

# NUMBER 1 SHIMBUN

September 2018 · Volume 50 · No. 9

**Editors' memories**  
Key moments from  
our past pages

**What's in a move?**  
The trek to our  
new location

**Charles Smith's  
memoirs**  
The last of a series



**Celebrating  
our birthday**  
A half century of Number 1

A quotation from the editor  
... must face the masses and not run behind closed doors and at the same time be bold and lively."  
... question is neither from Lord Thomson  
... comes from an acquaintance of my Yen an  
cave days, Mao Tse-tung.  
The Chinese Communist chairman conceivably may be  
wrong on some matters but what he said about  
is wonderfully relevant to No. 1 Shimbun  
which you now hold in your hands.



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## PITCH US YOUR STORY

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**Front Page**


## From the President

Dear members,

I have less space this month, so forgive the bullet-point approach.

First off, a big thanks goes to Albert Siegel for his past year as editor of the *Number 1 Shimbun*. Albert will be taking on another role to help build and expand the FCCJ's presence on social media. Greg Starr returns as editor of the Club magazine, to soon be joined by Andrew Pothecary as designer. Please join me in congratulating these three gentlemen and get in touch if you have any ideas for helping them in their respective roles.

As I've mentioned previously, we have advertising space available in the magazine – now 50 years young! – so any members

wishing to take advantage or who know anyone who may be interested please contact the office. It's a great way to support the Club.

Secondly, I'm trying to use this monthly letter to explain what's been happening at Board meetings, hopefully to give you the members a better idea of the challenges and opportunities facing the Club.

The most recent Board meeting (as of press time) was on August 10, and while several Board members were on holiday, we had a quorum to proceed. Perhaps unsurprisingly, the meeting was mostly occupied again with how to improve the overall financial position of the FCCJ. Treasurer Willem Kortekaas had prepared a report outlining details of a proposed campaign to seek donations from third parties. This would include corporations, individuals, foundations and so on.

According to FCCJ rules, such a donations campaign needs Board approval, which was given after discussions and a vote. Former general manager Seishi Yoda has been contracted by the Club to lead the drive to win donations from third parties.

During the discussion, Board members noted the importance of oversight of donations. It was pointed out that Club rules allow the Treasurer to approve any donation

up to ¥500,000. Amounts larger than that require Board approval. The same rules state the Club "may not accept unlawful donations or those considered obstructive to execution of Club business, inappropriate under normal social conventions or, in particular, compromising to the integrity and independence of the Club." At the end of any donation campaign, a report must be posted on the Club website disclosing the total amount received, its planned use, and other relevant information.

Still on finances, General Manager Marcus Fishenden provided an update on a number of matters, including the number and value of overdue and delinquent accounts. As of the Board meeting date, the total amounts added up to approximately ¥7 million. The Board was informed that the Club's bylaws already allow for the suspension of certain membership privileges for delinquent accounts (three or more months overdue) but this has not been stringently enforced.

In an effort to reduce the size of unpaid accounts, a letter will be sent to all members to explain that the Club will commence stricter enforcement of the suspension of privileges when warranted. More detailed information will be outlined in that letter. In

## “Freedom of the Press” News: a regional round-up

### Hong Kong

The Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan, its Board of Directors and its Freedom of the Press Committee are alarmed by reports of attempts by current and former Hong Kong government officials and by the Chinese government to pressure the Hong Kong Foreign Correspondents' Club into limiting debate at FCC events.

Freedom of expression is guaranteed for decades to come under the term of the handover.

We are especially concerned that, beyond persuasion, the government is employing economic pressure, threatening to cancel the FCC's market-rate lease on the building it occupies. We call upon the governments and former officials involved to cease and desist.

**- from an FCCJ Freedom of the Press committee statement, Aug. 13, 2018**

### Myanmar

Jailed Reuters journalist Wa Lone wasn't there to see his wife, Panei Mon, give birth to their first child, a daughter, Thet Htar Angel. Wa

Lone and other Reuters journalist, Kyaw Soe Oo, have been detained for eight months on baseless charges after reporting a massacre of Rohingya Muslims by the Myanmar military. It was a bittersweet day for Pan Eimon, who has attended every court hearing possible. "I've wished Wa Lone could be free since before I knew I was pregnant, and now I want him to be free even more. I want to welcome the baby with him, I want him to see the baby," she said.

**- from wire service reports, Friday, August 11, 2018**

### Philippines

Attorney Jo Clemente, chair of the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP) and a journalist of 30 years, says that 11 media practitioners have been killed since July 2016. While the Philippines has always been dangerous for journalists – at least 34 died in the 2009 Maguindanao Massacre – Clemente says the broader media environment is as challenging today as it's been since the mar-

tial law period under the authoritarian rule of Ferdinand Marcos. "The entire scenario, the hatred of journalists, the hatred of lawyers, the hatred of everybody that goes against Duterte and whatever he wants to do, that jeopardizes the democratic space we live in."

**- Time magazine, June 22, 2018**

### China

Professor Sun Wenguang, 84, was arrested at his home in Jinan City, Shandong province, on Wednesday, Aug. 1, 2018, in the middle of a live telephone interview with Voice of America (VOA) Mandarin. The news channel is popular with the Chinese community abroad. Even though it is censored in China, VOA's YouTube account has nearly 700,000 subscribers, more than triple the subscribers of the English channel.

Retired from Shandong University, where he taught physics and economics until 1994, Sun is known for his assertive public interventions against censorship and propaganda.

addition, the Board discussed a suggestion to post the names of Club members who are three months or more in arrears on a notice board in the Club premises. A motion was then proposed to authorize the FCCJ office to post these names in a suitable location within the Club. However, this motion failed as the Board members present were evenly divided on whether this was the right approach at this time.

On other matters, Greg Starr has received approval from the Nieman Lab in the U.S. to republish some of their reports in the Number 1 Shimbun on developments in the journalism industry. Expect to see those and more like them in upcoming editions of the magazine.

Finally a reminder of some upcoming dates related to the closing of the current Club and the opening of the new facility:

- **October 16** – Take possession of new premises.
- **October 21** – Shinto ceremony for opening of new building (hosted by Mitsubishi Estate Co. Ltd.)
- **October 26** – Final Correspondents' Lunch at current Club and closing of the facility.
- **October 29** – Soft opening for lunch at new Club.
- **November 8** – First commercial event at new Club.
- **November 22** – Gala Opening at new Club.

#### ● Peter Langan

Reporters Without Borders (RSF) is demanding his immediate release and stresses that freedom of speech and freedom of the press are explicitly written in the Constitution of the People's Republic of China.

– from an RSF press release, Aug. 4, 2018

## Vietnam

*Tuoi Tre Online*, a popular publication in Vietnam, was suspended by Hanoi on July 16 after having published “untrue” and “nationally divisive” content. The newspaper, founded in 1975 by the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union, *Tuoi Tre* (“Youth”), is being reprimanded for a June 19 article, “Vietnamese president agrees on issuing demonstration law,” that quotes President Tran Dai Quang as saying that he agreed that there is a need for a law regulating public demonstrations.

*Tuoi Tre Online* has been ordered to correct its content, issue a public apology, pay a fine of \$9,800 and suspend publication for three months, according to Luu Dinh Phuc, director general of the Press Authority under the Ministry of Information and Communication.

