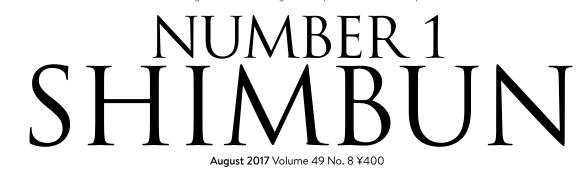
The magazine of The Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan



DIVINE RVENTION

FCC

IN



Could the secret peace feelers via the Vatican have stopped the dropping of the atomic bombs?

Press Freedom: A conference of **FCCJ** veterans

TERV

A question of ethics: When journalists rely on the police

In profile: French journalist Johann Fleuri



Q: How many bearings does it take to move the world?A: NSK makes 2.2 billion each year

From air conditioners to jet aircraft, inside anything mechanical that moves are bearings – dozens if not hundreds of them. But since we seldom see them, who knows how many of these essential devices surround us? Here's one telltale measure: NSK, the world's third-largest bearing maker produces an astounding 2.2 billion bearings each year – ranging from microscopic components used in nanotechnology to giant parts for heavy equipment. No matter how big or small, bearings comprise four basic components: an "outer ring," an "inner ring," a "ball" and a "cage." And no matter what the application, bearings must be engineered with extreme precision in order to minimize friction and maximize reliability. That's why, at NSK, attention to detail is our passion.

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WITH JAPAN'S OBON HOLIDAY approaching, I want to assure FCCJ Members that your Board is moving forward with promised reforms.

This entails (among many other things) negotiating with Mitsubishi Estate in an attempt to ensure that the planned move (inherited from a previous administration) to new premises does not impact the FCCJ's revenue adversely and thus worsen what is already the less than robust financial position of the Club.

The design of some aspects of the new premises is still not well suited to our needs and thus it continues to be a major task for the Board to secure the best arrangement that will safeguard the interests of both sides.

Likewise, the transition from IRS - the principal provider of outsourced Food and Beverage (F&B) operations at the Club - to our new outsourced services provider, AIM, is occupying a great deal of BoD attention at present as the new arrangement will take effect as from Sept. 1, 2017.

Transitional arrangements between the outgoing and incoming companies involved will require some small limitation of operating hours and menus for several days at the end of August. The General Manager will be providing members with details very shortly and we will do our utmost to ensure that any inconvenience is kept to a minimum.

I ask on behalf of the Board for your patience and understanding in these matters and take this opportunity of reminding members that this Board is dedicated to preserving and strengthening the "volunteer spirit" within all of the Club's organs and activities, and to ensuring that all revenues connected with Club activities accrue to the membership as a whole.

On the FCCJ committees, the Publicity Committee (HR) led by Dan Sloan, will be assigned to the activities related to Tokyo Olympics 2020. This world-class event that is watched by the globe, is one of the new venues of which FCCJ can explore more activities to cover, support and "participate" in the Olympics with the goal of winning gold medals as one of the most important hubs for media globally. I have attended a meeting with the Organizing Committee and they told me they pin high hopes on FCCJ on the media front.

In this regard, the Club will regularly host IOC and 2020 Organizing Committee officials, athletes and speakers with relevance to the Games and Japan.

I invite FCCJ members to step forward and participate in the activities of this Olympic and other committees. Please contact the office and indicate which committee you would be interested in. As before, please feel free to contact me with any issue you might have.

Lastly, I would like thank to Gregory Starr and Andrew Pothecary, who have served ably as editor and art director for the No. 1 Shimbun for the past several years, as they will end their involvement with the magazine this month.

Again, thank you. Happy and cool summer.

- Khaldon Azhari

COLLECTIONS

3

Percentage of world's

3.4 billion

31% Countries rated Free

33% Countries rated Not Free

55% Countries rated Not Free in 1986

inhabitants living

in countries with

Partly Free Press

36%

Partly Free

Countries rated



countries and

Percentage of world's inhabitants

living in countries with Free Press

Percentage of world's

with Not Free status

inhabitants living in countries

People living in

countries with Not Free status

territories were

assessed in 2016

billion Largest population of country with Not Free status: **China** 3 billior Largest population of country with Partly Free status: **Índia** (0=most free) 8 1() Norway in 2012 Norway's status (highest among 199) 18 U.S. in 2012 21 UK in 2012 22 Japan in 2012

32 South Korea **in 2012** South Korea Biggest annual decline $\mathbf{1}$ in status (Poland) 83 🖵 📿 Biggest **annual gain** ↑ in status (Belarus) Relarus North Korea Turkmenistan 98 Ť in 2012 in 2012 North Korea and Turkmenistan ♦ (lowest among 199)

(100=least free)

23

Source: Freedom House (ratings based on evaluations in three broad categories: the legal environment, the political environment and the economic environment. A total score of 0 to 30 results in a press freedom status of Free; 31 to 60 results in a status of Partly Free; 61 to 100 indicates a status of Not Free.) https://freedomhouse.org/

at the age of 98.

FROM THE ARCHIVES THE ENDURING POLITICIAN AND AMBASSADOR



The FCCJ's event program for 1982 led off on Jan. 6 with U.S. Ambassador Mike Mansfield, here applauding a humorous comment offered by Club president Edwin Reingold (Time magazine), apparently aimed at a bearded Richard Pyle (AP), who smiles in response. Mansfield, a retired Democratic senator who had been appointed ambassador to Tokyo in 1977 by President Jimmy Carter, also a Democrat, was asked to continue in that role in 1981 by President Ronald Reagan, a Republican. He did so, and became the longest-serving U.S. ambassador in Japan by serving until 1988. Mansfield, who had also spoken at the Club some two years earlier, was highly respected for his even-handed handling of bilateral disputes.

"Enduring" would seem an appropriate word to describe Mike Mansfield, for he had also been the longest-serving majority leader in the U.S. Senate, holding that position for 16 of his 24 years in that body. As such, he was a key man in passing legislation in the 1960s as part of President Johnson's "Great Society."

