New Studio close to the beach
This 35 m² studio with balcony is located close to one of the most desired strips of beach. The studio is fitted to the highest standard including kitchen and top air-conditioner. The building management the security and the facilties are excellent. Get your very own 5-Star hotel room at perfect location for only 1,150,000 Baht.

New 1-Bedroom Apartment near the beach
Newly renovated 69 sqm modern apartment. It is fully furnished with a high standard and includes a beautiful kitchen, dimmer controlled halogen spotlights and quiet air-conditioners. Two balconies with ocean view to view beautiful sunsets. Excellent building management with facilities that include swimming pool, sauna, gym, parking and 24h security. All for 2.3 Million Baht.

One story house at convenient location
This quite impressive 3 bedroom, 3 bathroom single story house is conveniently located only 6 driving minutes from “Bondi Beach” in a well kept and secure estate with communal swimming pool. The house has marble floors throughout, high ceilings and is in perfect condition. It is fully furnished and has a fitted European kitchen. For sale at 2.2 Million Baht.

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A limited number of new high quality studios and apartments are available in a central garden location not far from “Walking Street”. They range from 35sqm to 60sqm studios plus luxury penthouses with 60sqm balconies. Many excellent features incorporated into the units. Prices start from 999,000 to 3.5 Million Baht.

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Lovely Detached Bangalow
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THAI GUYS
the gay newsletter

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in Silom branch of Bangkok Bank
Thai Guys is published every five weeks and distributed in most major gay venues in Thailand.
Next issue will appear April 1, 2003
Deadline for submission of ads: March 21, 2003
All models featured in Thai Guys are at least 20 years old.
The inclusion of photos of persons or their mentioning in text is not necessarily an indication of sexual preference or orientation.

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Dear Dr. Connie,

Gossip on Soi 4 has revealed that you are soon to receive your PhD and so I have decided to pre-empt your graduation by acknowledging your doctoral status early. Now to my need. One of my oldest and dearest friends (operative word is “oldest”) and a frequent visitor and exhibitionist on Jomtien Beach, recently regaled a group of us with his most recent sexual adventure, a three way involving his voluminous Bratwurst shaped body sandwiched between (as only she would put it), “two Arabs”. This account I received with undisguised revulsion. I just do not understand how some of my friends can be so self-destructive as to think that we who love them dearly, are assisted by this kind of account, in keeping our level of respect for them as human beings and intellectuals, on an even keel. Since we are now barreling toward the National Day for International Gaydom, Valentine’s Day, perhaps you can come up with a list of resolutions which we all should make, or in the alternative, can give our friends who live, work, cruise and slut about in the gay world of Thailand. Since publication date may leave Valentine’s Day in the dust, could you, Dr. Connie, come up with some resolutions which can stand the test of time for the coming year. Help us Dr. Connie to be good girls and boys for 2003.

Love & valentines,
Never Laid, in Adelaide.

Dear Never Laid,

Funny enough I found a list of resolutions in a book I was reading by Armistead Maupin, called “More Tales of the City” published in 1980, before the plague. This list is of course from a North American queer’s perspective. And of course a bit dated and not applicable to what the realities of our expatriate lives are in our little cesspools of self-created sin in Thighland. And so I have taken poetic license in adapting the resolutions to the life-style of a farang of mid-vintage living or visiting Thailand, be that Bangkok, Pattaya or points north and south. Hope these cardinal rules will come in handy for the rest of this glorious year for all of you out there needing to know the rules for the months ahead.

Dr. Connie’s Dirty Thirty Valentine Resolutions for 2003

1. I will not call anyone ee-dawk or gelee unless that is their name or they are.
2. I will no longer assume that heavily made up women at my English Language School have no life other than keeping their nail polish immaculate.
3. I will stop expecting to meet Bird McIntyre on Soi 4.
4. I will inhale poppers only through the mouth.
5. I will not spend more than half an hour in the showers at the Ramkamhaeng Aquatic Centre lathering my pubic hair.
6. I will stop trying to figure out if the cute guy at my Lotus Department Store really understands what the red handkerchief means, hanging out of the left side back pocket of his ridiculously tight Levi’s.
7. I will sometimes buy a drink for an elderly drag queen from Brighton and listen to her problems while cruising from the Panorama terrace.
8. I will not persist in hoping that hunky money boys will turn out to be brainless and boring.
9. I will learn to write my name in Thai and write it in the cubicles of Silom Complex along with my mobile phone number.
10. I will ease back into religion by going to cremations at the Wat near my house.
11. I will not cruise the Wat or try and entice a novice to break his vows.
12. I will not take sides when bitchy farang accuse their close friends of fraud or even worse, theft of their latest gold-digger.
13. I will take my tricks seriously when they say that their main concern is their daughter’s education.
14. I will not pay for them to send their daughter to the International School across the soi.
15. I will accept that my boyfriend is basically straight in spite of his virtuosity at making me feel like a blushing bride.
16. I will not make fun at the way he walks.
17. I will stop telling him how life in my country is so much better for a Thai man wanting a future, even though I know full well that he will have very little future in my country.
18. I will stop talking about certain anti-gay politicians with hunky taxi drivers.
19. I will stop asking tuk tuk drivers to come in for a drink, while stroking the gear shift between their legs.
20. I will stop getting upset when friends who run bars suggest to my boyfriend that he has the biggest cock on the soi.
21. I will stop measuring it.
22. I will stop making evil comments within earshot of foreign visitors who insist on wearing wigs covered in lht.
23. I will also stop disparaging balding men with pony-tails.
24. I will definitely stop after ingesting one ben of Sanghip, but if I have
Fears & Perceptions
by Leslie Wright

For the past several months investors have become increasingly alarmed at the continued slide of major equity markets. They see the value of their hard-earned money dwindling away, and anxiously wonder whether to cash in the remainder, or move into something that sounds like it might perform better, or hold on for the recovery which their portfolio manager has been predicting almost every month for the past two years.

