOR SALE**  
244sqm land in the center of Kata for sale. Contact Tel: 076-381755, 083-3888076. Fax: 076-381755. Email: preeyapong@hotmail.com

**ROOMS WITH POOL, WI-FI, ETC**  
Realistic long- or short-term rates. Free wireless Internet, swimming pool, bar, etc. Tel: 076-292907. Fax: 076-344-608. Email: info@club-coconut-resort.info Visit our website: www.phukets.info/ccr.html

**BEACH FRONT HOTEL**  
Low season, long-stay promotion, pool, spa, free Wi-Fi, 18,000 baht per month. Contact for more information. Tel: 081-8920038.

**PATONG 2-BEDROOM**  
apartment large, fully furnished, close to Bangla Rd, aircon. 25,000 baht per month. Contact for more details at Tel: 087-8817600.

## Building Products & Services

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Specialist in European stone-care products and services:

- Restoration
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All your maintenance, protection & cleaning needs for natural and manufactured stone.

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Tel: 087-2824930, 076-271217  
Fax: 076-271218  
Email: info@thestone-doctor-asia.com

## Household Items

**TEAK GARDEN**  
furniture. Eight lounge-style chairs with 4 accompanying side tables. Very comfortable. 24,000 baht. Tel: 076-381515, 087-2632294. Email: satmanmarcinfo@yahoo.com

## Household Services

**PHUKET HOME**  
maintenance, construction, renovation, electricians, plumbers, carpenters, painters, tilers, gardeners, aircon servicing and electrical repairs. Contact K. Rin at Tel: 084-1935124.

**Classified Advertisements**

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

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Classified ads are charged per line. Each line is 95 baht, with a minimum of 4 lines (heading included) per ad.

All advertising must be paid for in advance.

**Deadline for Property Gazette page: Friday 3 pm.**  
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**SPECIALIST IN WORLDWIDE YACHT BROKERAGE**



**Steel Hull Sailing Vessel**

Great opportunity. This steel boat is very strongly build and in pristine condition after her actual owner made all necessary safety and cosmetic improvements. Ready to go instantly. Owner is very keen to sell! Please inquire.

**Reduced Price at 80.000,- EURO**

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**CROWTHER CATAMARAN**  
17.4-meter Crowther high-performance cruising catamaran. Built in 1992 with foam core and epoxy. Ready to cruise the world. US\$550,000. Tel: 086-4707812, 081-837 5774. Fax: 086-4707812. For further details, please see our website: www.katani2.com

**NEW FISHING BOAT**  
Take a look at our *Gazette*-homepage banner 'Boating & Fishing Help' for info. Email: makocraft@hotmail.com

**17.5-METER**  
diving boat. For sale or charter, width 4.5m. Diesel engine, 320hp generator at 20kW. 30 person capacity. Great buy. Price: 950,000 baht. Call for more information. Tel: 081-9680571.

**17' BOSTON WHALER**  
17-foot (5.18m), center console, fiberglass with 90hp Mercury outboard and trailer, 1 year old, very clean. Price: 550,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-248120. Email: wpdrake@hotmail.com. Specs for Montauk 170 available by visiting our website: http://www.whaler.com

**9M CATAMARAN**  
for sale. No engine, no mast and no sails. Price: 270,000 baht. Call for more information. Tel: 087-8919620.

**INDONESIAN BOAT**

Thai-registered wooden boat for sale or rent. 65ft long, 18ft wide, 30 tons. Email: shaanxi.xian@vipmail.hu or p.atiss@freemail.hu

**DIVE & FISHING BOAT**

Teakwood, 42ft, Hino 160, nicely furnished, fish-finder, rack for 14 tanks, awning, licensed 13 + 2. Price: 850,000 baht. Please contact for more information.

Tel: 087-2841071 (English),

089-9711292 (Thai).