– Gary Sands, *Asia Times*, July 20

# Politician Extraordinaire



Then Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka spoke at a professional luncheon at the FCCJ on October 22, 1974. Known as the “Shadow Shogun” for his influence in money politics, Tanaka was introduced by 1st Vice-president Bela Elias (*Hungarian News Agency*), with 2nd Vice-president Gebhard Hielscher (*Suddeutsche Zeitung*) looking on. Elias was filling in for FCCJ president Max Desfor (AP), who was out of the country.

## by CHARLES POMEROY

**K**akuei Tanaka, born on May 4, 1918 into a poor farming family in Niigata prefecture, dropped out of school at age 15 to become a construction worker. Though his climb in the construction business was briefly interrupted by a stint in the army, by 1942 he was heading a successful engineering and construction company.

Tanaka was elected to the Diet in 1947. He established good relationships with major politicians, leading to a post in 1948 as a Vice-minister of Justice, but an arrest and imprisonment on bribery charges soon followed. Out on bail, he again won a Diet seat in 1949. Although he was found guilty in 1950, he appealed and continued pushing projects benefitting local communities, with an emphasis on construction. After becoming a member of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) in 1955, his skill at political deal making helped him consolidate his political power while serving as head of several key ministries, including Finance (MOF) and International Trade and Industry (MITI). He became Japan's 40th prime minister on July 7, 1972.

Soon after assuming office, Tanaka succeeded in normalizing relations with the Peoples Republic of China, including the Chinese renunciation of war reparation claims.

He traveled extensively over the following two years, visiting a dozen countries around the world, including the U.S. - where he met with then president Nixon. Domestically, Tanaka did not neglect the construction industry, launching major infrastructure projects such as expressways and shinkansen lines.

His resignation was prompted by the media furor after the FCCJ appearance, but his popularity with his district's voters allowed him to retain his Diet seat. Even the bombshell Lockheed bribery case that later led to his arrest, trial, and conviction in 1983 by a lower court failed to dislodge him. A stroke and declining health resulted in his resignation from the Diet in 1989. Not one to give up, Tanaka's appeal to the Supreme Court of his Lockheed conviction was still proceeding when he passed away in 1993.

**Note:** Eiichiro Tokumoto will speak at the Club on his new Japanese-language book, *Tanaka Kakuei no Higeiki: Beikoku-Gaiko-Kimitsu-Bunsho ga Akasu Shikkyaku-no-Shinso* (“The Tragedy of Kakuei Tanaka: The True Story of a Prime Minister's Downfall as Revealed by Secret U.S. Documents”). The Book Break, which will be in English, will be held on September 19, 2018

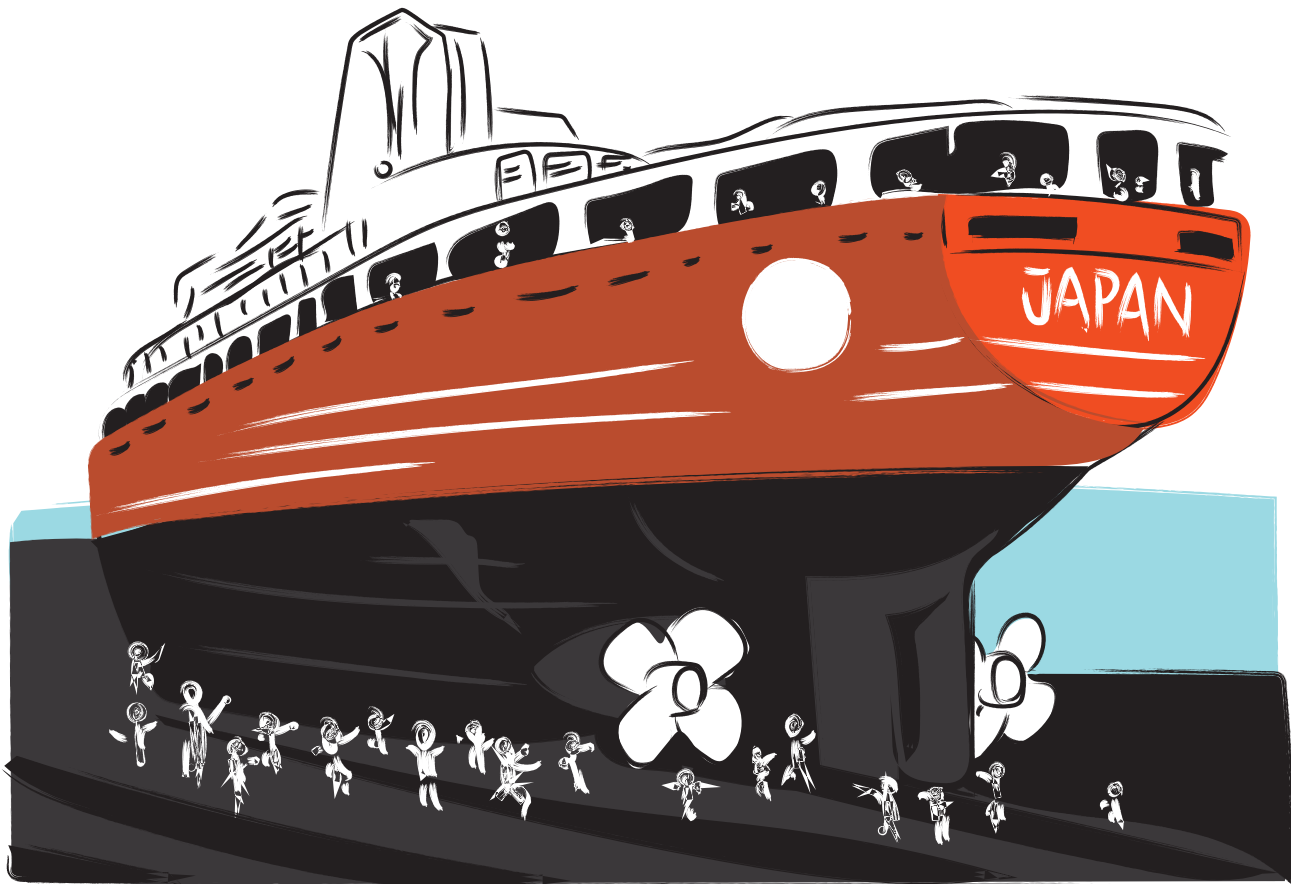
● **Charles Pomeroy** is editor of *Foreign Correspondents in Japan*, a history of the club that is available at the front desk.



Feature

*Mr. Smith Goes to Tokyo, Part 6*

# Workaholics Living in Rabbit Hutches



KOHJI SHIKI



by CHARLES SMITH

The last in a series by the late *Financial Times* bureau chief, in which he recounts how trade wars in the late seventies were becoming (figuratively) bloody.

In the unstable days following the energy crisis caused by OAPEC's oil embargo of the early seventies, one of the most critical issues between Japan and Europe was shipbuilding. The two sides met in the mid-1970s for agonizing talks extending over two years, this time at an almost continental level on the European side. Eventually, in Paris in February 1977, Japanese shipbuilders offered to cut back their share of a fast-shrinking world market from about 70 percent to somewhere near 50 percent, and promised to raise bid prices on international contracts by five percent. They had been underbidding European yards by 30 to 40 percent.

