auto-industry scandals

(and no arrests)
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AT THE JANUARY BOARD MEETING, I invited the Publications Committee to give a presentation on the Number 1 Shimbu. For those unaware, we no longer have advertising in the magazine (long story) so it’s costing the Club around ¥600,000 a month to generate content, edit, design, publish, print and distribute the magazine. In my view, it’s a mistake to view the magazine as just a cost, because it fulfills many other tasks as a voice of the Club. Also, I cannot imagine a press club without a publication, not least in these times, to highlight attacks on freedom of speech and the turbulence engulffing journalism, as well as events happening within the Club itself. (Not to mention that the magazine has won a design award.) So the Board and the Publications Committee have been discussing ways to fund the magazine’s operation, “ideas” include introducing a ¥1000 monthly subscription fee for all members; switching to a digital-only publication to cut out printing and distribution costs (about ¥300,000 of the total); or moving to a quarterly print magazine with more substantial content, also reducing print and distribution costs. I stress, these are ideas, though we will need to come up with some options for the GM and the F&C Committee that form the backbone of the FCCJ.

Finally, I’m very happy to announce that the Board at the February meeting voted to grant Life Membership to Sandra Mori. Sandra has been a member of the FCCJ for more than 40 years, during which she has chaired many committees staffed by volunteer members and does not include those who have disappeared or are held captive by non-state actors.

Other findings from CPJ’s prison census include:

• Ninety-eight percent of jailed journalists are female, up from 8 percent last year.
• Freelancers accounted for 30 percent of jailed journalists, in line with recent years.
• Politics is the riskiest beat, followed by human rights. Those imprisoned for covering human rights including Wu Lai and Kyaw Soe Oh, two Reuters reporters in Myanmar sentenced to seven years in prison for their reporting on military atrocities in Rakhine state.

For the third consecutive year, every journalist imprisoned in Turkey is facing anti-state charges

In the United States, where the FCCJ’s Committee to Protect Journalists has found that the U.S. Press Freedom Tracker, of which CPJ is a partner, has documented or assisted in the cases of at least seven foreign journalists seeking asylum in the United States because of work-related threats at home, CPJ was held in prolonged detention by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). CPJ defines journalists as people who cover the news or comment on public affairs in any media, including print, photographs, radio, television and online – and includes only those journalists it has confirmed were imprisoned in relation to their work.

The list is a snapshot of those incarcerated at 12:01 a.m. on Dec. 1, 2018. Journalists remain on the list until the organization determines with reasonable certainty that they have been released or have died in custody. The prison census accounts only for journalists in government custody and does not include those who have disappeared or are held captive by non-state actors.
DEATH BY BLOW OUT

The second scandal involved the Ford Explorer, which under certain conditions – high-speed driving in hot climatic regions – rolled over after its tires blew out. More than 270 fatalities and 800 injuries over nearly a decade starting in mid-1990s were linked to tread separation involving tires manufactured by Nashville-based Bridge- stone/Kumho (now Kumho Tire Co., Ltd.).

Ford blamed the tires. Bridgestone/Firestone blamed the Explorer’s design, specifically, that the automaker had added weight, as much as 450 kg, through the model’s various iterations just yet didn’t change the specifications of the tires. Bridgestone/Firestone eventually asked the U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) to investi- gate the handling and control characteristics of the Explorer. NHTSA reported back in February 2002 that the evidence was inconclusive. A final report, Verdict Final: no.

First, Ford got lucky. More than half of accidents occurred in a handful of states in the southern region of the U.S. including the Southwest where daytime temperatures often average 40 degrees Celsius in August. Bridgestone/Firestone claimed that the tires should have been inflated at 30 psi. The owner’s manual said 26 psi was sufficient. They went back and forth and back and forth – after the fact.

Second, Ford had a perfect scapegoat in Firestone, the former Firestone Tire & Rubber Co., and may have overplayed its hand. Twelve years before the 1990 introduction of the Explorer, which became the best-selling sport-utility vehicle in the U.S., Firestone was the subject of the largest recall in the auto industry’s history – 14.5 million tires – and was forced to pay a substantial fine, leaving the company financially weaker and eventually opening the door for Bridge- stone to purchase its global operations for a then-record $2.6 billion in 1988. Ford acted as if it was unaware that Bridge- stone’s (Tokyo) was calling the shots.

