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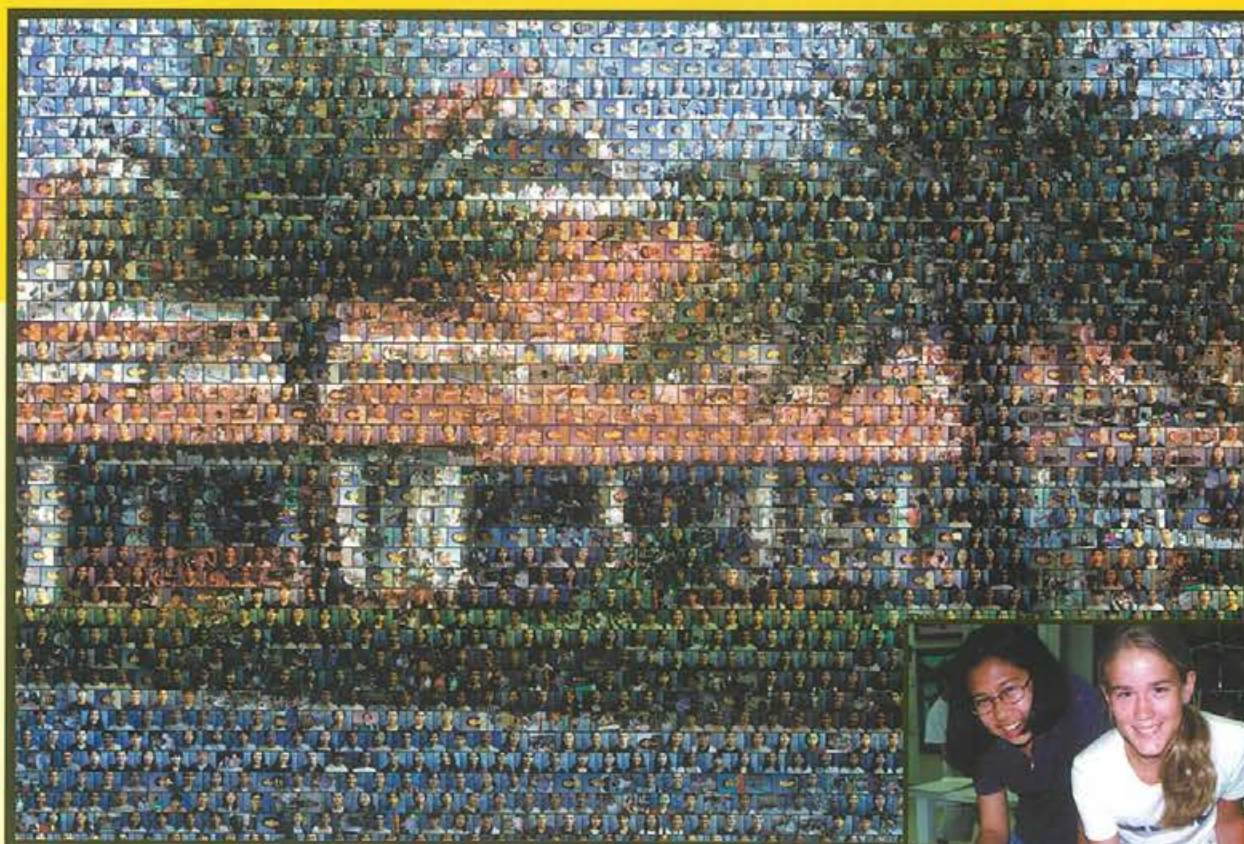
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# Contents

THIRD QUARTER 2000

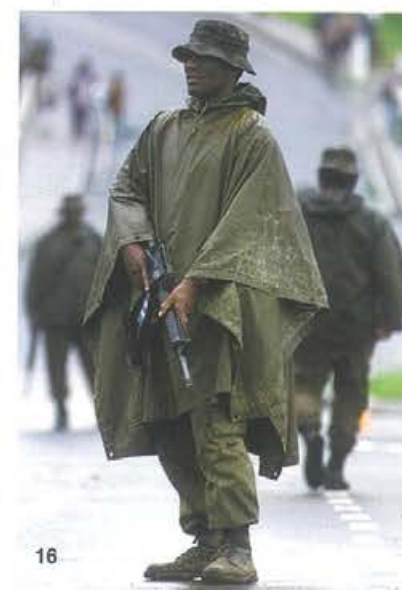
## COLUMNS

8 The new president speaks, Ideas... Ideas... Ideas... FCCT needs them and "That Jazz really cooks".

10 THE BUSINESS  
Cloudy Crystal Balls, This Business of Journalism, New Technology and the News and A Dangerous Affair

26 NEWS QUIZ  
Find out if you are a Foreign Correspondent.

## FEATURES



16

22 CHASING EDEN IN SAMOA  
where Robert Louis Stevenson was laid to rest

24, 26 PORFOLIO  
*A Melting of Tradition & Contemporary Reality*, at the FCCT in October  
*Hearts of Gold*, at the FCCT in December

28 TOOLBOX: A Journalist's best friend

## Join Us

You don't have to be foreign and you don't need to be a correspondent to become a member of the Foreign Correspondents Club of Thailand. Membership has its privileges: The club frequently hosts news breaking panel discussions with the leaders of government, private sector and non-governmental organizations. Each month the club exhibits work from a different photographer and every Friday there is live jazz music at the bar. Each member also gets a subscription to this magazine for absolutely free. So why aren't you a member? Don't forget that the Foreign Correspondents Club of Thailand is one of Bangkok's most prestigious addresses for press conferences, social gatherings and product launches. The club is outfitted with all the latest techno-gizmos, from wireless microphones to remote control television cameras, and can provide all types of catering, from light snacks to full meals. Impress your guests with the well known hospitality of the Foreign Correspondents Club.

## Got a tale to tell?

This is your club's magazine and we welcome letters to the editor, articles, photographs, drawings, poetry or just about anything to help us fill up each issue. Submissions should address journalism or the story behind getting the story. All ideas considered, but please contact Thomas Crampton before doing too much work. Submissions are paid for with glory and bar coupons.



8

## COVER STORY: BEHIND THE SCENES

12 The trials and tribulations of making a documentary on East Timor.

16 Coping with Coup-Coup Land  
Geoff Thomson comes face to face with George Speight

18 BACK FROM SRI LANKA  
FCCT president describes a journey with the club to Sri Lanka

20 PRINT IN JAFFNA  
Putting the pages together in war torn land

*Fijian soldiers guard the road leading to the rebel camp the morning the military raided it.*  
Photo: Darren Whiteside, Reuters



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Dear Members and Friends,

It is never easy to return to full active duty, especially at a time when most of our Members, like salmon up the rivers of this world, move to regenerate their cells back to their countries and roots for the summer holidays...

But for those who stayed with us, the Club has come out with some lively programmes, Bastille Day, a packed Aviation Night thanks to Ken Scott, Laos night organized by Beatrice a volunteer Board worker..., the Barry sisters World Premiere of their documentary "Viva Timorlorose" and the input to our Friday jazz-buffs events, of a very generous band : the Mi3 who are now planning to change their name for intelligence reasons... So generous that they decided to slosh their audience with a case of bottled scotch and consequently run a name-dropping contest...

The Sri Lanka trip, although with only 19 Members, turned out to be a huge success, especially for Correspondent Members who were treated, thanks to the input of Sri Lanka's Ambassador, H.E. Karunatilaka Amunugama, to a meeting with the Foreign Minister, the new Head of the Sri Lanka forces and a visit to Jaffna where no journalist had laid pen or lenses for a long time. This trip once again proved to critics of our traveling events that wherever the F.C.C.T. is on the move, stories come out in the international medias.

So to keep the Club afloat and lively, three travel events will take place during the months to come... A River cruise September 23 with buffet, dance, lucky draw and a special message from the Prez... as it will be an occasion to welcome and fraternize with all the new Members of the F.C.C.T. A trip to Siem Reap, thanks to the generosity of Khun Supachai who became a life Member after joining the Cambodian Express to Kampot last February, and the sequel to that trip, on December 1st, this time to Sihanoukville with the wings of Thai Air-



ways International for the flight to Phnom-Penh.

For the rest, open your eyes to the weekly Bulletins as Jeanne Hallacy is concocting new programmes and exhibitions...

So "Stay with us !" as they tell you on the tube...

Philippe Decaux

President, the Foreign Correspondent Club of Thailand

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## A NEW LANDMARK RISING

The Landmark Hotel is undergoing changes which should propel it into the top league of the city's business and leisure properties.

The hotel is spending 350 million baht on refurbishment. It has already upgraded 75 rooms on its top three floors, which have been designated the "Landmark Club".

The rooms have been decorated using Thai motifs such as silks from Jim Thompson's. The bathrooms are large with separate marble-decorated showers and baths. For the business traveller each Club room, suite and deluxe room now offers direct Internet access via the high-speed MagiNet system which uses the in-room television as a display for browsing the Internet and e-mails.

According to the management, the MagiNet system means no more busy sig-

nals, failed connections and getting disconnected.

The Landmark Club is effectively a hotel-within-a-hotel. It is an exclusive area with Club guests entitled to individual check-in and check-out, personal butler service, breakfast in the Landmark Club Lounge with snacks all day and access to an evening cocktail bar.

Club guests can also use the fully-equipped 24-hour business centre.

The Landmark is now upgrading the rest of its 350 rooms, health club, and lobby. The lobby will be rebuilt with multiple smaller check-in counters which have been designed to increase face-to-face contact with the customer and reduce feelings of a "barrier" between guests and staff.

The whole lobby will be recast with a lot more natural light. New furnishings will be brighter, "more of a statement," according to

management.

The hotel's current grey granite façade will be replaced by a white limestone one with green and red canopies aimed at giving a Mediterranean café-like ambience.

When the two-year refurbishment is complete the Landmark will also have a new meeting facility in the hotel's plaza area. The management wish to emphasise that the hotel is open for business as usual during refurbishment and that all upgrade work is being arranged so as to minimise impact on guests' comfort levels.

The Landmark Hotel is located  
two skytrain stops away from the FCCT  
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Photos: Thomas Crampton

## The Club is Your Concern

On 15<sup>th</sup> of September, the FCCT held a meeting of journalists to discuss the financial crisis facing the Club. The club is in financial distress. If we can't increase memberships and organize more programmes, we have to either move, or close the club down.

At the end of July, the Club was 440 thousand baht in the red. We have 1.6 million baht in the bank. It costs 350-thousand baht a month to run the club. We have a revenue deficit of about 70-thousand baht per month for this year. The Club is able to only survive another 20 months at the current rate before it goes bankrupt. The Club can't cut much in terms of expenses but is trying to re-negotiate the rent.