Born in New York City in 1903, Mike Mansfield was sent to live with relatives in Montana at the age of three, following the death of his mother. He overcame difficult younger years and gained a hardearned education, with the help of his wife, Maureen, that led to his many years in Congress representing the state of Montana. Prior to becoming a senator, he served ten years in the U.S. House of Representatives. He served in the U.S. Navy in WWI, followed by a year in the U.S. Army and another two in the U.S. Marine Corps that took him to Asia and sparked his interest in the area.

Although known for his centrist approach to divisive issues and self-effacing modesty, Mansfield was also noted for expressing strongly held opinions. One of these was his early opposition to continuation of the Vietnam War. This led to his promotion of legislation that became the War Powers Act of 1973, limiting the president's authority to commit U.S. forces without the consent of Congress. In addition to many other honors, in 1989 he received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor, following his retirement as ambassador. He died in 2001,

- Charles Pomeroy,

editor of Foreign Correspondents in Japan, a history of the Club that is available at the front desk





On May 27 last year, following the G7 Summit at Ise-Shima, Barack Obama became the first sitting U.S. president to visit Hiroshima. Accompanied by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, Obama laid a floral wreath at the cenotaph for the atomic bomb victims and, in the speech that followed, expressed his wish to pursue a world without nuclear weapons.

Obama's historic visit received worldwide coverage by the media, including many FCCJ members. In his address, he noted: "Seventy-one years ago, on a bright, cloudless morning, death fell from the sky and the world was changed. A flash of light and a wall of fire destroyed a city and demonstrated that mankind possessed the means to destroy itself."

any people feel that raising the hypothetical question "what if?" is a useless exercise. And while it's true that **LVL** such hypotheses cannot be proved, it's hard to resist asking questions such as this one: "If Japan had somehow agreed to end the war sooner - even by just a month - could the tragedies of Hiroshima and Nagasaki have been avoided?"

For Martin Quigley, a U.S. agent for the forerunner of the CIA during WWII, the question was not simply an academic exercise, but one with an answer that he might have affected if things had gone differently. The following story is one he kept secret, even from his own family, for many years.

Martin S. Quigley was born in Chicago in November 1917. Following graduation from Georgetown University, he went to work as a reporter for *Motion Picture Daily*. But when war broke out, he volunteered for and was accepted by the newly established Office of Strategic Services.

Quigley underwent training as a field operative, receiving instruction in communications through cyphers and training in firearms, demolition and other accouterments of the spy trade. He was then posted to Ireland in 1943 where, under cover as a representative of the Motion Picture Producers and Distributors of America, he collected political and military intelligence.

After a brief return to the U.S., Quigley was assigned to

Rome under the same cover in December 1944. The operation was under the direct orders of OSS director Maj. Gen. William J. "Wild Bill" Donovan.

"I met Donovan at his office at OSS headquarters," Quigley told me in an interview at his home in Hartford, Connecticut, in May 2009, "and the conversation was very brief. He said, 'Martin, I want you to be alert to the opening of communication with Japan, looking to their surrender, using your Vatican contacts."

That the OSS spymaster himself would send Quigley on such a delicate mission to make contacts with Japan points to its political importance. But both Donovan and Quigley were practicing Roman Catholics and their religious backgrounds were instrumental in helping them gain access to intelligence from church sources, not only in Rome and parts of German-occupied ♀ Europe, but from Asia as well.

Speaking of his former boss, 4 Quigley told me, "Donovan was soft-spoken, old-fashioned and a man of great vision. He was eager to undertake any scheme he thought had some chance to help end the war."

SO ONE AFTERNOON IN May 1945, soon after Germany's surrender, Quigley invited Italian priest and Vatican diplomat

Monsignor Egidio Vagnozzi to his Rome apartment. After raising a celebratory toast of beer to the German surrender, Quigley disclosed his true role as an undercover agent of OSS and solicited Vagnozzi's assistance.

He asked Vagnozzi to be the contact in an attempt to open up communications with Tokyo regarding a possible surrender scenario. Should there be interest on the part of the Japanese government, he told the priest, top level negotiators could be available on short notice for secret meetings in or near Rome.

Quigley's approach was not an easy one. "I had to not only disclose my actual role of OSS agent but also had to seek cooperation," he said. "I knew it would be difficult because it was generally known that Pope [Pius XII] had given orders to all his people not to get involved with exactly what I was assigned. This was outside his personal charge. But I was able to convince Vagnozzi that as a priest he had higher responsibility."

Vagnozzi moved quickly. He contacted a Japanese priest who was an adviser to the Japanese mission and Quigley's message was conveyed to Ken Harada, the diplomatic envoy. This ignited a furious debate at the mission over whether or not Tokyo should be notified, since there were concerns, of course, that the approach might be viewed as a plot by enemy spies.

In any event, Harada sent a cable at the beginning of

June outlining Quigley's proposal to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. After several days with no response from Tokyo, the envoy, through Vagnozzi, asked the American to provide detailed terms of surrender. A somewhat bewildered Quigley, on his own initiative, replied that the terms would include preserving the emperor system and other points.

But the lines from Tokyo remained silent. The next month, on July 26, the Potsdam Declaration was issued, and within the next two weeks, atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, leading Japan to declare unconditional surrender on Aug. 15. In the end, the OSS Vatican initiative had come to naught.

When I showed curiosity about the results of his offer, Quigley told me, "If I were in your position, I would concentrate on finding out why the Japanese Foreign Office didn't respond to Harada's cables. I was later told that it was very unusual that the two cables were not acknowledged. They didn't even let Harada know the cables were received. Why?"

I ASKED HIM THEN what he thought would happen if the feelers via the Vatican had made their way through channels. "The bombs would not have been dropped in Hiroshima and Nagasaki," he replied. "More importantly, had we not dropped the bombs, other major powers would have no incentive to try to develop them. I think the idea of an atomic bomb-free world could have been a real possibility." He expressed similar thoughts in a memoir of his time at the Vatican titled Peace Without Hiroshima, published in 1991.

