

A Quarterly Publication of the

FOREIGN
CORRESPONDENTS
Club of
THAILAND

DATELINE BANGKOK

Volume 8, April-June 1987



Jorges Orgibet

1907-1986

น้ำดื่มแก้วต่อไป เรียกแต่..โพลาริส



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DATELINE BANGKOK

Volume 8

April-June 1987

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



The year has gotten off to a flying start with a new executive board pitching in to make the FCCT better than ever. David Dyar and Richard “Zak” Rothhaas have put together a bright new-style bulletin that gives you a weekly news flash, a convenient calendar of upcoming events and lots more news on events at the club.

Our first new members night in a long while kicked off a new series of TGIF nights—now offering half price drinks and live entertainment. The annual ball gave us a new honor roll of dubious distinction award winners, a chorus line of even more dubious ladies—all held together by a very classy master of ceremonies, Lachie Thomson.

Some of us had hardly stopped dancing before we were running in the annual Lumpini Park Fun Run. Once again the organizational talents of Esther Sophonpanich and the help of General Pichit Kullawanich made it a well-organized event that raised more than 40,000 Baht for donation to the charities of His Majesty the King.

Regular Wednesday night programs have been rolling along under the guidance of 2nd Vice President Yuli Ismartono and her program committee. U.S. Ambassador William

Brown, General Saiyud Kerdphol, a panel of friends of the legendary Jim Thompson, a panel on mental health and the Thai Air Force director of operations, have been among our guests.

We are also making good progress on three major projects—the Davis-Latch Memorial, the Jorge Orgibet Scholarship and the book honoring His Majesty the King. Denis Gray, head of the book project is still looking for material written by foreign correspondents about the royal family from the 1920s to the present.

So we have gotten off to a pretty good start, but to keep up the momentum we will need your help, your ideas and even your criticism. If you have something you want to see done or done differently, please give any member of the board a call.

DB

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LATE NEWS

The FCCT has commissioned a prominent Thai sculptor to produce a life-sized, bronze, bust of FCCT founding member Jorge Orgibet. It will be displayed in the Clubhouse as both a tribute to Jorge and to enhance our links with past traditions. To date, contributions of 18,000 baht have been received; 22,000 more baht is needed. We hope club members will make up the difference. Checks should be made payable to The FCCT and designated for The Orgibet bust.



PHOTO BY RICHARD ROTHHAAS

■ If looks could kill! — Australian Embassy First Secretary Rosemary Greaves when she overheard a couple of us inebriated members discussing “abuses of diplomatic immunity” at the Club. Watch for the next issue of DATELINE BANGKOK!

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THE THAI PRESS

by Varin Pulsirivong

Life member, staunch supporter of the FCCT, and Chairman of Naew Na Newspaper, Varin Pulsirivong, writes on the Thai Press' sensationalism, gossip columns, history, scandals, ethics and the benefits of it associating with the FCCT.

The Thai Press has developed to what it is today under an environment that is typical of Thai cultural, economic and political circumstances. It thus has certain unique features of its own. The sensational colorful headlines and Page 4 gossip columns are the main attractions of the whole paper.

The Thai Press owes its origin to a group of idealistic and conscientious people who some 70-80 years ago started publishing to air their views on social injustices and topical issues of the day. This original group of pioneers started publishing with limited funds and resources and with hardly any proper expertise in journalism.

As funds were limited only volunteers were employed with meager salaries and helpers who, as a consequence, had meager educational backgrounds. This unfortunate situation opened the door to helpers who claimed to be reporters to take advantage of their position to make ends meet and sadly enough, such so-called reporters still remain, but in fewer numbers.

The publishers had no choice but to turn a blind eye to this malpractice. And, to my surprise, it is still in existence.

In those early days reporting was mainly confined to sensational events such as crimes which were easily obtainable from police stations and gossip reports discussed in coffee houses. Then it went on to reporting intimately and exaggeratedly scandals which were generally highly sensational. This sort of news however catered to the interests of the public resulting in, traditionally, attention attracting condoned by publishers and accepted by many readers. This has resulted in competition among newspapers for sensational stories in order to increase circulation.

When slanderous articles start appearing in the papers, the professional ethics of journalism are inevitably compromised. Thus the influence of the press on society and public morals began.

The newly found influence, uncontrolled, had given the opportunity to those so-called reporters to misuse the power thus gained to the full. Attempts have been made by authorities and certain publishers to improve the quality and standard of journalism but all to little avail. Consequently, public opinion on the Thai Press has become obviously tarnished with fear.

on lives of individuals and officials in particular, it is sad that there is no single regulatory body officially representing the journalist profession as a whole which can regulate the ethics and speak on behalf of those intent on improving the professionalism of the Press. What we need is a Press Association whose functions are to formulate and supervise a professional code of conduct and officially represent the Press as a single body with full authority.

Through the association, professional journalism can be achieved to serve the public interest to the greatest extent. As for the journalists them-



Though the existing Press Law, which provides severe punishment for any misconduct, covers a wide range of conditions (whereby if enforced all papers would be off the newsstand the following day) it is rarely effectively enforced. For example, we occasionally read that a newspaper has been closed indefinitely by police order only to find the same publication appearing on the newsstand as usual under the same name with the same editorial staff but with a new licence for a new publisher. This is indeed a typical Thai way! And the Press Law becomes unenforceable and is ignored or challenged.

Despite the fact that the Thai Press today wield a great deal of power and influence on society in general and

selves, many new ideas can be exchanged, the code of conduct can be discussed and adopted, new technology can be learnt and most important of all, unity can be attained in our profession. As for public interest, when all newspapers are published professionally the influence of the Press will automatically be directed towards moulding Thai society culturally, economically, and politically to its best and most beneficial aspects.

As the world becomes smaller and smaller, the Thai Press cannot be satisfied with reporting only what is happening in Thailand. The Thai Press should and must explore further beyond the horizon for news of the world

■ continued on page 2

The Eternal Optimist

by Denis Gray

Associated Press Bureau Chief Denis Gray writes about our FCCT founder, the late Jorge Orgibet.

Our old friend Jorge Orgibet passed away at the Bangkok Nursing Home on December 21st 1986. Sensing that he would probably die before the Holiday Season and not wanting to bother his friends, he insisted that his memorial service be held — and scheduled in the New Year after the festivities had ended.