The Club needs ideas... ideas on how to increase membership, and programme ideas. Here are several suggestions from journalists who attended the meeting. If you have ideas, let us know.

### Suggestions:

#### On Membership:

- Membership drive which might include members recruiting new members, direct mail, membership task force, and to resurrect a membership committee
- More homework needs to be done on the membership profile – we need a detailed understanding as to what has changed over the years, and why people aren't joining
- Get list of foreign correspondents from the Foreign Ministry and solicit those who haven't joined
- Pressure bureau chiefs to pay for memberships for their staff and encourage staff to join and participate

#### On Programmes:

- Get guarantees from news organizations/ agencies to organize a programme or two, throughout the year
- Friday night informal brain-storming sessions on what would make good programmes
- Fix an extra day during the week for programmes
- Permanent seminars for associate members once every two weeks
- Literary evenings at the Club
- Encourage members to use the club for private functions – seminars and dinner parties, press conference

#### Others:

- Spend money to hire someone part-time to apply for foundation grants to keep the Club afloat
- Organise an emergency fund-raising to get corporate, news agencies and multinational companies to make donations, to take the immediate pressure off the Club
- De-monetize the chits with a notice of 2 to 3 months, get a cash register, and accept more credit cards
- The dining area needs to be made more friendly; the lighting is hostile, maybe cubicles to make it more intimate
- Internet centre for journalists – there are no facilities for visiting journalists to use
- Need to expand the menu
- Investigate the idea of a commercial organization (restaurant/ bar) linked to the Club

### Fire! Fire!

A fire broke out in a Chinese restaurant on the ground floor of Maneeya Center. The fire was put out in 45 minutes and the only casualties were charred Peking ducks.

## That Jazz Really Cooks!

The amps humming and the set list promising, we were about jump into our first number on our Friday night Jazz gig at the FCCT - Bangkok. That JUMP was reduced to a questionable stumble when our drummer's mobile phone rang out with a voice at the other end saying,

"Hey guys, the place is on fire!"

"What do you mean? We haven't even started our first set!"

"No, the building you're in is really burning!"

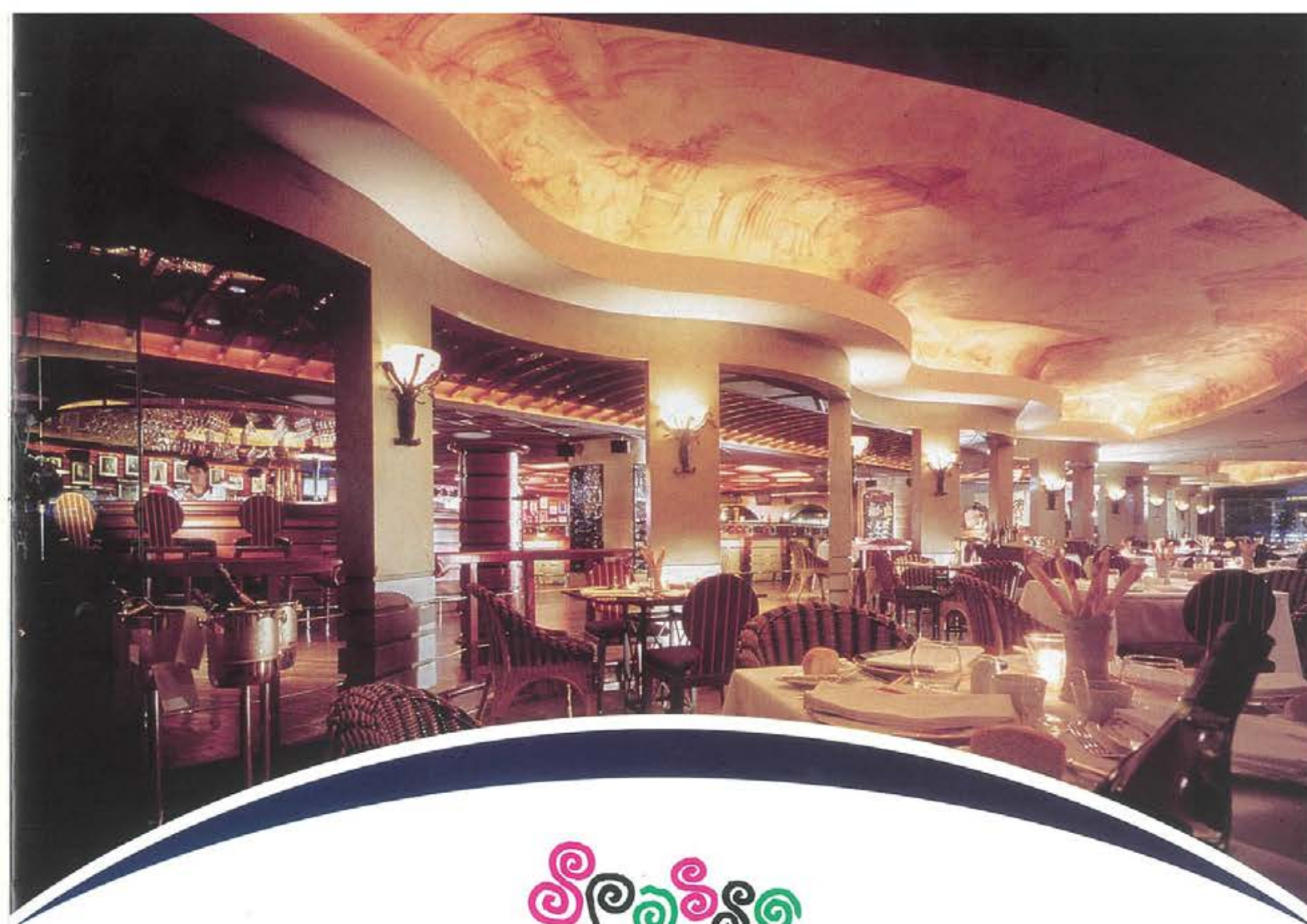
To me buildings are buildings, but architectural praise of this magnitude at this hour lead me to suspect that perhaps something was awry. Once we had finally peered out the window and confirmed that yes, there was a disturbing amount of smoke billowing from the structure that we were standing in, we decided to postpone our set, part from our gear and exit - (stage left!).

I believe that the reason that we weren't alerted to the situation a little earlier was due to the fact that the building's emergency procedures had successfully kicked in. I think that it went something like this:

1. In case of fire, cut off all phones so that neither the fire brigade nor any other living soul in the building can be notified.
2. In case of fire, security staff will evacuate as many people as will fit into whatever elevators are still operational. As a last resort, exert a moderate amount of energy and use the fire escape.
3. Kill the electricity to assist the people that you have just escorted into the elevator.
4. Lock the doors to help those who haven't yet been told that there's a fire in the building as a result of procedure number one.
5. If the people in the restaurant on the second floor are enjoying their shark's fin soup, DO NOT, I repeat – DO NOT disturb them.

Credit must be given to the team. They followed the security procedures to the letter. As the hours passed, so did the smoke, along with a flatilla of the fire brigades fire fighting motor cycles and even a fire engine for good measure!

No casualties, except for the enthusiasm of three jazz muzos and the partially masticated meals of their dilligent listeners. – *Stuart Raj, keyboard player of Mi3*



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## New Technology and the News

When the big story breaks, are you prepared to tap on-line resources to get the background needed? When covering an on-going story, how do you see what others are saying, to find new angles and perspectives?

When doing investigations, how do you find new and fresh ideas, covering the uncovered?

When bringing voice to the story, how do you locate people with expertise and people with experience?

If the resources of the world wide web are not part of the answer to those questions it borders on journalistic malpractice, says Nora Paul of the Florida-based Poynter Media Centre Leadership and Management Faculty.

The Internet is where stories are breaking, where background is provided, where experts are located. New technologies, new resources, new products — and a new customer base — are changing many aspects of journalists' work. Keeping an eye on and preparing for the new while building on the well-honed traditions of journalistic practice are the challenges for newsroom leaders, says Paul.

Paul conducts training workshops for media managers on new media issues at the Poynter Centre. She recently reported on her workshops on the media centre's home page ([www.poynter.org](http://www.poynter.org)).

During her workshops, Paul asks media managers questions such as: Do your journalists know how to create multimedia, interactive, non-linear news packages? What skill sets will be required to think in a 3D information space?

What kind of reporters/researchers will you need to create the elements of the multiple media/interactive news product? What will the positions in the multiple media newsroom be?

She writes that mono-media is dead. "The creative product of your newsroom is going to multiple platforms. The packaging of the news product has to be multipurpose — for broadcast, the web, the cell phone, the PDA, the bathroom mirror," Paul says.

When looking at these new technologies Paul says media managers are caught between meeting budgets and stymieing creativity and enthusiasm for new ideas. She also notes the audience is changing.

"The 'Us to Them' model is dying. News consumers expect to have control on many aspects of the newscast: when they watch it, from what angle, the depth of the coverage, the type of news they want to see. Time-shifting, multi-casting, camera vantage point selection — all will provide the viewer with more power over the product," she says.

Most frightening: "News consumers have new means of communicating with you about the news, and expect a response."

"The primary mission (of a news organisation), being a credible and reliable source of news and information, has not changed," Paul writes, "but it does need to be augmented to satisfy the expectations of the new news customer."

## This Business of Journalism

I started working in newspapers back in the Paleolithic era, when pots of melted lead still bubbled in the back shop and carbon-paper-stained hands fed paper through manual typewriters. This was so long ago that we smoked in newsrooms then — yes, smoked cigarettes right there inside the office.

Among the many things we learned in those ancient days was a rough set of ethical standards about journalism — nothing fancy, just a few principles to help sort through the challenges and dilemmas that are naturally part of what we call "news judgment."

These weren't subtle, legalistic points. You couldn't get a Pew Center grant to study them, and I'm not aware of any university symposium devoted to the fine points. In the main, we stuck to the basics, things such as "Don't let the news source dictate what you write," and "Keep the entertainment separate from the news."

To be fair, there never was any "golden age of ethics"; even these simple standards were violated with some regularity in many places, but at least we all expressed belief in them and had the good grace to be embarrassed when they were broken. If those of us learning the craft out on the journalistic frontiers had questions about propriety, we could look for guidance toward journalistic icons such as *The New York Times*, or even *CBS News*.

What a long way we've come since then. Debate over journalistic ethics and practices these days has reached Talmudic proportions, evolving into an intricate set of prohibitions and mandates that seems to differ from region to region and even between industries. Newspaper editors in the East Coast power alley are making decisions that look to me like simple deals with the devil, and as for television — well, more on that in a moment.

