



NUMBER 1 SHIMBUN

October 2015, Volume 47 No. 10, ¥400

70 years in Japan
from post-war to post-bubble

... from Olympics to Olympics

... from Kobe to Tohoku

70 years not knowing why
we have a quill in our logo

The FCCJ: 70 years

70 years of press events:
from a cosmonaut
to a crown prince

... from Shinzo Abe
to Shintaro Ishihara

... from Mao Asada to
Yukio Mishima

... from Carlos Ghosn to
the Dalai Lama

... from MacArthur to
Muhammad Ali

... from Aum to X Japan

70 years of our members
in print, on wires,
in magazines, on video,
on websites and in tweets

(... including 48 years of
Number 1 Shimbun)

70 years of members
from AP to Jiji

... from BBC to IDG

... from Al Jazeera to Xinhua

70 years of
references in writing ...
from Ian Fleming to
Michael Woodford

... from Times (India) to Times (New York)
to Times (London) to Times (Los Angeles)

70 years of not crying
over spilt ink

... or sent attachments

70 years of
supporting press freedom



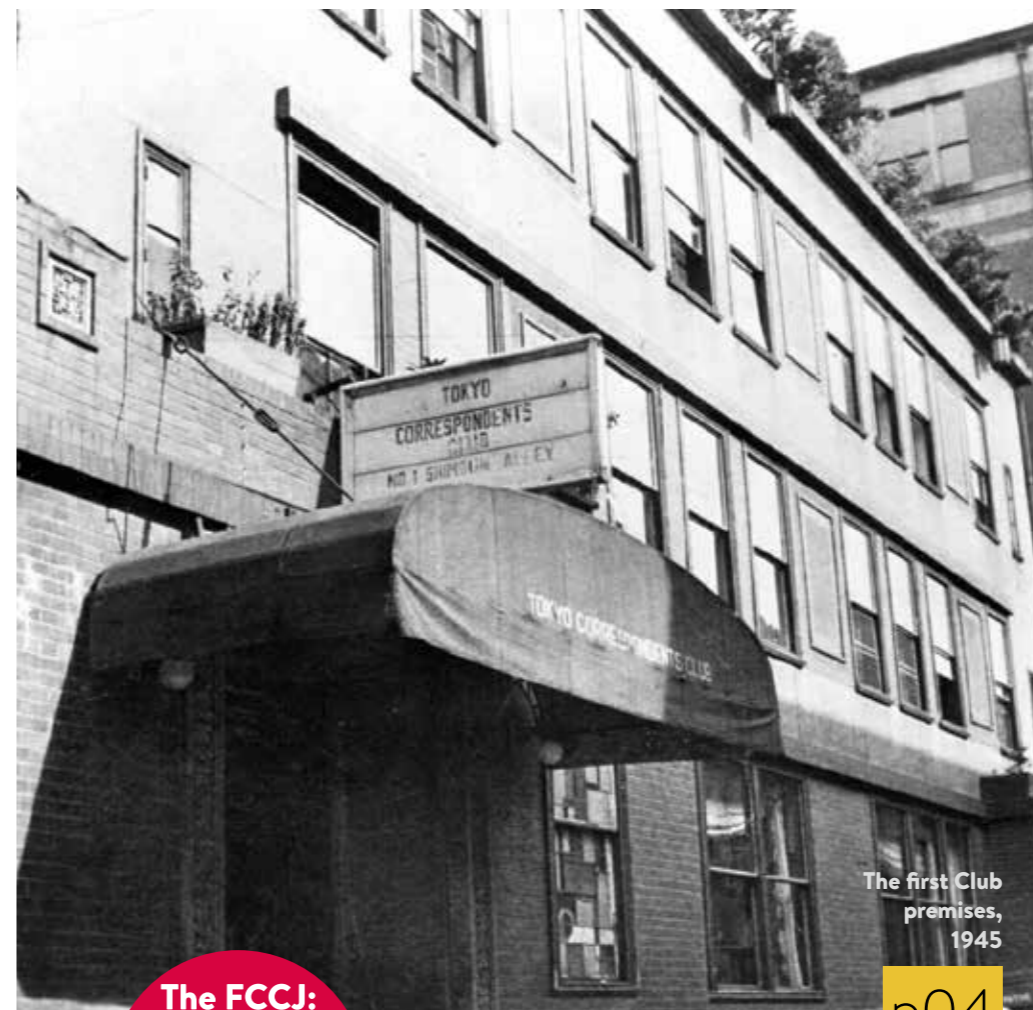


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Along with thanks to all the sponsors of the 70th Anniversary Party (see page 20) we also thank our printers, **Koyosha, Inc.**, who have printed *Number 1 Shimbun* for many years and who facilitated the printing of the extra pages for this special issue. www.koyosha-inc.co.jp

NUMBER 1 SHIMBUN

Vol. 47, Number 10 October 2015

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Published by the FCCJ All opinions contained within Number 1 Shimbun are those of the authors. As such, these opinions do not constitute an official position of Number 1 Shimbun, the editor or the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan.

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Cover photographs: Dreamstime (quill and inks) and Andrew Potheary (pen) **Cover design:** Andrew Potheary



From the President

BEING ELECTED PRESIDENT OF the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan on its 70th anniversary is a tremendous honor and a landmark in my career and personal life. I have been a member for the past 20 years, observing the twists and turns of this gracious organization. Working alongside and exchanging views with correspondents from all over the globe has been, without a doubt, an enormous opportunity for personal growth.

The Club has always been a place where I could add depth and intuition to a story that would otherwise have definitely had a narrower scope. Indeed, taking over the reins is the least I can do in return for being able to share the prestige and learning opportunities that have been extended to me.

I want to remind colleagues of the geopolitical and economic changes that are reshaping the character of the FCCJ. When I first joined the Club, the membership largely consisted of correspondents from the more influential media representing the wealthier Western hemisphere. Today, the situation is evolving.