Jorge's remains were cremated without ceremony and interred on December 28th in a simple grave at the Protestant Cemetery along the Chao Phraya River on New Road. The headstone reads: Jorge Orgibet, 1907-1986, "An American Who Loved Thailand."

Jorge was born in Chicago, Illinois — literally with printer's ink next to his baby bottle. Both parents were newspaper folk and when the family moved to Redondo Beach, Jorge got an early apprenticeship on his father's newspaper in that California town.

He attended the University of California at Los Angeles but was unfortunately booted out from the then rather conservative institution three weeks before graduation. One night young Jorge had staked out a beach where a campus sorority went nude bathing in the surf. The authorities were not amused when Jorge published the photos in his underground newspaper. He did not collect his undergraduate diploma.

Many of us knew Jorge as a man of — shall we say — keen appreciation of the opposite sex, but nonetheless a hard-core bachelor. In fact, Jorge married once in his life. His wife was the daughter of a wealthy entrepreneur who pioneered dog food in the United States. The couple worked as screenwriters in Hollywood, and that town of mega-ego, hype and illusion wrecked the marriage. There was one child, who tragically died of polio at the age of four.

Jorge went back to school, determined to become a naval architect. His considerable design skills later proved extremely valuable in shaping the many clubhouses which the FCCT has in-

habited over the years. The U.S. military tapped his talents earlier, and when World War II erupted Jorge entered the Army Transport Service, working in the shipyards of California. Later, he served as an officer aboard a patrol boat running antisubmarine sweeps out of San Francisco. Coming to the rescue of a torpedoed ship, his boat was attacked by a Japanese submarine and Jorge was wounded.

This led to a transfer to the predecessor of the Voice of America. Although he spoke nothing but English, he was made an editor in the Foreign Language Broadcast department, with Thai being one of the several Asian languages under his supervision. The job took him to Allied-controlled India where he was selected to become the first press secretary in Bangkok when victory was won and the American Embassy reopened.



■ Baby Jorge — 1907

Three days after World War II ended Jorge Orgibet — then 38 years old — walked off a military aircraft in Bangkok. His assignment was to last two years. But except for news assignments in neighboring countries and rare vacation trips abroad, Jorge did not leave Thailand until his death.

Unlike some foreigners who find

it necessary to profess too loudly their love for this Land of Smiles, Jorge simply told and wrote it like it was and is. Being a sharp observer he naturally noted the warts — the petty politics and corruption and a meanness of spirit among some in the urban commercial class. But on that master scale where good, rational men judge what surrounds them, Jorge found that Thailand's pluses far out-weighed its minuses. And beyond that, there appeared to be some instant and natural affinity. Although Jorge did not adhere to any formal religion, perhaps — if my Buddhist brothers are right — Jorge had been a Thai in some previous reincarnation and had simply come home.

In numerous magazine articles and in his 1982 book, "From Siam to Thailand", Jorge described a quiet, green Bangkok where the tallest building in town was the temple atop the Golden Mount; upcountry trips when going upcountry was truly an adventure; serene relations among people and days filled with plain old "sanuk". But he was hardly a lotus eater in Sabailand.

After resigning from the U.S. Foreign Service, he served as Bangkok bureau chief of the Associated Press from 1953 to 1960. His photograph — handsome face, wire-rimmed glasses, thin mustache and the trademark safari suit — still hangs on the wall of the AP office. Later he worked for NBC News as a correspondent and cameraman. Assignments took him into Cambodia to meet King Norodom Sihanouk and onto Bangkok streets to cover a procession of coups. Once, in pursuit of documentary footage, he trekked from Laos into Southern China, returning to Thailand on foot via Burma.

Jorge was also one of the pioneers of advertising and public relations in this country, helping to lay the foundations for Thai International's now top class PR-advertising operation. With several other expatriates, Jorge opened Bangkok's first western-style nightclub — the Silver Palm on Suriwongse Road — which is still fondly remembered by an older generation of both foreigners and Thais. There were other business

ventures, but none, I'm afraid, very successful. "Jorge was the world's worst businessman — he was just too honest," says his longtime friend Al Shinkle.

Over the years Jorge devoted a great deal of time and talent to the FCCT, which he co-founded in 1956 and shepherded through its early years when the foreign press corps met weekly at Mizu's Kitchen on Patpong Road. He was president of the Club in 1964 and again in 1965 and contributed in some way to every executive board of the FCCT since. On the occasion of his Sixth Cycle Birthday, Jorge established an ongoing foundation, administered by the FCCT, to help promising Thai journalism students. In recognition of his contributions to the FCCT and journalism in general, a bust of Jorge is being commissioned and will be placed in the FCCT clubhouse.

I first met Jorge in 1975, when he was already an unimpeachable eminence in the Bangkok press and expatriate communities, welcoming us younger reporters from the wars in Indochina. He was the grand old man, but what first attracted me to Jorge was his boyish enthusiasm, and a kind of old-fashioned innocence. He was also stubborn, sometimes a bit irascible but always generous with his advice, his energy and the little money he had



■ 1968 — Jorge escorting Thailand's first and only Miss Universe, Apasara Hongsakul, during her visit to Thai Airways International. He was their Public Relations Counsel from the company's inception in 1960.

Jorges

Morning comes

and you are a day further away

I try

to stub out pain

as I would a cigarette butt

the river waits

for no one

but my fingers

clutch

at broken snatches

flowing past

These are widowed banks

of night

Without your flesh

imbuing the shores

with magic

but your presence stays

with me

as real and intangible

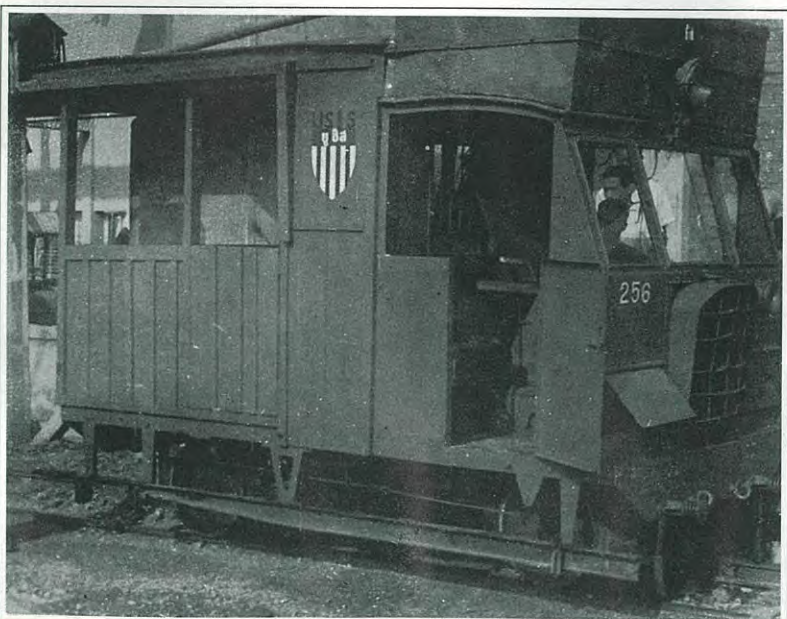
as only memory

can be

— S.A.