The most outrageous example I've encountered in some time surfaced in late May, when it became known that the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal* and *Washington Post* had all promised United Airlines that in exchange for advance info on a pending deal with USAir, they wouldn't call any of the company's critics (or anybody else) in reporting the next day's story.

Let me say that again: Newspaper editors made a deal where they specifically agreed to give their readers a one-sided, distorted story.

Why would they do that? "We hate those kinds of arrangements," the Journal's managing editor told the *Washington Post* afterward. But "if the news is big enough, we'd rather give it to our readers with whatever caveats are appropriate."

So too the *New York Times*. "You do feel constrained in not being able to call

other people, important people, because you can't give it (the news event) away," the paper's business editor said. "But it's better than finding out at 7 at night or midnight and having to scramble."

Excuse me, but it's not better at all. In agreeing not to call anybody about the pending deal, the papers gave up the chance to gather comments from knowledgeable analysts, from critics, from regulators. It guaranteed that while they would have a story some competitors "scrambled" to match, it would of necessity be a story shaped far more by the source than anybody else.

Nobody in the news business likes to get beaten on a breaking story. But trading the best interests of readers for an exclusive headline in tomorrow's paper seems like a poor way to avoid it.

The pressure to win connects the editors' decisions on the United story with another disturbing example of deteriorating news standards: The way in which CBS News — once the class act of television journalism — has gotten into bed with the entertainment division. Though the mixing of news and entertainment has slopped over throughout the network, it's most apparent in the extraordinary puffery the program "Survivor" has been getting on the CBS News "Early Show."

Regular reporting on the popular "Survivor" program sometimes occupies 15 minutes or more on the morning news show — perhaps pumping up "Survivor's" fortunes but more dramatically increasing viewership of the news program. "Yeah, we've had a big boost, especially in younger people," the news show's senior executive producer said. "We owe a lot to 'Survivor.'"

Interviewer Howard Kurtz then asked him, "So is what we used to think of as the line between news and entertainment just kaput, blown up, nuked off the face of the Earth?"

The reply: "That line was over a long, long time ago. ... Now, you can lament and say it's terrible. You can say it's over, the civilization is over. You know what? To compete, you've got to compete. And we are in this to win. And we will use this show to help us win."

Give the man points for honesty — but none for standards or good judgment. And in the meantime, do yourself a favor. Instead of watching the next episode of "CBS News" devoted to "Survivor" — and it's been on "48 Hours" and CBS radio as well — just go out and rent the movie "Network."

Paddy Chayefsky's dark vision, which once seemed too outrageous to be real, now sometimes looks like a road map to media ruin. — Howard Weaver, *Sacramento Bee*, July 18, 2000

## A Dangerous Affair

Iran's social security organisation has added journalism to its list of hazardous occupations, reflecting the persistent risk of imprisonment, fines or professional bans.

The head of social security was quoted in the daily *Resalat* newspaper as saying the bureau had included journalists among workers eligible for early retirement under a proposed new law.

Final approval is required from the High Labour Council. Under Iran's labour law, inclusion on the list would also guarantee journalists a shorter working week and more overtime pay. Others on the list include miners and oil-rig workers. Many journalists have been jailed or are facing trial by hardline press courts since a crackdown began in April against Iran's independent newspapers. Hundreds more have lost their jobs as the result of mass closures of pro-reform media.

— Reuters

## Cloudy Crystal Balls

Cleaning out a dusty filing cabinet in an office at the University of Florida College Journalism and Communications, Professor David Carlson found a folder with the contents of an undergraduate course called "Survey of Videotex and New Communication Technology" taught at the university in the fall of 1983.

Carlson, who spent 20 years in newspapers before joining the university, writes about his discovery in the recent issue of *American Journalism Review* ([www.ajr.org](http://www.ajr.org)).

In the early 1980s, industry giants in the United States were working to create what were called "videotex" systems, basically interactive services that used modems and set-top boxes to display news and information on TV sets. Knight Ridder was building and testing Viewtron in Miami, and Times Mirror was doing the same with Gateway in Los Angeles.

Newspapers, magazines, trade journals, authors and even college professors gushed about how the new videotex systems would change the world. Nearly everyone believed the television would be the display device of the future.

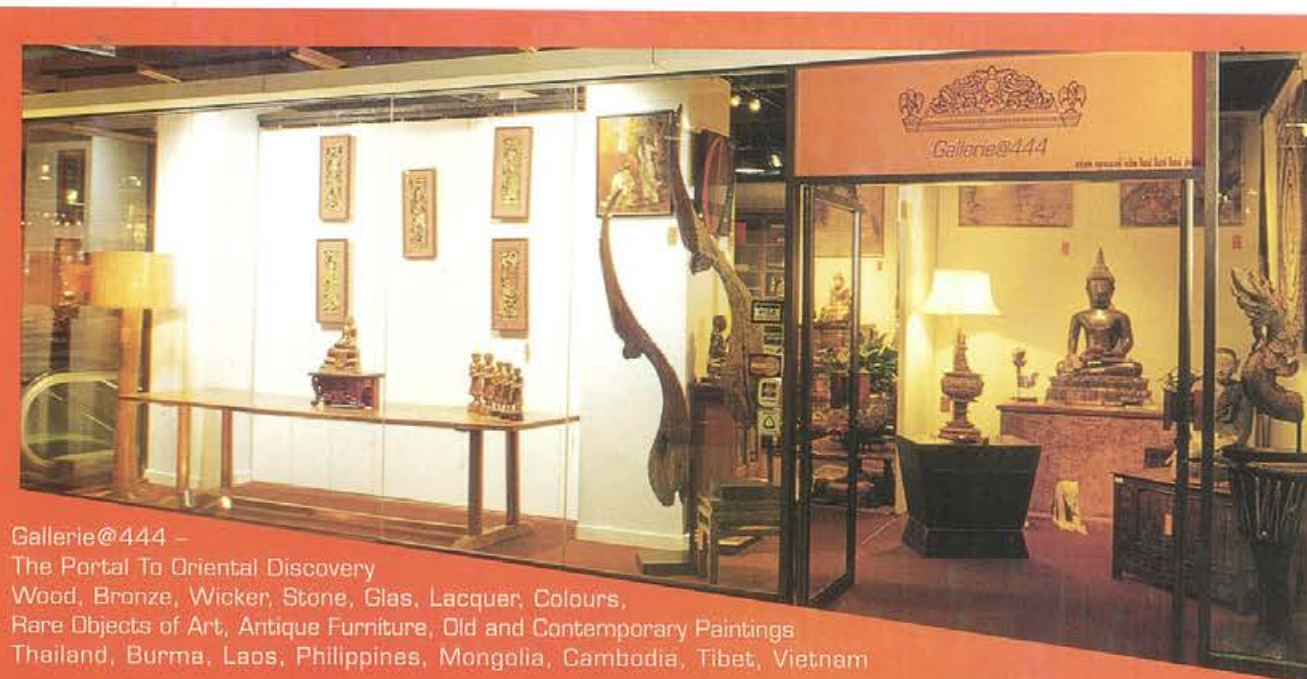
Students in that University of Florida course in 1983 were required to write research papers predicting what online systems would offer in 2000.

According to Carlson, not one paper mentions the Internet, which had been around since the late 1960s as a research network, or envisions anything like the world wide web, which was invented in 1990. Very few mention e-mail or other forms of electronic messaging, which already were being offered by videotex systems. The students expected videotex systems to be closed, proprietary services, more like America Online than the Internet.

Newspapers, some student and professional authors guessed, would cease to be published on paper sometime in the 1990s. Banking, bill-paying and even control of an average home's heat and lights would be done via the videotex systems. Alarm systems and the elderly and infirm would be monitored by computer as well. Cost and loss of privacy were considered problems. Shopping was a major theme.

As it turned out, videotex failed miserably and all but died out by 1987. It wasn't until 1993, when Mosaic, the first graphical web browser, was introduced that the online world really began to take off.

As American baseball coaching legend Yogi Berra once said, "It's tough to make predictions, especially about the future."



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# Viva Timor Lorosae



Interviewing Xanana Gusmao in East Timor

*SOPHIE BARRY arrived in Thailand in 1989. She lived with the Burmese students on the border for over a year and completed a documentary with Lyndal, "Barefoot Student Army", which was sold to ABC Australia. She then lived in Chiang Mai with Lyndal, who set up IMAGES ASIA, and completed other shorter video documentaries about Burma. In 1996, Sophie moved to Cambodia to work with Indochine Productions as a camerawoman. In 1999, she freelanced in East Timor and now she is based in Bangkok.*

He told me not to tell anyone, not my family and not my friends! O.K., I thought, this will be a strange, but a serious trip. Leaving my job in Cambodia (shooting for a production house) I set off to the mountains of East Timor to meet Philip Blenkinsop. Philip was to be the photographer, and I will be the videographer. I had no idea the journey would be quite as difficult as it was.

In Dili, we hid for 9 long days in Pedro's guesthouse, Villa Harmonia. We were bedroom-bound, except for the visits to the bathroom. Pedro's family brought in meals that we ate by candlelight, and he also helped us amuse ourselves during the long days.

These simple tasks in no way belittled the basic fact that Pedro was putting his life on the line, again. All his life Pedro has protected journalists from the Indonesian Intelligence, and helped the outside world to meet the pro-independence Falintil jungle fighters.

Finally, our car arrived, and dropped us off at a village, hours before the pre-arranged rendezvous with the Falintil soldiers. Long after nightfall, troops slowly appeared one by one. Camouflaged, heavily armed, in full combat gear, sporting big guns & huge hair! We were now under the wing of a band of guerillas we could not communicate with, who looked like the wild men of Borneo, leading us back into the dark jungle.

During the month that followed, living closely with them, we got to know and trust them very quickly as great people, tough & disciplined, that was my impression anyway.

Not wanting to starve, I survived by switching from a vegetarian to an avid meat eater. Living off such delights as monkey mince and fresh BBQ'd birds while

Philip went for the deer foetus boiled in bamboo.

A persistent toe infection sustained from perpetual marching over slippery mountains and through white water, was treated with the blood of a boa constrictor snake dabbed on the wound – this treatment proved fruitless. I begged for penicillin, feeling a bit stupid as many around me were carrying bullet-wounds. During this time, Commander Taur Matan Ruak quickly became my friend, doctor and translator.

We were constantly on the move. The longest we would stay in any one camp, would be a maximum of three days. This nomadic way of living was the surest way to avoid being tracked down and destroyed by the Indonesian military.