This was all the more ironic considering that when Bridge- stone incorporated in 1931, Firestone challenged its name, accusing the Kunoe family-based company of trademark infringe- ment. Firestone lost its challenge because the name “Bridge- stone” was not a Firestone rip-off but a transliteration and inversion of the surname of its founder, Shojiro Ishibashi, or “stone bride.”

Like Toyota years later, Bridgestone/Firestone’s CEO Masa- toshi Ono, the former head of Bridgestone’s Kurume plant, accepted a congressional invitation to express his “regrets.” Like Toyota, he delivered his formal statement in English and responded to questions through an interpreter. Unlike the Toyota CEO, he made a disastrous impression and came across as inconsistent and evasive. (One, by the way, spoke English. We spent half a day togeth- er in Kurume and met twice in Nashville. His English was good, but his attempt at Congress to accept responsibility but not blame was lost in translation to a hostile audience and skeptical public.)

Both Ford and Bridgestone lost money. Different sources put the losses at more than $1 billion each including recall costs. More interesting is that Bridgestone/Firestone severed its nearly 100-year supplier relationship with Ford in May 2003. Bridgestone also moved to close the subsidiary’s Deca- tor, Ala., plant; that which produced the tires and which was the center of the earlier recall in 1978.

Ford increased the pressure level of the Explorer’s tires when it revamped the model in 2002.

RECALLING 50 MILLION AIRBAGS

The third scandal centered around an estimated 20-25 deaths and other materials into the passenger compartment.”

Takata’s automotive customers were forced to recall more than 50 million airbag inflators in the U.S. alone. Those cus- tomers include a who’s who of the auto industry, from BMW and Mercedes in Europe to General Motors and Ford in the U.S. to Toyota, Honda, Nissan and Subaru in Japan.

The root of the problem was a management decision in the late 1990s to switch to ammonium nitrate as the pro- pelant for airbag inflators. The material, which was report- edly cheaper than many other propellants used by suppliers, proved less stable.

Particularly damning, the air bag supplier’s engineering divi- sion reportedly altered and concealed test results. Neither did management respond with a sense of urgency. In one of his messages to shareholders, Takata president Shigehisa Masuko, who had spent 11 years restructuring Mitsubishi – between it back from the brink after Daihatsu/Crystal’s CTF Corp. the one based near Chicago that used the wrong synthetic rubber for the accelerator pedal.

CTF Corp. had used a polymer (a resin synthesized from petro- leum) that under certain conditions – extremely hot and cold temperatures – expanded and didn’t revert to its previous form. In a very small number of cases, the pedal swelled and stuck after being engaged, sending the car forward at high speeds. Toyota would eventually recall more than 7 million vehicles in the U.S. and another 2 million in other markets.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Mitsubishi, once Japan’s second-largest automaker, has emerged as a strong chief executive.

Bridgestone replaced Ono as Bridgestone/Firestone CEO in October 2000. Nearly 20 years later, the company is the world’s number-one tire maker and exceedingly profitable. In fact, it is the most profitable of all automakers in Japan, with an operating margin exceeding 10 percent.

Takata ceased to exist in April 2016. Shigehisa Takada resigned to make way for the sale of its assets to a competitor. Mitsubishi, despite tensions between Nissan and Renault, is 80 percent back to record earnings. Masuko, who joined the automaker from Mitsubishi, resigned in June 2015.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Masuko, who had spent 11 years restructuring Mitsubishi – bringing it back from the brink after Daihatsu/Crystal’s acquisition in 1991, who knows what comes next?
Friend or foe: Artificial Intelligence in the newsroom

AI may be replacing journalists in mundane jobs, but it could also be the savior of true journalism in an increasingly complex world.