Email: julie2606asia@yahoo.com.au

**63-FT LUXURY**

power cruiser. Fully equipped, water maker, aircon, GPS, radar, life jackets, tender, full galley, bedding, towels, plus much more. All for a very low price. Must be seen. Tel: 081-939-0176. Email: beaver@tsf.net

**YACHT AND CHARTER BUSINESS**

Well-established yacht charter business featuring lovely 60ft Ketch, based in Phuket. 4 guest cabins sleeping 8 pax, 1 large crew cabin, 2 shower/heads, 2 generators, dive compressor, 2 kayaks, tender, and much more. High-traffic website included. Bookings for 2007/2008 season already placed. Turnkey business, ready to sail. Owner retiring, but full handover support available. Price: 6.5 million baht. Contact us for full details. Email: tropical.lifestyle@gmail.com

**SAILBOAT 1968 ISLANDER**

for sale. 44ft world cruiser, lying in Yacht Haven Marina. US\$50,000. Email: temptation44@hotmail.com

**FERRY FOR SALE**

Length: 30m. Gross: 322 tons. 244 passengers. 12.2 million baht. Please contact dock in Phuket. Tel: 081-4084991.



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1997 - 2007

**Beneteau 40.7 (2006)**

- 10 racing sails from Doyle Sails (NZ) 2006
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- Radio CDMP3 player with vesterlight speakers
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**\$270,000 USD**


<b>Alfred Block 48</b> \$120,000 USD	<b>Wesly De 38</b> \$170,000 USD	<b>Steekcraft 30</b> 3,600,000 THB	<b>43 Flybridge Motor Yacht</b> 10,000,000 THB
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**THAILAND'S LEADING BROKERAGE AND NEW YACHT DEALERSHIP**

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# Island Job Mart



**Opening September 2007**

Skipper's Sports Bar & Restaurant located at Royal Phuket Marina requires the following staff:

**Kitchen / Bar / Restaurant**

A good command of English is necessary. Previous experience in the hotel & restaurant industry would be beneficial.

For further information please contact  
Khun Rung, Telephone: 076 360 893 or, e-mail your CV and a recent photograph to [jobs@skippersphuket.com](mailto:jobs@skippersphuket.com)

Interviews will be held between 14th - 24th August  
Open to Thai nationals only

Requires Professional, energetic and confident staff for a new Holiday Ownership Company, beginning in September. Thai nationals need only to apply.

**Bella Villa Consultancy**

- Personal Assistant to Managing Director, Project Director and Sales Director  
\* Female aged over 25 years
- Administration Manager  
\* Male or female aged over 28 years
- Human Resource Manager  
\* Male or female aged over 28 years
- Memberservice Staff
- Reception Manager  
\* Female aged over 25 years  
\* 2 year experience in Holiday Ownership
- Marketing Program Team Leaders  
\* Male or female aged over 22 years
- Administration Staff  
\* Female aged over 20 years
- Reception Staff  
\* Female aged over 20 years
- Human Resource Assistants  
\* Female aged over 20 years
- Marketing Consultants for Programs in Various Locations throughout Phuket: (Opic Program, Booth Program, Survey Program, Telemarketing Program)  
\* Male or female aged over 18 years
- Drivers with and without their own vehicles  
\* Male or female aged over 30 years  
\* Current valid driver's license

All position will be paid salaries, commission package and a bonus structure.

Interested candidates are invited to email full resume and enclose a recent photo to the following:  
email: [richard@bellavilla4u.com](mailto:richard@bellavilla4u.com)  
Tel: +66 76 271731-2  
Fax: +66 76 271732  
Mobile: 085 4768550  
[www.bellavilla4u.com](http://www.bellavilla4u.com)



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- Senior Reservation Manager
- Reservation Officer

**Front Office Department**

- Duty Manager
- Night G.S.A.
- Business Centre Attendant
- G.R.O. (Guest Relations Officer)
- G.S.O. (Operator)
- G.S.A. (Receptionist)

**Health & Leisure Department**

- Spa Therapist
- Spa Receptionist

**Applicants must have the following qualifications,**  
คุณสมบัติของผู้สมัคร

- Have knowledge and experiences at least 2-3 years  
มีความรู้และประสบการณ์ในการทำงานอย่างน้อย 2-3 ปี
- Must be able to speak, read and write English as a job requirement  
สามารถพูด อ่าน เขียนภาษาอังกฤษได้ตามความต้องการของตำแหน่ง
- Must have good computer skills as a job requirement  
สามารถใช้คอมพิวเตอร์ได้เป็นอย่างดีตามความต้องการของตำแหน่ง