If there was generosity on Japan's side there was also self-righteousness. Around the time the shipbuilding issue was nearing settlement, Hirosuke Dan, Japan's vice minister of finance for international affairs, published an

article in a Tokyo English-language newspaper suggesting that his country's negotiating tactics suffered from the "the Oriental virtue of modesty." On the other hand, Europeans and Americans, he said, "believe in taking whatever advantage there is by complaining where possible." While Dan was praising Japanese modesty, European and U.S. critics of Tokyo often talked of Japanese "cunning and craft." Who was right?

If the West had a grievance, it shouldn't have been about Japan's suspect magnanimity on the ships issue. The more serious problem was imbalances resulting from Tokyo's deeply ingrained reluctance to import manufactured goods. In the early years after the oil shock, Japan's imports from Saudi Arabia - mostly oil, of course - were worth more than twice as much as its purchases from all of Western Europe.

A companion statistic, presented with an aggressive flourish by British Trade Secretary Edmund Dell in a speech at the FCCJ in 1977, revealed that only 20 percent of Japan's global imports consisted of manufactured goods. (The rest were food and raw materials.) This, we were told, compared with a 50 percent manufactured goods import ratio for the countries of Western Europe.

Dell appeared to see the 20 percent figure as something planned by Japanese officials who regarded imports of manufactures as "unpatriotic." He warned that the UK government would have difficulty "resisting pressure for putting barriers up against Japanese goods" if things didn't improve. In the meantime, Britain would become a "calculating free trader" so far as Japan was concerned.

A Ministry of International Trade and Industry official put a different slant on the 20 percent figure. He said Japan's manufactured goods import ratio was low because it didn't belong to a "fraternity of affluent nations" the way the UK and France did. A friend at the Boston Consulting Group at the time told me much the same thing. He said Japan was in a weak position because it lacked a natural trading region of high-income nations where its products could be sold without provoking protectionist reactions.



Members of the United Autoworkers at a Ford Motor Co. stamping plant in the U.S. wielded sledgehammers and bars on a 1975 Toyota Corolla during a rally against buying foreign-made products. (AP Photo/Str)

AP PHOTO

in pricing some imported consumer goods?

A well-known brand of Scotch whisky - Johnnie Walker's prized Black Label - in the late 1970s boasted a landed value in Tokyo of ¥677 (US\$2.21 back then) per bottle before import duty and a retail price of ¥14,380 (\$47.14). A French brandy was worth ¥2,850 (\$9.34) at dockside in Yokohama but fetched a price of ¥25,000 (\$81.96) in Mitsukoshi, an upmarket department store.

Daylight robbery of consumers wasn't the fault of Japan alone. There sometimes seemed to be a conspiracy between Japanese distributors and foreign import agents who handled the same products to grab profits by creating a legend of rarity. Apologists said that such fantasies were an innocent throwback to the austere early post-war years, but European trade officials preferred to see well organized plots between competing Japanese manufacturers and their bureaucratic allies.

These were some of the ways in the late 1970s in which fists were being shaken in embassies and trade ministries in Tokyo even as there were friendly hand-grasps on factory floors in Europe. Of course, it wasn't just hard-pressed officials who were running out of patience. A well-known American think tank suggested that Japan was aiming to build a global monopoly in four or five major industries - including steel, cars and consumer electronics - by subsidizing exports and blocking imports.

Meanwhile, there were people in London, Paris and Brussels who claimed that the workers whose employers were out to con-

quer the world were suffering substandard living conditions. A very senior luminary at the European Commission who made a brief visit to Tokyo called the Japanese people "workaholics living in rabbit hitches." The quote was highlighted in a document distributed by the EEC's Tokyo representative office, which also went on to talk about "profound differences" in the ways that Japan and Europe organized their societies.

If the differences could not be reduced, the impact on Japan-Europe relations might spread beyond disagreements about car exports, said some officials. In 1978, Sir Roy Denman, a respected figure at the UK Board of Trade, said that the state of economic relations reminded him of Europe just before World War I.

*Asahi Shimbun* tried to raise a laugh on the theme of Japanese social deprivation. The newspaper pictured an apparently senior Eurocrat driving into Tokyo in a smart black car past a crowd of poorly dressed and under-nourished local residents. The official was impatiently dictating a memo to his secretary that read: "Not rabbit hitches! Bird cages!"

● When **Charles Smith** arrived in Tokyo in 1973 as *Financial Times* bureau chief, he had no idea he would end up spending most of the rest of his life here. He was diagnosed with malignant lymphoma at 80, and set about writing his memoirs of a long and fascinating career. The *Number 1 Shimbun* began running excerpts in a series starting in the April 2018 issue, with this the sixth - and last. Charles, an FCCJ member to the end, died on May 18 at age 82.

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**In the late 1970s, fists were being throughout in embassies and trade ministries in Tokyo even as there were friendly hand-grasps on factory floors in Europe.**

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**B**ut if the argument was about geography why would Tokyo be exporting "surplus" French paintings back to France instead of using some of its embarrassing supply of cash to buy more European art works? And why did Japanese shops impose epically memorable mark-ups



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## Last Month in Photos

### Club Members Share Their Best Shots

1. The child humanoid robot “ibuki”, developed by Osaka University graduate school professor Hiroshi Ishiguro, is unveiled for the press at the National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation (Miraikan) in Tokyo, Tuesday, July 31, 2018. The 120cm-tall eccentric wheels drive android has an expressive face and makes gestures with its hands. Photo by Yoshikazu Tsuno.

2. People watch a film from inflatable pools on the rooftop of the revamped MAGNET by Shibuya109 building in Tokyo, Friday, August 17, 2018. The concept of a rooftop film party to cool off from the heat originated in London, and this was Japan’s first such event in a year when high temperatures have sent thousands of people to the hospital for heatstroke. Photo by Rodrigo Reyes Marin.

3. The 470-Class World Cup Series Final held in Marseille, France. The 470 class double-handed dinghy has been the most competitive Olympic class for Japanese sailors. Recently at the Sailing World Championship in Aarhus, Denmark, Ai Yoshida/Miho Yoshioka (Benesse, to your right in the photo) won the women’s gold medal and Tetsuya Isozaki / Akira Takayanagi (SPN) won the men’s silver. Marseille will be the venue for 2024 Paris Olympic sailing competition. Photo by Yoichi Yabe.



# CELEBRATING

This month marks a half-decade since the *Number 1 Shimbun*, the official “newspaper” of the Club, was launched in September, 1968. To mark this milestone, we offer some reminiscences from those involved with the magazine over the years.



## Why the name *No. 1 Shimbun*?

In the days immediately after World War II, most of Tokyo lay in ruins. Street addresses were a problem. What was to be the address of the newly established Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan? One of the many geniuses in our membership back then hit upon the happy solution: No. 1 Shimbun Alley. Despite three moves, the post office continued to deliver mail and telegrams promptly to that address.

Since *shimbun*, as anyone here for 15 minutes could tell you, means ‘newspaper,’ what better name than *No. 1 Shimbun*.

*From the launch issue, September, 1968*



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**For a bunch of foreign correspondents to undertake to publish a monthly newspaper is, I believe, the height of reckless courage.**

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**President Henry Hartzzenbusch, in the launch issue**

**September 1968 launch issue cover**

### Stop press: five trillion missing Prime Minister explains all in special briefing

For the first time in history, the FCCJ gave its new administration an official welcome. The inaugural Ball, July 6, had Don Hartzzenbusch as master of ceremonies, assisted by Ichiro Utsunishima.

The pace was fast—sometimes hot—as Don and Ichiro took the revelers through skits, a biographical account of the life of the new President, Hank Hartzzenbusch, and an inaugural press conference with the agnate press conference with the Prime Minister, the brain child of Sam Jameson.

