

# More than a pretty face



**Local News Reporters** describe the career of a lady who eventually became a beauty queen

**W**hen returning to Thailand after being crowned the most beautiful woman in the universe in 1988, Porntip "Bui" Nakhirunkanok swept the nation with her cross-cultural upbringing and Eurasian looks.

Local crowds waited for her at the airport just to catch a glimpse of the second Miss Universe from Thailand after Apasra Hongsakula was crowned Miss Universe in 1965. Porntip was regarded as a role model for modern women.

Unlike some countries, where beauty pageants have lost their lustre due to the rise of feminism, Thais in general still adore beauty queens. Beauty pageants have thus provided some women the opportunity to enter the world of show business or find the right husband. While many boys in rural areas are inspired to break out of poverty, becoming a beauty queen is something many girls feel would help them climb up the social ladder.

However, Porntip redefined the beauty of modern

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