With Asia's growing economic and political muscle, media companies in the region have started to expand their horizons. Large organizations have dispatched full-time correspondents to Tokyo; smaller ones that cannot afford to send their own staff are also looking for ways to get more stories from Japan. I believe this trend will continue, at least for the next decade.

The story today is about a thriving region that has shed its colonial past and is searching for a unique identity. Just take a look at the new media organizations popping up in the region. Indeed, the discussions taking place in the editorial rooms that dot Asian cities are all about taking steps to report development in their own style. Social media is playing its own role in promoting this trend, and the Asian media is relying less on parachute journalism from the West to tell the region's stories.

All this signals important opportunities for the FCCJ to carve its place in international news reporting about Japan and Asia. The Club offers a physical cocoon for new correspondents to settle down with their laptops, but that comes from its inspiring history as a top-notch location for newsmakers and news reporters, and unmatched access to a wide Japanese network of contacts. The FCCJ is no longer just a beacon for news reporting about Japan to the world outside; it also plays a powerful role in communicating information to the Japanese public about local issues that are ignored by the mainstream media.

I would like to offer my best wishes to the Club, its employees and, most importantly, its Members on the 70th anniversary of the FCCJ. And I look forward to celebrating many more years of success.

— **Suwendrini Kakuchi**



70th ANNIVERSARY: the future

On the move

by **PETER LANGAN**

After about 40 years in its current location in Yurakucho, The Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan plans to move to a new home several blocks up Nakadori in the direction of Tokyo Station to a brand new building to be constructed by the Mitsubishi Group. Those familiar with the area will recognize it as the site of the former Tokyo Kaikan.

For those Members who couldn't attend the Town Hall event at the FCCJ on Sept. 8 to explain some of the proposed floor plans for the new Club, this article is an attempt to fill in some of the blanks, answer some questions and hopefully generate more debate among the membership about what they want their new Club to look like and what do they want to get out of it. (On these points Anthony Rowley has kindly agreed to pull together a survey of the membership to gather more feedback, so please expect that questionnaire to drop into your email box at some stage.)