So I went in search of the cables' destination, and found copies in the Diplomatic Archives of the Foreign Ministry. The first, received on June 5, 1945 was recorded as "Top Secret cable No. 53." The second, received June 14, marked cable No. 59, totaled 10 pages of text and contained proposals from "an American in Rome." There were the seals of Foreign Minister

Japan's surrender Shigenori Togo, a vice minister and a director on the two

Agencies at work

cables, indicating they had been read by top-level Foreign Ministry officials. What happened after that is a mystery. The web site of Japan's Diplomatic Archives describes the

Vatican operation of the OSS as having been conducted by "a failure to comply with the Emperor's wishes. person of unknown identity and purpose," and indicates that Of course, in the end the Soviet Union declared war on Japan, nullifying the Japan-Soviet Neutrality Treaty. It can Japan replied negatively to the proposal to open negotiations, and that the OSS approach did not lead to any concrete negonever be known whether the peace feelers via the Vatican tiations. This is clearly at odds with Quigley's account that no could have ended the war sooner and prevented the use of reply was received. atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Nor is this account the only dubious matter. A book pub-In his letter to Harada, Quigley wrote, "I think we should lished by a private publisher in the 1970s titled *The Diplomacy* rest easy in the confidence that each of us did the best we of Japan, produced under the editorial direction of former could in the light of prevailing circumstances. I think it is a senior Foreign Ministry officials, includes what is claimed mistake to look at the past through 'what-might-have-been' to be the full text of the two cables from Harada. However, concerns. However, I believe that it is most important that it appears that portions of the documents had been delibereveryone, especially policy-makers in governments, learn ately altered. For example, references to the surrender terms from the past." that Quigley had relayed had been deleted from the text that On Feb. 5, 2011 Martin Quigley passed away in Hartford, appeared in the book.

Surprisingly, the person who had requested the revisions was Harada, the former Japanese envoy to the Vatican. The book's editing had been supervised, in fact, by the former vice foreign minister and the director who had both seen Harada's cables from Rome.



IT TURNS OUT THAT Quigley had also attempted to find out what happened. In February, 1972 he sent a letter to Harada, in which he revealed his role in Rome as an OSS operative, writing: "I think that you and I have an obligation to history but an even greater obligation to the future.... the ends of historical research and future needs would be well served if some light could be shed on what happened to your message or messages in Tokyo. Why was there no response? Was the explanation that word never reached the persons who could act on the possibility of secret peace-making talks in Rome? Or did the word reach high authority that made the decision not to respond favorably?"

Harada replied to Quigley that, at the time, Tokyo had already decided to seek peace via the Soviet Union and that it was quite impossible to alter that policy. Then he added, "What is more significant for me in looking back from now is that before the outbreak of war, His Majesty the

Above, Martin S. Quigley of the OSS, pictured at the end of WWII - he was asked to contact the Vatican (opposite in 1946) with an aim of negotiating

Emperor had ordered the Government to open diplomatic relations with the Vatican and to dispatch an envoy there in order to be ready for peace negotiations in case of war which he was most anxious to prevent. . . . So much so I personally feel very sorry that I remained quite unserviceable to attain the original desire of His Majes- y ty although I was there at the Vatican as His Special Envoy."

Surprising as it sounds, it's true that even before the war had commenced, Emperor Hirohito had apparently considered going through the Holy See to ₹ negotiate its end. This was borne out \square in the posthumously published Showa Tenno Dokuhaku Roku (The Showa 🖱 Emperor's Monologue), which highlighted his awareness of the Holy See's spiritual influence around the world. He believed that the Vatican could be useful, both as a source of information and for helping to bring the war to a conclusion, and in 1942, not long after

Pearl Harbor, Japan established diplomatic relations with the Vatican.

Knowing this, it's entirely possible that Harada was moved to alter the text of the book out of feelings of guilt over his

Connecticut at the age of 93. According to a family member at his bedside, his final words were, "Thank God for all the wonders."

Eiichiro Tokumoto, a former Reuters correspondent, is an author and investigative journalist.





When the journalist becomes the story

A young South Korean reporter faced a tough situation, and made a choice. Was it the right one? You make the call.

by ASGER ROJLE CHRISTENSEN

t was four o'clock in the afternoon on New Year's Eve in the tiny Danish village of Gug, on the outskirts of Aalborg. It was dark enough for the Danes to have begun the traditional New Year's fireworks, which would go on all night.

Lee Ga-hyuk, a young reporter for the South Korean cable television company JTBC, and his cameraman, pulled up outside a villa where they suspected that Chung Yoo-ra, a 21-yearold woman who was one of the main characters in the worst political corruption scandal in Lee's homeland in decades, was holed up. "We were very tired and a little scared," Lee says.

At the end of December, Lee and teams of reporters from at least six major Korean media outlets had flown to Frankfurt, where the young woman was thought to be staying. They had been in Germany for a week, and were about to follow a tip from one of their sources and head for Austria, when they received a phone call from Korea suggesting they go to Aalborg instead. It was likely, this source said, that Chung was staying close to a local horse training farm in the area, where several of her own horses were located.

Chung was a successful equestrian who had won a team gold medal for South Korea at the 2014 Asian Games. She was also the daughter of Choi Soon-sil, a confidant of then-President Park Geun-hye, who allegedly conspired with Park to strongarm donations from major corporations. Choi had been arrested in November, and was being called the "Rasputin" of the scandal. Chung, her daughter, had fled from South Korea before authorities could ask about her own involvement, and Interpol had been asked by Seoul for help in tracking her down.

In Frankfurt, Lee's team made a quick decision and headed north rather than south. For security reasons, they left their interpreter and driver in Germany, so Lee and his cameraman took turns at the wheel, fueling themselves on a diet of bananas over the 941-km, non-stop trip.

OUTSIDE THE VILLA IN Gug, the JTBC team considered their options. They could see a luxury minivan with German license plates parked outside, one that Chung and her companions were known to have used. Through the window, they could see an Asian rice cooker. They knocked on the door and called out in Korean, but there was no response. The door was locked and the shutters were pulled.