Interested applicant can apply in person or send a resume with photo to:  
ผู้สนใจสมัครสามารถมาสมัครหรือส่งประวัติการทำงานพร้อมรูปถ่ายมาที่

**Human Resources Department**  
Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa  
333 Patak Road, Karon Beach, Phuket 83100  
Tel: 076 398 433 - 41 Fax: 076 370 - 695  
E-mail: [recruitment.phuket@hilton.com](mailto:recruitment.phuket@hilton.com)

**SECRETARY/ ASSISTANT TO GM**

Foreign GM requires single Thai person to assist in the running of a residential condominium property. Accounting work (petty cash, accounts payable, payroll taxation). Thai-English translation. General secretarial work, knowledge of Microsoft Office (Word, Excel). Liaising with owners, tenants and staff. Previous experience essential. Tel: 076-344350, 087-2646354. Fax: 076-344350. Email: [brendon@kalimresidence.com](mailto:brendon@kalimresidence.com)

**SECRETARY WANTED** with flexible schedule, perfect English skills and project sales experience. Tel: 081-5376866. Send CV to: [info@platinumresidencepark.com](mailto:info@platinumresidencepark.com)

**CHALLENGING MODEL CASTING**

Challenging model casting for 3- to 13-year-old boys and girls, Western-mixed Thai and Thai at MyClip Studios. Please contact K. Varintara. Monday to Friday, 9 am to 6 pm. Tel: 076-380610, 081-7370623. Fax: 076-380612. For details, please visit our website: <http://www.myclipstudios.com>

**British International School, Phuket are now seeking:**

**School Manager Secretary Assistant**

- Female, Thai national
- Bachelor Degree in related field
- Excellent English, Computer literacy and good people skills
- Able to coordinate with other department

**Teacher Assistant**

- Thai national
- Bachelor degree, with major in English
- Teaching qualifications and experience of child care/teaching preferable
- Good command of spoken and written English
- Strong interpersonal and organizational skills

**Registered Nurse**

- Bachelor degree of Nursing or higher with active license
- > 2 years experience in Nursing
- Computer literacy is essential
- Good spoken and written English skills
- Service minded
- Interpersonal and problem solving skills
- Challenge job-oriented
- Team player
- Loves to work with children and people

**British International School, Phuket (BIS, Phuket)**  
59 Moo 2, Thepkasatri Rd, Koh Kaew, Muang, Phuket 83200 Thailand  
Tel: 076 238 711-20 Fax: 076 238 750 Bangkok Tel: 02 636 8991-2 Fax: 02 636 8992  
[www.bcis.ac.th](http://www.bcis.ac.th)



**Scandinavian Lagoon Resort (Phuket)** is urgently seeking for a candidate to fill in the position of

**Junior Accountant (based in Phuket)**

- Male/female, Thai nationality
- Bachelor's degree or higher
- Minimum of 2 years experience in accounting
- Good command of both spoken and written English
- Good computer literacy & usage required
- Able to assist office day to day work, secretary and admin function, stock control etc.

Please submit a cover letter, detailed resume with recent photo and salary expectation to email: [secretary@scandinavianlagoon.com](mailto:secretary@scandinavianlagoon.com)  
For more information please contact Tel 076-285340  
Website: [www.scandinavianlagoon.com](http://www.scandinavianlagoon.com)

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Computer teachers need urgently for local primary schools in Phang Nga. Thai nationals only. Tel: 076-263926, 081-5925260. Fax: 076-486636. Email: [david@4kali.org](mailto:david@4kali.org)

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Full-time position for an experienced Thai cook/crew for charter-luxury motor yacht. Contact for details. Tel: 084-8381866. Email: [pmyachtservices@gmail.com](mailto:pmyachtservices@gmail.com)

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**KINDERGARTEN TEACHER**

Full time. Fluent English and experience is a must. Thai national OK. Please contact at Tel: 076-225942, 081-8951131. Send CV to email: [edouardfam@access.inet.co.th](mailto:edouardfam@access.inet.co.th)