The proposed move-in date to the fifth and sixth floors of the new building is October 2018. That may seem a long way off, but it's only about 37 months and counting. The new FCCJ will be about 22 percent larger overall than the current Club. It will look out onto Nakadori and Kajibashidori. We are working on a design that will create a light-filled main bar and dining area that will occupy the corner of the fifth floor looking diagonally across to what's colloquially known as the Marunouchi brick building across the street. This floor running along Kajibashidori will also have an open veranda area with views of the Imperial moat and grounds at one end.

A lot of time, meetings and report-writing have already gone into this project in the past year and more by members such as Martin Koelling, Kurt Sieber, Michael Penn, Michael King and many others. And the House & Property Committee has been holding meetings twice a month with Mitsubishi and its interior design unit, MEC Design International.

These meetings have mostly been brainstorming sessions on floor plans that would best serve all the various functions of the Club: its core press conferences, its bar and banqueting, work pods for journalists, an audio-visual editing room, a safe and efficient environment for staff and a wonderfully well-stocked, comfortable library. Other possibilities include a separate wine bar and a new membership class that would give journalists the option of having a private office space inside the club. We are investigating the potential demand for the latter among Regular Members.

The FCCJ will have exclusive elevators from basement parking areas to the fifth floor, where the main reception will be and the entrance to press conferences, bar and dining areas, as well as other rooms for meetings and smaller banquet places. The elevator to the sixth floor will open into areas to include the journalist work pods, the library and staff offices, along with the proposed locations for the Sushi Bar and Wine Bar.

Peter Langan is the chair of the FCCJ House & Property Committee.

We are at the point where we will have made some decisions by the end of September on a number of key issues: The location of the kitchen, the location of interior stairs connecting the two floors (this is inside the Club itself; of course, elevators outside the Club premises will also connect the fifth and sixth floors) and the main press conference/banqueting area.

The next most immediate goal is to find and hire a project managing company to represent the FCCJ and ensure that our plans and needs for the new Club are fully communicated to Mitsubishi,

and to monitor the construction process. The H&P Committee have now shortlisted two project managers out of five interviewed and are close to making a decision to get one of them hired in the coming weeks, pending Board approval.

Many other items and suggestions came up from staff and members at the Town Hall meeting that we have already relayed to Mitsubishi, and we intend to have more Town Halls on the new Club as the project proceeds. Please do try to attend at some time so the new Club can reflect as much as possible what the members want.

We want the new Club to capture and retain the FCCJ's history and traditions for all members. It will also need to meet the evolving needs of journalism as technology changes the way content is delivered.

Meantime, if any members have any queries or suggestion about the new Club, please let General Manager Tom Yanagi know and he can forward to the H&P Committee. We have an exciting three years ahead.

As with the Yurakucho Building location, discounted parking will be available. The location is a 4-minute walk from the Chiyoda Line's Nijubashimae Station and the Hibiya Line's Hibiya Station, 5 from Yurakucho Station and 9 from Tokyo Station. ●

The view from the 20th On the cover of *Number 1 Shimibun* in 1975, and in 2015, looking from the current Club at the preparatory work being undertaken for the new building



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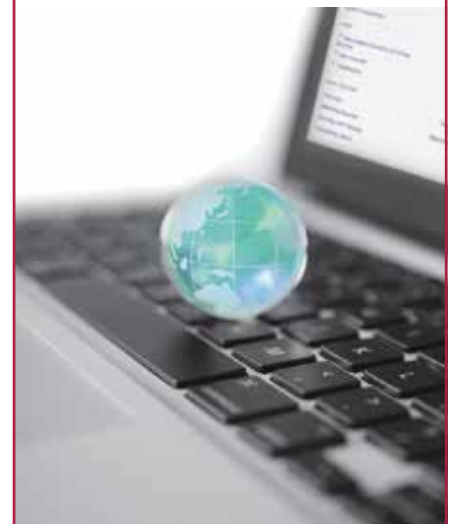
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The service will be billed by the Club. The FCCJ benefits from all subscriptions sold under this arrangement.