■ Jorge & mother — 1916



■ The train confiscated from the Japanese after WWII which Jorge used to travel around Thailand as the first USIS Press Officer. It was during a trip to Chiang Mai with Jim Thomson in the "USIS train" that they hatched the "Thai silk" idea.

accumulated. Only shortly before his death, I learned that Jorge, the career bachelor, in fact had a kind of family. For years, he had supported the four children of his widowed housekeeper Khun Malee, putting them through school and launching them on fine careers.

Jorges became a close friend as well as a great source about Thailand in the old days. His death — besides the personal sadness it has brought to his friends — is another break in the link to a vanishing era in Thailand and Asia.

By the time I met Jorge he had luckily turned his back on business ventures and had returned to his first and true love — journalism. For almost a decade he worked for the Business Information and Research Company, serving as executive editor for its publications, including *Business in Thailand*. He retired from BIR in April 1985, but the very next day was already hustling up freelance projects. Seventy-nine-year old Jorge submitted his last article three days before being admitted to the Nursing Home for the final stay.



■ Jorge's father — 1917

"I've had a great life," he told friends who came to see him near the end. Although he was suffering and terribly wasted, there was no whining, no regrets and no compromise. When Al Shinkle told him his time was up, Jorge's response was this: "What the hell are you doing bawling? I'm the one who's going to die."

That was Jorge Orgibet: tough, honest, eccentric — and lovable — to the last moment. **DB**



■ Mrs Bich — well-known to Bangkok-based correspondents who visit Vietnam. She's in the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry which guides journalists around. Here she's warming Peter Eng's seat at the AP office before going abroad for further studies.

PHOTO BY PETER ENG

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"DO I LOOK LIKE AN IDIOT?"

by Paul Slansky

COURTESY OF SPY MAGAZINE FEBRUARY 1987

SPY magazine recently held its 1st annual Reagan quiz. Here are a few of the EASY questions. See the February 87 edition of SPY if you find these are not challenging enough. Special thanks to Mike Carroll.

The Nicaraguan Contras are giving away a Bangkok-Nicaragua — Bangkok air ticket to every FCCT member who can correctly answer all these questions. Collect your tickets from the Contra office on Silom Road.

1) "When you meet the president ... you ask yourself, 'How did it ever occur to anybody that he should be governor, much less president?'" Who said it?

- a) Tip O'Neill
- c) David Stockman
- b) Henry Kissinger
- d) Bryant Gumbel

2) True or false: Archbishop Desmond Tutu said that he found President Reagan's speech on South Africa "nauseating."

3) True or false: President Reagan described the fraudulent election victory of Ferdinand Marcos over Corazon Aquino as "evidence of a strong two-party system" in the Philippines.

4) Which Reagan judicial nominee told the Senate Judiciary Committee that he "may have said something about the NAACP being un-American or Communist, but I mean no harm by it"?

- a) Antonin Scalia
- b) William Rehnquist
- c) Daniel Manion
- d) Jefferson Sessions III

5) Which mistake did President Reagan make on the campaign trail?

- a) He called Missouri senatorial candidate Kit Bond "Kit Carson."

b) He called North Dakota senator Mark Andrews "Dana Andrews."

c) He called South Dakota senator Jim Abdnor "Li'l Abner."

d) He called Oklahoma senator Don Nickles "Don Rickles."

6) Why did President Reagan call reporters "sons of bitches"?

a) Because they were so gleeful they heard that he'd told Nancy to "get off my goddamn back."

b) Because they dared to ask him questions at a photo opportunity.

c) Because of the way they covered Ed Meese's musings about the



PHOTO COURTESY OF REUTERS

powers of the Supreme Court.

d) Because he overheard them making snide comments about Nancy's legs.

7) How did President Reagan describe Colonel Muammar Qaddafi?

- a) "A wacko"
- b) "Flaky"
- c) "The Great Satan"
- d) "Keisterface"

8) What was George Shultz reported to have suggested might be an appropriate way for the United States to deal with Qaddafi?

a) "Let's trick the bastard into thinking we're gonna bomb the bejesus out of him again."

b) "Lock him in a room with a tape of Nancy singing."

c) "Have Poindexter drive a truck bomb into his tent."

d) "Why don't we give him AIDS?"

9) True or false: after firing Oliver North for his connection with the Iran/contras arms deal, President Reagan called him and said he thought the whole thing would make a great movie.

10) What did President Reagan repeatedly say that all the arms he shipped to Iran could fit inside of?

- a) A small child's playpen
- b) The state of Rhode Island
- c) A single cargo plane
- d) Jerry Zipkin's overcoat

* Bonus Question

What prompted President Reagan to ask reporters, "Do I look like an idiot?"

a) He wrote his last name first while signing the tax bill.

b) He was asked if he was going to take the drug program away from Nancy.

c) He felt foolish standing in the Hands Across America line and not knowing the words to any of the songs.

d) He was asked if he thought he would ever have a relapse of the Hollywood ailment he called "leading-ladyitis."