We read about CEOs of major corporations having taken huge salaries and bonuses from companies that just a few weeks later went into receivership. These CEOs have been able to walk away rich men, while their stockholders lost a fortune.

Then we hear about widespread accounting malpractices, even in giant corporations, and start to wonder if this is not a massive conspiracy to swindle us out of our money.

It is little wonder that investors have lost confidence in equity markets.

Many have been anxiously awaiting the next terrorist attack that some TV pundits are "sure" will happen: they have a 50% chance of such predictions coming true.

As a result of all this, investors have been nervously looking for safe alternatives, or simply keeping their money in cash deposits.

But some unscrupulous financial advisers have been taking advantage of investors' fears, suggesting they encash their existing investments - which on paper may have lost a considerable proportion of their original value in the past two years - and
Your Dream of Tropical Living

invest the proceeds into what sounds to the nervous investor like a much safer "guaranteed" bond or hedge fund. It may sound like a good idea - but in fact this move will incur another set of charges, and earn the salesman a handsome commission, which a cynic might suggest is his sole motivation in making such a suggestion.

The investor will have paid entry costs twice, and perhaps exit penalties as well; and his money may be more 'locked in' or able to access far fewer funds than before - perhaps only those from the vehicle provider rather than from an extensive 'menu' covering the whole investment spectrum. Indeed, our investor may end up with a vehicle that may be more expensive and less flexible than the one he was inappropriately persuaded to sell out of.

Change the horses, not the cart

In many cases, the real need is to switch funds, not vehicles. In effect, to swap lame or faltering horses for steadier ones, or with more stamina for the long haul, or better able to cross rough ground - rather than dump the whole cart and lose the deposit you've already paid.

Switching funds can be done easily, swiftly, and generally at little or no cost.

Some may not appreciate the wisdom of switching, thinking that doing so will also lock in the loss you've been warned about if you cash in the whole program.

Yes, if you encash the whole program, you will indeed lock in whatever loss that up to that point was only on paper: you have actually lost nothing until you cash the whole thing in.

That is the worst thing you could do at this juncture. It might have been a shrewd move to cash it up back in April 2000, just before the slide began - maybe. If you had a crystal ball that told you that the next 2 1/2 years would all be downhill for equity markets.

Now? After such heavy paper losses? Unless you desperately need the money, it's downright daft to let fear rule logic, and cash in after only two or three years what was originally bought as a long-term investment - and lock in the loss.

It's even daftrer to take that money and put it into something else which incurs another set of charges unless you're absolutely sure that the second vehicle will give you a better net return after charges than the first one would have over the same period. And no-one with an ounce of professional integrity will be able to tell you for sure that it will. It might, yes. If the markets do this, or don't do that. But for sure...?
can only be absolutely sure in hindsight, and at this juncture most professional commentators are unwilling to commit themselves to one side of the fence or the other.

But switching funds within that vehicle is not the same at all as cashing up the whole investment.

Yes, funds that have failed to deliver expected performance or are unlikely to perform well in the coming period, are dumped. But the proceeds are immediately reinvested at little or no cost into other funds that are expected to perform better or with less anxiety-causing volatility going forward. Hence the justification for the switch.

The better collective-investment instruments provide a very wide range of ‘horses’ to choose from: at the safest end of the spectrum are stable & steady cash deposits. (Yes, the investment that has been causing you so much anxiety could perhaps have been temporarily switched into no-risk cash or money-market funds until the markets or your nerves settle down - without having to sell the whole ‘car’ and suffer redemption penalties for so doing.)

Then there are international bond funds - which are relatively low risk, and produced a positive return in the past year.

There is also a wide spectrum of ‘theme’ funds to choose from, and hedge funds, and specialist funds, which include property & traded endowment funds.

Then of course the whole range of global, regional, and single-country equity funds for those who believe the bottom has already been reached and it’s time to reinvest to gain from the upswing.

Thus a finely tuned portfolio can be constructed appropriate to your particular risk-aversion profile and projected market conditions.

But the selection should be done judiciously, and at this juncture, perhaps conservatively. The ‘horses’ can be switched again as soon as market conditions indicate another move is advisable.

But even this relatively simple level of portfolio management requires a degree of monitoring and professional experience and expertise which few individual investors - or even financial advisers - have the time or inclination to devote. If you’ll forgive the immodesty, providing this level of service is precisely what has built my firm its international reputation for providing a quality service to quality clients, and retained their loyalty since the firm was established here 5 years ago.

So if you’re worried about your investments or the markets, give me a call: I’ll be happy to give you a checkup and make some recommendations on a “best advice” basis, and at no cost.

*Leslie Wright is Managing Director of Westminster Portfolio Services (Thailand) Ltd., a firm of independent financial advisors providing financial planning and investment advice to expatriates. Leslie may be contacted directly by fax on 038-232522 or e-mail westport@lexinfo.co.th. For further details visit Westminster’s website on www.westminsterthailand.com.

Why is it that, as a culture, we are more comfortable seeing two men holding guns than holding hands?

~Ernest Gaines~

Boy House: Where your wettest dreams may instantly come true

By Suzy Size

We had an inquiry some month ago from an Australian Asian Thai Guys reader who wanted to work one night as a Go-Go Boy in Bangkok-or at least have his pictures taken by our photographer and published in this Magazine. Since the guy was good looking, we could not refuse his interesting request and the session duly took place. You check out the mutually beneficial results on page 30 of this issue. Readers, be warned: Only really good looking Asians (we mean that, Wayne and Douglas!) need apply for such an exhibitionist task, after all we are not a Daddy Magazine, Chummy Cheers or Ugly and Unfriendly. Cut.