When they showed photographs of the wanted woman, neighbors confirmed that they had seen her taking walks in the area with her small child. Lee and his colleague, now convinced they were on the scent, staked out the villa over the next 24 hours. There was no movement. Nothing happened. No one came or went.

Lee's next act was to spark a storm of controversy and second-guessing: he dialed "114," the emergency number of the Danish police. He spoke to a Danish police officer who, naturally, had never heard of Chung Yoo-ra or the scandal she was embroiled in. He and his colleagues ended up having to check Interpol records of wanted people on their computers; but four hours later they appeared at the villa, where they took Chung, her young son and several others into custody. A Danish policeman took the time to show Lee's team Chung's passport, and their film of that moment has been shown countless times on South Korean television.

WAS LEE RIGHT TO call the police? The reaction in South Korea was muted. A few voices on the internet criticized JTBC for "irrevocably opening the journalism parallel to Pandora's Box." They stated that the role of the journalist should be to observe and report, not to become an active participant, and that JTBC had taken advantage of its own actions in being the first to report the arrest as exclusive news.





But, generally, people in Korea were so angry at President Park and her associates that most tended to believe it was in the public interest to have young Chung arrested as soon as pos-

 Getting the story

 Opposite, Lee Ga-hyuk reporting in Denmark (Private photo).

 Top, Lee talks to the arrested Chung Yoo-ra on camera (JTBC).

 Above, the author in discussion with Lee in Seoul.

sible. The public image of her was a spoiled young girl who had greatly benefited from corruption, entering schools and universities using political pressure on school authorities. Business giants like Samsung had paid for her horses and her stud farm rental fees. Many thought the journalists' task in that situation was to collaborate in the arrest.

I READ ABOUT THE incident the following day on a Danish news website: a report that the Danish police had arrested the so-called "horse girl" after a tip from a South Korean journalist. It made me wonder, as it did many of my colleagues from all over the world that I later talked to about the case. Calling the police? It's something that you just don't do. It makes you too much a part of the story.

A few months later, while in Seoul on another assignment, I contacted Lee Ga-hyuk hoping to talk about what really happened during those hectic days in Germany and Denmark. We had a quiet and informal talk – as col-

"We felt we had to speed up the process, so we chose to go to the Danish authorities"

leagues – on the ground floor of JTBC's modern headquarters in Seoul's so-called "digital media city." JTBC has recently become an extremely popular television channel, especially among the young. It has the same owner as one of the established conservative newspapers, but has a liberal image. And it's considered a critical voice to the government and power.

It wasn't as if JTBC tried to hide its involvement in Chung's arrest at the time. Their headline read, "JTBC called the police for fear of escape" – you can hardly play a more proactive role in a news story than that.

Upon orders from his editors, Lee Ga-hyuk had refused to give interviews to several Danish media while in Denmark. But it was obvious that he knew of our concerns, and he wanted to explain. Lee emphasizes that their original intention – as they drove from Germany to northern Jutland – was to find Chung Yoora, talk to her and give her an opportunity to explain herself. That was the report he wanted to send home. But the doors and shutters to the villa remained closed and his story was at a standstill.

"I KNOW JOURNALISTS should not be part of their own stories," Lee says. "But I don't think these ethics can be used in our situation. We had driven more than 900 kilometers. We had waited for a day. It was dark and we were freezing. The neighbors were suspicious of us, and I can't

blame them for suspecting we were Asian terrorists. And we were afraid of getting beaten by Chung Yoo-ra's bodyguards." I asked him why, after confirm-

ing that Chung was in the house, he didn't just do a stand-up report from in front of the house, reporting the facts. "We did consider that as a possible solution," Lee says. "Another possibility was to wait in hope that she would choose to talk to us. But we began to fear she would flee or destroy evidence."

The final decision was not Lee's alone. "We discussed the matter with our editors and lawyers in South Korea," he says. "We felt we had to speed up the process, so we chose to go to the Danish authorities."

Lee stressed that he did not go to the police in order to be able to film the arrest and get footage of the arrest as an exclusive. He claims that he and his cameraman had no idea in advance that they would be allowed to be present at the arrest. In fact, in the end, they were only allowed to be there

at a relatively long distance.

AFTER SEVERAL MONTHS OF legal limbo, Chung Yoo-ra was extradited to Seoul in late May where she was arrested, but later released, and now awaits trial.

Her mother is in court, as is the former president she served. Meanwhile, South Korea has elected a new president and is looking forward.

"It's a big word to use, but during those days in northern Denmark, we actually felt like we were on a mission," Lee Gahyuk explains. "We felt we represented all South Koreans. We were their eyes and ears while they were waiting at home for any news.

"So we chose to become part of the story." ${\color{black} \bullet}$

Asger Rojle Christensen was Tokyo correspondent for various Danish news media from 1989 until 1995 and again from 2013. He is based in Japan as a journalist/analyst reporting on Asia. (A Danish version of this article was first published in Journalisten.)



SERIES PROFILE Johann Fleuri

by GAVIN BLAIR

⁶⁶ T t happened early, when I was about 16 or 17 - the age that you start thinking about what you want to do with your life," says Johann Fleuri, of first catching the journalism bug. "I like writing, but it was meeting people, talking with people and hearing their stories that was the fascinating thing for me."

During the final two years of a course in modern literature and

journalism at university in Brittany in her native France, she began working for *Ouest-France* newspaper and two magazines. "I was working while studying, but mostly working. I kept going to school a little, but not so much," says Fleuri, who after graduation was asked to join the launch of a new magazine in Normandy, owned by *Ouest France*'s parent company.

Working in a small team building a magazine from scratch and getting feedback on test editions was a valuable experience in always keeping the reader in mind, explains Fleuri. "Writers have to think about the reader, but also have to focus on the people that we are talking to and the way we want to write the piece: it's easy to forget that someone is reading it – but that's the goal, right? It helped me to learn that," she says.