DB

4) d	8) p	1) b
3) True	7) q	2) True
2) True	6) b	1) b
1) b	5) d	9) True
ANSWERS		

Japanese Restaurant

メニューはすべて日本の味

純粋な日本料理

菊水
KIKUSUI

◆◆◆◆特選メニュー◆◆◆◆

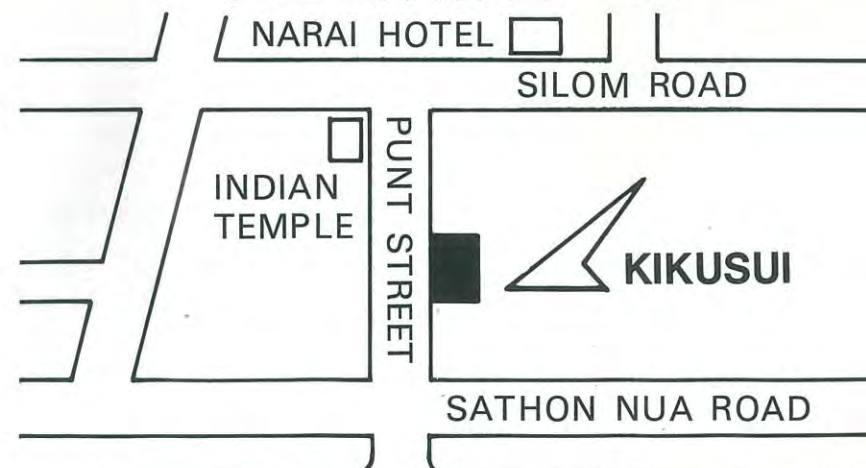
●しゃぶしゃぶ●

●カニの甲ら揚げ●

●自家製手打ちうどん●

●その他[すし・さしみ・てんぷら・定食ランチ]

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Desktop Publishing On The Macintosh

or How I Learned to Fondle a Mouse

By Karl Kunz

Apple's Macintosh computer, a.k.a. the Mac, is something else. If you are a writer or an artist, odds are that the Mac will charm you to pieces. This computer is the handiwork of a visionary entrepreneur named Stephen

Jobs who was ingloriously kicked out of the billion dollar company he founded because, well, he continued to act like a visionary entrepreneur. When Steve got the boot, the Mac was generally perceived as something of a failure, unable to breach corporate desktops dominated by IBM PCs and compatibles running Microsoft's MS-DOS operating system. The Macintosh was nice but incompatible.

All the Mac needed was a little time for us to catch up. Now, three plus years old, the Mac is probably the best selling computer in the world. And it's still not at all compatible with the IBM PC. In fact, PC compatible machines are frantically changing to have more of the "look and feel" of the Macintosh. Once you actually get your paws on the Mac, you will quickly understand why.

The Mac's designed to be used intuitively. No need to remember any commands.

Don't be put off by the relatively small screen. The graphic display is exceptionally clear and responds fast to the touch. The machine is designed to be used intuitively. There is no need to remember even one single command. The Mac is downright fun, and not incidentally produces credible quality output for writers and artists.

So much for any hope of a cool and dispassionate account of the Mac. Now let's look at what the Mac can do for writers and what the new buzzword DESKTOP PUBLISHING means.

"Word processing", of course, refers to the use of computers as super typewriters. A few finger pokes moves blocks of text around, erases words, reformats your drafts. A real time saver. So it's not too surprising that typewriters are being replaced much like the forests of the world - at a steady, inexorable rate.

When word processing revealed it's true dimensions as a formidable market segment, the software gurus went all out to make the lives of F.C.C. members even softer.

Spelling Checkers. Style Checkers, Punctuation Checkers, Online Thesaurus, Outline Processors. And so forth. The Mac has taken all that and added a new dimension. FUN.

And now PAGE PROCESSORS allow you to easily merge text and graphics in page layouts. This article was done using a program called "MacPublisher". It's the first time I have used a page processor and it was easy. Text was entered using MacPublisher's word processor. Blocks of text and pictures were easily moved around the page using a mouse. The picture of my son, Dan, on the left was digitized from a much smaller photo (using a magic little device "Thunderscan") and added to the layout with a few finger pokes. The whole thing was printed on the Apple's 300 x 300 dot per inch "LaserWriter" printer producing so-called "near typesetting quality", good for company newsletters and the like. For truly professional quality output, the Macintosh can output to typesetting machines.

Sawatdi to the post-typesetting correction cycle.



Laser Printers Hot To Trot

The laser printer is the KO punch, the reason why Desktop Publishing is becoming the surfboard being used by the Macintosh to sail onto corporate desktops. It seems that about 5 months ago most of the purchasing departments of most of the major corporations decided that laser printer technology was finally mature and buyable. So hold your hats. You will be hearing a lot about laser printers from now on.

Laser printers allow users to produce high quality printed documents, mixing text and graphics on the same page. The heart of the laser printer is its ENGINE and the process used to produce an image is very similar to the photocopying process. Most manufacturers buy the engine from Canon in Japan. Apple does that. Apple's Laser Writer is actually a very powerful computer with a 32 bit CPU and 2 Megabytes (2 million characters) of memory.

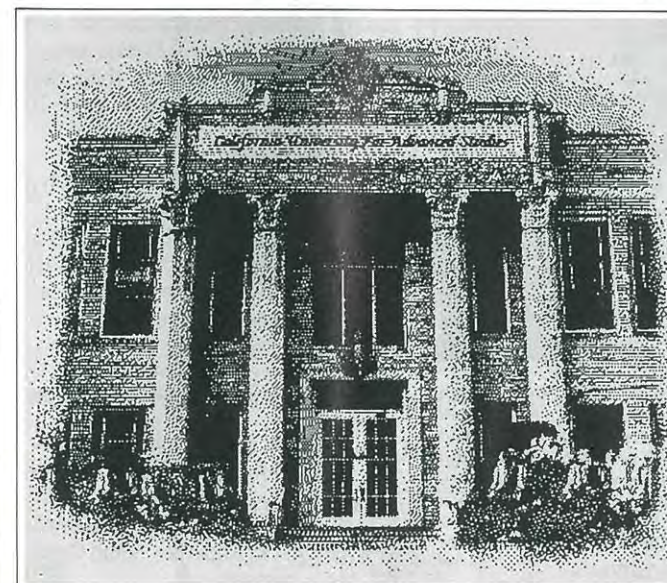
Laser printers work on a page-by-page basis and the data for the page is first stored in the printer's memory. A slowly turning laser beam eventually converts the bits of information in the printer's memory into a series of electrically charged dots on a

photosensitive drum. The charged drum electrostatically attracts toner particles - which cling to the charged dots but not to the rest of the surface. The paper then contacts the drum and gets printed.

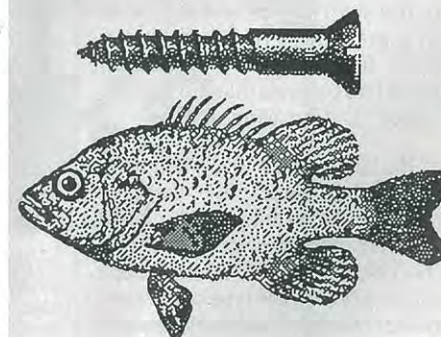


The Hardware: Macintosh and LaserWriter. The printer is too large for an average desk.