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Further information about the school may be obtained from our website: [www.bcis.ac.th](http://www.bcis.ac.th)

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<p><b>1. Zone Manager (2 positions)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Male or female, age over 28 yrs</li> <li>BA in Real Estate/Property Management or related fields</li> <li>At least 3 yrs experience in building/estate management</li> <li>Knowledge of Land Development Act, Condominium Juristic Person Acts an advantage</li> </ul>	<p><b>2. Estate Manager / Assistant Estate Manager (4 positions)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Male or female, age over 28 yrs</li> <li>BA in Real Estate/Property Management or related fields</li> <li>At least 1 yr experience in building/estate management or 3 years in management level</li> <li>Knowledge of Land Development Act, Condominium Juristic Person Acts an advantage</li> </ul>
<p><b>3. HR Officer (2 positions)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Male or female, age over 28 yrs</li> <li>BA in HR or related fields</li> <li>At least 2 yrs experience in HR function</li> <li>Knowledge of Thai Labor Law</li> </ul>	<p><b>4. Receptionist (2 positions)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Female, age over 22 yrs</li> <li>Vocational or higher in related fields</li> <li>At least 1 yr experience in receptionist front office</li> <li>Familiarity with office automation</li> </ul>
<p><b>5. Department Secretary (2 positions)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Female, age over 28 yrs</li> <li>BA in Secretarial or related fields</li> <li>At least 3 yrs experience in secretarial work</li> </ul>	<p><b>6. Accountant (2 positions)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Male or female, age over 25 yrs</li> <li>BA in Accounting or Finance</li> <li>At least 2 yrs experience in accounting</li> <li>Familiar with accounting software with knowledge of MS-office especially Ms-Excel and Thailand taxation systems</li> </ul>

Interested candidates are invited to write in with full resume, stating present and expected salaries, and enclosing a recent photo to Human Resource Department at the address below:

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 Tel: 0-7631 8151-8 Fax: 0-7631 8159  
 Email: [chutima.ninlawan@th.knightfrank.com](mailto:chutima.ninlawan@th.knightfrank.com)

**Remark:**  
 Thai Nationality only  
 Good command of spoken and written English and computer literacy is essential  
 Male applicants must complete or exempt from military service  
 Knowledge of Real Estate an advantage

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- Operating the server Maintenance of company portals
- Maintenance and administration of company servers along with the email system

**Qualification**

- Must have own car as candidate will have to travel between our head office and site office.
- At least 3 years experience in IT support, network, hardware, software application & systems.
- Work experience with PC setup and hardware trouble shooting & problem solving
- Experience in Microsoft products is a must.
- Thai Nationality

Knowledge in the following applications:

- Microsoft small business server
- Microsoft exchange server
- Microsoft SQL server
- Microsoft sharepoint
- Microsoft Windows XP. Office and all other general applications.
- Antivirus/Spy ware applications - Norton Corporate, AVG, NOD etc...

**Site Secretary**

**Qualification**

- Female
- Bachelor's degree
- 1 year experience in project construction administration
- Fluent in both written and spoken English- Female
- Thai Nationality

Please send resume with covering letter stating salary expectations to [annie@campbellkane.com](mailto:annie@campbellkane.com)

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# Tout, Trader & Trumpet

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Fri 7 pm  
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for sale the place is ready for teaching or to make an office. Includes parking. 32sqm, 2 aircons, telephone and Internet with ADSL. Contact for more details. Tel: 076-292-883, 083-3906709. Email: private\_language@yahoo.com

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 10,000 and 32,000 baht. 2.8 GHz and 4 GHz Dual Core. Warranty. Tel: 089-9087350. Email for details. Email: jacek\_fi@hotmail.com

**Dive Gear**

**SUNNTO STINGER DIVE COMPUTER**  
 Excellent condition, 16-month warranty remaining. Everything in box. 17,900 baht. Email: access00@csloxinfo.com

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 gives Thai language lessons. At your home or hers, Wat Chalong area. Prepared text books and introductory course of 10 lessons. I can also give English courses to your Thai staff or service personnel. Please call me for further information. Tel: 081-7971497. Email: churee77@hotmail.com

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**TAROT WORKSHOP**  
 Sunday session 3 pm - 5 pm. September 2. Only 9 spaces available. 3,990 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 089-6478519.