By Maria Teresa Ronderos

Many large newsrooms and news agencies have for some time been delegating sports, weather, stock exchange movements and corporate performance stories to computers. One reason is that machines can be more rigorous and comprehensive than some reporters. Another is that, unlike many journalists who often single-source stories, software can import data from various sources, recognize trends and patterns and suggest a story. This can be a big scoop. For example, a media outlet can continuously monitor millions of data points that could be the beginnings of possible stories. It can systematize data to find a missing link in an investigation. In these patterns over time, an algorithm can help reporters find the clues they need to tell the story.

Most journalists in the world do not have access to a team of programmers or data scientists to help design and build their projects. Collaboration is the answer. Small newsrooms and freelancers can make up for the lack of resources by teaming up with software developers to help build a more permanent solution. They can also become perceptive in spotting and using the many open-source search and analytics tools available.

Communication between journalists and techies is not a given. It needs a lot of learning from both sides and some trial and error. With ongoing technological development, journalists now have an ever-expanding toolkit in which to work. But, if instead of fearing it, journalists embrace AI, it could become the savior of the trade – making it possible to do their best to explain how they are using algorithms and why they matter.

Ethical Challenges

The readers’ editor of the Guardian, Paul Chadwick, wrote about the relationship between journalism and Artificial Intelligence, posing a new clause for the newspaper’s code of ethics.

“Software that ‘thinks’ is increasingly useful, but it does not necessarily lend itself to ethical or informed decision-making,” he warns. “When using Artificial Intelligence to augment your journalism, consider its compatibility with the values of this code.”

Journalists have to be aware that algorithms may lie or mislead. They have been programmed by humans, who have biases, and logical patterns may lead to the wrong conclusions. Most journalists will always need to check results with their century-old verification techniques: cross-checking sources, comparing documents, doubting their findings. Transparency is another must for journalism in this new era of machine intelligence.

“The biggest stumbling block for the entrance of AI into

“TRANSPARENCY, A BASIC JOURNALISTIC VALUE, IS OFTEN AT ODDS WITH ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE”

newsrooms is transparency. Transparency, a basic journalistic value, is often at odds with Artificial Intelligence, which usually works behind the scenes,” says Nausica Renner, digital editor of the Columbia Journalism Review.

Media should let the audience know what personal data they are collecting if they want to remain credible. Despite the powerful new tools allowing them to cater precisely to their audiences’ tastes, editors should also strive to inform users about what they don’t want to know. The public interest is still the media’s business and the key to its survival. By the same token, investigative reporters should do their best to explain how they are using algorithms to find patterns or process evidence for a story if they want to be different from the manipulators and demagogues who secretly collect data for use as a commercial weapon. Moreover, healthy journalism should continue to bring to life those silenced voices and intractable issues around which no one has systematically collected information or built data sets.

In the end, while it is true that AI enables journalists to do their best to explain how they are using algorithms to find patterns or process evidence for a story if they want to be different from the manipulators and demagogues who secretly collect data for use as a commercial weapon. Moreover, healthy journalism should continue to bring to life those silenced voices and intractable issues around which no one has systematically collected information or built data sets.

Image recognition: technology that analyzes large databases of documents and presents results with background information. OCRCRP’s Crime Pattern Recognition uses technology that analyzes large databases of documents for similar corruption-related crimes and links between involved parties.

Image recognition: technology that recognizes objects, places, human faces and even sentiment in images. The New York Times uses Amazon’s Rekognition API to identify public statements or claims. Chequebot is used by Chequeado in Argentina; Full Fact UK and partners are developing an automated fact-checking engine that will spot claims that have already been fact-checked in new places; and it will automatically detect and check new claims using Natural Language Processing and structured data. The Duke Reporter’s Lab in the US developed the tool ClaimBuster to deliver politically meaningful claims to media and, in 2017, launched a hub for automated fact-checking projects. Factmata in the UK is also developing an automated fact-checking tool.

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Kathrin Erdmann has been in Japan for less than six months but has already had her share of surprises. Take public prosecutors.

In her native Germany, report-
ers expect them to give detailed briefings of ongoing cases. “Here, they say just ‘no comment,’” she laughs, recalling her first calls to stonewalling prosecutors on the detention of Carlos Ghosn, Nissans defrocked boss. “If you’re talking about a democracy, it is really shocking that they don’t respond.”