The Press Conference (Masaru Ogawa played the part of the PM; Lee Chia, Johnny Fujii, Roger Peterson and Al Culliton, the reporters) follows in its horrible entirety.

**REPORTER:** Mr. Prime Minister, as president of the Babasaki-moon club, I want to thank you for graciously responding to our request, made 10 years ago, to let us attend your press conferences. Now, according to the ground rules, we ask the first five questions and alternate with the Japanese press after that. I would like to start with a three-part question:

First, as is well known, there has been a lot of corruption in your administration and five trillion yen is missing. Would you care to comment? The second part of my question is what results do you foresee in tomorrow's House of Councillors election? Third, is it true that you intend to fill in the moats around the Imperial Palace and convert them into parking lots as the ultimate solution to Tokyo's traffic problems?

**PRIME MINISTER:** About the money, that's a lie. I only put it in my checking account because I was afraid Mitsui would get it.

Now, about tomorrow's election. I think we will do very well. We have come up with a first-rate slate of candidates—including a former Bud-jihai coach, a novelist, and a Buddhist priest. With men like this running for us, I think we will be able to achieve a new national consensus.

On the third part of your question, I think you know that the Japanese government has always exerted full efforts to combat traffic problems—through such measures as making alleys as narrow as possible, refraining from installing guard rails along mountainous roads, and making sure that public utilities—such as water, telephone, and gas companies—never install new pipes or lines in

see page 2



**BIG DADDY TAKES OVER**—Gaimusho chief spokesman Naraiichi Fujiyama and his deputy Genichi Akatani get Henry Hartzzenbusch between them at the Club's inaugural Ball to help celebrate the two big events of the day—Hank's new daughter and the Presidency of the Club.

### A quotation from the editor

“Newspapers must not be run behind closed doors. They must face the masses, and must have the general orientation at the same time be fresh and lively.”

This quotation is neither from Lord Thomson of Fleet nor from the late, great Joseph Pulitzer, though it might have been. In fact, it comes from an acquaintance of my Yenn cave days, Mao Tse-tung.

The Chinese Communist chairman conceivably may be wrong on some matters but what he said about newspapers is wonderfully relevant to No. 1 Shimbun, the first edition of which you now hold in your hands.

The editors will strive to make it “fresh and lively” each month while resolutely facing the proletarian masses of Babasaki-moon.

The Chairman, check-a-block fall of useful quotes, had another on newspapers to the effect that “we must rely on everybody, on the masses of the people . . . not merely on a few persons working behind closed doors.”

And that's where you, gentle reader, come in. Faithful servants of the Chairman, and more important, lazy critics that we are, we will regularly call on you to give us a hand. No slaving away alone behind closed doors for us!

No. 1 Shimbun's aim is to report on the comings and goings of correspondents, their problems in covering major news stories, the professional activities they sponsor and how they feel (in letters to the exalted editor) on issues big and small. In the wildly remote likelihood that Club associates also make news, we also will report these.

More important, perhaps, will be the contributions by member correspondents of articles they have written on a variety of subjects. You will read some of them today, ranging from a report from Mongolia to the foreignization of Japanese.

Our idea is to give other Club members a chance to read, appraise, enjoy the journalistic accomplishments of our brethren; for many of us, it will be a first glimpse. It seems appropriate to close this introductory column with a quotation from the other side, President Liu Shao-chi. “Correspondents,” he said, “should be given recognition and recompense, or else their initiative will be stifled.”

When's the next train for Peking?  
JPR

### Immortal prose from our prexy He views with alarm our safety and sanity

By HENRY HARTZENBUSCH  
The President

For a bunch of foreign correspondents to undertake to publish a monthly newspaper is, I believe, the height of reckless courage.

The critics and irate letters to the editor which pour into any newspaper from the ordinary, garden variety of reader are numerous enough.

But try to imagine how critical a readership composed exclusively of newspapermen—and their friends—is likely to be! Almost none of them (if they are foreign correspondents) written a headline or searched for a printer's louse; but every man Jack (and Jill) of them will be sure they could have done better.

So, for this first issue of No. 1 Shimbun I can only salute the reckless—agor—or should I say the reckless foolhardiness—of the editors. And hope that no one will venture with an inner sanctum to show them how whatever beginnings may appear—this modest feat—will be welcomed wholeheartedly (as I do) by our membership. For it represents an expansion of the services which the Club is offering its members.

The Club has moved a long way since its beginnings 23 years ago. The reason for its present success, I believe, is that successive administrations and an alert, enthusiastic supporting cast of members, have reported the Club as theirs, not one see page 6

### Why No. 1 Shimbun?

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Mao Tse-tung

“Newspapers must not be run behind closed doors. They must face the masses, and must have the general orientation and at the same time be fresh and lively.”

This quotation is neither from Lord Thomson of Fleet nor from the late great Joseph Pulitzer, though it might have been. In fact, it comes from an acquaintance of my Yen'an cave days, Mao Tse-tung.

The Chinese Communist chairman conceivably may be wrong on some matters but what he said about newspapers is wonderfully relevant to No. 1 Shimbun, the first edition of which you hold in your hands.

The editors will strive to make it ‘fresh and lively’ each month, while resolutely facing the proletarian masses. . . .

The Chairman, chock-a-block full of useful quotes, had another on newspapers, to the effect that ‘we must rely on everybody, on the masses of the people . . . not merely on a few persons working behind closed doors.’

And that’s where you, gentle reader, come in. Faithful servants of the Chairman, and more important, lazy critters that we are, we will regularly call on you to give us a hand. . . .

No. 1 Shimbun’s aim is to report on the comings and goings of correspondents, their problems in covering major news stories, the professional activities they sponsor and how they feel on issues big and small. . . .

More important, perhaps, will be the contributions by member correspondents of articles they have written on a variety of subjects. You will read some of them today, ranging from a report from Mongolia to the foreignization of Japanese.

Our idea is to give other Club members a chance to read, appraise, enjoy the journalistic accomplishments of our brethren; for many of us it will be a first glimpse.

It seems appropriate to close with a quotation from the other side, President Liu Shao-chi. ‘Correspondents,’ he said, ‘should be given recognition and recompense, or else their initiative will be stifled.’

When’s the next train for Peking?”

**John Roderick (editor, Sept. 1968 to Nov. 1970 - from the launch issue)**

“The readership of *Number 1* is broader than people realize, which I learned back in April 1977. We had been let down by a contributor and were on deadline. I had been working on a spoof of Sherlock Holmes for another purpose, and as it was available we filled up the space with the piece. The piece revealed that the Great Detective had been active in Japan for the two years he went missing, according to Conan Doyle’s narrative, and John Herrick edited it with the headline, “The 86% Proof Solution.” A few days after it came out, I was called by a reporter from the *Yukan Fuji*, who wanted to know how I knew that Holmes had been in Japan. A reporter interviewed me at some length and a piece duly appeared on page two of the Tokyo tabloid on May 5. For a couple of days I was famous.”

**Geoff Tudor (from Genesis to the present)**



April 1977

Feature

"The Number 1 Shimbun we wrangled 40 years ago was a far cry from today's artfully designed and expertly edited magazine. Back then, the paper, typically eight or so folded pages, was produced in the absence of anything approaching modern workflow management. Our salvation was Geoff Tudor, who supervised layout in those adventurous pre-digital times and always managed to rally the troops when deadlines loomed.