As beauty is in the eye of the beholder, sexual fantasies are in the head of the dreamer. Mine are very different from yours, and yours are different from the other guy’s. All you need is a stage and some protagonists, of course, which should not be extremely difficult to sniff out in Bangkok. Since this is your first Blue Movie, first get some professional inspiration at Dream Boy. The Boys Bangkok
You might want to opt for just one protagonist at first, a splendid hunky One Man Show. Or maybe you have always imagined a threesome (or even more of a threesome) and never dared to tell your sweet boy friend from Isaan who can become very jealous—loudly and distinctly—so you don’t off the straight and narrow. You would not dare to stage a threesome at your place so, thanks to BBB Group, you can now have a secret hideaway and second home in a very central and pleasant location. They have just opened a brand new guest house on Rama 4 Road. From all the bars in BBB Group, the Boy House, as it is called, is only about 69 appropriate steps away by their diligent count. 18 beautifully furnished rooms with parquet floors, big double beds, marble bathrooms and the hottest showers are yours for the asking. The white, so white, towels and bed sheets are brand new and are changed after each showing, of course.

If you have finally found the right cast members for your movie debut and are still not sure about the exact plot or the broader story line, borrow a DVD from the reception and get some final pre-shot inspiration from other great and famous artists that have produced unforgettable love stories. After all, art is made from art, it is always eclectic, there is no need to invent the wheel again. If the right ideas are still not forthcoming, have a beer or two from the refrigerator, but not five or six, it might negatively influence your directorial performance or stance, as you might call it. If you are a smoker, smoke a last one before the action, but only in the rooms where smoking is allowed. Now, as the very last pick-me-up, you might urgently need a fresh, hot cup of coffee, order it from the coffee shop upstairs.

And finally you are ready to start the serious business which might drag on and on and on and take a hefty amount of your energy reserves. If so, you might want to stay all night and morning at this new home for lonely hearts and aspiring porn artists. One night in Boy House will cost you 1,200 Baht and, at that price, you may want to stay for your whole vacation. If you wish to take a nap only and produce a short movie as a debutante, you pay only 400 Baht. There is definitely no extra charge at the Boy House if you bring your friend(s) for a cameo appearances and crowd scenes or simply as a friendly audience.

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Bangkok Pride supports the needy

The Bangkok Pride Coalition can look back on a range of successful events in the year 2002. A Film Festival, several sporting events, the Pride in the Park and the unforgettable parade in Silom Road are just some of the highlights remembered. As preparations for this year are well underway, a party was held at Freeman to say thank you to all the participants, sponsors and other supporters.

On this occasion Bangkok Pride also showed its support for charitable organizations. The proceeds of the 2002 events amounted to 300,000 Baht - which is not much compared with the over 3 million Baht donated through the Pattaya Gay Festival (PGF) - but the sum was well received by the three charities urgently in need of funds.

The first of 100,000 Baht went to the Mercy Center and The Girl's Home. The Mercy Center is an open house for street children housing up to 120 children, it gives them a roof over their heads, food in their stomach and a shoulder to cry on. The Girl's Home takes care of 50 homeless girls from 3 to 17.

Another 100,000 Baht went to Alden House. Established 1994, it is a residential facility for HIV positive adults and children who find themselves in a crisis situation. Alden House offers a nurturing environment for its residents who receive counseling and support to help them solve their problems with the aim of returning to an independent life.

The last batch of 100,000 Baht was awarded to The Hospice of St. Clare. They have been caring for the poor in the last stages of their life since 1992. Up to now they have cared for over five hundred men and women. All care, including housing and medication is provided at no cost to the needy people whom they serve.

A special donation of slightly over 100,000 Baht was made by the Long Yang Club in remembrance of their long time member Lee, who sadly passed away recently.
Aquarius: No need to fish for compliments

By Suzy Size

If you like going to Phuket, there is a new attraction in place: It is called Aquarius and it is basically a sauna with an indoor pool-on the other hand it is more, much more like a one-stop center for all your needs during your stay in the South. The brand new (and back) Aquarius is located in the middle of the gay area, Paradise Complex in the soi behind Connect Guest House. Needless to say, it is for MEN ONLY. This is very visible when you take a glance at the well equipped (most of the time in every sense) Gym. If you are a lazy guy (like me) you order a beer from the bar, sit besides the pool and watch the friendly locals during their workout in the Gym through the glass walls and use your famous and ever effective eye technique for contacts of all sorts.

The Swedish owner, Richard Melen, has put a clever marketing idea in place: If you are under 30 years of age you are only charged 600 Baht entrance fee per month. So your chance of meeting a young crowd at Aquarius is quite good. Richard's boy friend Tom is a Ukrainian designer who designed the Body Wear articles that are on display in the entrance area of Aquarius and the shop just around the corner. They met in cold Moscow where Richard was working before. Understandably, they find warm Phuket a wonderful place to be since they made it their home a couple of months ago.

When you enter the premises of Aquarius, you proceed to the first floor where the locker room is located. On the same level you'll find the steam room, sauna, Jacuzzi, showers and the dark room. All these places are exciting landmarks of gay Phuket and well worth one visit or five ++. Throw out your net and see for yourself what your daily catch might be at Aquarius. If, after your agitated endeavors, having expended a considerable amount of energy, you might feel a bit tired and need a nap. Proceed to the roof where there is an accommodating sun deck with showers. This is a place for dalliance, relaxation and perhaps a read. Philosophers might have their conception-altering inspiration just here. Ordinary folks (like thee and me) might take advantage of the tranquility to write a postcard to mum or auntie Anna.

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We did not have to pay an entrance fee to Aquarius since we were staying at the bath house itself. The third and fourth floor contains a total of 9 rooms. All very spacious and well decorated. Of course they all come with their own safe, kitchenette and very large bathroom with two sinks. Since you probably will not stay alone here for long they are really sized for double occupancy. When you check in, you get a big key chain with two keys, one for the main door and one for your apartment (these are named after our famous gay ancestors like Rudolf Nurejev, Freddie Mercury, Gianni Versace, Leonardo da Vinci or H. C. Anderson). If you are still loaded with energy you should most certainly take the Master Suite Oscar Wilde with 2 bedrooms and a Jacuzzi. If you feel lonely, just go downstairs and catch a few more big fish.
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Successful PGF - more than 3 million Baht for charity

The Pattaya Gay Festival (PGF) 2002 was a huge success. More than 3 million Baht could be collected for charitable causes (see the balance sheets on the next page), mainly earmarked for HEARTT 2000. The PGF Committee 2002 held its AGM at the Amor Restaurant, Pattayaland Soi 3 on Thursday 23rd January.