After a tough period of writing professionally while studying, followed by two years of working "every day until late with no holidays," she says she needed a rest. "I decided to travel and maybe write a piece or two, but basically take a break. I had a list of countries I wanted to travel to and Japan was first," says Fleuri.

She visited Japan in 2009, determined to see the country

beyond the big cities, discover the culture and learn the language. "I felt really comfortable here. I had an image about Japan, but it was like nothing I knew or had read about. I had traveled before, but no other country gave me the feeling that I really knew nothing about it," she recalls.

RETURNING TO JAPAN REGULARLY to write for a variety of publications, including *Ouest-France*, she won the Robert Guillain prize in 2013 from the Japanese embassy in France for her work on Tohoku. The award included funding to return to Japan, and she spent five weeks in Ishinomaki in 2013 covering the reconstruction process from the locals' point of view. "I really felt I wanted to settle here after that," says Fleuri. She moved to Japan in 2015.

As well as writing straight news as correspondent for *Ouest-France*, Flueri is also able to pursue her real passion: in-depth stories digging deep into Japanese society and culture. "Those are the kind of subjects "Your first impression is always wrong; if you don't dig and dig and dig and try to understand, you don't get the truth. I like that."

that makes Japan so interesting. Your first impression is always wrong; if you don't dig and dig and dig and try to understand, you don't get the truth. I like that," she says.

Covering women's issues for *La Gazette des femmes*, she has written about gender inequality in the workplace, including jobs that females are excluded from, such as sushi chefs and saké brewers. "I also wrote about

sexuality, discussing it with many women over a few months," she explains. "It's not an easy subject to get people to talk about, especially to a stranger, but it was very funny and I had very unexpected answers. Fleuri believes that being able to communicate directly in Japanese without a translator was crucial in connecting with the women.

The freedom that some of the publications give her to spend months on a single story allows her to get under the surface of issues. "I wrote about whaling, and traveled around talking to people for about six months. The reaction was quite negative at first because they thought I was just another foreigner writing about whaling," says Fleuri. "But I found it fascinating because the answers were nothing like I expected. Most people I met were in favor of whaling even though they don't eat whale meat."

THE KEEN INTEREST MANY French readers have in Japan and its culture allows Fleuri to get off the beaten track both thematically and geographically. "I'm very interested in the regions of Japan that are mostly forgotten," she says. "Places

> where the population is aging and the young are moving away. There is no university in Shimane, for example, even though it's a large prefecture. So how can they expect the young people to stay?"

> Her first book, *Portraits de Tokyo*, is being published in August and consists of 20,000-word profiles of a variety of people, most of whom she previously interviewed. "Their lives and points of view are very different," Fleuri says. "The only common point was that they live in Tokyo. One woman was an 'office lady,' another was a guy who organizes funerals. There is also a Canadian *rakugo* performer and a woman fighting against *matahara* or 'maternity harassment."

Fleuri thinks her foreseeable future will be in Japan. "There are so many problems for women in the workplace, and it is so strange that nothing changes even though the problems are so clear," she says. "I can see myself being here for a long time. It was a long process getting here, but now that I'm here, I want to stay."



Gavin Blair covers Japanese business, society and culture for publications in the U.S., Asia and Europe.

FATURE JOURNALISM

The state of the fourth estate

A panel of veteran foreign correspondents looks at the results of recent upheavals in the media world, and makes some observations about the days ahead.

These are, without a doubt, testing times for the profession of journalism. There is the seemingly inexorable

by JULIAN RYALL

of speakers invited to the Club to discuss the future of journalism. Also at the top table

Emmott was part of a three-member panel

rise of social media compounded by a large part of the general public afflicted by a shrinking attention span. Traditional media outlets are seeing falling advertising leading to falling revenues causing falling investment in journalists and, inevitably, falling standards. Too often the media seems to succumb to the easy allure of click-bait over quality reporting.

And if those worries were not enough to keep a hack awake at night, the world has a U.S. president who labels anything that does not reflect his own world view as "fake news," damaging and degrading the perception of what even the most reputable of media outlets produces.

That accusation of "fake news" is, in turn, increasingly being bandied about by those on the receiving end of unflattering coverage to tarnish anyone or anything that questions their motives. We saw it in the recent British general election, and in Japan, when the Liberal Democratic Party attempted to get their licks in even before the July 2 vote for the Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly, perhaps sensing that they were about to suffer a drubbing. "It has become difficult for us to convey our policies [to the public] because of media reports," said Prime Minister Shinzo Abe during a campaign speech in western Tokyo on June 30, the Asahi Shimbun reported.

Abe was referring to media coverage of his own trials and tribulations over suggestions that he intervened to influ-

ence ministry-level decisions on two educational establishments, and that his defense minister, Tomomi Inada, had called on members of the Self-Defense Forces to vote for the LDP in the election.

"If we slip up when speaking, the media immediately jump all over us," claimed an apparently offended Toshihiro Nikai, secretary general of the LDP. "If you think

you can make our candidates unsuccessful, just do it. If the media think that they are the only entities that can influence the election outcome, then they are completely wrong."

YET TESTING TIMES ARE precisely when quality journalism should come to the fore and fulfill its remit of informing and enlightening readers, listeners or viewers, said Bill Emmott, editor-in-chief of the Economist for 13 years from 1993, a columnist for publications that include La Stampa, Nikkei Business and the Financial Times as well as being the author of 13 books.

"For journalists and journalism, this is a difficult but also a very good period for us," he told the Freedom of the Press Dinner at the FCCJ on July 5. "We have to fight to make sure that our voices are heard because they are voices of credibility and authority and we have value as analysts. But we also need to raise our collective game because - while information is abundant - the understanding of that information is far more scarce," he said.

was Philip Bowring, a writer for the Far Eastern Economic Review for the majority of the two decades between 1972 and 1992, only interrupted by a spell at the Financial Times. He subsequently spent 19 years as a columnist for the International Herald Tribune. With other expatriate journalists, Bowring founded the Hong Kong-based Asia Sentinel in 2006 as a digital heir to the now-defunct FEER and Asiaweek, while he also contributes to a number of publications as a freelance columnist and works as an author and consultant.