We were young, mostly in our twenties, which may explain the injection, among plenty of more standard offerings, of some typically exuberant twenty-something snark. This included a sendup of embassy national day coverage, a staple of Tokyo's English-language press at the time, with a takeout heralding "Martian National Day." If memory serves, the spread included a photo of a Japan Airlines articulated luggage buggy zipping metal containers along the tarmac over a caption announcing the arrival of the Martian delegation. Older, wiser club members were mostly polite about our shenanigans.

Luckily, Number 1 Shimbun survived the seventies to live long and prosper. It's an honor to be related, however remotely, to today's impressive publication."

Tracy Dahlby (July 1977 to July 1978)



September 15, 1977



Cover from March 15, 1981

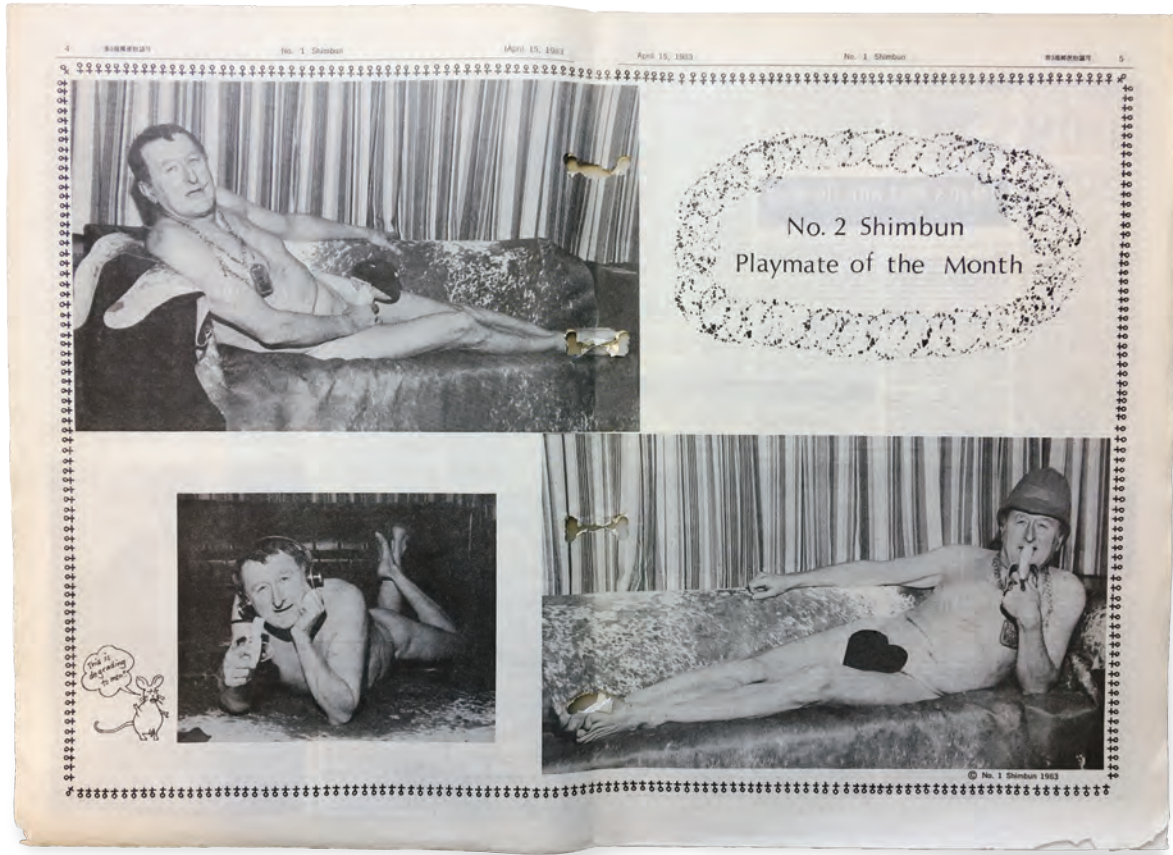


"The highlight of my year as editor, assisted by Ken Merrigan and Donald Kirk, was our spoof issue about a Rupert Murdoch takeover of Number 1 Shimbun. Not everyone saw the joke. The Japan Post Office threatened to withdraw our press postage discount because we'd changed the masthead to a London "red top" style without its okay. An East German lady correspondent thought our Page Three Girl was going to be a regular sexist feature, and protested at the next general meeting."

Hamish MacDonald (July 1980 to June 1981)



April 1, 2000 cover



Murray Sayle  
"Playgirl" spread,  
April 15, 1983

█  
 "One of my fondest memories is an effort we made at reverse sexism - hoping to give male journalists an idea how it feels. Besides articles on boxer shorts and a Shinjuku host club (whose proprietor offered his services free of charge if we wanted to really do in-depth reporting), Ann Nakano and I persuaded journalist Murray Sayle to be our male nude centerfold.

Murray was a giant of a man (in more ways than one), and behind locked doors on the 19th floor, with fellow Australian Happy Mayger at the camera, and one or two inevitable props in the interest of propriety, we completed what was a tense but pretty hilarious shoot. Only to be stunned by a cry from Happy, who discovered he'd had no film in the camera: "Bloody hell!" The second shoot was far less spontaneous than the first, but still the photos attest to Murray's irrepressible sense of humor, which pervaded everything he ever undertook."

**Roslyn Hayman (July 1982 to June 1983)**



█  
 "Congratulations to the *Number 1 Shimibun* for surviving 50 years of abuse and criticism. Anyone attending a general meeting can understand the problems of pleasing a gathering of foreign correspondents. But we tried - I for eight years, along with co-editor Ed Neilan.

One of the strangest moments of my stint as editor was when one writer submitted a piece of fiction about riding his sperm through a lady's reproductive system. I chose to spike the story. He complained to president Steve Herman, and to his credit, Steve just said, "Pat's the editor."

The change of format from newspaper to magazine in 2004, and the introduction of compensation for the writers, seems to have helped encourage contributions and perhaps upgraded content. One hopes there will be greater effort at providing more club news for all members, regular and associate, in the future. Good luck."

**Patrick Killen (August 1991 to June 1998)**

█  
 ← "Roger Schreffler, then president, had to ask me three times to be editor. As a native Arabic speaker and non-native English speaker, I was hesitant, but eventually accepted. It was still in the tabloid newspaper format then, focusing on club news. I often traveled to Kawasaki (at my own expense) to do the final checks. I thought this was natural. Regular writers included the late Ed Neilan, the late Roy Garner, Caroline Parsons and Pat Killen.

We produced an April Fool's Day issue in 2000 and made sure it was

distributed to members on April 1. I wrote the lead story about Japan discovering oil deposits on Mount Fuji. An ambassador from one of the oil producing countries actually asked me for more information!

I once wrote an editorial about an encounter I had with former PM Nakasone, during which he retracted a statement that the FCCJ was a 'dangerous place.' Not true, he said, it was the FCCJ journalists who were 'dangerous.'"

**Khaldon Azhari (June 1998 to June 2000)**

 **Feature**

“As chair of the publications committee, I took over a tired publication. A labor of love by a revolving cast, *Number 1 Shimbun* was an eight-page newsprint tabloid that often carried terrific articles. But it looked worse than my high school newspaper. Photos reproduced poorly. Typos slipped in with depressing frequency. Deadlines were fungible. I took the committee’s proposal to a general membership meeting: hire an outside company to sell the ads and design and produce it as a glossy magazine. Make it a worthy showcase of our members’ journalistic work.