**PERSONAL COMPANION/ ASSISTANT**  
 Retired American businessman wants to hire an intelligent, educated female companion/assistant. Good compensation for the right person. Tel: 321-7777447. Fax: 321-7777717. Email: ltmesneg@aol.com

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 I am an international single businessman and have come to live in Phuket. I live a five-star lifestyle, and I would like to meet a lively, intelligent and attractive lady for companionship. If you are interested please contact me via email: phuketwanderer@googlemail.com

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 Retired businessman looking for backgammon players in Phuket. Please contact for more information.  
 Tel: 081-5778443.

**SWEET LADY**  
 European man, financially stable, looking for honest and attractive Thai lady up to 30 years old. Please contact via email: phktfrng40@hotmail.com

**Pets**


**ENGLISH BULLDOG**  
 AKC English bulldog puppies. Very playful and active. Big heads, beautiful and loveable. Contact at Tel: 508-4760291. Email: netbreed@yahoo.com

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# Wheels & Motors

## Saloon Cars

**TOYOTA COROLLA 1995**



1.5L, manual, 140,000km. Well-maintained and serviced, good condition. Price: 105,000 baht. Must see. Tel: 087-2709093. Email: s.anut@hotmail.com

**92 TOYOTA CORONA GL**

Manual, 113km, Pioneer CD player, aircon, very good condition. Price: 90,000 baht. Please contact Tel: 085-2476172.

**TOYOTA YARIS**

New condition, auto., airbags, red, 9,000km, MP3, spoilers, no accidents, 1 year old. Price: 500,000 baht ono. Contact Tel: 086-6833964.

**TOYOTA COROLLA**

1990, great condition, runs well, very clean. Please call Tel: 087-2816275.

**HONDA ACCORD 3.0L V6 2003**

Metallic gold, powerful engine, 220psi. Good condition. 800,000 baht. Tel: 076-239-820, 081-7373720. Fax: 076-239828. Email: chaiya phong@dewaphuket.com

**CHEVROLET AVEO**



For sale. New condition, 5,000km, special model, unwanted gift, take over payments. Please contact Tel: 084-0548122.

**RED HONDA JAZZ FOR SALE**

70,000km, 3 years old. Price: 450,000 baht. Please contact Tel: 081-4763242. Email: natthapornw@hotmail.com

**NISSAN SENTRA**

1995, 1,600cc. Good condition. Price: 160,000 baht. Call Tel: 081-5775719.

**MITSUBISHI LANCER**

1993, 1.5L, manual, good condition, runs great. Price: 160,000 baht. Please call Tel: 086-7432011.

**CHEVROLET ZAFIRA 2.2L SPORT**

Only 30,000km, black, new model, never been damaged. 830,000 baht (negotiable). Perfect condition, engine runs great, all checks done by Chevrolet. Please contact me via phone or email for additional information. Tel: 081-8512280. Email: dennis.mo@hotmail.com

**1997 MAZDA ASTINA 1.8L**



One of the nicest cars to drive in Phuket. 120,000km, 5-speed, full Mazda service history. CD player, aircon, electric everything. Great power and easy to drive. 260,000 baht ono. Tel: 076-270750, 081-7370722. Fax: 076-270751. Email: allan@pipsphuket.com

**HONDA CIVIC**

2006, 2.0L, 25,000km, silver. Price: 880,000 baht. Tel: 089-7241140.

**DAIHATSU MIRA**

2-door, hatchback, very economical, 5-speed, aircon. Price: 110,000 baht. Contact Michelle for more details at Tel: 087-3811577.

**MAZDA 3 FOR SALE**

Black, 6 months old, CD player with 6-disc changer/mp3, rain sensor, automatic lights, full options package. For more details, please call Tel: 081-7371687.

**CHEVROLET FOR SALE**


Optra SS 16, 1 year old, very good condition, warranty left. Price: 495,000 baht. Please contact for details Tel: 089-2262612.

**TOYOTA WISH 2004**



Great condition, 55,000km. Price: 790,000 baht. Tel: 081-6935169.