Then there is immigration, which Germany knows something about too. It has fielded over 1.4 million asylum applications since Chancellor Angela Merkel resisted demands to close the country’s borders in 2015. Erdmann doesn’t underestimate the difficulties of accommodating such a tsunami of foreigners. “It took a long time, we had a lot of problems with refugees and still have, but we understood that they have to speak the language, and we have to make it easy for them to find a job.”

She sees no such system here. “In Japan, refugees and immigrants have to learn Japanese themselves; there are no programs to integrate them and learn the customs – and this is much more important here. This country needs immigration.” Erdmann says the missing ingredient is political leadership. “You have to really change the minds of people. This has to come from the politicians but they are not really interested in attracting immigrants. My impression is that they only see them as second-class people.”

Erdmann covers Japan and a large chunk of East Asia, including Korea and Taiwan, for ARD, Germany’s powerful consortium of regional public broadcasters. A Berliner, she studied politics in the city before joining NDR (Northern German Broadcasting) as a freelancer in 2005. NDR put her on half-time staff in 2011. The Tokyo bureau is her first full-time position.

The decision to come halfway across the world wasn’t easy, she says, during an interview at ARD’s office in the upscale residential district of Shoto, just around the corner from the home of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. For one thing, she had to leave her partner behind in Germany: “I cannot ask someone to give up and follow me here. By the time we would go back he would be in his mid-50s.”

Erdmann hopes her efforts will bring a fresh perspective from Asia to her millions of German listeners. The focus of her predecessors – all men – she says, was economics; she leans toward social issues. “I’d like to do stories on women, on poverty and how homeless people really live.” She wants to look at businesswomen who buy men in host bars and says stories about Japan’s kawaii culture are popular back home. She recently visited a fashion show, the first ARD correspondent in 12 years to do so.

Erdmann is reluctant to deploy the usual, sometimes clichéd historical comparisons between Germany and her new host country. “I think it’s too complicated,” she says, of the discomfiting legacy of World War II. “Nobody understands why Japan has such difficulties with the past.” Still, the past can’t be completely avoided. “As a correspondent you can’t choose,” she says, noting that she has already snagged stories on comfort women.

Not surprisingly, perhaps, given Germany’s nuclear-phobic reputation, Erdmann was invited to visit Fukushima soon after she arrived. The resulting look at the cleanup from Japan’s 2011 disastrous triple meltdown was “more or less” a promotion tour, but she says that’s perfectly natural. “If I were a foreign journalist in Germany, of course, I would not expect them to show me the country’s weak points.” Still, the technical complexity of the story means she is dreading a March 11 deadline. “I would love to do a human story about someone who has been displaced instead.”

Like many Japan-based foreign correspondents, Erdmann often finds herself busier dealing with stories about its isolated neighbor, North Korea. Last October, she went there to report. “I had a lot of fun,” she says, recalling a “very good” cappuccino in Pyongyang and a trip to the mountains. “People were singing, dancing, and they had a barbecue. It was another face of North Korea. Of course, I know it’s a difficult country but I could only report what I saw.”

Japan and Germany could still learn a lot from each other, she says. While Merkel is criticized for accepting so many Syrian refugees, Erdmann thinks that on balance the open-border policy will be good for Germany. “On the other hand, I appreciate very much this deep culture and tradition in Japan. In some ways, we gave up on that in Germany.” The important thing, she says, is to show respect to the place you’re reporting. “We all have our own personal interest but ultimately you just have to report the story.”

David McNeill writes for the Irish Times and the Economist, and teaches media literacy at Hosei and Sophia Universities.

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**Kathrin Erdmann**

By David McNeill

**“I’D LIKE TO DO STORIES ON WOMEN, ON POVERTY AND HOW HOMELESS PEOPLE REALLY LIVE.”**

Photograph of Kathrin Erdmann by CHUNI WATANABE

**Series: Profile**
Nabbing the newsmakers
Inviting those in the headlines to face the questions of journalist Members is one of the core elements of the FCCJ. Meet the Professional Activities Committee – the team that’s responsible for the lineup.

By Julian Ryall

A foreign correspondents’ club that lacks a hard-driving and fast-acting committee dedicated to bringing in speakers to address the most pressing and newsworthy issues of the day, David McNeill reckons, is about as much use as the proverbial chocolate teapot.