Shooting, and getting the footage out of East Timor was the fundamental objective of our mission. After three weeks of living, marching, hunting & understanding the Falintil, we had enough footage, now it was time to leave the relative safety of our roaming guerilla unit, and run the gauntlet down through the lowland, and into Dili.

We sat on a river bank in total darkness, waiting for our car to flash its headlights twice, at which point we would wade over and drive back into Dili.

The car appeared at last, but just drove on by, along with our escape plan. What we didn't know was that the driver was wary of an Indonesian checkpoint nearby. So we walked for hours, following the flow of the river, scrambling down paths in fits of silent giggles, while knowing full well that what we had done & seen must not be lost.

We passed more Indonesian checkpoints. The first normal sign of life was a small village. They knew we were coming, a car was organised, well, a disco-bus. A petrifying twisting trip down the ocean road took us quickly into Dili.

Having arrived in Dili, the footage was burning a hole in our bags. It was here where the footage was most at risk to being seized.

Enter the Catholic church. A Timorese priest was our St.Christopher, who drove us out over the border to Kupang in West Timor. Here we flew back to Thailand, via Bali. That was in 1998.

A year later, my sister Lyndal and I were sitting in our small production office, SHOOT, in Phnom Penh. We were trying to work out how to raise funds to return to Timor, it was just when the events in East Timor were starting to heat up ahead of the August independence vote. We wanted to cover the story from the point of view of Falintil, the guerilla army that many people didn't know had been waging an armed resistance to the Indonesian occupation for 24 years.

We knew it would not go ahead without violence, what we did not know was how organized the pro-autonomy militias really were. We sat at the computer writing endless proposals, desperate to cover the situation as it unfolded. Nothing came back. No funds to

get us down there.

There were two options: stay in Cambodia and get frustrated and angry that we didn't cover this historic moment, or take the risk and borrow what we could, and just try to get there by any means necessary.

We went for it, borrowed some cash, bought some digital video tapes, printed out our essential contact list, and got on the plane. We made it to Bali, and realized we were stuck there. All the planes to Dili were full of election observers and monitors. As violence was beginning to increase in Dili, from a friend of Lyndal's, we found out two from the Philippines cancelled their seats on the very next flight. Enter Miss Philomena and Miss Constantina, under our new names, we boarded a flight to Dili.

On arrival in Dili we left our bags with the election observers, and headed directly to the pro-autonomy rally to video Eurico Guterres and his militia gang AITARAK. The rally seemed to be relatively calm as Eurico danced away to Good Golly Miss Molly, ended with him and his gang leaving on motorbikes to cruise around the city.

We walked into town to check in with the media/journalists protection office. We heard gunfire and knew trouble had begun. As we approached the office, guys in AITARAK t-shirts were everywhere.

One militia charged towards Lyndal, levelling a hand-made gun at her head whilst pushing her away. I stood outside the office videoing these guys with their bizarre weapons, while they chatted to Indonesian soldiers. Soon we took ourselves back into the building.

Not quite sure how far we could push it with these guys, before they turn really nasty.

The days that followed were full of smoke & gunfire. Fraught tension was whipped up by funerals of militiamen. The pro-independence people could not hold public funerals, fearing more violent vengeance from the militia. This meant we could cover mostly the well publicised pro-autonomy funerals. However, thanks to our video and a freelance status, Lyndal and I had total freedom of movement, while many other journalists had to return to file their stories for the day.

Daily we went to Becorra, the suburb where the pro-independence support gathered, armed with big machetes and bows and arrows, making what they could to counter militia violence.

We visited the Motael clinic daily, checking on where the wounded were being brought in from, and what kind of gunshot wounds they received, thus allowing us to try and determine what kind of weapons were being used against them. This gave us a better idea of who was in control of which regions, and therefore what was probably happening in these areas.

Lyndal & I managed to shoot and sell footage that other journalists could not cover. We made it to St Joseph's seminary on the day the vote was to be announced. Here, we shot moving images of the refugee's joy and sadness while hiding, and saw what they were going through.

Lyndal was constantly on the walkie-talkie to the Reuters crew, describing the situation on the ground, as I kept the camera rolling. This footage we swapped





for other footage that we had missed the day before. Even though we had to sell footage for money to survive, we knew it would be better to also collect footage from others. Allowing us to piece together the stories that could not be covered with just one camera, in one day.

As sisters, we made a great team. We read each other's thoughts and movements so well, allowing us to anticipate each other's action. If I were shooting, Lyndal would be producing; if we were both shooting, one would make sure cutaways or close-ups were shot while the other shot the wide-shots. We fought like cat & dog, as sisters do, but it never came between our work.

Once the plan of an evacuation by air became apparent, we thought even if we got a seat, we couldn't pay for it. But the Reuters team in Dili ensured us seats on the plane that evacuated most of the journalists out of Dili. It was left in the balance whether we should have left Dili, or go to the UN compound with the other foreigners who stayed on. We decided to leave.

Back in Jakarta, broke, tired and emotional, we knew we had to get back in to cover the violent destruction we knew was happening in East Timor. We also wanted to see the jungle fighters we covered in 1998, and record their plight, and their reaction, to the brutal chaos.

After two weeks we returned to Dili, to the unfor-

gettable smell of death. While catching a ride from the airport to the "Nunnery" (Ippy Christian center), where we would spend the next few months, we were stopped by Timorese. They almost dragged us around the back of the Carrascalos house, signaling to us to video a well full of maggot-ridden bodies. This was a sign of the days to come. It would be a body hunt. You could smell death everywhere.

We walked along the oceanfront where many Timorese had built temporary shelters; I heard someone call my name. It was Pedro's children. They were hungry, needed to wash and desperate to find all their family members. We took them back to the nunnery, where a journalist lent them a satellite phone, and they called a church in West Timor to try and find

them. They found their father. The look on their faces when they spoke to him was unbelievable. They knew they would be together again soon.

We stayed on for another three months filming interviews, and testimonies from East Timorese who had survived the fighting. We spent more time with the Falintil leaders, who were angry with the fact that they were ordered by Xanana Gusmau, their Supreme Commander, to remain in their cantonments and not come down to the cities to defend their people in their hour of need. After fighting for 24 years against the Indonesian occupation, well armed, eager to defend their people, were then ordered not to. This test of faith broke

"... but even if it is an expensive shelf piece... then so be it! It was worth the effort and I would do it again."



their hearts. Most adhered to the order, and they won their independence, but at what cost?

I went back to Jakarta for some temporary work with AsiaWorks Television, Jakarta, while Lyndal remained in Timor for another three months. By staying on, Lyndal was able to get some of the most important interviews. Particularly with a former pro-Indonesian leader who admitted to handing over the secret documents that acknowledged Indonesia's supervision of the violence, from the Indonesians to Falintil hands, long before the vote took place.

Joao Da Silva, who was singled out and accused of killing an Aitarak militia member (videod by Channel 7 Australia), was ordered by Xanana Gusmau to hand himself over to the Indonesians, to ensure a peaceful vote. He followed orders, just as Falintil did, even though he doubted he would come out of jail alive. Fortunately a "friend" told him when it was a good time to escape, and he ran for the mountains. Lyndal found him and recorded his story.

Now began the most difficult stage of the documentary process. Days of footage, needing hours & hours of logging, plus reams of different translations, all with no money. We called in Jude Smith, a friend and a great scriptwriter. She helped us straighten out the tangled stories we had collected. Heather of AsiaWorks Television, gave us the basement to her house to screen the footage and edit together one hour of the best pictures we had. Out of this hour, Doug Earl put together a 10-minute promotional piece on his media 100 suite. This piece was made to try and hook in possible funders that could cover post-production costs, enabling us to finally finish the piece that

we had put so much into.

We waited and waited. The replies were not positive. The stations had seen a lot of the footage before, and were not convinced we were telling an untold story of East Timor. We were still without cash surviving on credit plus any work I could pick up. But determined to get the documentary finished anyway we could. AsiaWorks, again came to the rescue. They ensured ten days of the editing with David Leyland, using a mix of our Beta SP decks and their mixers. A friend, Keith Anderson, provided an emotive original music score, which adds so much to the final piece.

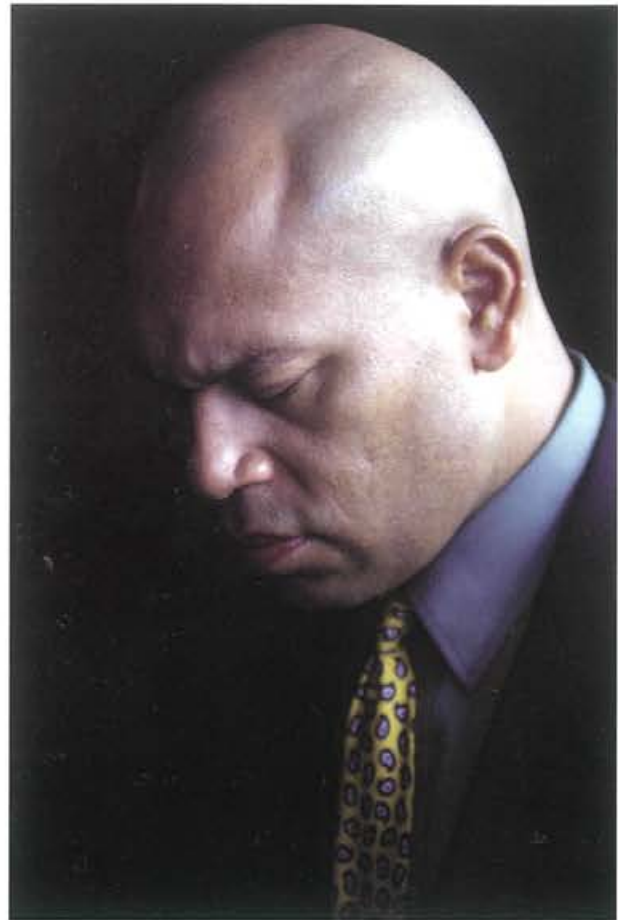
Finally: August 2000. We finished a 55-minute documentary titled: VIVA TIMOR LOROSAE - The untold story of East Timor's struggle for independence. After the mail-out to various distributors and television networks, the next aim was to get back to East Timor. And there we would hold the ultimate screening, for the people who protected us, shared their homes with us, told us their personal stories and let us constantly put our cameras in their faces recording whatever we could.

Yet again we begged and borrowed cash to get down to Dili, where we were reunited with old friends. All the documentary screenings we held were emotional. We're showing it to as many people as we can. The educational distributors in the USA have agreed to take it on. We have not finished paying back what we borrowed to make the documentary, and as yet have no international television sale, but even if it is an expensive shelf piece... then so be it! It was worth the effort and I would do it again.