The purpose of the meeting was to make a report to the sponsors on events and funds raised during the 2002 Festival and to appoint committee members to organize the 2003 events.

After the very successful final street party many people had already been asking when the “next” event would be. Thanks mainly to the generosity of the sponsors the Festival was continually able to raise large amounts of money at the events through the raffles and this was duly noted at the meeting.

The outcome of the meeting was a very definite agreement that 2002 had been a huge success, not only in the astonishing amount of money raised but also in the interest that had been generated especially in the HEARTT 2000 Charity but also in the AIDS education programme in Pattaya.

It was noted with gratitude that Pattaya City had not only supported the Walk For Life Parade on World Aids Day but been instrumental in ensuring the success and enlargement of the parade to include the schools and other organisations.

The 2003 programme and changes in the format of this year’s Festival are still under discussion and will be published as soon as possible both in the local press and on the PGF website. It is hoped to concentrate the energies of the organisers on fewer events and encourage others to arrange smaller events under the umbrella of the PGF. This had been a success last year and it is hoped to expand that side of the Festival.

The main Festival will still take place from 29th November - 2nd December with the Walk For Life on December 1st. At least four dinners will be held (one each quarter) and the Mr. and Miss PGF contests will provide entertainment during the latter half of the year.

The accounts for this last year are published and these show the success of the main events thanks mainly to Jim’s enthusiastic leadership and the support that was given by a dedicated band of followers. Individual donations for HEARTT 2000 continue to be channelled through the PGF accounts for which the committee are grateful and hope that this continues during this coming year.

Watch the PGF website and local press for updates on events.

Income Statement for the year 2002

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Siam Thani sold

The Siam Thani, Thailand’s one and only exclusively gay resort in Pattaya, has been sold. The cozy, colonial style boutique Hotel has been taken over by Art Groesbeck, an American, who wants to make improvements but has no plans to change the character of the place. In other words, the Siam Thani will continue to receive only gay males in its premises as in the past and thus remain the only exclusively gay resort in this fair land.

The Siam Thani is conveniently located halfway between Boyztown and Jomtien Beach, down Thaphraya Road, Soi 11. The traditionally worked timber structures and the private swimming pool in the common area help to make this place the colonial style hideaway where your tranquility and privacy is guaranteed. With only 8 one bedroom and 1 two bedroom units available altogether, care and attention from the friendly staff is assured. All rooms have well stocked refrigerators, coffeemaker, microwave, TV and DVD, cable, fans and air conditioning.

A specialty of the Siam Thani is their good looking houseboys who cater to the needs of the guests 24 hours a day. The concierge can arrange anything from tours to a private driver or whatever you need, just name it. Needless to say, there is 24 hours security and condoms and gel are provided free of charge in each room in a special basket. “Let our houseboys pamper you.” is the motto of this hotel.

Art Groesbeck wants to cater to guests who demand the best, but not the most expensive. A fully equipped tropical Spa with sauna, Jacuzzi, waterfall, pool etc. should be ready when you read this article. Next door there is a new restaurant with about 100 seats opening in March. It will specialize in Thai and French cuisine. Who does not like being pampered sometimes, and in such a delightful way! Do try it out on your next visit.

Of Beauty and Value

Cutey and Beauty, the famous salon in Bangkok, has introduced its Value Days promotion. On Mondays Gents hair colouring is only 1000 Baht. On Wednesdays all perms and straightening also 1000 Baht. This is really great Value when you consider that only L’Oreal products are used. Coupled with this, Cutey and Beauty invites its hair dye customers back any time within a 2 week period for a FREE touch up on colour. Cutey and Beauty are pulling out all the stops to get back their customers lost during the economic downturn. Now it is time to pay them a visit. The staff are exceptionally friendly and deserve your custom. If you have never have been there, Cutey and Beauty is located on the 3rd Floor of Thaneya Plaza, Silom Road, Tel: 02 231 2315, www.cuteyandbeauty.com

Studios sold and closed

Michel, the owner of Studio Group in Pattaya (Studio Suites, Boys Studio, Jolly Boys etc) has sold his business after a police raid and a closure of his main bar for one month. The new owners have no eye for male beauty, are more interested in female beauty (if such a thing exists?) and will therefore discontinue the gay venues.
New Star Boys Club

"Spoilt for choice?" "Arent we always?"

For the visitor with a limited time in Fun City that is a cri de coeur often heard. Which bar or bars to visit and dare one move on having made eye-contact and fallen in love for the "n"th" time today.

For the long-stay or resident, the problems do not change; only the time-scale. Time allows for a daily dalliance rather than a quick hop around and after all, there is a difference between a Pub Crawl and a Bar Crawl. Down the pints repeatedly is slightly easier than downing the pants.

Bars and their owners are constantly changing and so it was a pleasant surprise to drop into the New Star Boys Club after a long absence.

This bar originally took most members of the fraternity by surprise by rising to the challenge of being "on the wrong side" of Second Road. How everyone "knew" it would never work. It couldnt possibly, who is going to cross that road and so on......

The extra doormen employed to stand on the "right side" of the road and encourage and escort the punters safely across into the Bar silenced the Jornals.

Now, under new management, and after a recent face-lift outside, the bar continues to draw the crowds and give good service without the frills or need for extra "shows" of any kind. The atmosphere is cool, not cold, the staff do their smoking in a specified area and not whilst sitting with customers unless encouraged to do so. And all the staff actually look as though they are enjoying doing their job which certainly breaks the ice and helps everyone relax.