Joint chair of the FCCJ’s Professional Activities Committee (PAC) and a correspondent for the Economist, McNeill has served on the board and the Club’s Freedom of the Press Committee as well as editing the Number 1 Shimbun, but considers PAC to be the heart of what the Club is about. “What are we if we’re not a fully functioning club that facilitates the work of journalists?” McNeill said. “What are we if we’re not a functioning board and the Club’s Freedom of the Press Committee as well as the correspondent is perceived to have stepped out of line.

Members of the committee meet once a month to propose speakers for the weeks ahead, although they communicate recommendations via e-mail when a breaking news story requires swift action to arrange for a speaker to address the Club.

In February, for example, the committee’s discussions led to invitations being extended to Denny Tamaki, the governor of Okinawa, to speak after the prefecture-wide referendum on U.S. bases, and to the “combative” new lawyer who has been taken on to defend Carlos Ghosn in his legal struggles with Nissan Motor Co.

The press conference in January with Ghosn’s previous lawyer – with McNeill as moderateur – was one of the best-attended in the FCCJ’s history. With the world’s media watching and the FCCJ logo prominent in the background, that sort of publicity can only be a good thing. The committee continues to try to get Greg Kelly – who is accused of abetting Ghosn’s alleged illegal actions – to speak at the Club, along with officials from the prosecutor’s office for the other side of the story.

There is a standing request in with the government for someone from the cabinet to speak at the Club, although McNeill admits it has been a “real struggle” to convince the administration of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to engage with the foreign media since he returned to power in 2012. “We have never had Abe since he was elected in 2012; in fact, we have not had [Finance Minister] Taro Aso or any foreign minister since then,” McNeill said. “We have put in a lot of effort to get them to come, but to no avail. It now feels like a boycott.”

It is possible that the government considers the FCCJ to be in decline, with an ageing and shrinking core of full-time correspondents, more freelancers and bloggers writing for an online audience, but they almost certainly prefer scripted events that they are able to control – unlike the press conference on Sept. 25, 2014 in which Eriko Yamatani, chair of the National Public Safety Commission, ended up “like a rabbit in the headlights,” McNeill said.

Arriving with the expectation of discussing North Korea’s kidnapping of Japanese nationals, she was instead quizzed on the recent revelation of her close links to Zaitokuji, described by McNeill himself in a report on the event as “perhaps Japan’s most toxic racist group.” The result was not the choreographed reception the PAC could have expected at the National Press Club, but an example of how the media operates in most parts of the world with a strong press.

McNeill says he was “annoyed” when another senior politician demanded all the questions that he would face after his speech in advance. And was not embarrassed at making the demand. Instead of free-for-all press conferences, the government has introduced “surgical strikes” in the form of invitation-only meetings with bureau chiefs, often off the record. The downsides are obvious; most FCCJ members cannot access these senior government ministers and invitations can suddenly stop if the correspondent is perceived to have stepped out of line.

McNeill says he has the utmost admiration for the FCCJ’s PAC staff, who are charged with reaching out to potential speakers and cajoling those who are reluctant to step out of their comfort zone. “We have superb staff who are brilliant at what has to be a quite a demanding job,” he said. “Nominating these people is the easy part; they have to do all the tough stuff.”

Aiko Saikawa, who oversees PAC events as media and press conferences liaison manager, plays down the scale of the task she regularly faces. “The hardest part is that we get so many requests from members suggesting people to come and speak at the Club: we can only have so many events,” she said. “It is surprisingly easy to get some speakers to come, but on other occasions we have to work really hard to try to persuade them to come. In some cases, it can take more than a year,” Saikawa said.

“At that point, they often agree because we have worn them down, they know we will just keep calling them until they agree. I think some of them come just so we will stop calling them.”

Along with Carlos Ghosn’s lawyer, a particularly memorable press conference for McNeill was David Kaye, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, because it shone a new light on the on-going issue of Japan’s closed press club system and questions over the independence of the domestic media.