The current generation of laser printers is the first generation. All of them are restricted to an output resolution of 300 x 300 dots per inch. Very good but still not professional typesetting quality. I've delayed buying a laser printer since some immutable law predicts that the second generation of laser printer, designed to knock my socks off, will be announced the week after I invest in a first generation machine. And guess what? While writing this article someone told me that Linotype just announced a 1000 dpi laser printer.



Here's some more stuff that the Mac can do.



OKAMOTO

New arrival to the Bangkok news scene is Hibenobu Okamoto, Tokyo Broadcasting System's (TBS) Bangkok Bureau Chief. Although not his first trip to Thailand he has changed his view of Thailand relatively little over the years. He first visited Thailand while he was a student at Waseda University and his first impression was "Polite and HOT".

During that trip he visited the energetic "Floating Market" which immediately changed his opinion of Thailand. He quickly revised his impression of Thailand from "Polite and HOT" to "Chaotic and HOT".

He took this impression back to Japan and finished his studies with a degree in Sociology in 1974. He joined TBS immediately after graduating as a TV correspondent and has been with them since, working in countries all over the globe such as Hong Kong, Ethiopia, Malaysia, Taiwan, Spain, Singapore, the USA, Iran, Hungary, the Ivory Coast, the Philippines, and England.

Hibenobu returned to Thailand many times while with TBS. He often passed through Thailand in transit from Tehran while covering the Islamic Revolution and the American Embassy hostage crisis. The demonstrations in Iran and the frequent fire fights indirectly caused a third revision of his impression of Thailand from "Chaotic and HOT" to "Comfortable and HOT".

He feels Thailand has changed a lot in the last 15 years and has developed a great deal. He attributes the resultant uncontrollable traffic to an "irony of fate but feels that the amount of "chaos" is decreasing.

He lauds Thailand's attempts to "emulate" Japan but thinks that "the spirit of emulation makes men forget SYMPATHY. Without sympathy we cannot be 'Comfortable and Polite'. I hope Thailand will seek the type of development that maintains harmony between 'Comfortable and Politeness'.

Born February 4, 1951, he is married and has an 8-year-old daughter and a 5-year-old son. **DB**



Hibenobu Okamoto



David W. Dyar



3) Geoffrey Leach of DIBC/RDU (Down Under Broadcasting Corporation/Radio Down Under) savoring his last night in Thailand and his last drop of FCCT beer at the farewell party the Club threw in appreciation of his many valuable contributions to the Club. He made a lot of friends and a lot of kidz. He has to leave the friends behind but he gets to take the kidz back to Australia.

DYAR

David Dyar has been serving in Bangkok, Thailand as VOA's Southeast Asia correspondent since July of 1984. He is responsible for covering events over a large territory of the world that extends from Burma across the Southeast Asian mainland to the three communist Indochinese countries of Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam. He also covers the island nations of the Philippines, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, New Zealand as well as Australia. His territory also includes the South Pacific islands.

Mr. Dyar was one of the two VOA reporters who covered the February, 1986 revolt that ended the 20-year rule of President Ferdinand Marcos from the Philippines.

He joined the VOA in November of 1983 after working for ten years as a reporter and editor based in Washington for United Press International, the National Broadcasting Company and the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. He has had extensive experience covering events at the White House, the State Department and the U.S. Congress.

His reporting assignments in Washington have included the Watergate scandal that resulted in the resignation of former President Nixon in 1973, the 1978 Camp David treaty on Middle East peace, the assassination attempt against President Reagan on 1981 and the 1982 crash of an Air Florida jetliner in Washington's Potomac river that claimed the lives of more than 70 people.

Mr. Dyar speaks and reads Thai and has completed two years of graduate work in Southeast Asian studies at American University in Washington. He holds a bachelor's degree in Broadcast Journalism from the same school.

He served a two-year tour in Bangkok with the U.S. Army from 1967 to 1969.

Mr. Dyar, 39, (b. Aug. 1, 1947) began his career in broadcasting when he was 16-years old as an announcer at WABV-AM in Abbeville, South Carolina, his hometown. **DB**

Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

For the month of April Fitness International Manager David Banks is offering his fellow FCCT members a special on FI membership. Every member that joins FI in April will receive a FREE pair of running shoes by Etonic and one month's dues FREE!

David also offers FCCT members a 40% discount off the 6,000 baht membership fee throughout the year! For us it's only 4,000 baht a year! Monthly dues are 775 baht. Facilities include a swimming pool, tennis, squash, gym, sauna, jacuzzis and aerobic dance. **DB**



FCCT member David Banks leads aerobic dancing to warm-up for the 1987 FCCT Fun Run.

PHOTO COURTESY OF REUTERS

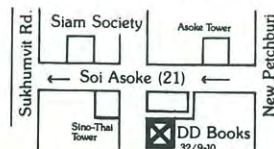


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STICKING TO THE RULES

The FCCT is a private, membership club and tries to provide its members with certain exclusive privileges and advantages. Over the past few years the Club has been lenient in allowing non-members access to some of its activities. Rules have been difficult to formulate and enforce due to a lack of a permanent clubhouse facility. This will change when, finally, the FCCT does obtain its own clubhouse.

The FCCT will then have more precise, and stricter, rules for non-member access more like the ones which are the standard operating procedures of the Hong Kong, Tokyo, and other foreign correspondents clubs in the world. We thank you in advance for your cooperation.

But in the meantime, we would like you to take note of the following:

■ Accredited foreign correspondents based in Bangkok may be allowed a maximum of three access or guesting. Thereafter, unless given special dispensation by the Executive Committee, they have to join the FCCT as members.

■ Members are encouraged to request their frequent guests to obtain FCCT membership.

■ The FCCT has in the past and continues to reserve the right to charge guests for certain functions (like movie nights) which are free to members or to charge more for guests than members (such as at big dinner functions).

■ The emphasis must be on accompanied guests. Too frequently non-members walk into a function, then spot a friend and ask to be allowed access to an activity as guests.

■ For important news events, such as a speech by a major figure and subject to approval by the FCCT Executive Committee, the FCCT will continue to admit Thai journalists who are not members of the club.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING 21 May 1980

Membership rights and privileges

are not open to non-members. A motion was made that frequent guests should be sponsored as members.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING 18 June 1980

Accredited foreign correspondents based in Bangkok may come to Club functions a maximum of three times as a guest. Thereafter, unless given special dispensation by the Executive Committee, they must become members of the FCCT to enjoy the rights and privileges thereof.