Every bar claims to have THE most handsome boy in Pattaya - With a Galaxy of Stars on the staff one is literally spoilt for choice and maybe This Star Boys Club has every right in believing it can substantiate the claim. This Bar has always had a reputation for managing to attract handsome young men and certainly caters for every taste. Muscle, tattoos, piercing or the slim and cherubic, you'll find them all but not for long. The Bar, in the Soi across from PattayaLand 1, opens around 9.00 pm and those in the know are there early to watch the parade.
“I’d rather be cruising”

by Suzy Size

Arriving in Chiang Mai from hot and somewhat humid Phuket and having been picked up punctually at the airport by the friendly driver of Lotus Hotel, we were very grateful for the refreshing breezes that cooled us in the evenings. The Lebanese owner of this really nice boutique hotel is a former architect and this shows very clearly in the fine interior design of the place. Every detail is just right. At night we did not need to use air conditioning when sleeping and had to don a sweater.

shows by local talent upstairs. The shows seem to be very popular and are always watched by a happy crowd. In walking distance you can find Circle, Fan Club, Doi Boy, Simon Cabaret, Gemini and My Way, just take a look at our revised maps.

Since I like walking, I reached almost all the places I wanted to see on foot. But, since you are probably not in such good shape as moi, it is easy to hire Tuk-Tuks or little taxis from the street for a ride. And, you can do that almost free of hassle as they do not constantly try to rip you off. Of course, this is a cliche, but most cliches have a basis in truth: People in the North are really friendly, friendlier, anyhow, than in Bangkok or other places that are swarm with tourists. Also, the drivers in Chiang Mai drive much slower and more carefully than in Bangkok, you do not have to run for your life every time you step off the pavement, and sometimes on it.

Former Buddies, located in one corner within the old wall, has changed owners and is now called Lanna Paradise. In this Garden Restaurant you can order from a wide range of Thai and Western food. A lot has also changed in the open-air bars that used to be located in the Night Bazaar. They are all gone, but many have moved or are in the process of moving to locations just behind the Night Bazaar. You have first to run the gauntlet of,

dare I say it, REAL WOMEN bars. But do not be irrevocably put off, hidden in the background are some obviously gay bars as your restless eyes will soon discover.

My favourite was Cruise Bar. The able and diligent owner Khun Ae managed the place under the same name for two years in the old location before relocating and taking most of the goodies with him. He has about 15 free-lancers, some of them from hill tribes nearby. Ae is well connected-he plays sports with the local police station incumbent, which is beneficial for all parties involved, in any sense. Strictly no lady-boys is the rule in this very male environment which is regularly frequented by many local expats.

The music at Cruise Bar is pleasant, a bit nostalgic and not loud. You can hear old songs by the Beatles, Rolling Stones or others that were famous when you still thought you were young. Sitting around the horseshoe shaped Bar you will feel at ease with yourself and the world and be reminded of past, seemingly better times. "I’d rather be cruising" is emblazoned on the back of the waiters t-shirts as a combined motto and statement of intent.

Our request, to take a picture of cute Mr. Ae was friendly but categorically denied, so if you would like to get to know this nice guy, you have to go there in person.

Lotus Hotel, as even we bloody-innocent tourists were to find out relatively quickly, is strategically located in the middle of most of the gay venues of Chiang Mai, a bit like a spider sitting in his web, waiting for fresh meat. Just opposite the hotel we found Adams Apple, a go-go and Karaoke bar, which has very interesting (if you know what I mean, nudge, nudge!) and playful.

when sitting in the cozy garden bar of the hotel.

We decided afterwards to get some rest at the House of Male till we had to leave hospitable Chiang Mai. A nice pool in a beautiful garden invites you to rest, read or swim or to visit the sauna. The entry fee is only 130 Baht and if you would like a massage there are seven masseurs employed.

strictly male, of course, in a place of that name. At the reception desk you might want to purchase your personal copy of "Thai Guys Tales" for only 45 Baht, a collection of best stories published by this Magazine, or you can pick up another free copy of Thai guys if you are woefully short of cash-but we warn you that it will entice you to partake of many other of the pleasures of this open-armed country.
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"From The Balcony Chalkboard"

Never trust a stockbroker who’s married to a travel agent

Don’t sweat the petty things and don’t pet the sweaty things.

Laugh at your problems; everybody else does.

If at first you don’t succeed, skydiving is not for you.

Advice is free: The right answer will cost plenty.

Don’t eat the yellow stuff.

Money DOES talk... it says good-bye.

Life is sexually transmitted

Either I’m dead or my watch has stopped

I’m not your type. I’m not inflatable.

Two wrongs don’t make a right, but three lefts do

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Don’t squat with your spurs on

It’s been lovely, but I have to scream now

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Too many freaks, not enough circuses
Silom comments

Balcony Pub & Restaurant (4)
The Balcony Pub and Restaurant has the longest
terrace and the least expensive drinks in world
famous Silom Soi 4. A large bar and busy terraces
downstairs and an open-fronted upstairs karaoke,
games and internet area. Open from 6.00 pm to
2.00am, The Balcony offers nightly happy
hours and a wide selection of Thai, British, Indian
and Vegetarian food. Famous for its friendliness
and informality, one of Bangkok’s most popular
venues for locals and tourists alike.

Boys of Bangkok (24)
One of the boldest shows in town.

Dick’s Café (20)
Stylish bar and café with European style sand-
wiches and Thai snacks. Very pleasant for
an afternoon coffee or a late night snack and
nightcap. The same good old management since
the start. A very popular and stylish bar and
café with a wide range of food and snacks.
Comfortable seating and always exhibiting
artworks of local and international artists. They
open at 11 am and close at 5 pm. Very pleasant
for a long or short coffee break during the day.
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you can talk to your neighbor and if he is not deaf,
he will certainly understand each and every precious
gem that drops from your lips. Guess are not
constantly disturbed by pushy money boys. Pick
up your free copy of Thai Guys here.