But there are still some high-profile targets for the committee to convince to come to the Club. “It would be great to have the Emperor or the Crown Prince – although that will likely never happen,” said McNeill. “But Abe would be a very important event for us and there is absolutely no reason why he could not come. We’re also obviously very keen to get Ghosn here just as soon as we can – that would be huge for us.”

Julian Ryall is Japan correspondent for the Daily Telegraph.
Truth, lies and Shock and Awe
Rob Reiner trains his lens on a true story about journalism, jingoism and the drums of war.

By Tim Hornyak

THERE’S A BRILLIANT SCENE in the 1970s U.S. TV show All in the Family where Archie Bunker, a “lovable bigot,” meets his daughter’s hippy boyfriend for the first time. Looking over the headlines in a newspaper, they immediately begin arguing about the Vietnam War. When the boyfriend calls the conflict illegal and immoral, Bunker tells him, “You are a meathead... Dead from the neck up!” He then breaks into an overpowering rendition of “God Bless America,” causing the boyfriend to storm out.

Rob Reiner, the actor who played the boyfriend, is still protesting America’s overseas wars. He visited Japan in February to promote his latest film, the true story of Knight Ridder journalists Jonathan Landay and Warren Strobel who probed the official justifications for the U.S. invasion of Iraq in 2003.

The title, Shock and Awe, refers to the battle plan concept developed at the National Defense University that was then-Vice President Dick Cheney then-Financial Times reporter and two, quite frankly, money. [Former CBS Corp. CEO] Les Moonves put it quite succinctly. He said “Donald Trump is bad for the country. He’s good for CBS.”

The film includes a 2002 clip of then-Vice President Dick Cheney telling an audience, “Simply stated, there is no doubt that Saddam Hussein now has weapons of mass destruction. Mainstream U.S. media swallowed this, hook, line and sinker, ignoring investigative reports written by Landay and Strobel, portrayed in the film by Woody Harrelson and James Marsden, respectively. The jingoist chorus for invasion grew as overwhelming as Bunker’s singing. The result, of course, was the fall of the Iraq regime and, according to the website Iraq Body Count, the violent deaths of over 280,000 civilians and combatants. U.S. weapons inspectors found no militarily significant WMD.

The war left a tragic, divisive legacy that was reflected in the film’s production. Some U.S. news media outlets refused to sell footage for use in Shock and Awe. Predictably enough, many American viewers didn’t warm to it either, with critics comparing it unfavorably to Reiner’s 1992 Oscar-nominated court-martial drama A Few Good Men. “It’s an important story to remember right now, assuming you can remember anything after being beaten over the head with talking points for 90 minutes,” Rolling Stone’s David Fear wrote. “The title is a misnomer.”

But Reiner didn’t seem to be phased when discussing his hopes for a better response in Japan, where the film was slated to debut in March 2019 under the title Kishinashi (journalists). He noted that, in a happy irony, journalists like Landay and Strobel are no longer media pariahs, thanks to the rise of a reality TV star to the presidency. Reiner said the U.S. news media has been “bifurcated” between outlets with a pro-Donald Trump agenda and those that have returned to their watchdog role vis-a-vis the White House.

“CNN, NBC, Washington Post, New York Times are holding the president accountable and they’re working very hard at trying to get to the truth,” Reiner said. “That didn’t happen in the run-up to his election. I believe mainstream media was not doing the due diligence it needed to do at the time, for a couple of reasons. One is I don’t think they thought he was going to win, and two, quite frankly, money. He then breaks into an overpowering rendition of “God Bless America,” causing the boyfriend to storm out.

“I believe mainstream media was not doing the due diligence it needed to do at the time”

American Century’, [a 1997 statement of principles] written by a bunch of neocons at a conservative think tank.”

The film includes a 2002 clip of then-Vice President Dick Cheney telling an audience, “Simply stated, there is no doubt that Saddam Hussein now has weapons of mass destruction. Mainstream U.S. media swallowed this, hook, line and sinker, ignoring investigative reports written by Landay and Strobel, portrayed in the film by Woody Harrelson and James Marsden, respectively. The jingoist chorus for invasion grew as overwhelming as Bunker’s singing. The result, of course, was the fall of the Iraq regime and, according to the website Iraq Body Count, the violent deaths of over 280,000 civilians and combatants. U.S. weapons inspectors found no militarily significant WMD.