PRESIDENTIAL MEMORANDUM TO MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE 11 September 1980

We should continue strictly to the good (finally) sign-in system for function and monitoring of frequent guests, with follow-up (written or verbal) to those who come as guests too frequently. We must be very tough on foreign correspondents who come as guests more than three times (those residing in Bangkok, that is). The club has gained enough prestige and stature that we can frankly afford to be tougher than in the past. They definitely cannot be admitted to any more functions unless they sign up. If we let them in it will simply be "crying wolf" syndrome.

— Denis Gray

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING 1 October 1980

The rule "three times as a guest" applies to foreign correspondents, not to local journalists. In the future, we will have a clause directed at individuals who abuse the rule frequently. One cautionary note — our philosophy is aimed at encouraging people to become members, not to discourage them from coming to the Club. We should put more emphasis on accompanied guests.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING 20 September 1983

Vilai asked what the Club should do about non-members who come often and use the Club but say they do not wish to join as they have a friend who is a member. David asked Neil to put a reminder in the Bulletin that unaccompanied non-members will not be admitted to the Club. The question as to how many times an accompanied non-member can attend the Club as a

guest was referred to the Membership Committee, who were asked to draw up a policy guideline for the Board to consider at the next meeting.

BULLETIN 31 October 1983

No guest is admitted to the FCCT on any occasion unless accompanied by a member. That is a law under which all clubs by necessity must operate. The FCCT also has a rule which until now has not been applied limiting the number of occasions the same guest may visit the Club. If a guest wishes to visit more than three times the FCCT believes that in fairness to existing members paying their annual dues he should apply for membership himself. Therefore, we suggest that members who bring the same friends regularly to our Wednesday programs, to the Bridge night or other functions should have those friends join the FCCT.

BULLETIN 25 March 1986

Each member has the privilege of bringing two guests to any of our Club functions, including the Wednesday night programs. Guests must be signed in and pay a 100 baht fee at the reception desk at the Clubhouse entrance. Frequent guests are expected to join as full-fledged, paid-up members for the continued privilege of attending FCCT functions. Members desiring to reserve seating should do so prior to 5:30 p.m. of the day preceding the program (so that enough food may be ordered). Reserved seating must be claimed by 7:30 p.m. (or 30 minutes in advance of the program's starting time). Plan on dinner at 7:00 p.m. Show time is 8:00 p.m.

BULLETIN 14 May 1986

FEAR AND LOATHING DEPT — Some basic taxation facts: To be taxed as a bona fide social club is good. To be taxed as a restaurant is BAAAAAD. To insure the FCCT is taxed as a social club, members bringing guests must register each guest at the club entrance and members must be responsible for any charges incurred by guests.

EDITOR 8 April 1987

See all you MEMBERS (and your ACCOMPANIED GUESTS) at the Club!

DB



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PHOTO BY RICHARD ROTHHAAS

1. General Saiyud Kerdphol being grilled by a member when the General came to the FCCT to speak on counter-insurgency in Thailand, and to promote his new book on the subject. You'll regret any Wednesday Night Programs you miss in 1987. Standing room only (SRO) is becoming increasingly common. Book in advance! C U there!

2. Rick Fredrickson at Site 2 with a Vietnamese refugee girl whom a Western aid worker called "The Florist" because she gives flowers to visitors.

3. There's a lot of stress involved in pulling teeth at JUSMAGTHAI and Dick Graham takes advantage of the FCCT's half-price drinks on Friday night to ease the tension! He knows our drink prices are the lowest, our sofas are the softest, our bar is the longest, and our members are the friendliest and most interesting in the whole country! (Except Sundays).



PHOTO BY PETER ENG



PHOTO BY RICHARD ROTHHAAS

From Siam to Thailand

by Jorge Orgibet

Reviewed by J.M. Ball

90 baht softback and 130 baht hardback, 169 pages, available at the FCCT.

As a "farang" who has lived half my life in Thailand (since 1958), I have found the reminiscences of another "farang", who was here from 1945, fascinating in parts. His sentiments, of going "home" and then realizing it is not really "home" but that Thailand had become home instead, must be shared by many of us.

I would describe this as the ideal book for someone who already knows at least a little about Thailand and who wants to read something of considerable interest but without too much detail.

This is in no way intended as a short post war history of Thailand, but simply a series of nostalgic anecdotes. However, nostalgia can be misleading. We tend to remember the enjoyable and forget the unpleasant.

Jorge Orgibet evidently had journalism in his blood. It seems that to his last days he could smell a story every time he heard a police siren, a shout or a shot.

Some of his yarns must have been written tongue in cheek. Surely he did not seriously expect us to believe that he changed the sartorial standards of messenger boys and the driving habits of some Thai motorists by his example? I would agree with most of his comments on dress. Both the "Safari Suit" and the "Prem Jacket" are smart and practical for modern tropical wear but I am afraid I do not share his hatred of the necktie.

We could all share the author's frustrations over traffic jams, noise and other pollution, the disappearance of canals, trees, and "local colonial" houses. But how many of us would really like to go back to sleeping under mosquito nets, bathing out of Shanghai vases, reading by electric lights that frequently blacked out and having somewhat rudimentary medical and dental services?

There are brief references to dozens of matters which, in themselves, have been or could still be the subjects

of long books. The author draws attention to the fact that although it was fashionable in the 1960's and 70's to blame the American GI's for "spoiling Thai culture", they were not the first foreign troops to enjoy the night life here. There were the British (and Indian) troops of 1945-46 and the Japanese Army of 1941-45. Now the multi-national foreign tourists can take the blame.

In view of the book's title I must take issue with some of the author's remarks on the very first page. In fact, Siam was changed to Thailand in June 1939 under the first Phibun regime, already with pro-Axis sympathies.