Of course, the membership was divided. What change at the FCCJ has ever been approved by all? One member, looking at our mock-up, whined, “If you’re going to have a better design, is this the best you can do?” That grated: I felt the new look was 100 percent better than the old look, and he was opposed because it wasn’t 200 percent better?

Others said skip the outside company; let’s sell our own ads. But the FCCJ had been trying to do that in various ways for years, with no success. When we voted, the ayes had it. *Number 1 Shimbun* got a new look and format.”

**Jim Treece (Nov. 1985 to July 1986, chair 2002)**



April 2003 cover

“When the Club president Myron Belkind called to offer me editorship of *Number 1 Shimbun*, I thought he was joking. Being based in Osaka, I wondered how this was going to work. My editorial philosophy, though, was that FCCJ stood for Foreign Correspondents of Japan - not just Tokyo. So, I commissioned, when I could, articles about the Japan beyond the Old Edo drawbridge. It was hard work. This was the pre-Skype era and effective communication with Tokyo-based members and staff was difficult. But it was a great opportunity

to meet more members. As I'd edited a trade magazine in the early 1990s, it was also a return to magazine writing, my first love.

A couple years later, I had the honor of sharing editing duties with David McNeill and Steve McClure, superb editors both. That was a much smoother ride, although I felt slightly (just slightly) guilty because it was they, not I, who had to deal with complaints about the magazine in the Main Bar.”

**Eric Johnston (Dec. 2003 to Nov. 2004)**



“Our most read (including online views) story was the report Carsten Germis, of the German daily *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, did for us about the political pressure his paper had received after he wrote an article critical of Japan’s attempts at historical revision. In *Number 1 Shimbun*, Germis described how a Japanese diplomat actually visited his editor in Germany to complain about their Tokyo correspondent. A university professor translated the article into Japanese and it went viral, with over 150,000 views each in Japanese and English.

Another piece that got attention was Mark Schreiber’s dismemberment of a popular myth that had been reported in papers and websites all over the world. Supposedly, eyeball licking had become a “craze” among Japanese schoolkids, and it was causing eye infections to spread. Mark’s single-minded debunking of the practice in *Number 1 Shimbun* - tracking the story to its “source” - had Reader’s Editors on papers like *The Guardian* writing apologies describing how they were duped. Schreiber (and *Number 1*) are still noted on the respected fact-checking site, Snopes.com, for exposing a silly Japan story that editors wanted to believe but was totally false.”

**Gregory Starr (Nov. 2012 to Aug. 2017)**

August 2013 cover



April 2011 Cover and back cover

John Harris took on the role of editor following the tragic events of March 11, 2011. The next month he oversaw a 24-page special edition full of personal, wide-ranging coverage of Japan's worst disaster since World War II. From the halls of the FCCJ to the ravaged coastline, journalist members wrote about the experiences of those affected by the earthquake and tsunami - and the following nuclear meltdown - and their own experiences covering such stories.

It was an epic issue befitting the unique status of the Club as a news center, and highlighting the importance of the Club. Kudos to Harris and to a high-powered line-up of contributors: Julian Ryall, Chang-Ran Kim, Charles Pomeroy, David McNeill, Gavin Blair, Geoff Tudor, Eric Johnston, Martyn Williams, Justin McCurry, Kenneth Neil Cukier, Bill Emmott, Henry Tricks and photographers Rob Gilhooly and Damir Sagoji.

"The aftermath of March 11 earthquake saw so much change. Club members went from reporting the everyday to reporting death and disaster every day. Our special issue of *Number 1 Shimbun* had to reflect that. We went through the images that included dead bodies - and had to decide whether we should print one. While other media rarely, if ever, printed such photos, it was nevertheless what our journalists saw and was part of their story. We went with an image where it was impossible to identify the person or location. With around 20,000 dead it seemed important.

But what most stands out is it being pretty much the only time I've selected a quote and placed it on the page with tears in my eyes: 'They



watched the fireman on top of the firehouse ring the bell until he and the building were swept away.' And reading Julian Ryall's piece with accompanying photo of a teenager lost to the immediate trauma, again with tear-filled eyes. Our stress in Tokyo was of a lesser order, but it was there, and making a magazine so intimately tied up with the story, the writers and what the country was experiencing was interesting to say the least.

And we later tried to relocate that teenager for an anniversary piece but couldn't track him down. Even now, my heart goes out to him."  
**Andrew Potheary (art director, Feb. 2007 to Aug. 2017)**

 **Feature**

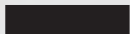


As the world faced the reality of a Trump presidency in January 2017, the *Number 1* ran my favorite of the many superb covers by Andrew Pothearcy: “Welcome to the Year of the Cock.” Inevitably, not everybody approved. There were a few offended by the lack of respect for the office of president and somebody asked me what “had happened to objectivity?” It’s a reasonable question as regards the media and got me thinking. I think true objectivity is a fantasy. We see everything through the prism of our experiences and beliefs. So, should we feign impartiality and normalize the presidency of a white supremacist, advocate of sexual assault, enabler of environmental destruction and liar on a level rarely seen even among politicians? The framing of the question is a strong hint as to my opinion. But for a cover to provoke both smiles and thought was an achievement in itself.

**Gavin Blair (chairman of Publications Committee, July 2014 to Aug. 2017)**



January 2017 cover



“The *Number 1 Shimbun* needs to exist to represent the Club and the values it stands for. To show Japan and the outside world that we value freedom of the press and how press freedom is the bellwether of a democracy. Journalists are quick to express their opinions sitting around a table at the FCCJ. It’s also important for our members to express themselves in the *Number 1 Shimbun*, to stir debate, to recognize injustice and to encourage freedom. And that freedom should include diverse, even obnoxious opinions. When I did a seven-page, comfort women special, I was keen to include the views of right-wingers who deny the horrors of Japan’s past. Let’s debate those who oppose our values and let’s expose those whose values damage democracy and press freedom. In short, let’s publish and be damned. Not publishing is definitely not the way.

Long live the *Number 1 Shimbun!*”

**Fred Varcoe (June 2006 to June 2007, June 2009 to Sept. 2010)**



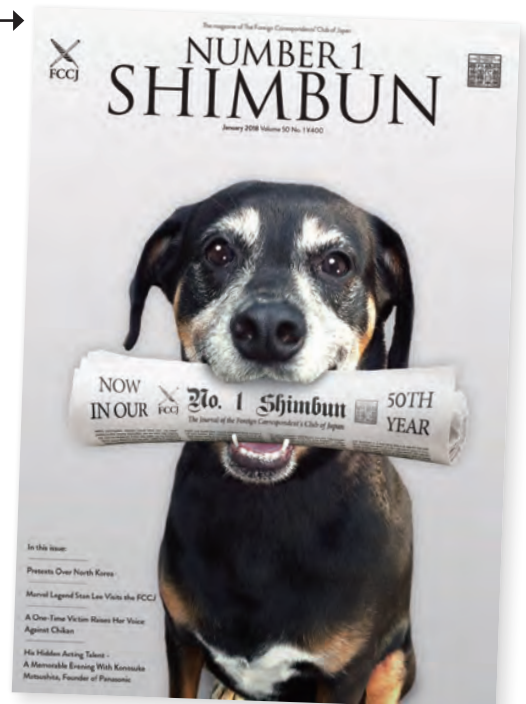
“I never expected to become editor of the *Number 1 Shimbun*, but I was asked by the president at the time to help keep the publication running during a time of change at the Club.