The war left a tragic, divisive legacy that was reflected in the film’s production. Some U.S. news media outlets refused to sell footage for use in Shock and Awe. Predictably enough, many American viewers didn’t warm to it either, with critics comparing it unfavorably to Reiner’s 1992 Oscar-nominated court-martial drama A Few Good Men. “It’s an important story to remember right now, assuming you can remember anything after being beaten over the head with talking points for 90 minutes,” Rolling Stone’s David Fear wrote. “The title is a misnomer.”

But Reiner didn’t seem to be phased when discussing his hopes for a better response in Japan, where the film was slated to debut in March 2019 under the title Kishinashi (journalists). He noted that, in a happy irony, journalists like Landay and Strobel are no longer media pariahs, thanks to the rise of a reality TV star to the presidency. Reiner said the U.S. news media has been “bifurcated” between outlets with a pro-Donald Trump agenda and those that have returned to their watchdog role vis-a-vis the White House.

“CNN, NBC, Washington Post, New York Times are holding the president accountable and they’re working very hard at trying to get to the truth,” Reiner said. “That didn’t happen in the run-up to his election. I believe mainstream media was not doing the due diligence it needed to do at the time, for a couple of reasons. One is I don’t think they thought he was going to win, and two, quite frankly, money. [Former CBS Corp. CEO] Les Moonves put it quite succinctly. He said ‘Donald Trump is bad for the country. He’s good for CBS.’

All in the Family also aired on CBS, and no doubt Archie Bunker would have cheered Trump’s refrain of “fake news.” The anti-war boyfriend though, would probably respond with a line from Shock and Awe that Reiner’s Walcott delivers to his troops: “When the government says something, you only have one question to ask: Is it true?” If American news media today does its job, future scholars of journalism may look back and say, “Those were the days.”

Life Member James P. Colligan

He was measured, polite . . . with a subtly wicked sense of humor.

COLLIGAN WENT TO COLLEGE at Duquesne University and enjoyed the dating scene. He even came close to marrying one woman - but before that could happen he realized he had a religious vocation. Of course, Catholic priests must take vows of chastity and fidelity to the Church are bound to uphold that.

JAMES P. COLLIGAN, a Roman Catholic priest and FCCJ Life Member who died at 90 on Jan. 31 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, had something in common with Cold Catholic priest and FCCJ Life Member James P. Colligan, his chiselled Irish looks, could have been Hollywood casting’s version of a handsome priest. As Schreffler puts it, “he was dapper, the most eligible bachelor some might say.” Or, as Colligan himself would have pronounced, mangled.

The Image of Christianity in Christian Quarterly for a Protestant publication, the Catholic church-sponsored journalism was the

“Just as he always was while sitting at a table in the Main Bar, Jim was often the growup in the room. He was measured, polite, intelligent and empathetic with a subtly wicked sense of humor.”

In 1955, after his ordination, Father Colligan was posted to Japan as a Maryknoll missionary. He studied Japanese and carried out parish priest duties in Sapporo and Kyoto parishes. For four years, he was a pastor and kindergarden principal in the coal-mining town of Mikasa in Hokkaido. At the same time, he taught English at Hokkaido University’s Swamisona Division.

He took time out to study journalism back in the U.S., at Syracuse University, then returned to Japan as a journalist. Besides writing for the Catholic new organizations ranging from VOA and Stars and Stripes to Komsomolskaya Pravda and Nosyge for a psychiatric examination.

He returned to Maryknoll’s headquarters in Ossining, NY, to live in the society’s retirement home for a couple of years. Then, after cerebral incidents and an eventual diagnosis of dysphasia, he moved back to Pittsburgh - by then a city cleaned up, gentrified and quite pleasant. His final two years, during which he functioned every day, were among Tokyo friends who had sent in assisted living there as some of his many relatives helped look after their beloved brother and uncle.

He added, “I believe in social justice myself, but not to the point

“Jim was on my board,” recalls Mike “Buck” Tharp, Club president 1989-90.