Nexis provides access to news and information from more than 34,000 sources, including Kyodo News, Jiji, Yonhap, Xinhua, AP, Reuters, AFP, all major world newspapers and specialist news sources. Also included is a database of U.S. and international company information, biographical databases, country profiles and a U.S. legal database.

For those already in on the secret, the application form is available on the FCCJ website or from the 19F Club office.



Remembering a difficult birth

A tough, post-war battle over censorship between correspondents and the Occupation authorities led to the formation of one of the world's great press organizations.

by EIICHIRO TOKUMOTO

At 8:50 a.m. on Sept. 2, 1945, under gray, overhanging clouds, a U.S. navy launch made its way across the waters of Tokyo Bay. Its passengers – a party of 11 men making up the Japanese delegation to the surrender ceremony – wore anxious expressions as they pulled up alongside the *U.S.S. Missouri*. Headed by Foreign Minister Mamoru Shigemitsu, the group was met on the deck by awaiting representatives of the U.S., Great Britain, the Soviet Union, China and other Allied nations. As a multitude of American sailors looked on quietly, General Douglas MacArthur, Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers, began his speech.

“We are gathered here, representatives of the major warring powers, to conclude a solemn agreement whereby peace may be restored. . . . It is my earnest hope, and indeed the hope of all mankind, that from this solemn occasion a better world shall emerge out of the blood and carnage of the past. . . .”

Shigemitsu and a senior member of the Japanese military affixed their signatures to the surrender document, followed by various national representatives. After six years almost to the day, the Second World War was brought to an end.

On Sept. 3, the day after the ceremony, General MacArthur received a letter of thanks, signed by 76 correspondents from the Associated Press, CBS, the BBC, Reuters, the Soviet news agency TASS and others. This letter is now in the Hoover Institution Archives at Stanford University in California.

“Dear General MacArthur,” the letter read. “We would like to express our appreciation of the arrangements for the coverage of yesterday’s surrender ceremonies. We wish to thank you. We wish to thank Brigadier General Diller, and we wish to congratulate Lieutenant Colonel Powell and others of the press relations staff for the work and forethought that so effectively anticipated the varying needs of writers, photographers and broadcasters. . . . Rarely has so large a body of newsmen been accorded the chance to see history at such close range unfold.”

The letter clearly conveyed the enthusiasm of having witnessed an historical event, but ironically it was this letter that was a critical shot in an ongoing battle between MacArthur and correspondents, as well as being a catalyst in the creation of the Foreign Correspondents’ Club of Japan.

As the head of GHQ, MacArthur forcefully proceeded with the demilitarization and democratization of Japan. His aim was to reform the political system, including the constitution, as well as the economic and education systems. But throughout the general’s military campaign in the Pacific, he had strictly controlled press reports, and if the reporters expected MacArthur’s staff to change their ways, they soon learned otherwise.

THE HEADQUARTERS WAS QUICK to censor any negative media reportage of Occupation policies, and Occupation authorities saw strict regu-

lation of the press as part of the job. One reporter who personally experienced this was Keyes Beech, correspondent for the *Chicago Daily News* (and also president of the FCCJ from July 1948 to June 1949).

In his memoir, *Tokyo and Points East*, Beech wrote that in the beginning GHQ accorded journalists the same treatment as high-ranking military officers, providing them with lavish homes with servants. At that time, Japan was described as “the only place where a reporter can live like a publisher.” But Beech also found disadvantages to such deferential treatment, “an invisible price tag on this luxury.”

“It was never mentioned, but it was always there,” he wrote. “The price was conformity to the MacArthur doctrine that everything in Japan was perfect. . . . the point was that if you accepted these things from MacArthur the Good Provider – and you had no alternative but to accept them if you wish to remain in Japan – you were not supposed to criticize. That was almost literally biting the hand that was feeding you. . . . Correspondents were supposed to be content with the handouts. Questions that went beyond the handouts were unfriendly.”