The third member of the panel was Urban Lehner, who spent 33 years at the Wall Street Journal as a reporter, editor and executive, with two spells as a correspondent in Tokyo over a total of eight years. He subsequently spent nine years as editorin-chief and vice president of DTN/The Progressive Farmer, based in Omaha, Nebraska, and is the author of a number of books, including The Asia Factor in U.S.-Japan Relations.

While these three stalwarts of the media industry - with well over a century of experience in newsrooms or other media workplaces between them - enjoyed some of the "golden years" of journalism, just how bleak is the outlook for the business now?

THE CHALLENGES, THEY AGREED, are abundant. At a fundamental level, the number of print titles of years gone by has shrunk, said Bowring, pointing out that one of the three larg-

"The problem we face in journalism is getting noticed and being believed"

est publications that he wrote for has not survived. (The Far Eastern Economic Review ceased publication in December, 2009.) "Because of the economic constraints on these publications, primarily caused by declining advertising revenues or readership, there has been a move towards an oligopoly of the old media, but we are also seeing that in the new media," he said.

It is a similar story in the book publishing world, he pointed out, where the 30-something major English-language publishers may still exist in name, but are now mostly owned by three or four large groups. Consequently, he said, there is less diversity in the types of books that are being published; a similar consolidation has taken place in the media world and, in precisely the same way, diversity has been sacrificed.

The dawning of the digital era initially promised to deliver greater diversity and, initially, maybe it did because countless small, net-based publications cropped up to cater to every niche interest. It quickly became apparent, however, that revenue was the problem. "Old media" lost revenue as its traditional advertisers and readers fragmented to alternative outlets, but "new media" were not able to earn vast sums because of the online business model and have not - and still have not - come up with a viable method of taking cash from an online reader base.

The outcome is that old media has less revenue and hence less to spend on traditional in-depth investigative stories, extensive



Philip Bowring "There has been a move towards an oligopoly of the old media."

Urban Lehner "The future of journalism is anything but certain."

background research and even newsroom headcount. Perhaps most worryingly for foreign correspondents, there is also less cash available for permanent overseas postings, as titles rely on stringers, casuals, wire services and even, among the more unscrupulous, simply lifting other publications' work.

"We have seen the diminishment of professional news services in terms of numbers, but have we seen a compensation through improved quality?" Bowring asked. "It would be hard to say that the quality of the surviving mainstream media has increased. There is, instead, an increased reliance on cut-and-paste journalism, which has been exacerbated by the likes of Yahoo and Google." Such news aggregator sites are "effectively stealing copy," Bowring added, meaning that revenue is going to the intermediary companies rather than the original producers of the news.

LEHNER WAS FACED WITH a direct choice between the new and the old when he retired from the Wall Street Journal 14 years ago, he admitted. The choice was between the editorship of a city newspaper in Ohio and a data and technology company in Nebraska. The decision was made, he said, after he visited both companies and had a chance to speak to some of the employees.

At the Ohio newspaper, writers used the opportunity to justify why he should not cut their beats if he took over. It was not, he said, a happy place. The other company, which provided data on commodity prices and weather to farmers, wanted Lehner to oversee its transition from a technology company to a media company delivering information that was not being suddenly provided for free on the Internet.

And while the decision was not easy - "one consideration was that if I became the editor of a print publication, my friends would 'understand'," he said - he went to the data firm and built an award-winning team of news writers and analysts. "I believe providing that sort of business-to-business information is one of the futures of journalism," he said.

Emmott linked the problems in the journalism world to broader problems of democracy and the role of the media in period last year. modern-day democracy. "If we look at the history of journal-The industry can only hope that the reading public conism and the media, it is clear that it goes through ups and tinues to choose quality over quantity and informed sources downs," he said. "This is one of the oldest professions and a over rumors. **O** time when papers were pristinely ethical cannot be identi-Julian Ryall is Japan correspondent for the Daily Telegraph. fied, so the media has always grappled with issues such as

Bill Emmott Information is abundant, the understanding of that information is far more scarce."

advertorials, sponsored sections and so on.

"But I believe the real problem we face in journalism today is getting noticed and being believed," he said. "Journalists have lost the strong position they once held as providers and channels of information. Information is now abundant, communicating information is abundant, so journalists no longer have the dominant position.

EMMOTT SAID THAT A worrying paradox is that while information is abundant and freely available, fewer people now worry about the freedom of speech. He pointed to the pressure being exerted on the government of Qatar over Al Jazeera -"one of the bright lights of the last decade and one that has led to a much more liberated media in the Arab world" - while U.S. President Donald Trump has apparently reveled in a video clip purporting to show him wrestling CNN to the ground.

For Lehner, the question of the future of journalism is closely linked to how information will be delivered 20 years or more from now. While the majority of the millennial generation access their daily dose of news via their mobile phones at present, that will surely change in the future.

But with falling earnings for the media and suggestions from some quarters that governments should directly fund the media ("a terrible idea and a slippery slope to censorship"), Lehner concluded that "the future of journalism is anything but certain or stable."

Bowring, however, remained more optimistic and suggested that the antics of Trump may even have helped the print sector. "People are becoming more choosy again," he said. "We are seeing a revival of print in the book trade and we see the survival of print publications long after people thought they would be dead."

That is borne out by recent figures that show the New York Times - which Trump has derided as "failing" - recorded a net jump of 300,000 digital news subscriptions in the Januaryto-March quarter alone, a record-high growth. Equally, revenue from digital subscriptions is up 40 percent on the same

Meet Watson, your non-human resources manager

by TIM HORNYAK

YOU'RE ALMOST OUT OF college and it's time to apply for a job. Hoping to score a full-time position, you decide to try your luck with one of Japan's most innovative companies. You're competing against thousands of others, yet you trust in your winning personality. There's just one thing: you'll have to charm an artificial intelligence to land the job.