Tartawan Place Hotel (31)
The stylish, comfortable, gay friendly hotel—not
noisy although right in the heart of the action.
The Tartawan means sunflower in Thai. The stylish
comfortable hotel is right in the heart of the
action, but still not a bit noisy. The friendly and
able staff have been there for years and so has
the excellent management who really takes care
of their guests-which is why they return year after
year. The rooms are constantly upgraded, some
wonderful suites are also available. Book early,
since this sunflower of Bangkok is becoming
ever more popular.

Telephone Pub and Restaurant (1)
Where friends have been meeting since 1987,
enjoying the friendly atmosphere. Use the table
telephones to contact someone you fancy, just
dial up the table number. They offer casual
dinner from Western and Thai menu. New drink
menu with lower prices. Now open earlier from
6 pm to 2 am.

Utopia Tours (42)
Asias gay and lesbian travel pioneers. Personalized
private holidays, local gay guides, famous for their
short side-trips all over Thailand, or to Laos, Vietnam
and Bali. They encourage visitors to drop by their
office (in the lobby of the Tattawan Place Hotel
02-238-3227) and chat about their travel plans.

Blue Star (25)
Funky sexy shows. Totally renovated.

Aqua Spa (41)
Young at heart and age. But a real icon of
Bangkok’s gay life already. Who never gave it a
try has nobody to blame but himself.

Tower Inn Hotel (39)
Gayfriendly hotel in the right place. Swimming Pool
on the roof. Understanding staff Not expensive.

Cutey & Beauty Hair Salon (40)
Thanjai Plaza 3rd Floor (between Silom Soi 2 and
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and Toning), Manicure, Pedicure, Hair wash &
Styling, Shave or Ear cleaning for only 1000 Baht.
Or 1250 Baht includes Hair cut. Or 1500 Baht
includes Hair cut & Foot Massage.

Aquarius Guest House (49)
This is the only gay Guest House in Bangkok. If
you like a cozy atmosphere at very reasonable
price, this is definitely the place to go. A host is
available.

Xtreme Bar (23)
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of Bangkok, Blue Star and Dick’s Café are),
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Pattaya

A Jaunt Around Jomtien A Personal Reconnaissance

Valentine’s Day just happened to be the tenth anniversary of the start of an expat life in Thailand. As for many this was to see the ups and downs - metaphorical and real - of relationships and business opportunities. During the visits over the previous years the inevitable bathbus rides out to Jomtien or Dongtan Beach had been made - the spending of a day, hiding from the sun under the umbrellas and then back in the evening to Boystown and around. A ritual that seemed set in stone as there was really “nothing to do” in Jomtien at night.

Subsequently on becoming a resident that ritual continued for a few months and then began to pall. Life took on a more varied form and the need to “do” something became of the essence before the brain began to atrophy. The need to view the talent in an evening continued but the variety of events in the daytime meant that Jomtien began to figure less and less in the daily equation.

However, during the last couple of years, there has been a great change on the Jomtien scene and we are not talking about the potted palms and rigid chair lines. As some people rightly predicted, and not least those who built the Jomtien Complex Estate, Jomtien will soon be a resort in its own right. Over the years many have tried to set up business in the form of bars, restaurants and other attractions only to go out of business fairly regularly and quickly as the visitors continued to leave the Beach in the afternoon and head off to places in and around Pattaya and for their evenings entertainment.

Bamboo Bar near the Dongtan Beach Police Box corner has long been established and frequented to and from the beach and others have recently tried to emulate that success. Most recently “Oh Yes”, an upstairs Barlounge above the internet Cafe has sought the post-beach custom. Originally this Bar had offered live music but now it has pleasant seating and waiters with some dancers. Food can be ordered and will be brought in.
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**Chiang Mai Comments**

**Adam’s Apple Club (16)**
Biggest bar in town with karaoke, pub, restaurant and somewhat raunchy shows.

**Cruise Bar (21)**
This popular open air bar is located behind Night Bazaar like all the others in this area. First you have to pass some girty bars. Hidden in the background are some obviously gay bars as your restless eyes will soon discover. The most popular seems to be Cruise.

**House of Male (2)**
Popular, very friendly sauna. Centrally located in a renovated Thai mansion. Pool, garden, gym and other amenities.

**Spa Roma (18)**
Luxurious sauna popular with young professionals. The ambiance and tasteful decor of Bangkok’s famed Babylon sauna.

**The Circle (8)**
Congenial "off" bar with imaginative nightly non-ladyboy shows and a friendly ambiance.

**Lotus Hotel (15)**
The comfortable and inexpensive Boutique hotel of the Rose of the North. Near to Adam’s Apple. In the middle of gay Chiang Mai.

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**Boat Bar (14)**

Nightly shows that are very popular and regularly draw large crowds. Owner Khun Daeng is probably the best known gay man of Phuket, a pioneer of our kind of entertainment.

**Aquarius (20)**

Aquarius is basically a sauna - on the other hand it is more, much more like a one-stop center for all your needs during your stay in the South. On the ground floor they have a pool, a bar, the gym and the showers, on first floor locker room, steam, sauna, Jacuzzi and the dark room. Third and fourth floor contain total 9 rooms. Luxury rooms/apartments incl. 1 Master Suite with 2 bedrooms and a Jacuzzi. On the roof you find a sundeck with showers.

**Lionchhai Guesthouse (32)**

Lionchhai Guesthouse has not many rooms, but they are spacious and well equipped. All come with private computer and ADSL Internet access free of charge. Reservation recommended. Good Internet café downstairs.