# Coping with Coup-Coup Land



All photos: Darren Whiteside, Reuters

*Rebel Coup leader listens in as the new President is sworn in in Suva (he actually attended the ceremony) a few days before he was arrested*

Ten o'clock at night and again I find myself waiting in Fiji's Parliamentary compound for one of the coup's salesmen to appear. We were there for an interview with Jo Nata – the coup's one-time spindoctor.

Nata doesn't appear. We wait, flanked by dopey looking henchmen looking as if they'd been recruited from a pyjama party. We wait and we curse.

Then suddenly swaggering out of the dark is George Speight ... suit jacket and tie, pulsating with attitude, shifting from boxer's frown to giggling clown in an instant. Megalomania in motion.

"You went to my village", he says to me before launching into a tirade about how I got it all wrong and was biased and all the media was biased and no-one understood Fiji.

Stern looks over, arms folded, punctuated by finger jabs to the air. "Would you like to talk to the ABC Mr Speight", I asked, knowing the studio in Sydney is in a mild flap wondering whether they will get an interview with anyone at all.

Speight says yes.

We wired him up and the interview proceeds. The ABC's cameraman struggling to follow Speight as he speaks while bouncing around like a professional wrestler about to jump into the ring. Interview ends, and

we do a separate interview for news the next day. Other crews are waiting and they jump in, sun-guns blazing. Speight pulls out his sunglasses and, in the middle of the night, puts them on.

Bizarre. Hostages held at gunpoint. The country's economy in tatters. Thousands unemployed. Constitution destroyed. And here's the coup frontman speaking to the world's media looking like a Blues Brother. To paraphrase a local newspaper's headline on one Fiji day: "Welcome to coup-coup land".

We know that George Speight was not the power behind the coup. But having said that, no one has yet effectively explained who is.

It seems that the coup was motivated by several factors simultaneously; self-interested individuals; disappointed business interests; a quasi-revolt against Fiji's old elitist chiefly system; the Cakobau clan's struggle to regain wider influence in Fiji; and grassroots anger about the use of indigenous Fijian land and resources and the amount of compensation paid.

But where did this bombastic, charismatic mixed-race bald man fit in ... how did his head dominate the news for so long?

Following the release of the hostages, George Speight said he wanted to be referred to not as a rebel or a terrorist but "a crusader for indigenous rights". Around Suva's watering holes, which Speight used to frequent, it's very hard to find anybody who would support Speight's vision of himself.

He was known as a fast-money man, chatty, confident, sometimes friendly sometimes aloof, but never as a crusader for the indigenous cause. But Speight took to the cause with gusto, and argued for it eloquently, forcefully and intelligently.

Scratch the surface and Speight's rhetoric wasn't really backed-up by any real solutions. So Speight may well be a terrorist and a bit loopy and a spiv and a shonk. But it has to be said as far as coup frontmen go, he played the part pretty well.

Speight was "good talent" as they say. A "grabfest" as one cameraman remarked. People noticed him. Kids were fascinated by him. The running Fiji story was one of the most popular stories on the ABC's Behind the News, a kid-customised news show broadcast in schools. So much so that the program actually went on assignment to Fiji and interviewed Speight.

The reason? Not because of the hostages or the intricacies of Fijian traditional life. No. Because Speight was a like a cartoon character, like one of Superman's evil foes, arrogant, combative, clownish, bald and with a deranged glint in the eye. Someone else in Fiji suggested, perhaps unfairly, that Speight's larger than life quality was the reason commercial television news kept its interest in the story as long as it did.

"Have you got Stockholm Syndrome yet?", said the Australian owner of one of Suva's coup-affected garment factories. His question refers to the capacity



of captives to sympathise with the cause of their captors.

I was hardly captive so his reference was not exactly accurate, but I knew what he meant. He was asking whether I empathised with George Speight. No, not with Speight, not at all. But whilst he may have been the used-car salesman of Fiji's indigenous cause, some of the issues he raised were pretty compelling.

The most discussed among Suva's press corp went something like this: "How can the post-colonial west condemn the indigenous use of force in the seizing of power? Is that not how Australia was taken from its Aboriginal occupants?"

Now of course times have changed. We live in a



*Fijian soldiers stand guard inside the gates of parliament after Speights rebels abandoned the building (left), An ethnic Fijian begs outside a burnt out Indian owned shop in Suva (above right)*

modern, increasingly democratic world and its simply not acceptable to overthrow democratically elected governments through the power of a gun. Hmmmm...

A favourite criticism of the international media doing the rounds of Suva goes something like this. "You made Speight, you created him, he lasted so long only because you people pumped him up and gave him credibility". I almost want to agree with this kind of observation.

I feel Speight was given too good a run. But there's a problem. Fiji took Speight seriously, and so the media must too. Fiji's military dismissed its elected government, abrogated its constitution, allowed its President to be replaced. Basically Fiji caved in to all of the demands made by Speight and his crew.

Of course the military said all along that it empathised with Speight's cause but not his methods. I'm surprised to see some media still referring to Fiji's crisis as an attempted coup. Speight and his lieutenants may not have got everything they want and are now on an island, likely to face charges of treason. But their actions toppled Fiji's President, Parliament and democracy. The effect may be a disaster for the people of Fiji. But it sounds like a successful coup to me.



*The legs of Fiji's new government after they were sworn in in Suva*

*GEOFF THOMPSON is the South East Asia Correspondent of Australian Broadcasting Corporation and is based in Bangkok, Thailand.*



# Back From Sri Lanka

Too bad few joined this fantastic trip because those who had second thoughts and therefore missed it have missed a unique opportunity, Tourism and Press mixed for some great moments, and an exclusive visit to Jaffna.

Flying on Sri Lankan Airlines was great and to be greeted by the staff of the Foreign Ministry was a nice touch with flower necklaces. But the mood was darkened when some bureaucrats of the Immigration Department refused to give us the quick-through treatment. He argued that he had not received a request (7

for us Hacks: Lunch with the Tourism Promotion Board, Meeting at the BOI where a group of great minds gave an excellent presentation of the business possibilities of the country, Meeting with the Foreign Minister for an intimate Press Briefing and last but not least, a discussion with Major General Lionel Balagalle who, a few days later became Army Chief of Staff. Thanks to him we were able to go to Jaffna in two groups and were the first correspondents to visit the frontline since April.

Saturday and Sunday were dedicated to "tourism all the way" including the perorations of a failed radio announcer turned guide through the whole bus ride to Kandi and on to Negombo. We enjoyed the Perahera, albeit with much delay. An elephant of the parade ran amok and buckets of rain made the visibility of the scene a little challenging.

For the likes of me who did not want to get wet either cameras or my two Army nurses, Maneel and Renu, who, for script purposes had hopped in the bus, and went to the Regent instead, a brand new hotel in the hills of Kandi turned out to be a very nice haven far from the storm.

Not much to say about Negombo, although the beach is great, but the Hotel there really sucked, and the food was a total disaster. Only seafood and salad, washed by droplets of rain dripping from the roof-top, in an island known for the best fishes, prawns, crabs and lobsters in the region.

The rest, you have seen in the Nation, the Bangkok Post, the Trib, Asiaweek, ABC (Ossie) Die Welt and Arte (if it ever gets on TV5) Jaffna, the most dangerous flight in the world (not because of the Antonov-32 which is an excellent aircraft for the type of low flying we had to indulge into) but because of possible rockets from the LTTE. Yet, I think that we were spared the experience because some clever lady at the Information Department of the Foreign Ministry leaked the info about the FCCT trip to the Peninsula to an opposition daily. Hence, I cannot tell you Sam from Stinger.

Jaffna, an ex-Paradise turned into a war-torn area, destruction everywhere, yet after 18 years of war and some 68,000 casualties, people come back to the city during lulls in the fighting and hope for a return to Paradise status.

If so, I would live there and produce wine from the Jaffna grapes, which nowadays cannot be exported and were before renowned worldwide. Some nuns are still producing wine (2% alcohol for Mass) but I would go for the higher octane.



copies) from the Foreign Ministry at least a week in advance and therefore would treat us through the normal procedures, which was a very long queue. Said bureaucrat soon became the joke of the arrival lounge and had to hide in his passports bunker.

The Colombo Hilton turned out to be a great choice, offering what seemed an incredible breakfast nowhere matched. A wide selection of breads, pastries, hams, sausages, preserves eggs and fruits in the region. We also discovered later that, claimed as non-existent by our guide from Jet Wing, there was a fantastic Sri Lankan food restaurant, "The Curry Leaves", where thanks to the Manager, a Swiss guy married to a Thai Lady (he spent some time at the Hilton here), we had our best meal of the whole trip. Incidentally, he has created some special rates for those covering the October 10 Elections: 95\$ ++ including breakfast. Plus, the phone links there are excellent.

But back to the trip. Friday was a real working day



PHILIPPE DECAUX  
(picture above) is  
a Television Producer for  
ARTEINFO and ARD  
and a president of the  
FCCT.

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Siem Reap Here We Come, October 21 - 23, 2000.

We had initially planned to take you to Siem Reap by 4x4 but the vehicle manufacturers thought that the road would be too unfit for their luxury cruisers... So we will have to wait for an improved road... and lower gasoline price...

But, thanks to Khun Supachai, one of our life Member and the proud owner of the brand new SOFTEL ROYAL ANGKOR, the trip is on, but by air to Siem Reap to visit and enjoy his new, let's call it resort... and discover Ben Melea, an unspoiled temple in the middle of the jungle and the famed Phnom Koulen with the river of the Lingams, which until recently was under KR control.

Departure is on Saturday morning October 21<sup>st</sup> and The General Mahager of the Hotel, Philippe Bissig will treat our Members to a tour of the SOFTEL ROYAL ANGKOR followed by a lunch at the Citadel Café... The afternoon will be free for you to enjoy the hotel facilities (pool-Health Club), followed by the sunset on Angkor Wat and a casual buffet dinner by the swimming-pool with the performance of a Khmer Shadow Theater.

Sunday morning after breakfast, the FCCT will be taken to the Ben Melea archeological site for a guided visit by one of the specialists of the French School of Extreme-Orient and a picnic on the site will be at hand, thanks to the Chef of the Sofitel Royal Angkor Hotel.

Back to Siem Reap for an Inaugural party starting with drinks by the pool while watching a Khmer Cultural show followed by dinner at the Naga and Rainbow Ballroom, especially prepared by French Chef Dominique Cheauveau. Guests of Honor of the evening will be H.E Veng Sereivudh, Minister of Tourism, H.E Dr. Thong Khon, Secretary of State for Tourism and H.E. Khieu Kanharidh, Secretary of State for Information.