Jorge Orgibet interviewed Phibun and many other celebrities. He also witnessed the dramatic "Manhattan" incident in 1951. He corrects another writer's fanciful account of this insurrection and attests to the Field

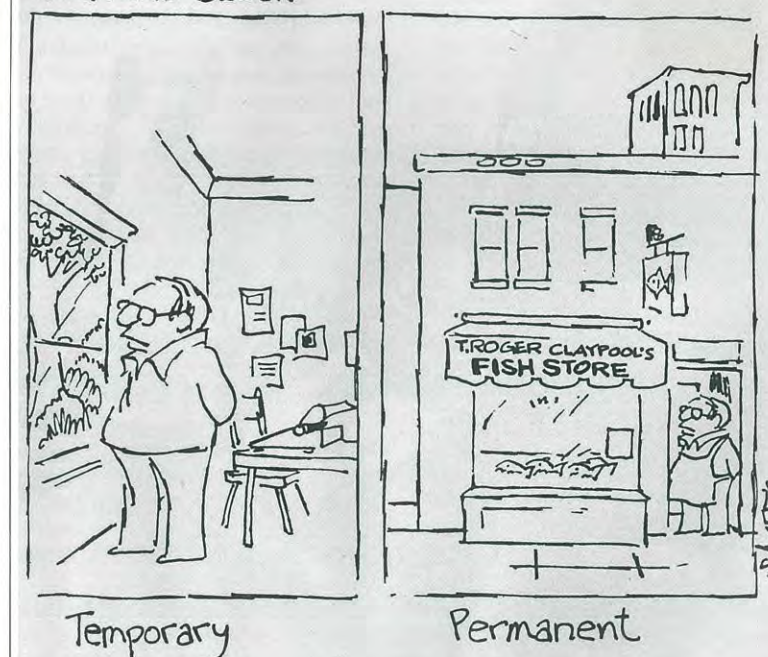
Marshal's personal calm and courage when faced by the Navy mutineers.

The author describes his and his colleagues' fascination with Bangkok and the relative lack of damage, peacefulness, and even air of gaiety in 1945; an exception in a region of turmoil as the Japanese capitulated and the British, American, French, Dutch and (nationalist) Chinese all tried to re-establish their old spheres of influence.

Since publication of this book five years ago, the Bangkok skyline has changed considerably and a few hundred thousand more people have been added to this huge conurbation. It is a sobering thought that about 40 years hence, when most of us have all vanished, another elderly writer may start his reminiscences "Back in 1987 when I was young, life was less hectic and the Bangkok area had only 8 or 9 million inhabitants..."

DB

WRITER'S BLOCK



COURTESY OF WRITER'S DIGEST

How? Where? When?

by Nick Williams

Single-handedly covering the entire Southeast Asian area is not easy! DB grabbed Los Angeles Times Bureau Chief Nick Williams and shot him up with dangerously low amounts of sodium pentathol to find out how he does it.

"I know three phrases in every language," a reporter once told me, "Hello," "Goodbye" and "My friend will pick up the check."

He was, as I am, a regional correspondent, covering a fistful of

countries, each with its own tongue. While others slog through immersion courses in Russian or Chinese in preparation for a Moscow or Peking assignment, regional correspondents stick to their native language and gesticulative taxi-talk in seven or eight others.

It's a trick, and a shame. How many good Indochina interviews were lost for a lack of French? How many overheard political asides in Manila went unreported for a deaf ear to Tagalog?

At his worst, the regional correspondent is simply a foreign-based parachutist; like the legendary reporter who came upon European survivors of an African revolution and demanded, "Anyone here been raped and speak English?" Nevertheless, the assignment need not be limited to shallow reporting.

With enough circuits of the beat, certain consistencies emerge from the complexities; you begin to get a handle on a large corner of the world.

Being on the road more than eight out of 12 months, or working in Manila, Hanoi and Auckland in the

course of two weeks, can be as rewarding and useful, in a way, as gazing at the politburo lineup on the Kremlin wall. Charles Powers, who covered Africa for the L.A. Times for five years, once put it this way: "No matter how much you're fighting with bad phones and bad telexes, you think, Hey!, someone's PAYING me to do this! It's like the miracle of being PAID to play center field for the Dodgers."

And, after two years covering Southeast Asia out of Bangkok, some light has been shed on how to handle a regional assignment — where to go, when, and what to take.

Each newspaper, magazine and broadcast company has different news priorities, and I can address only those of the Los Angeles Times. But, for the sake of sanity, all regional reporters should embrace a couple of laws of physics: you cannot be two places at one time, and you probably cannot match the resources of the wire services.

That said, it's a question of where you and your editors want you to be. At the Times, the option is generally left to the correspondent, guided only by a sometimes impossible proviso: "If a Page One Story breaks in your area, a Times byline should be on it."

Simple enough: Stay tuned to the news. If it's big, you go, with or without word from L.A., which sleeps while Bangkok wakes. You make the judgment whether it's Page One big, or potentially so, and whether it will still be big by the time you get there.

A Manila mutiny, for instance, is big by the Times' priorities. So was the Korean bombing in Rangoon, but who could get there?

This formula eliminates those anxious hours waiting for the green light, though it might send a tight-fisted editor through the roof.

While it threatens to make a "fire-horse" of the correspondent, the system hasn't worked that way in practice here in Bangkok. Unhappily, Southeast Asian news — the Philippines excepted — remains of second-rank interest in the American press, even on the Times foreign desk where the top bosses are



a former Saigon bureau chief, an ex-Peking bureau chief and the son of a Hong Kong high court justice.

Rather than sit in Bangkok awaiting the fire bell, it's best to follow a set agenda. For instance, if there are Malaysian elections in August, tie them in with some Singapore features since you're in the area. Going to Perth for a warmup on the America's Cup races? How about an Indonesian stop on the way? Mix up the hard stuff with features.

Plan trips and interviews three or four months ahead, then stand by for interruptions. Be prepared! Here's the Boy Scouts' marching song:

- Sleep around with your Sony. Not only will the BBC improve your English, but the A.M. dial, in February '86, provided Manila "parachutists" a guide to action. Radio Veritas, the Catholic channel, was whistling up People Power in behalf of the mutineers, and calling the location of all the Marcos tanks.

- Travel with your ABC airline timetable. Weekends and nights, you can put a flight together faster than a travel agent. You too will learn that Pakistan International and Egyptair schedule overnight "red-eye" flights to Manila, and join your friends on the 2 a.m. Horus (Why Us? flight) class.

- Every scout should have a pencil box, or something that passes for one. Mine contains paper clips, extra pens, tape, scissors, a six-inch ruler, magnifying glass, a letter from the foreign editor presenting my bona fides, blank Times stationery from L.A. on which to forge the editor's signature under any other needed information, and a selection of mugshots, big and little, for

various credentials. That lovely lady at the Cambodian consulate in Saigon once asked me for a photo on a visa application. Alas, I had none, and Fotofast had yet to come to Vietnam.