The credit for saving the magazine goes to Geoffrey Tudor, who helped us through a rough start to get things back on track. We had some design issues at first, but those were solved when we brought in award-winning designer Kohji Shiiki.

The most memorable part was working on the six-part series of Charles Smith’s memoirs. I felt a nostalgic connection through his writings. He reminded me of family. It was with incredible sadness that I learned of his passing in the middle of publishing his series. Charles and I may not have been close, but I felt as if dedicating an issue to him and finishing the series let me say farewell to a friend.

As for my favorite cover... that would be January 2018. I went with a photo of my dog holding a *No.1 Shimbun* newspaper to mark the year of the dog. Sadly he’s no longer with us, but the cover was my way to give him a grand goodbye.

I had the pleasure of working with some fantastic writers and perhaps the greatest editor I know, Bradley Martin. It’s with a bitter-sweet feeling that my time with the magazine is over. It was not an easy decision to make,



January 2018 cover

but when asked by the president to move into social media and help with that, how could I refuse? I’m happy to have been able to see through the 50th anniversary issue, and want to thank everyone for their support of this Club treasure.”

**Albert Siegel (Sept. 2017 to Sept. 2018)**

Thanks to those we have found (and those we haven’t) who have given their time and efforts to editing, producing and making sure the *Number 1 Shimbun* is full of content and reaches the hands of Club members. Thanks also to the many, many writers - both paid and uh, volunteer - who are too numerous to name here, but have filled our pages with their wisdom and foolishness.

**Editors of the *Number 1 Shimbun*: John Roderick, Frederick Marks, Irvine Chapman, Bruce Dunning, Marianna Ohe, John Herrick, Tracy Dahlby, Andrew Horvat, Andy Adams, Hamish McDonald, Richard Bill, Roslyn Hayman, Martin Roth, Lee Smith, Jim Treece, Larry Armstrong, Terrill Jones, Shelley Smith, Kevin Sullivan, Peter McGill, Norma Chaty, Janice Fuhrman, Lori Valigra, Pat Killen, Ed Nielen, Khaldon Azhari, John Bosnitsch, Richard Smith, Bill Brocato, Eric Johnston, Nobuko Hara, Justin McCurry, Fred Varcoe, Steve McClure, David McNeill, Julian Ryall, Bob Neff, John Harris, Geoff Tudor, Douglas Jackson, Andy Sharp, Gregory Starr and Albert Siegel**

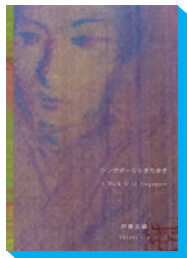
**New in the Library**

1.



**This Great Stage of Fools: an Anthology of Uncollected Writings**  
 Alan Booth; edited by Timothy Harris; with an afterword by Karel van Wolferen  
 Gift from Timothy Harris & Bright Wave Media

2.



**A Walk in Singapore**  
 Shiori Ito  
 Parade  
 Gift from Shiori Ito

**Join the Film Committee ...**

... on Thurs., Sept. 20 at 7:00 pm for the award-winning Japan-Myanmar coproduction *Passage of Life*, the story of a Myanmar refugee family in crisis. Told with unusual poignancy and empathy, and featuring extraordinary performances by a cast of unknowns, this docu-fiction paints in broad strokes the final weeks before a loving family is separated, perhaps permanently, by the Japanese government. Khin and Issace arrive in Japan after their two sons are born, finding illegal work and creating a happy life with their boys, whom they raise as Japanese. After several years of residency, Issace files an application for political refugee status, but the request is denied, as happens all too frequently here. When Immigration shows up at the door and warns Issace to stop working, the writing is on the wall. While her husband stays on to file another request, Khin takes the boys to Myanmar, and the family grapples with its uncertain future. Director Akio Fujimoto, producer Kazutaka Watanabe and star Khin Myat Thu will be on hand for the Q&A session. (Japan/Myanmar, 2017; 98 minutes; in Japanese, Burmese with English and Japanese subtitles).

● **Karen Severns**



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**New Members**

**REGULAR MEMBER** | **ILGIN YORULMAZ** is a freelancer on her second tour of duty in



Japan. She has worked for nearly 20 years as a researcher and reporter based in Tokyo, London, Istanbul and New York. Ilgin holds a degree in International Relations from International University of Japan in Niigata. She is a 2017 East West Center Media Fellow and a 2016 White House Correspondents Association Scholar. Ilgin has written on foreign policy and culture, with a focus on sub-cultures,

religion and ethnic minorities. As a foreign correspondent, she has reported from Turkey, India, Nepal, Philippines, China, Japan and the U.S. for *The Huffington Post*, *VICE*, *The Guardian UK*, *PassBlue*, *Vogue*, *Conde Nast Traveler UK*, and most recently *BBC Turkish*. She is the author of three books focused on small businesses in Istanbul - spin-offs of her critically-acclaimed online publication Pukka Living. Outside reporting, Ilgin is interesting in Eastern cultures, Sufism and meditative arts.

**ASSOCIATE MEMBERS**

- Neeraj Sharma, Hi-No-De Foundation
- Laurent Trempe, Quebec Government Office in Tokyo
- Toshinori Hayashi, Hayashi & Co., Ltd.
- Hirohiko Imura, Jupiter Telecommunications Co., Ltd.
- Kyoko Kanehira, Fukuoka Convention & Visitors Bureau
- Takahiro Nishio, Done Science Co., Ltd.
- Toru Suzuki, Terilogy Co., Ltd.
- Atsuo Yoshida, Deetex Shokai K.K.

**REINSTATEMENT (Associate)**

- Judith A. Brady-Deffebach



AP PHOTO

**Richard Pyle Farewell at Arlington**

Friends and colleagues of distinguished AP journalist Richard Pyle gathered on Aug. 20 at the Arlington National Cemetery to bid farewell. Richard, a U.S. Army veteran, began his AP career in Detroit and later reported from Saigon, where he was bureau chief, Tokyo, the Middle East, Washington D.C. and New York. He died last September at the age of 83. A military honor guard presented his widow, Brenda, with a folded American flag before she placed her husband's ashes in a memorial wall. Pyle was a life member of the FCCJ. (AP)





# By the Numbers: Preparing for the Move


**M**oving a Club the size of the FCCJ is no small matter, even if the new location is just down the street. To give an idea of the massive effort the job entails, not to mention the need for attention to the most seemingly insignificant details, here are some numbers that are part of the Club's preparations. (See "From the President" on page 4 for the move schedule.)