**TOYOTA CAR**



1989, 4-door, manual transmission, excellent condition, no rust, new blue book, road tax & insurance paid until 2008. Must see this great deal! Price: 64,000 baht. Contact for details. Tel: 081-7375909.

**HONDA CRV 2.0L**

2003, black, 72,000km, full service, no accidents, extras, top condition, insurance paid for 1 year. Price: 620,000 baht. Call for more information. Tel: 084-8444228.

**BMW 330I**

31,039km, 1 private owner, immaculate condition. Price: 1.5 million baht. Contact K. Bow or K. Mira for info. Tel: 076-317017-18, 081-894-0096, 087-2709750. Email: paul@maitlandsmith.com

## Pickups

**FORD RANGER**

Open cab, blue, 12,000km, first owner, great condition, CD/VCD, TV. 350,000 baht ono. Tel: 081-5395948.

**LOW SEASON DEAL!**

1994 Mazda pickup for sale. Only 70,000 baht. Contact Tel: 086-1205536. Email: lucycat@rocketmail.com

**NISSAN NV 1995**

pickup. 140,000km, blue. Price: 150,000 baht. New engine. Please contact for details. Tel: 081-4151875, 084-6032361.

**2006 MITSUBISHI TRITON**

Blue, CD, 18,000km, loaded with extras. Price: 435,000 baht or finance. Contact Tel: 085-7959105 (English).

**TOYOTA MIGHTY X**

1994, 4-door, 120,000km, runs excellent, clean interior, great deal. Price: 185,000 baht obo. Please contact at Tel: 076-341827.

**FORD RANGER**

4-door, 2006, like-new condition, low kilometers, runs great. Must see and drive! Price: 385,000 baht. Please contact Tel: 084-4413633.

**TOYOTA FORTUNER**

Great condition. 50,000km, 2-years young. Less than 50,000km. 2.7L engine. Dark gray. Price: 850,000 baht. Tel: 086-7866350. Email: buurmanb@hotmail.com

**ISUZU D-MAX CAB4**



2003. 100,000km, perfect condition, good runner, 3.0L, automatic, only one owner. Price: 470,000 baht. Contact for more information. Tel: 087-2709093. Email: s.anut@hotmail.com

**TOYOTA HILUX TIGER**

2000, low mileage, clean, perfect condition, very reliable. Owner is relocating. Asking price: 320,000 baht. Tel: 076-281479, 087-0190852. Email: dj\_chet10@hotmail.com

**ISUZU 2003 4-DOOR**

Auto., 60,000km, like new condition. Price: 495,000 baht. Please contact for additional details. Tel: 084-4413633.

**TRITON MEGACAB 2D**

2006, 2 + 2, new condition, blue, low kilometers, CD, farang owner. Must sell. Price: 435,000 baht. Contact Tel: 085-7959105 (English).

**FORD RANGER XLT**

2002, 71,000km, diesel engine, runs great, excellent condition. Price: 270,000 baht. Call Tel: 086-2812899.



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# Wheels & Motors

## 4 x 4s

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Excellent, impeccably maintained, 2001, one owner, 119,000km. 3.0L, manual. Comes with Carryboy, cushions, aircon, speakers, 10-CD player, new tires. Price: 420,000 baht ono. Contact Tel: 076-321062. Email: cswift1@swift-mail.com

### TOYOTA FORTUNER

2.7L VVTI, 2005, silver, 45,000km. 850,000 baht. Tel: 089-5944017.

### CHEVROLET COLORADO

Nov. 2004, 4-door, auto., 59,000km, 4x4. 580,000 baht. Tel: 086-2773899.