Criticizing priests and officials


Those cartoons, signed “Japacol,” made him a regular across the western world. The “Buckboard’ with me at the reins and cartoonesque, the image of Christianity is more important than personal morality. “He added, “I believe in social justice myself, but not to the point

one reason for this become known, priests everywhere

He argued that “one reason for

Students at that time than it is now: priests

Report on Questions of that sort more than a decade later would bring Pulitzer Prize recognition to the Boston Globe and, still later, win the movie Spotlight the Oscar for best picture. But such was the level of concern about Colligan’s challenge that his superiors ordered him home for a psychiatric examination.

When talking with fellow FCCJ members, he compared the experience to something that would have been inflicted on a Soviet dissident. He described his stay at the order’s New York-area base as akin to house arrest.

The movie

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Kakejiku art
Hanging scrolls

A total of 38 designers, selected by the designers’ association DAS, display new takes on Gifu’s traditional kakejiku (Japanese hanging scrolls). DAS believes that kakejiku are one of the best interior decoration choices for today’s art lovers (with extra advantages of being light and compact). The exhibition’s aim is to continue to inspire new kakejiku reflecting different lifestyles all over the world — and to promote a beautiful craft.


NEW MEMBERS

SIMON DENYER is the Washington Post’s bureau chief for Japan and the Koreas. He arrived in Japan last summer as a refugee from China’s pollution and Internet censorship, after five years in Beijing. He also spent more than seven years in India, for the Post and Reuters, and managed to get a book out of the experience: Rogue Elephant: Harnessing the Power of India’s Etterly Democracy. He won an Overseas Press Club award for his coverage of China’s Internet censorship and digital surveillance, a National Headliners Award and a Human Rights Press Award for coverage of Tibet. He also covered the Libyan uprising against Gaddhafi and Ukrainian civil war for the Post, and was president of the Foreign Correspondents’ Club of South Asia in New Delhi. He worked as Reuters Washington bureau chief during the Obama administration, as Pakistan & Afghanistan bureau chief shortly after 9/11, and in Nairobi, New York and London for Reuters text and television. Born in Portsmouth, and a devoted Pompey fan, he now lives in another port city, Yokohama, with his wife and daughter, and still plays football and cricket at every possible opportunity, if not always very well.

SHINJI INADA is the Foreign News Section editor of the Asahi Shimbun. He joined the paper in 1992 and held positions in Gifu and Nagoya before joining the Foreign News section at the Tokyo head office in 1998. His overseas roles have included bureau chief in Tehran from 1999 to 2001, a stint as correspondent in London from 2004 to 2007 and bureau chief in Paris from 2010 to 2014. He has been with the Foreign News Section since 2015.

YUKO TAKEO reports on the economy for Bloomberg News, and is currently focused on covering the Ministry of Finance in the Bank of Japan. Since joining Bloomberg in 2013, she has covered the Japanese stock market, Japan’s giant pension fund GPIF, and various corporate news. She returns to the FCCJ after being a student member back in 2011. Born in Tokyo, Yuko is a graduate of Sophia University and the London School of Economics and Political Science.

NEW IN THE LIBRARY

Comfort Women and Sex in the Battle Zone
Ikuko Hata, Jason Michael Morgan (trans.)
Himmlon Books. Gift from Yoshiko Sakurai

The Private Diplomacy of Shibusawa Eiichi: Visionary Entrepreneur and Transnationalist of Modern Japan
Masahide Shibusawa; The Center for International Communication (trans.)
Renaissance Books. Gift from Masahide Shibusawa

Colonizing Language: Cultural Production and Language Politics in Modern Japan and Korea
Ostovina, Columbia University Press

Reinventing Japan: New Directions in Global Leadership
Martin Falkner and Yoshi Fundabash (ed.)
Praeger. Gift from Martin Falkner

Target: Business Wisdom from the Ancient Japanese Martial Art of Kyudo
Jérôme Chouchan
IJD Publishing. Gift from Jérôme Chouchan

Target: Godiva no naze uriego nai boku o gokkenkan de tessai shibenaka?
Kuchu-kō: Gokken kan de nagasabō 2-gatsu ni 5-nichi de Yobeshi no uchi no ka?
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