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup>, which is a holiday in Thailand will be dedicated to an elaborate visit of Phnom Koulen, its superb waterfall, the River of the Lingams and its temple. And after Lunch, and rest at the Sofitel Royal Angkor Hotel, the F.C.C.T. will fly back to Bangkok.



The SOFTEL ROYAL ANGKOR Hotel circa planning time.

A special event brought to you by Khun Supachai and Don Felipe



# Print in Jaffna



THOMAS CRAMPTON  
is a Hong Kong-based  
correspondent for the  
International Herald  
Tribune.

In a city trapped between two armies where just about every standing structure bears bullet scars, Jaffna's newspaper, Uthayan, is a daily testimony to journalistic determination. Heavily armed Sri Lankan government troops man roadblocks in the city's center while the suicide soldiers of Liberation Tiger's of Tamil Eelam enter the city with impunity at night.

In a newsroom bunkered against bomb blasts by stacks of newspapers instead of sandbags, Uthayan's editorial staff of 14 produces 18,000 copies of their 12-page Tamil language newspaper seven days per week. The newspaper's co-editor, N. Vithyatharan, has gone to extraordinary lengths to stay in print, including illegally smuggling ink to supply the presses.

"The worst was when we ran out of both newsprint and diesel," Mr. Vithyatharan said. "We printed the four page issue about Rajiv Gandhi's assassination on brown wrapping paper and powered the presses with a mixture of five liters kerosene to one liter vegetable oil. Very smelly."

Apart from half a dozen computers serving one modern offset press, the newspaper pages are composed by hand using individual lead letters and printed on four 1950's era Heidelberg presses.

In addition to an air raid that killed one staff member and caused two amputations, the newspaper has been shelled both by the government troops as well as the Indian Peace Keeping Forces. Grenades tossed into



the presses once injured a security guard, the Tamil Tigers have threatened to shut down the newspaper on several occasions and the government closed the newspaper for a time earlier this year.

Referring to the sound of pounding artillery in the distance Mr. Vithyatharan said his car always has enough gas to flee fighting and the presses are ready to pack up within an hour. "We are ready to move if the fighting comes too near."

Working in a city that is not under clear control of either army makes for difficult editorial decisions, but Mr. Vithyatharan said he protects himself by trying to make all sides equally unhappy with the newspaper.



# A RAIL JOURNEY INTO CAMBODIA

## CAMBODIAN EXPRESS

the sequel

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The Foreign Correspondents Club of Thailand is organizing, in co-operation with THAI AIRWAYS INTERNATIONAL a very special voyage to Cambodia from the 1<sup>st</sup> until the 4<sup>th</sup> of December 2000.

Following the success of the first train trip from Phnom-Penh to Kampot featuring a 1934 PACIFIC 231 steam-engine and His Majesty KING NORODOM SIHANOUK own carriages, with on board some 60 Correspondents, Diplomats and Businessmen, the Club has decided to reiterate the event, extending the rail trip to Sihanoukville, a fantastic beach destination which deserves to be known internationally thanks to its unspoiled beaches, quiet surroundings and fantastic seafood.

Passengers will depart Bangkok Don Muang Airport on December 1<sup>st</sup> aboard TG 696 to be greeted at Pochentong Airport by the Ministers of Information and Tourism of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

The group will then proceed to Phnom-Penh Railway Station to board the special train with the PACIFIC 231 steaming through the countryside towards Kampot. A restaurant car will be added to the train with a buffet (prepared by the Chefs of the Royal Phnom-Penh Hotel) for all the guests and hopefully champagne courtesy of the House of Laurent Perrier.

The train should reach Kampot by 5pm (maximum speed being 40Km per hour). After setting up at the Hotel, ASIAN TRAIL buses will take everybody to KHEP for the sunset and a Banquet on the terraces of the King's Residence overlooking the sea.

The next morning will see everybody on the train again for the beautiful scenic ride to Sihanoukville, where a newly built hotel will be taken over by the group for a gourmet night of fun and rest.

Sun, sea and seafood with boat trips to near-by islands will take most of Sunday the 3<sup>rd</sup> until the time to board the ASIAN TRAILS coaches back to Phnom-Penh via an excellent road and great mountain scenery.

The ROYAL PHNOM-PENH Hotel will host everybody for the night and a Gala Dinner will be held in its garden with a Khmer Circus show, courtesy of Princess BUPPHA DEVI, Minister of Culture.

On Monday the 4<sup>th</sup>, those who do not know Phnom-Penh will be able to visit the City and its highlights or go shopping for silk or silverware. Others will be invited to a cruise down the Mekong on board the "Deauville 2". Departure to Bangkok will be with TG 699 at 17.15.

For those willing to discover more of Cambodia, the F.C.C.T. will organize a three days extension to Rattanakiri with Phnom-Penh Airways, staying in a beautiful mountain inn by the lake with visits to the local tribes and even a volcano. Warm pullovers will be recommended for this extension as it is the cold season in the Kingdom.



# Chasing Eden in Samoa



Vailima, meaning "five waters", the home of Robert Louis Stevenson.



JONO DAVID is a freelance journalist based in Osaka, Japan.

I think Robert Louis Stevenson was rolling in his grave. I had just been whisked through Vailima, the Scottish author's beautifully restored Samoan retreat, by a guide named Michael and was then duped by another uniform-red-lavalava-wearing escort into paying him a tip. I had, it seemed, quite literally been led up the garden path.

The entrance fee should have covered all costs. Sweat-soaked, I later sat on a 475-metre high perch above the house, looking upon a sweeping view of the chartreuse valley and the distant capital Apia, telling old Robert about what has become of his home. I am certain I heard a groan.

For many, a climb up Mount Vaea to Stevenson's resting place is a pilgrimage and a visit to the house meaning "five waters" is nourishment for the literary caller. Indeed, the stately home turned museum of the man who penned such classics as *Treasure Island*, is divine, a return to a simpler era and life pace. Despite its commercialism, these shaded grounds and well-groomed gardens are a delightful point to commence a visit to this South Pacific archipelago.

Like Tusitala, the Teller of Tales, as the Samoans called Stevenson, I had come to Samoa to chase eden. Whilst I did manage to find fragments of paradise, the reality for most of the islanders is encumbrance, carrying the load of strict social hierarchy and codes of behaviour, known as faa Samoa, the Samoan way.

God reigns supreme here, followed by royalty and

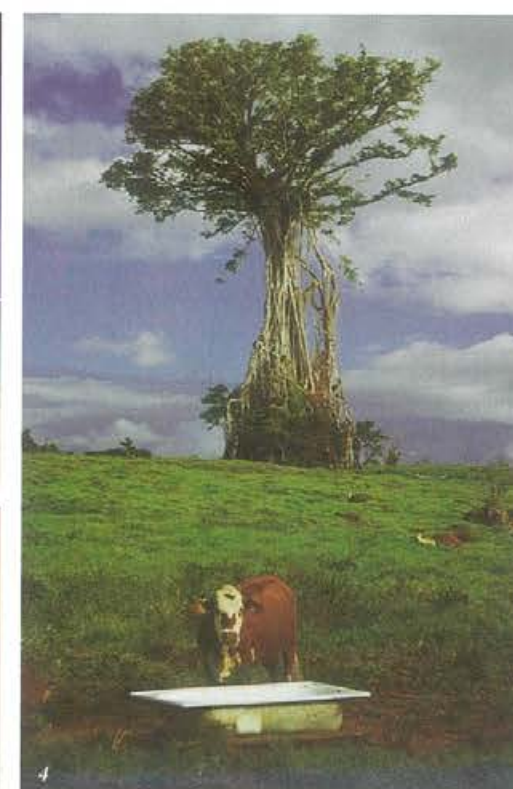
nobles, politicians, religious leaders, and lastly, a patriarchal led family rank for the commoners. Rules of social protocol stem from respect for this hierarchical order, influencing language, gift giving, honour, stature, and duty. In extreme circumstances, where pressure from shame or loss of face presses too hard upon an individual, suicide is the result. Nowhere is the faa Samoa more prevalent than deep in the lush of a village.

Most of Samoa's 370 or so villages are set adjacent to some turquoise piece of shoreline. Place names such as Lolomanu and Aganoa ring as romantic as their respective white and black sand beaches. Each village is further coloured by its residents, of course, but the ubiquitous washing line waves a banner of myriad hues.

Scads of churches are generously painted, neatly trimmed in whites and blues. Woven pandanus mats and ngatu, elaborately decorated tapa, can be seen spread across lawns to dry amid meticulously groomed gardens of Flame Tree reds and hibiscus yellows.

Villages are places of constant activity where a feast is in preparation or the mallet tapping of tapa, the underbark of the mulberry tree, is never far from earshot. Squealing kids chase hefty mud caked pigs; chickens caw all the day through; and dogs laze about, resting up for a midnight wrestling match. For sure, a Samoan village never really sleeps, particularly when a feast is in the offing.

**It is a land of smiling villagers exhibiting their pearly whites and friendly dispositions.**



Whilst a Samoa holiday lowers the pulse, an umu feast (an umu is a stone oven in the ground) raises the cholesterol level. These all-you-can-eat chicken, pig, fish, taro, cassava, yams, breadfruit, coconut, and fruit smorgasbords are gastronomical extravaganzas and are one reason why Samoans, as do other Polynesians, have a constant battle with their bulge. In a country where food readily grows in front of the house and sleeps under it, it's not surprising the Samoan feast is an event not to be missed.

In stark contrast to the sleepy yet rigid order of rural life, Apia is still bright lights, big city for villagers. This harbour town of worn colonial buildings is home for nearly a quarter of the nation's 160,000 souls. It's outfitted with the expected fish and goods markets and an unanticipated McDonald's; a sluggish Post Office telephone exchange and internet cafes; weary motels and a modern, yet oversized government building which looks like a hotel; young lovers forbidden to hold hands and faafafine, unabashed transvestites.

I first met Princess Tiger in the chill of McDonald's (I needed a milkshake). He/she approached me in her skyblue one-piece and pumps, chatted me up, and invited me to the Cindy Show, Apia's Thursday night drag revue. The cabaret is a weekly rave, and Cindy, Samoa's most famous faafafine (literally meaning "in the way of a woman") is guaranteed to bring down the house with her lip synched versions of songs plied with woman-power doggerel. Cindy made an unannounced appearance the following week at the Miss Drag Millennium contest, only to interject her political stance against a new law forbidding men to wear women's clothing. But faafafines are far too integrated into and accepted by society for Cindy or Princess Tiger to shop for new wardrobes.

