



► **From page 94**

A Miss Thailand of later years could speak English better than communicating in her native language. Some successful beauty queens even had blue eyes.

Of course, Porntip has exceptional looks with her winning smile, broad shoulders, athletic legs and high cheekbones. She stood out from others because she showed that women should learn when to speak out. Therefore, a number of her fans were later disappointed to see Porntip falter in per-

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sonal life by choosing to settle down with her ex-fiance when she had not yet fulfilled all her career ambitions.

Later, Porntip surprised many by marrying American billionaire Herb Simon, who is more than 20 years older, in a fairy-tale wedding celebration in 2002. Local press described her life as that of Cinderella due to the luxurious lifestyle that came with her marriage.

Born in Chachoengsao province on February 7, 1968, Porntip grew up in the United States. She received a master's degree in psychology from Pepperdine University.

After winning the Miss Universe 1988 crown, Porntip's career included being a goodwill ambassador for the United Nations, a spokesperson for the UN Population Fund, Unicef and the Face-to-Face International Project, and an anchor of CBS television's "60 Minutes II Thailand". ■