**Siam Palm Hotel/Rim Suan Restaurant/Jungle Boyz (36)**

The 15-room Siam Palm is a gay-owned, "gay-friendly" Patong establishment in the middle of the action, but still quiet. Its Rim Suan Restaurant offers fine Thai cuisine and European dishes. Next door the Jungle Boyz is also worth a try. All three places are under the same ownership and management.
Moving further along the road and round the bend towards Pattaya, Two Faces is on the right hand side and since this has recently changed management and is linked with the Belgian Bakery next door this is a place that can now offer snacks and is popular with the pre and post Beach crowd. With reasonably priced drinks happy hour is well named and a snack and a chat with the pleasant staff is a growing business. If one wants a more substantial meal then La Rotisserie restaurant next door offers fine French cuisine. The Meals are well prepared, well cooked, well presented and more to the point, at very reasonable prices.

If one crosses the road into the Jomtien Complex one is immediately aware at the moment that things are very much in the “happening” mode. Builders are everywhere, re-rating and revamping the present structures into new businesses. This levitation is waking up. The place that has been dead and empty so long is at last coming to life. Star Treff took the plunge and set up business and now, after initial problems, is a very popular venue on the tourist scene and with those residents who have found it. This is a wonderful

crasvestite show in a small (maximum 45 customers) and intimate theatre hence why one should get there early for a pre-show drink. Wonderful costumes, choreography and enthusiasm all mix to provide a lasting impression. With changes in the routines being constantly made and many surprises it is a place one will want to revisit. This is even possible on a limited budget as the first drink/show price is only 160 baht and each drink thereafter 80 baht.

Further along the soi and on the opposite side is Sophon Boys Club. With bright, clean decor and furnishings this is another place that has had an increased clientele of late. As the management continues to increase the field of operations this has become a place where one can while away the hours after the beach with a quiet drink and chat or more strenuous workout in the gym and doze in the sauna.

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THAI GUYS Gallery

Thinking of losing those extra pounds then spend time in the steam room before a physical massage. Come back down and enjoy another drink or play pool. Around 9.00 the Tarzan Bar opens and one can encourage the mini-tarzans to get up to their tricks on the ropes and rings. However one might suggest that the lads might perform more with a little more encouragement. Maybe they ought to consider a set of bananas which customers can buy and give out rather like the roses for Miss Popular!

A jaunt or ramble around the complex will reveal more and more places that are gay or gay friendly and there are apartments for rent in the area as well. Maybe this will soon challenge Boystown, only time will tell.

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**RESTAURANT**

International and Thai Cuisine

**DAILY SPECIALS**

- **Sunday:** Roast Loin of Pork
- **Monday:** American Meatloaf
- **Tuesday:** Baked Ham
- **Wednesday:** Roast Fillet of Beef
- **Thursday:** Roast Chicken
- **Friday:** Country Beef Stew
- **Saturday:** Roast Leg of Lamb

Now you just need to remember what day of the week it is.

Pattayaland Soi 3, in the heart of Boyz Town
Phone: (038) 710-880
E-Mail: richard@amorestaurant.com
Web Page: http://www.amorestaurant.com
**Ambiance (53)**
The first gay hotel in Pattaya. Well decorated rooms with all necessary amenities. Conveniently located in the heart of Boyz Town.

**Boyz Boyz Boyz (1)**
One of the first go-go bars in “Boyztown”. Still in same location and thriving. Very popular as a night cruising venue for beachboys.

**Bruno’s (8)**

**Funny Boys 2 (14)**
The newest Go-Go in Boyztown has opened. Have a look yourself.

**Royal House (31)**
Stylish massage parlour with a wide variety of masseurs. Try the VIP rooms with video and music.

**Le Café Royale (3)**
A popular gay hotel located in the heart of Boyztown. Rooms recently renovated and all fully equipped. Open 24/7. Coffee shop, restaurant and Terasse bar-restaurant open 24 hours for breakfast, lunch and dinner. A wide range of European and Thai dishes available.

**Piano Bar & Restaurant (3)**
Piano Bar open 7.30 pm daily at Le Café Royale, with full range of drinks and food. Live entertainment with pianist to midnight. Famous singer Toy performs here. Certainly the best in Pattaya.

**Amigo Tailor (12)**
Your reliable custom tailor and friend. Where tradition meets innovation.

**ICON Showbar**
Stylish and trendy club with fabulous shows. Pre-Show buffet dinner nightly on the Showbar Terrace at 8:30 PM.

**ICON Pattaya Hotel**
Hotel’s 20 Guestrooms and 2 Suites are located in a garden setting adjacent to its swimming pool and restaurant. Quiet yet convenient location.

**Amor Restaurant (10)**
Richards well known restaurant is located right in the heart of Boyz Town. The only 100% gay restaurant in Town. But you can also bring your mother since they are hetero-friendly or at least hetero-tolerant if they pretend. Even if you are overweight already, try the desserts!

**Jim’s Tailor (68)**
Certainly the best looking tailor in town with an absolutely intriguing smile—but probably married... and an excellent tailor for suits and dresses. Whatever you want, girls, they can do it, clotheswise, strictly!

**Top Man (36)**
Fabulous Shows with lots of phantasy. Wide range of handsome hosts.

**Panorama Pub (9)**
Open air pub with a panoramic view of all that goes on in Boyztown. Before or after dinner sit with friends and watch the world go by. Games room upstairs.

**Funny Boys 1 (39)**
Now newly decorated in Thai style, very beautiful. Have a look for yourself.

**Siam Thani (16)**
The only exclusively gay resort in Thailand. The cozy, colonial style boutique hotel in Pattaya. The traditionally worked timber structures and the private swimming pool in the common area help to make this place the stylish hideaway where your tranquility and privacy is guaranteed.

**Sophos (43)**
This new Boys Club and Massage Place with Sauna is conveniently located in Jomtien Complex, close to the Gay Beach. Wide variety of guys. Worth a try.
Piano Bar Music At Cafe Royale

Le Cafe Royale Piano Bar and Restaurant has always boasted a relaxed atmosphere in which to wine and dine. With nightly live music from 8 p.m. provided over the years by a number of accomplished male and female musicians this has become a well-known venue to meet and mix for young and old, Thai and farang, alike.