Samoa's nine islands are situated a degree or two to the east of the international dateline a bit below the equator. The unique location makes it the last country in the world to greet each new day, not to mention that Samoa was the last nation to embrace the new millennium.

From the air, the island world is a clump of emerald nuggets placed upon a turquoise table. From ground

level, it is a land of smiling villagers exhibiting their pearly whites and friendly dispositions. The verdant beauty of the land and warmth of its inhabitants which are lures for today's visitors, may have been the bait for its past occupiers, too.

Samoa, like every corner of Polynesia except Tonga, has an unenviable past of European colonialism and plunder. At the turn of last century, the United States and Britain controlled Samoa but capitulated the islands to the Germans, who had pledged to rule according to Samoan custom. But the Germans, led by Kaiser Wilhelm Solf, reneged and began to bring in labour from other German claims, such as New Guinea and the Solomons. Even Chinese were shipped in. The German leader deposed the Samoan king and disarmed the people. Later, with the advent of World War II, New Zealand was persuaded to seize Samoa from the Germans. The Kiwis did so successfully and would effectively occupy the islands until 1 January 1962 when Western Samoans voted overwhelmingly for independence.

But perhaps more startling than the influences of colonialism was the seemingly effortless infiltration of missionaries. The palangi (meaning foreigners, or literally, sky bursters) first brought their gospel and promise here in 1830. Today, Samoa sits firmly in the so-called "bible belt of the South Pacific".

I considered the rueful effects of Samoa's occupiers as I sat in my fale, a traditional coconut-frond thatched roof structure without walls, on the idyllic stretch of Return to Paradise Beach, made famous in Gary Cooper's 1951 film, *Return to Paradise*, based on the James Michener novel. I understood that the Samoans are a spiritually and literally well fed people cleaving their own destiny founded on venerable, unaffected traditions resistant to fatal effects of imperialism. Yes, paradise is in the coconuts and the sapphire waters.

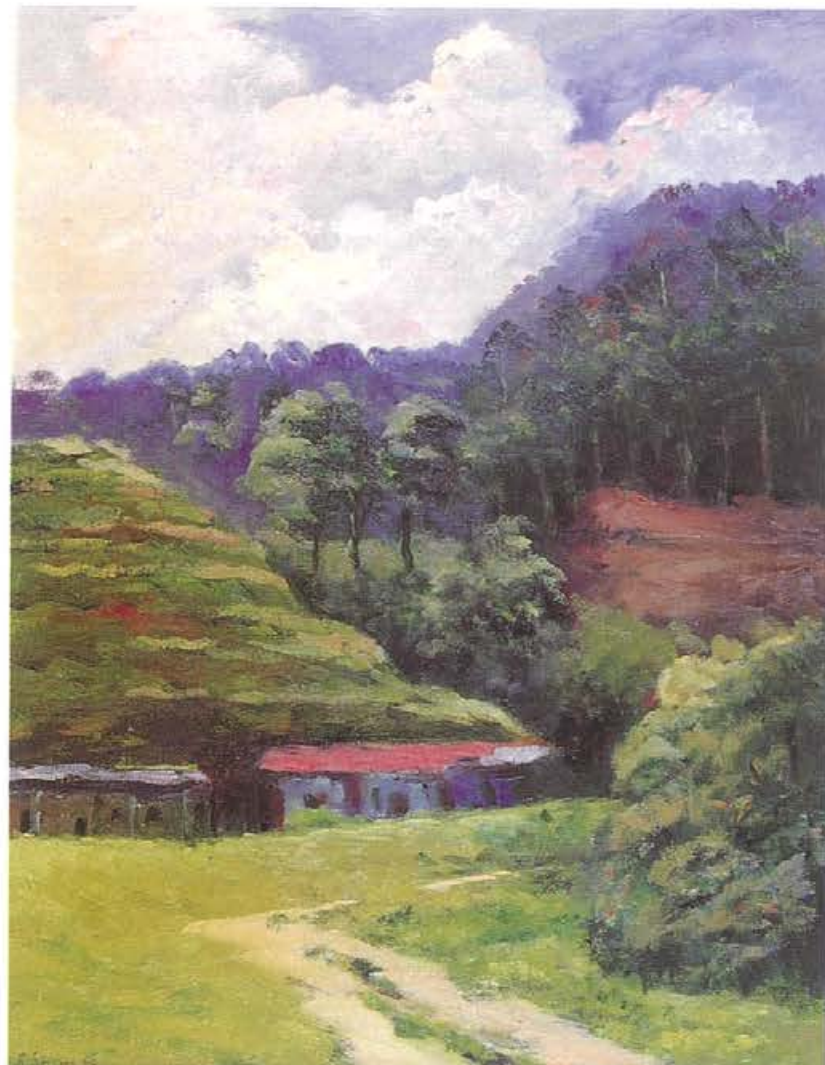
It even comes in a bottle of cold Vailima beer. But it is also in the faa Samoa. I also realised I was done with the running. I had at last caught up with eden.

1) Lalomanu, on the southeast coast, with the humpback of Nu'utele Island offshore, 2) Villagers watch a cricket match from the impromptu shelter of a bus, 3) A Samoan tatau, or tattoo, 4) An interior vista is testament to Samoa's widely diverse flora





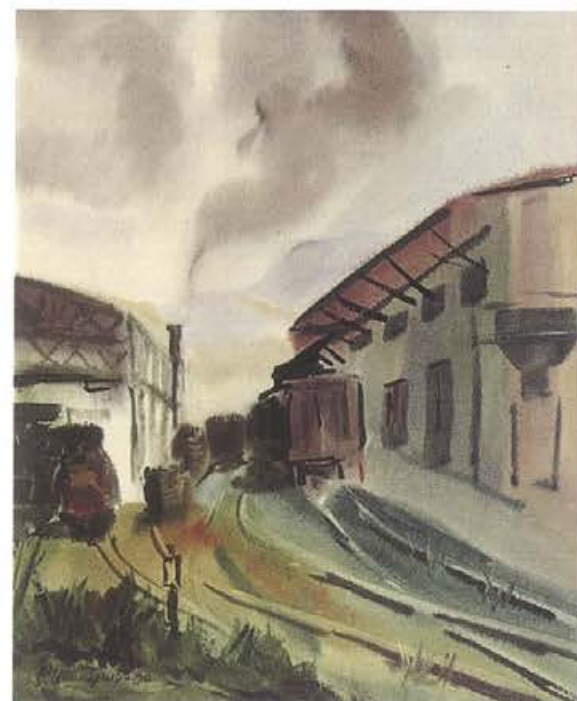
# A Melting of Past and Present



## The Melting of Tradition & Contemporary Reality

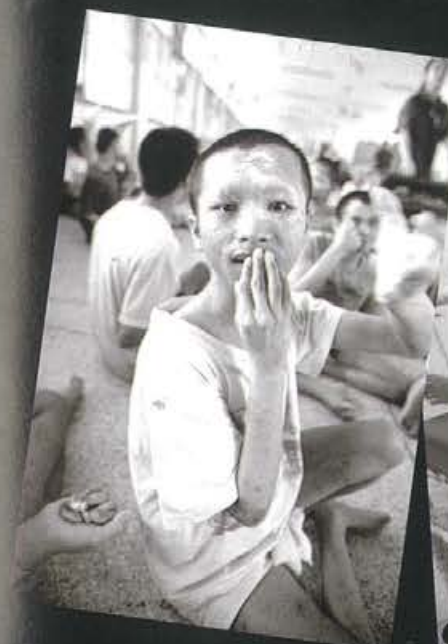
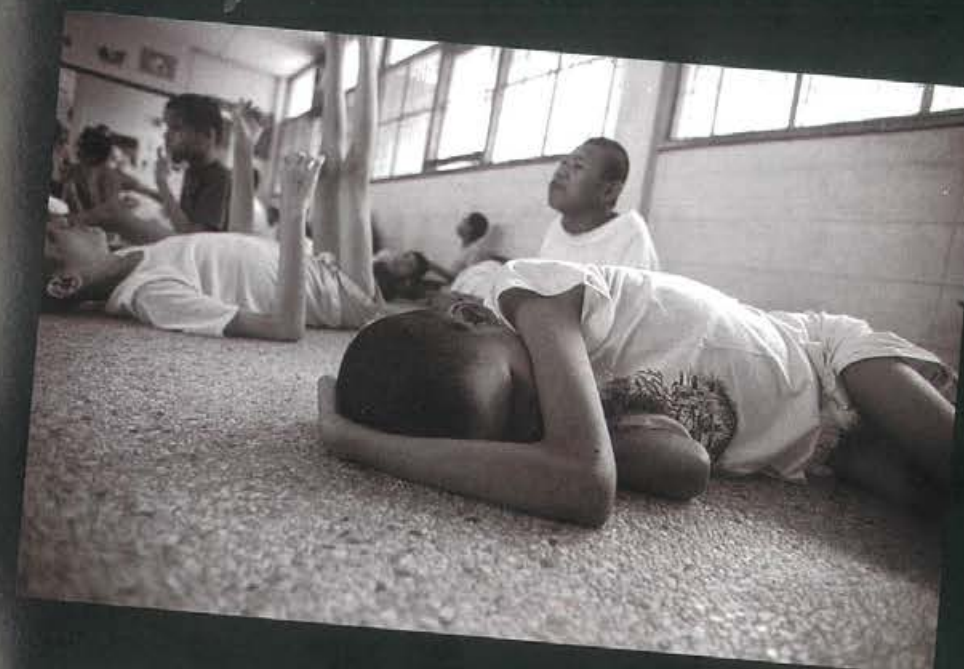
The art of Sasun (Edvard Aragyan) holds a notable place in contemporary Realist Art of the Russian Realist School. Sasun is a universal artist of diverse subject and media. He excels in the genres of landscapes, portrait and composition. Lyricism is a constant feature of Sasun's work, echoing his artist aspirations and human inclinations. His composition works, portraits, still lives and sketches are owned by private collectors in Russia, Armenia, India, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan, USA, UK, Lebanon and Switzerland.

EDVARD SASUN (AVAGYAN) has been living in Bangkok, Thailand since 1997.





# Hearts of Gold



## A Photo Essay on Ban Ratchawadee

Chained to walls and beds, lying on hardened concrete all day building up blisters whilst infecting the bed sores from the night before, living in cramped beds 3-4 at a time. Hard work hey. But what else can you do if your handicapped (sorry "mentally challenged" to those of you of the pc nature) and your parents have abandoned you to "save their faces" and strive for that "Benz" and white skin.