### TOYOTA FORTUNER 2.7L VVTI

Automatic, January 2007, 11,000km, gray, Toyota special wheels, tinted windows, full leather with wood trim, front bull bar - all in new condition with 3-year Toyota warranty. Owner leaving. Price: 950,000 baht, firm. Tel: 084-844 5328. Email: dgaogden@yahoo.com

### MITSUBISHI G-WAGON

2004 Evolution 2. This is a 2.8L turbo. Only 3 years old, 80,000km. Just serviced with 2 new tires. One owner, one year tax and insurance. Asking price: 725,000 baht. Tel: 081-0854514, 089-4584143. Email: jwizard345@aol.com

### JEEP BARGAIN BUY

1967 Willys, Toyota rear gears, registered with blue book. Runs well, great fun. Please contact for more information. Tel: 086-2766626. Email: makocraft@hotmail.com

### ISUZU CAB 4, 4WD



2001, 56,000km, manual gears, 3.0L, good condition. Price: 430,000 baht. Tel: 087-2709093. Email: s.anut@hotmail.com

### RANGE ROVER 4.6 HSE



British racing green, excellent condition, only 77,000 miles, full insurance until March 2008, only 2 previous owners (chauffeur driven). Reluctant sale. Please contact Alasdair Junor for more information. Tel: 083-9889507.

### 1990 SUZUKI CARIBIAN

Aircon, manual, white, runs well. 69,000 baht. Please contact for additional information at Tel: 076-289-412, 085-7833426. Email: slhaggard@gmail.com

### SUZUKI CARIBIAN 4X4

1994 white Caribbean in great running shape. This wonderful beast has registration and insurance up to date and will get you where you need to go. Leaving Phuket, so must sell. Price: 75,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 087-3865734. Email: alfredzilch@gmail.com

## Motorbikes

### MOTORBIKES FOR SALE

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### TIGER 125 TRAIL

4 months old, 1,300km, luggage box, road tires. As new condition. 28,000 baht. Tel: 084-9165809.

### HONDA STEED 600CC



Great custom chopper, well-maintained, includes green book, tax, insurance. Price: 265,000 baht. Call Tel: 085-2999435.

### HONDA WAVE 110CC

2000 model: 10,000 baht. 2002 model: 15,000 baht. Please contact Tel: 076-388311, 086-1206964.

### BLUE HONDA WAVE 125

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### HONDA PHANTOM 200CC

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### SUZUKI HAYABUSA 1,300 GSXR



Production year 2004, black and gold, 22,000km. Dual Akrapovic slip-ons, steering damper, Galespeed gold wheels, race clutch/rear brake, original Hayabusa tank cover, sport windshield replacement, convertible passenger seat. Permanent positioning lights, custom plate frame, etc. Tel: 081-0862112. Email: clickconnect@gmail.com

### HARLEY-DAVIDSON



2000 Softail standard, 44,000km. Price: 690,000 baht. Tel: 076-388311, 086-1206964.

### HARLEY DYNA

1998, 1,340cc. Top condition, all original. 440,000 baht. Kata area. Please contact Tel: 085-7959160.

### HONDA SHADOW 750CC

Good condition, only one owner, blue & silver. Price: 310,000 baht. Please contact Alan for details at Tel: 089-4727588.

### HONDA WAVE 125

Disc brakes, electric starter. Price: 20,000 baht. Contact Gerhard. Tel: 086-9483503.

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### A1 CAR RENTAL



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### HONDA CIVIC 2002

Rent: 15,000 baht per month. Sell: 575,000. Black color, leather interior. Please contact for more details. Tel: 089-9708281. Email: kevptk@hotmail.co.uk

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Nice & new Honda Civic for short- or long-term rental. Price: from only 17,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-234-010, 081-5376689. Email: saranghada@hotmail.com

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Many types of new cars. Low price and good conditions. Insurance included. Tel: 081-8915296. Email: jikkycar@yahoo.com

### MOTORCYCLE RENTAL

Honda Wave 125 from 1,950 month, Mio auto. from 2,400 month. Contact K. Suwan at Tel: 081-9781793.

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Special rate for green season. Starting from June 15 until September 30. Toyota Vios: 14,000 baht per month. Honda Jazz: 15,000 baht per month. Suzuki Caribbean: 9,000 baht per month. Tel: 083-1743880, 087-2646808.

### NEW VIOS FOR RENT



Many types of cars for long-term rent. Price: 10,000-18,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-5388567. Email: suksavat@hotmail.com

## Vans

### VW VOLKSWAGEN CAR



Avanet tax insurance and original book. 195,000 baht ono. Tel: 087-1466622, 087-2714388.

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