**60**  
Meters of pictures rails for hanging pictures

**715**  
Meters of library shelving

**1**  
Reception Desk

**¥10 million**  
Moving budget



**1**  
Dance floor



**24**  
Bar stools for the Main Bar



**500+**  
Meters, door to door (including the elevator, lobby space and parking garage distances), between old and new locations



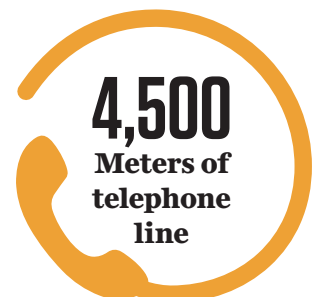
**65**  
Chairs for the Main Bar



**2**  
Toilets



**4,500**  
Meters of telephone line





**156**  
Banquet tables of various sizes and shapes

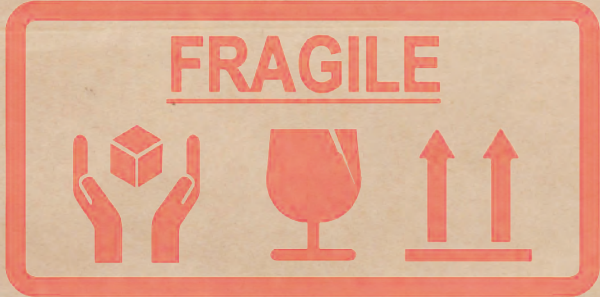
**0** Mail boxes

**20**  
Work stations for the workroom

**150**  
Conference chairs

**71**  
PA speakers (used to be 74, but speakers not allowed in new washrooms)

**6,000**  
Meters of LAN cable



From a long, long list of cutlery and dining items, here are just a few that must be carefully packed, transported and unpacked in time for the Club's reopening.

**100** Water glasses

**10** Sake cups

**286** Monogrammed dessert plates

**19** Curry sauce pots

**320** Fine bone china coffee cup saucers

**13** Wine coolers

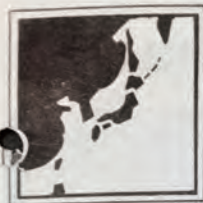
**20** Bread baskets

**30** Beer mugs

**195** Consommé saucers

**120** hors d'oeuvres forks

**3** Escargot plates



# No. 1 Shimbun

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS' CLUB OF JAPAN  
OCT 1. 1968  
LIBRARY



Vol. 1 No. 1 The Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan, No. 1 Shimbun Alley, Marunouchi, Tokyo September, 1968

## Stop press: five trillion missing

### Prime Minister explains all in special briefing

For the first time in history, The FCCJ gave its new administration an official welcome. The Inaugural Ball, July 6, had Don Jameson as master of ceremonies, assisted by Ichiro Uru-shibara.

The pace was fast—sometimes hot—as Don and Ichiro took the revelers through skits, a biographical account of the life of the new President, Hank Hartzzenbusch, and an imaginary press conference with the Prime Minister, the brain child of Sam Jameson.

The Press Conference (Masaru Ogawa played the part of the PM; Lee Chia, Johnny Fujii, Roger Peterson and Al Cullison, the reporters) follows in its horrible entirety.

**REPORTER:** Mr. Prime Minister, as president of the Babasaki-mon club, I want to thank you for graciously responding to our request, made 10 years ago, to let us attend your press conferences. Now, according to the ground rules, we ask the first five questions and alternate with the Japanese press after that. I would like to start with a three-part question:

First, as is well known, there has been a lot of corruption in your administration and five trillion yen is missing. Would you care to comment? The second part of my question is what results do you foresee tomorrow's House of Councillors election? Third, is it true that you intend to fill in the moats around the Imperial Palace and convert them into parking lots as the ultimate solution to Tokyo's traffic problems?

**PRIME MINISTER:** About the money, that's a lie. I only put it in my checking account because I was afraid Miki would get it.

Now, about tomorrow's election, I think we will do very well. We have come up with a first-rate slate of candidates—including a former volleyball coach, a novelist, and a Buddhist priest. With men like this running for us, I think we will be able to achieve a new national consensus.

On the third part of your question, I think you know that the Japanese government has always exerted full efforts to combat traffic problems—through such measures as making alleys as narrow as possible, refraining from installing guard rails along mountainous roads, and making sure that public utilities—such as the water, telephone, and gas companies—never install new pipes or lines in



— Photo by Kenichi Arai

**BIG DADDY TAKES OVER**—Gaimusho chief spokesman Naraichi Fujiyama and his deputy Genichi Akatani get Henry Hartzzenbusch between them at the Club's Inaugural Ball to help celebrate the two big events of the day—Hank's new daughter and the Presidency of the Club.

## Immortal prose from our prexy

### He views with alarm our safety and sanity

By HENRY HARTZENBUSCH  
The President

For a bunch of foreign correspondents to undertake to publish a monthly newspaper is, I believe, the height of reckless courage.

The criticisms and irate letters to the editor which pour into any newspaper from the ordinary, garden variety of reader are numerous enough.

But try to imagine how critical a readership composed exclusively of newspapermen—and their friends—is likely to be! Almost none of them has ever (if they are foreign correspondents) written a headline or searched for a printer's louse; but every man Jack (and Jill) of them will be sure they could have done better.

So, for this first issue of No. 1 Shimbun I can only salute the courage—or should I say the reckless foolhardiness—of the editors. And hope that no one will venture with gun or horsewhip into the sacred inner sanctum to show them how a paper ought to be put together.

This modest beginning should—despite whatever failings may appear—be welcomed wholeheartedly (as I do) by our membership. For it represents an expansion of the services which the Club is offering its members.

The Club has moved a long way since its beginnings 23 years ago. The reason for its present success, I believe, is that successive administrations and an alert, enthusiastic supporting cast of members, have regarded the Club as theirs, not one see page 6

## A quotation from the editor

"Newspapers must not be run behind closed doors. They must face the masses, and must have the general orientation and at the same time be fresh and lively."

This quotation is neither from Lord Thomson of Fleet nor from the late, great Joseph Pulitzer, though it might have been. In fact, it comes from an acquaintance of my Yenan cave days, Mao Tse-tung.

The Chinese Communist chairman conceivably may be wrong on some matters but what he said about newspapers is wonderfully relevant to No. 1 Shimbun, the first edition of which you now hold in your hands.

The editors will strive to make it "fresh and lively" each month while resolutely facing the proletarian masses of Babasaki-mon.

The Chairman, chock-a-block full of useful quotes, had another on newspapers to the effect that "we must rely on everybody, on the masses of the people . . . not merely on a few persons working behind closed doors."

And that's where you, gentle reader, come in. Faithful servants of the Chairman, and more important, lazy critters that we are, we will regularly call on you to give us a hand. No slaving away alone behind closed doors for us!

No. 1 Shimbun's aim is to report on the comings and goings of correspondents, their problems in covering major news stories, the professional activities they sponsor and how they feel (in letters to the exalted editor) on issues big and small. In the wildly remote likelihood that Club associates also make news, we also will report these.

More important, perhaps, will be the contributions by member correspondents of articles they have written on a variety of subjects. You will read some of them today, ranging from a report from Mongolia to the foreignization of Japanese.

Our idea is to give other Club members a chance to read, appraise, enjoy the journalistic accomplishments of our brethren; for many of us, it will be a first glimpse.

It seems appropriate to close this introductory column with a quotation from the other side, President Liu Shao-chi. "Correspondents," he said, "should be given recognition and recompense, or else their initiative will be stifled."

When's the next train for Peking?

JPR

## Why No. 1 Shimbun?

In the days immediately after World War II, most of Tokyo lay in ruins. Street addresses—in a country which never had them anyway—were a problem. What was to be the address of the newly-established Foreign Correspondents Club of Japan? One of the many geniuses in our membership back then hit upon the happy solution: "No. 1 Shimbun Alley." Despite three moves, the post-office continues to deliver mail and telegrams to us promptly if it carries that address.

Since shimbun, as anyone here for 15 minutes could tell you, means "newspaper," what better name for our paper than "No. 1 Shimbun"?