- A passport at hand, all set with tax clearance and reentries, and visas where required or available. "At hand" means just that. When the Jonestown Massacre broke a few years back, the Times knew just the man to send — a good writer with foreign experience. Unfortunately, the call came on a weekend and he had put his passport in his bank safe deposit box.

Except for Indochina, most Southeast Asian countries are a walk-in on an American passport, as a tourist at least. Australia's one exception. Not only do the Aussies require a visa, they spray you with "bug spray" when you land.

- A stash of cash. If the story breaks on a weekend, or the last plane's about to board, a bank stop is out. Stow a couple of hundred greenbacks in the house, and don't tell the wife. And bring back some small foreign bills from your trips; they'll cover the cab fare out and save you a stop at the airport money exchange.

But don't leave the foreign stuff lying around for long, or you'll need a museum drawer like the L.A. Times bureau. It's lined with Sihanouk riels, and filled with bricks of pre-'85 dong.

DB

■ continued from page 5

and seek interpretation of the news. There is a good sign in this regard as certain publishers have already started to send their sports reporters to cover

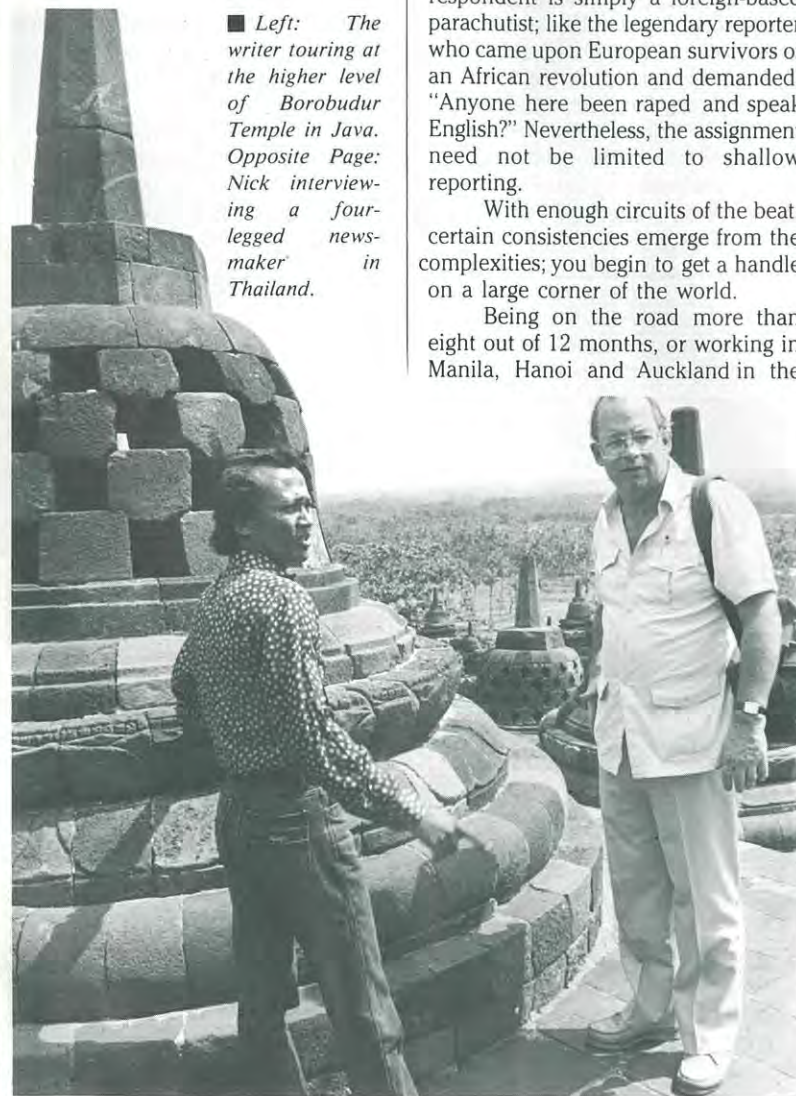
international sports tournaments overseas. Hopefully this practice will be extended to include other topics in the near future.

In this respect there should be an official Thai Press association with which the foreign correspondents association can communicate. Thai journalists will be able to pick up a lot of expertise and experience from these contacts from which the foreign correspondents can also mutually benefit in developing sources of local news. A prerequisite for this is that the Thai journalists must have the lingual ability to communicate with the foreign correspondents. Many Thai reporters still lack this ability and as a result the question of cooperation is a matter very much up in the air.

However, associations representing various sections of the Thai Press such as reporters and photographers do exist but their objectives seem vague and there is no policy to upgrade professionalism among journalists. They have been founded mainly to raise funds for welfare of members and personal needs. Very little effort has been made to form a single united association or at least a federation as a compromise. This is sad. However, it is not a lost cause. With more and more university students graduating from journalism courses, we hope to have this official association for the Thai Press established so journalists can have protection as well as welfare. Such an association may well be within sight and can become a reality. It is up to this new generation to make the crucial decision.

As the Thai Press has already enjoyed much more freedom in their reporting and expressing their views in their publications than their colleagues in our neighboring countries, they should try to use the freedom properly and professionally to the maximum limits in order to help improve the cultural, economical, political and social status of Thai society. Since the contents and views of newspapers reflect the true conditions of the country and the realities faced by the nation, the new generation of journalists has the immense responsibility of raising the standards of the Thai Press to the highest possible professional levels. For this they need the encouragement and support of every one concerned — the officials, foreign professional colleagues, discerning readers and a civic-minded community.

DB



■ Left: The writer touring at the higher level of Borobudur Temple in Java. Opposite Page: Nick interviewing a four-legged news-maker in Thailand.



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Fred R. Edick
General Manager

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Swedish Night A Night to Remember!



■ Top: Angel? Human? Sorry! Words just fail me! Those of you who saw her know what I mean. Those who didn't, we sympathize with you. Don't miss those Program Nights!

■ Bottom left: Some guys have all the luck — Not only did Rick Fredrickson win the return-trip to Stockholm but a kiss from Miss Sweden as well! Ticket being presented by Jyrki Lehthovaara.

■ Bottom right: "The buffet's only HOW much tonight?" asks Swedish Ambassador H.E. Olov Teronstrom. "I've never seen this guy before in my life!" claims his wife Myrtle.

PHOTOS BY RICHARD ROTHMAN

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