At the present time one of Pattaya’s well-known singers, Toy, has joined the ranks on the stage of the Piano Bar.

Toy, born in Nakorn Si Thamarat has always enjoyed entertaining and spent four years at Chulalongkorn University studying and training in classical music before himself becoming a singing teacher for three years. Toy has been fortunate as he was encouraged by his father from a very early age to develop his English by speaking with foreigners. This is not so surprising as his father was an English teacher who went on to become Principal of a High School.

At 33 years of age Toy brings with him a wealth of skills and talents in music developed over the years of a professional music career. He has during this time performed in Switzerland, JJ Park in Bangkok and recorded an album before taking up a 3-year session at the ICON Showbar where he performed nightly in a solo capacity prior to the Show and then during the show both in solo and company numbers. On completion of his time at ICON Toy had a three-month singing engagement in Hong Kong.

Music in the Piano Bar is provided by Fon from 8 p.m. until Toy commences his set around 11 p.m. Fon then hands over the reigns to Nok who accompanies Toy till 2 a.m.

One of Toy’s favourite songs is “memory” from the musical Cats and certainly this number is well-suited to his style though his wide-ranging repertoire of English and Thai songs caters for most tastes.

The Piano Bar is situated in Le Cafe Royale, Patataaand Soi 3 (Boyztown) Toy performs every day except Sunday.
Men + Paint - Clothes = Luxury

“In the beginning there were nudists, felt-tips and tracing paper.” This is the artist Symon recalling how he got started drawing the male nude. Some of his most recent oil paintings of Asian males are on show at Dick’s Café, Bangkok, until March 5, 2003 - or until someone takes them off to be lovingly hung at home. In this exhibition, enticingly named ‘Colours of Youth’, his canvases burst with luscious tropical colours and sexy neon hues, while your eyes cant help following the figures’ rather robust contours. These outlines are as strong as the muscles of the models, which gives them a comic strip quality that unites fine art with today’s ‘Manga’ cartoon culture in a very satuk way.

“In the early years of my career as a comic strip artist in the United States in the 1950s and early 60s, I depended on popular nudist magazines,” he says. “Overcoming the lack of subjects willing to pose naked in post-war rural Michigan? Well, the pictures had people dancing in the sun or playing badminton in the nude, and very sporting arrangements of girls on boys’ backs playing beachball. Right at that time, Japan brought out the felt-tip pen that made a deep black line, so I began to do tracings and configurations from the nudist magazines, and constructed my own little magazines. Those were the first public presentation of my art.”

Suddenly there’s a perfectly proportioned person there; they can almost walk off the canvas. You only get that from using live models. Its not just pigment, they’re people. They’re psychokinetic; they influence your dreams. You can’t invent that.”

The men that influence his dreams (and maybe yours) are ones he encounters that possess the most perfect example of a particular ‘look’ found in certain remote villages on Bali, particularly around his home in Alas Sari. “They all have exactly the same features - the lips, the nose, the ears, with tiny waists and broad shoulders - because they’ve been paddling boats out to sea every day since they were eight years old to catch fish,” says Symon, whose Art Zoo studio overlooks a black-sand coast where the locals still swim nude together in the surf as they’ve done for millennia.

“T have constantly try to discover the postures of life,” he enthuses. “You find the Balinese lounging like lizards, naked on the rocks.” Look into the gorges, rice irrigation channels and volcanic springs and, sure enough, you’l see the everyday truth of his depictions of shower-boys, water sprites and bathing villagers.”

It’s not just rural idyls that he paints, but also private fantasies. Like David Hockney, Symon is noted for his swimming pool scenes that hint at such an achingly desirable lifestyle that the painting itself lets you share a little of that hedonism even if you can’t experience it in the flesh.

“Art is a luxury; there’s no human necessity for art,” he states. “People feel guilty when they see something that’s ravishing, because they’ve been told they can’t have it. So my works enable a lot more people

---

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to get a hit of stunning luxury. Look at my painting called ‘Blue Spaghetti’, which is a bunch of lads in a swimming pool - a luxury in itself! Well, that’s a moment of my life. A lot of people might say, ‘Why is he always doing those rude paintings?’ Or they could think: ‘Hmm, looks like a nice pool party.’ Because, of course, it is.

It’s not just the bare skin that gets Symon’s collectors excited; they also like what his palette does to their surroundings, showing skin in luminous blue or purple. “A lot of Symon’s work is about getting colour onto walls, getting life into rooms,” says one of his American collectors. “When I go back to California, it’s like everyone’s in a black and white movie. People there don’t have a lot of colour in their lives, whereas Asia is all about colour.”

Another Symon addict, a top multinational executive, agrees. “Some people think they’re too bright! I love it. How can life be too bright? I ask myself? My walls are covered with Symons. They allow me to escape the browns and blacks and whites of linear business into a world of fantasy, relaxation and good taste. They now are familiar faces that greet me every time I come home.”

Needless to say, a lot of Symon’s works adorn buyers’ bedrooms. “I’m showing a sensuality, but it’s not pornographic - as many women buy them as men,” says the artist. “I paint them for impact, but also to live with as a friend. Someone’s always at home when you adopt a life-size nude.”

The exhibition ‘Colours of Youth’ by Symon is at Dick’s Café until March 5, 2003. The book ‘Property of the Artist: Symon’ by Philip Comwel-Smith is available from Dick’s Café, Bookazine, Asia Books or Books Kinokuniya.
The Tarntawan Place Hotel is the gay-friendly hotel in Bangkok. The rooms are comfortable, nicely furnished and bright. Our friendly staff pay attention to every detail to make your stay a real experience.

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Dick's Cafe Bangkok

Duangthawee Plaza, 894/7-8, Soi Pratoochai, Surawong Road, Bangkok 10500, Tel: 66-2-637 00 78
E-Mail: dickscafe@dickscafe.com, Website: http://www.dickscafe.com
Open 11 noon till 5 am