Tucked away and out of sight in the suburbs of Nonthaburi is the Government run Pak Kred Home for Mentally Handicapped Children and the CCD (Christian Care Foundation for children with disabilities). For staff and volunteers at the Pak Kred Orphanage, the children here aren't viewed as freaks but kids who have golden hearts. Their beauty is not on the outside as society would prefer, but tucked away within their tiny chests.



JUSTIN BRIERTY is a Bangkok based freelance photographer.



# A journalist's best friend

If the Internet isn't your best friend yet, you might want to reconsider, and I've compiled a list of five reasons why:

## Information

For access to information, the Internet is unparalleled to anything in human history, and the amount of information at your fingertips is simply staggering. Internet search engines routinely index one billion Web pages or more, and if a subject interests you, no

the news, and then went to the horse's mouth at //www.stephenking.com/ to get the scoop on what he was doing.

Whenever I interview someone, I always search around on the Internet to see what turns up. Spiritual guru Deepak Chopra was no exception, though he might have been a little bit chagrined by questions about the many lawsuits he is involved with – you can be sure the press release I was given about Deepak failed to mention the lawsuits, and you know how that goes. If you're researching a story or topic, the search engine – like Yahoo! or especially Google, which is perhaps the best of all – is your absolute best friend.

Look for these search engines:

Yahoo! at //www.yahoo.com/  
Google at //www.google.com/  
DogPile at //www.dogpile.com/  
HotBot at //www.hotbot.com/.

Also search newsgroups and mailing lists, which include a variety of discussions about all things imaginable. See //www.liszt.com/news/.

## Email

Unless you're carting a laptop everywhere you go, making use of "webmail" – free email accounts on the Internet which can be accessed with any old Web browser – can save you much time and trouble, not to mention helping you stay in touch. Many of the world's better hotels now boast of a business centre equipped with Internet access and machines for doing email and surfing the Web. Unless you're out in the bush, you might want to leave that laptop at home next time.

There are many free webmail providers, including Yahoo! and Hotmail, and more local efforts like Bangkok.com and eThailand.com.

You can find them at:

//www.yahoo.com/  
//www.hotmail.com/  
//www.bangkok.com/  
//www.ethailand.com/

## Free hard drive

Need a place to store documents, pictures, what not? Get a free Internet hard drive. One of the best I've seen is Netdrive, which offers you 100 megabytes free, just for signing up, and has an easy-to-use interface. See //www.netdrive.com/.

## Discussion groups

Internet folks like to talk, and their conversations are recorded in what are known as "newsgroups" or lists, and now, more recently, under the form of "clubs". Each newsgroup, list or club is devoted to a single topic. If you're maintaining a long-term interest in some subject – say, South East Asia – you're sure to find a group where the subject is discussed regularly,

with many often valuable contributions being made by participants. If nothing else, these groups are a good way to "keep current" on specific issues or topics. See //www.liszt.com/news/ for information on newsgroups (and Internet lists and much more), and //clubs.yahoo.com/ for an example of clubs. The Yahoo! clubs, for example, have several devoted to Thailand and Bangkok, including the capital's night life.

## Value for money

Don't let the expense stand in your way. The Internet can, in fact, save you money.

If you're a newshound, then you have access to the content of many of the world's best newspapers and magazines and wire services at the click of button.

Searching the Internet for specific information – say, on Alzheimer's disease, or the history of Cambodia – is certainly much easier and more convenient than going to a library or a book store or any of the traditional methods.

Some journalists frown on it, but you can, in some cases, conduct interviews via email or in a special chat room. Keeping in touch with family back home can quickly run up the phone bill whereas email is basically free. You could even get yourself (and your intended callee) Internet phone software which will allow you to make calls over the Internet.



doubt someone somewhere has created a Web page devoted to it.

To be sure, much of that information is rubbish: suspect, unreliable, of questionable value. Never has the old adage about not believing everything you read been more true. That's why, as time goes by, most folks are increasingly turning to trusted Web sites for their information.

Interested in the news? The BBC site is an excellent jumping off point, as are CNN and several others.

You might want to steer clear of more dubious sources when it's the facts that you're after and not opinion or analysis.

Want to know everything about Stephen King? Try his own Web site, and not one created by Constant Reader. Some information sites of interest: The BBC at //www.bbc.co.uk/. CNN at //www.cnn.com/. The Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary at //www.m-b.com/.

## Which leads us to: Research

Recently, when writing a piece about Stephen King and his latest Internet effort (making a serial novel available on his Web site), I read about it first through



NICK WILGUS is a subeditor at the Bangkok Post.

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## Creative thinking

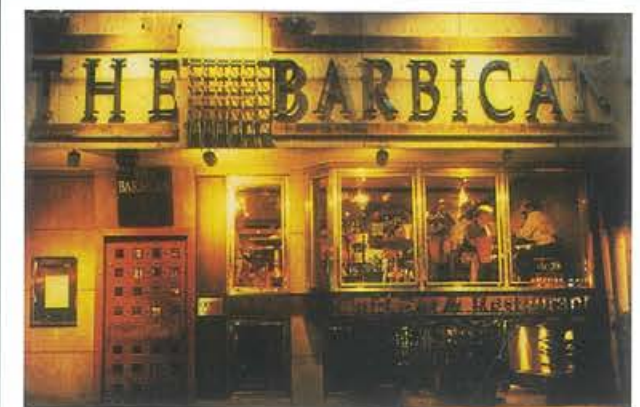
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- Where do Singaporeans buy chewing gum?
- Since its introduction has the euro appreciated or depreciated against the US\$?
- If you lived on the Isle of Man what kind of a passport could you be issued?
- The British Commonwealth came about as a result of what?
- How long may a British government stand before an election is required?
- If you were going to an ANZAC reunion, to what country would you probably be going?
- 12,000 or more people in Japan were seriously sickened from drinking milk. What was the brand name of the milk?
- What is the name of the virus which seems to linger in Malaysia's swine herds?
- Vladimir Ilyich Ulyanov, better known as Lenin, has a mausoleum containing his body in Moscow's Red Square. Who once shared this glass cased tomb?
- What is the name of Ireland in Irish?
- In what year did World War Two end and in what year did the Korean War start?
- North Korea has borders or frontiers with what countries?
- Worldwide what brand of automobile is most frequently stolen?
- What countries made up French Indo China?
- Bonaparte Napoleon was exiled to St. Helena after his surrender to naval forces of what country?
- What British made car was acquired by Bavarian Motot Works (BMW) and reacquired by British interests?
- Who bought out Jaguar and Volvo cars?
- What three nations are collectively known as The Baltic States?
- In which Baltic state can Finnish language radio and TV be understood?
- What is the national language of Brazil?
- Where did an election occur in 2000, where the ruling party lost the presidency after 71 years in power?
- Where is Stanley Park?
- The European Economic Community (EEC) was formed in Rome in 1958. How many founding members were there?
- What were Soviet and Russian special operations forces called?
- What is the name of the collective defense treaty between the US, Australia and New Zealand?
- What was the name of the Thai group who operated against the Japanese occupation of Thailand during World War II?
- Who was the anti-Japanese Thai ambassador to the US during World War II and a future prime minister?
- In 1975, what was the highest building in Bangkok?
- What was the South Asian/South East Asia theater of operations called during World War II?
- Who is the political cartoonist featured in the Bangkok Post?
- Where does Roger Crutchley come from?
- From what state does Vincent Calvino come from?
- What does the press call the communications "vacuum in the sky" system that has caused an uproar in the European Community?
- What are the older names for Ethiopia and Iraq?
- Who colonised Libya?
- Who colonised Mexico during the US civil war indifferent to the Monroe Doctrine?
- In recent history what two national leaders died and were replaced by their sons?
- Where did a mountain of garbage (rubbish) explode causing the deaths of at least 160 people?
- How many provinces in Thailand are under martial rule (frequently erroneously reported as martial law)?
- In what year did the Bangkok Post begin publishing?
- Prior to its present location what was the name of the building housing the Bangkok Post?
- According to the Rusk-Thant Agreement, if the US Air Force chose to use Thailand as a staging and refueling area for aircraft this was permitted. What was the last conflict in which the agreement was invoked?
- Where is the Royal Thai Marine Corps located?
- Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai cancelled the acquisition of what kind of helicopters from Brunei?
- Is the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) a collective defense organisation?
- Of the following, which is a collective defensive organisation: ASEAN, NAFTA, EC, APEC, OAU, OPEC, CIS, NATO, WHO, UNESCO, UNO, UAR, BAR, SLR, MICROSOFT?
- Are cabinet members in the ruling UK party also elected Members of Parliament?
- In some parliamentary systems, when no party has a majority it may form a government consisting of two or more parties to govern. What is this called?
- Which of the following is not a federal system: USA, Germany, UK, Australia, Canada, Russia, Mexico?
- What is the "fourth estate"?
- What European country by 1949, emerged clearly as a "communist state", but also as clearly independent of the USSR?
- How long did Adolf Hitler say the Third Reich would last?

### Your Career (According to Correct Responses)

36-52	Quiz show winner - You're really smart, but probably don't have much social time.
16-35	Doctor, Lawyer, Broker, etc - You could qualify for one of the paying professions.
1-15	"expert" or "analyst" - You are clearly qualified to be quoted widely in leading international publications.
Zero	You are well suited for a career as Foreign Correspondent, swanning the globe on a limitless expense account. (A knowing nod is worth more than knowledge.)

(8) Nipah, (9) Josef Stalin, (10) Eire, (11) 1945 and 1950, (12) China and Russia, (13) Honda, (14) Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, (15) Britain, (16) Rover, (17) Ford, (18) Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, (19) Estonia, (20) Portuguese, (21) Mexico, (22) Vancouver, Canada, (23) Six, (24) Spetsnaz, (25) ANZUS or Oz, Kiwi, Yank, (26) Seri Thai, (27) Seni Pramoi, (28) The Dusit Thani Hotel, (29) CBI for China-Burma-India, (30) Nop, (31) UK, (32) New York, (33) Echelon, (34) Abyssinia and Mesopotamia, (35) Italy, (36) France, (37) Hussein in Jordan and Assad in Syria, (38) Quezon City, RP, (39) 21, (40) 1946, (41) U Chuliang, (42) B52 aircraft arrived at U Tapao during Desert Storm or the Gulf War, (43) Sattahip, (44) Blackhawks, (45) No, (46) Nato, (47) Yes, (48) Coalition government, (49) United Kingdom, (50) The press, (51) Yugoslavia, (52) A thousand years.

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