SoftBank has deployed IBM's Watson AI platform to screen university applicants aiming to join the company in April 2018. As the first company in Japan to make such an announcement, the telecom giant was quick to say the system will reduce time that staff spend on the process by 75 percent.

This year, Watson is vetting 400 applications, which consist of typewritten answers to questionnaires. The platform is screening responses to one question, namely: "What are your strong points that match with SoftBank Values (No. 1, Speed, Challenge, Reverse Planning, Tenacity)? Please tell us about an episode that demonstrates your strong points."

"First, we're using Watson to evaluate job application forms more fairly by removing subjectivity," says SoftBank spokesperson Rika Takahashi. "Second, to spend more time on communication with applicants."

IBM CREATED WATSON (NAMED

after its founder Thomas J. Watson) in an attempt to get computers to interact with humans in a natural way. Its ability to process natural language and draw upon encyclopedic knowledge earned it worldwide fame when it defeated human champions Brad Rutter and Ken Jennings on the U.S. quiz show *Jeopardy*! in 2011, winning a \$1 million grand prize. Since then, the machine has shrunk from the size of a room to about three stacked pizza boxes, and it's now accessible anywhere via the cloud. For SoftBank's recruiting, Watson has been "trained" to discriminate

between good and bad answers by analyzing 1,500 questionnaires pregraded by HR staff. Watson is also one of the most

persuasive examples of how what Big Blue calls "cognitive computing" is changing business. It has been deployed, with varying degrees of success, in everything from lung cancer screening to military procurement and even self-driving buses. Japan's Dai-ichi Life Insurance and Fukoku Mutual Life Insurance even introduced Watson-based AI systems to sift and analyze documents related to payment assessments.

"'Cognitive' to IBM is really a new partnership between man and machine," Jay Bellissimo, general manager of the Watson & Cloud

"Some say SoftBank is a mobile phone company, but that's wrong. We are an information revolution company."

Platform at IBM, told the New Economy Summit, an innovation conference held in Tokyo in April. "It's really focused on accelerating, enhancing and scaling human expertise."

Able to read 800 million pages in one second, Watson can understand natural speech or text, assign contextual relationships to information and form hypotheses based on probability scores and algorithms focused on deep learning, a field of AI. As it ingests massive amounts of data, it can detect relevant patterns and assign them rankings according to their likelihood of fulfilling certain goals.

"If it gets something wrong, it will re-weigh – and the algorithms will do it again until it gets smarter and smarter and gets the right answer," said Bellissimo. "The real power is in the learning. Watson never forgets." In one example cited by Bellissimo,

Watson helped Australian oil and gas firm Woodside by providing instant recommendations about oil rig design after going through 200 million bits of information based on 30 years of engineering experience built up at the company.

BUT AS AI APPLICATIONS proliferate, so do concerns that workers and their jobs will be squeezed out. Such prominent scientists and entrepreneurs as physicist Stephen Hawking and Tesla CEO Elon Musk have expressed fears that uncontrolled AI could pose a threat to humanity. On a more pedestrian level, Watson has struggled to live up to the massive hype surrounding it: After forming a partnership with IBM Watson in 2013 to battle cancer, the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center put the project on hold late last year, its goals unmet despite an expenditure of over \$62 million.

Despite a scathing recent report by Jefferies analyst James Kisner, who criticized Watson as too costly to develop compared to its earnings, the company has pushed on with the program as a core unit while it struggles to transition from traditional businesses such as servers and mainframes to cloud technology and cybersecurity.

For its part, SoftBank is happy to experiment with Watson - and it has no doubts that AI is the future. The employee vetting platform is one of its latest AI projects following the launch of humanoid robot Pepper in 2015 and the acquisition of high-profile robotics companies Boston Dynamics and Schaft earlier this year.

"Some say SoftBank is a mobile phone company, but that's wrong," SoftBank CEO Masayoshi Son told a shareholders' meeting in June. "We are an information revolution company. A cellphone is just a device. From now on, we will be in an age where all infrastructure will be connected by information networks." **O**

Tim Hornyak is a freelance writer who has worked for IDG News, CNET News, Lonely Planet and other media. He is the author of Loving the Machine: The Art and Science of Japanese Robots.



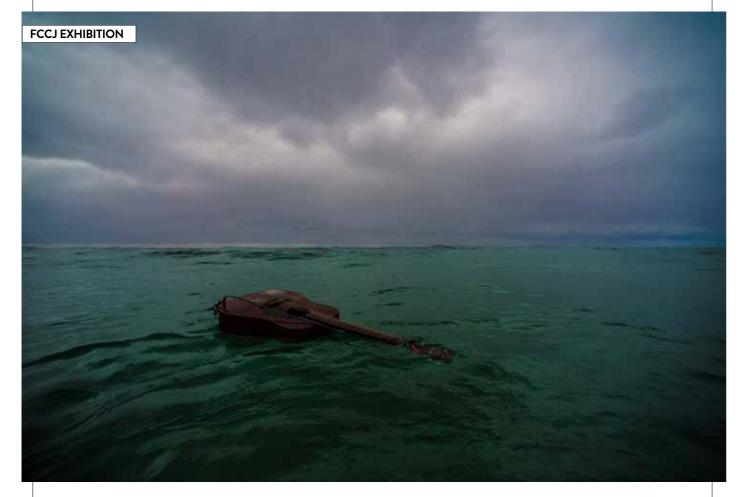
Innovation that excites





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"I JUST FLOAT ALONG." Pat M, USA, LEAF Owner



Temptation to express the sensation of riding waves Photographs by NAKI

THE IMPRESSION FORMED WHEN riding waves can be sublime – and the essence of living. I started creating my artwork with the aim of capturing these feelings. I hope you enjoy my work,

produced from various media, including surfboard resin and the accessories I wore. My intention is to show both my affinity with surfing and my consciousness about recycling.







NAKI is a professional Japanese surfer who was the 1989 grand champion of the NSA all-Japan surfing tournament. He moved California in 1994, where, during his daily encounters with the ocean, he pursued photography to depict his fascination with the waves. He has been house photographer for both Surfing and Surfer magazines, and was the first Japanese photographer to shoot the cover story of the Surfer's Journal. His publications include North Hawaii and exhibitions include shows for Diesel and Beams.

CLUB NEWS

JOIN THE FILM COMMITTEE ...



... on Tuesday, Aug. 8 at 6:15 pm (note early start time) for Masato Harada's sweeping new epic, Sekigahara. The battle in a Gifu valley, fought on a single day in 1600, is considered the defining moment of Japan's future. Lasting just six hours, with forces estimated to number 180,000 - 30,000 of whom did not survive - its outcome brought an end to the centuries-long Warring States period. Directing just his second jidaigeki period drama (after 2015's Kakekomi) and adapting a best-selling three-volume novel, Harada populates Sekigahara with a teeming assortment of historic characters and enough political intrigue, Machiavellian maneuvering and exciting ninja action for an entire miniseries. But his focus is resolutely on the motives and strategies of the two men whose forces would meet for the final showdown: Mitsunari Ishida (Junichi Okada) and Ieyasu Tokugawa (Koji Yakusho). This is a powerful reinterpretation that completely overturns our conventional understanding, transforming their fateful conflict into a war between justice and political opportunism. The director and the film's breakout star, Takehiro Hira, will be on hand for the Q&A session. (Japan, 2017; 149 minutes; Japanese with English subtitles) – Karen Severns

AUTUMN FOOD CELEBRATION

JUST IN TIME TO welcome back members who have been fortunate enough to escape the hottest days of Tokyo, the FCCJ Food and Beverage team is putting the finishing touches on a menu revamp which will give everyone much reason to celebrate the arrival of autumn with exceptional grub and wines.

Adding spice and color to our beloved classic dishes will be a delectable new minestrone, along with expanded salad choices you can enjoy with a new selection of choice breads. Scrumptious seasonal specials will vie for new patronage with equally delicious low-fat selections - something that has long been requested by members. And the Correspondents' Lunches will now come with a delicious selection of desserts for just ¥300 extra.

Come September, lunch-time fare will be available daily until three o'clock, after which our guests can enjoy an extensive à la carte and set-course menu until the last order in the evening. The chefs will soon announce an enticing new selection.

Although the autumn menu is already near completion, management is eager to continue serving fine foods which reflect the eclectic and valued tastes of our members. Please drop your comments into the Suggestions Box at the FCCJ Front Desk or write us. We look forward to seeing you often in the Club Main Bar and Dining Room.

- The F&B Committee



IN MEMORIAM: JEAN PEARCE, 1921-2017

LONG-TIME JAPAN RESIDENT,

FCCJ member, author and journalist Jean Pearce passed away in June in Washington D.C. at the age of 96. Jean's long-running column in the Japan Times and books were the sources of insight for both new and old Japan residents, and she continued to write for the JT until the year 2000. Jean was a member of the FCCJ from 1963 and served on numerous committees and Boards of Directors in her 37-year membership. – Dan Sloan



REGULAR MEMBERS Status Change (From Professional/Journalist Associate to Regular)

PETER O'CONNOR, of Musashino University, first came to Japan in 1976, when he wrote advertising copy for Dentsu. He first visited the FCCJ in 1977 when he was introduced to Murray Sayle. Peter is back at the Club as an historian of the transnational media of East Asia. His most recent book was (in Irish Gaelic) An tÉirí Amach sa Domhan Thoir: Mar a chonaic an tSeapáin, an tSín agus an Chóiré éirí amach na Cásca is a thionchar (Dublin, Coiscéim: 2016), on the influence of Dublin's 1916 Easter Rising on independence movements in East Asia. Peter has been setting up databases of historical East Asian newspapers with Brill Publishers, of Leiden, The Netherlands.



KATHRYN WORTLEY is a Japan correspondent for Canada- and UK-based business news agency International News Services. She also writes freelance for Asia-Pacific travel publication TTG Asia, the Asia Times, the Japan Times and Japan Today. After writing for Scottish outdoor magazine Walkwise and Glasgow's Evening Times, Kathryn moved to Japan in 2008 to pursue her love of the Japanese language. She worked on video media in Kagoshima before relocating to Tokyo for a project at the British Embassy. She is a former editor of BCCJ Acumen, the magazine of the British Chamber of Commerce in Japan.



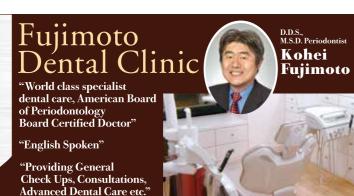
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At Ricoh, every three years we adjust our course with a new mid-term plan. Each time our customers are at the heart of this process as we reconsider their evolving needs and how we can innovate solutions. The key is to start by asking the right questions.

In Ricoh's 19th Mid-Term Plan, launched in April, here's the key question we've set ourselves:

"How can we empower the digital workplace? How can we use insight into the specific needs and traits of individuals and groups to craft digital solutions that invigorate them and enable them to work smarter?"

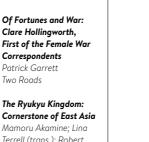
Partly, this is about the ongoing evolution of digital work beyond the keyboard-on-desktop paradigm. Think of healthcare workers who need both hands free for patient care - plus a real-time stream of intelligent data. Or teachers needing new ways beyond the blackboard to animate class discussion. Or police who need to spend more time on the street and less typing up reports. Or merchants needing new ways to re-imagine retail layouts. Or journalists who need new ways to deliver fast, insightful coverage.

Today, we have a slew of digital tools – analytics, cloud computing, robotics, image recognition, virtual reality and more – that can be combined and adapted to bring about change.

But first you need to imagine it.



AUGUST 2017 FCCJ



How to focus digital power on your specific needs? **Ricoh's new three-year mission**

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