One day, Beech approached Major General Hugh Casey, MacArthur’s chief engineer, and asked him how much the Occupation was costing both American and Japanese taxpayers. When pressed for details, Casey replied in an irritated tone, “I don’t think the people of Chicago are interested in such details.”

Beech wasn’t about to let it go. “I replied with equal irritation that I did not propose to tell Casey how to build a bridge and that I did not want him to tell me what might be of interest to the people of Chicago. . . . from this and similar experiences during four years of life under MacArthur I learned to dislike dictatorships, no matter how benevolent. And MacArthur was a very benevolent man.”

But reporters like Beech were in the minority; most were content to follow the GHQ line.

“. . . most correspondents in Tokyo – and I refer specifically to the major news agencies – dutifully fed the MacArthur line to American readers word for word, even though they often knew that what they were sending was not the truth or at least not the whole truth. Their justification was objectivity. In short, MacArthur had said it, and even if what he said was an outright lie it was not their responsibility to contradict him.”

BUT WHEN CENSORSHIP RULES stayed draconian despite the war’s end, protests eventually began to gather steam. And what eventually sparked a revolution was the Oct. 12, 1945 announcement that a “quota system” would be put into effect, with the aim of reducing the number of foreign correspondents. The various news bureaus were assigned a quota for the number of reporters they could bring in, and the correspondents were reverted to civilian status, effectively giving GHQ control over their food, housing and transportation. The person who put the new system into practice was none other than the same Brigadier General LeGrande

A. Diller who the correspondents had mentioned in their thank you letter following the surrender ceremony. Soon they began to refer to the high-ranking officer with the less flattering nickname of “Killer” Diller.

According to former United Press correspondent William J. Coughlin’s book, *Conquered Press*, Gen. Diller threatened the reporters: “We are getting tough. And we are going to get tougher. We are not going to let you give MacArthur’s critics in the States any ammunition. . . . Don’t forget the Army controls the food here.”

That was the final straw. The infuriated reporters met in a conference room at the Radio Tokyo building to discuss ways they could defy the military’s efforts to stifle their reporting. They decided, wrote the *New York Herald Tribune*’s Frank Kelley and the *London Daily Telegraph*’s Cornelius Ryan in their book, *Star-Spangled Mikado*, “to officially notify the Supreme Commander that the association would set up its own press hostel and provide accommodation, no matter how bad, for all correspondents ‘whatever his creed, race or color,’ arriving in Japan.”

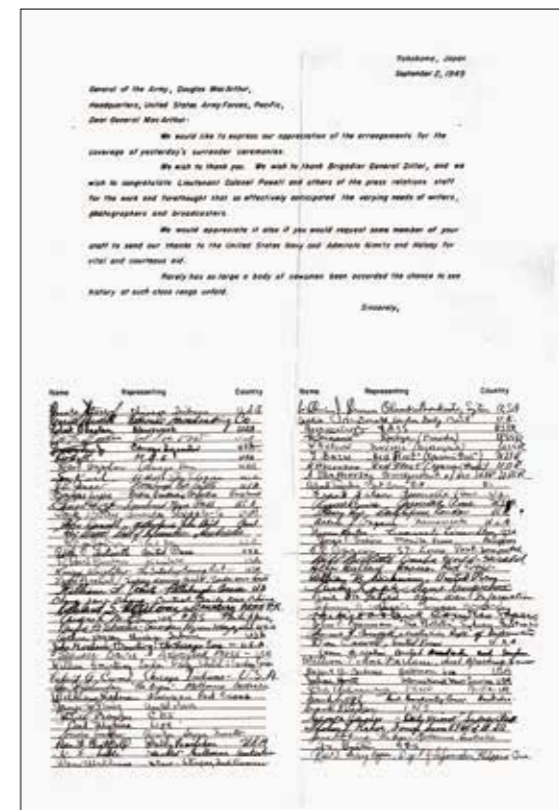
They arranged to rent the Marunouchi Kaikan, a five-story building in the Marunouchi district, from its owner Mitsubishi. In October 1945, the Tokyo Correspondents’ Club, the forerunner of the FCCJ, was founded. It consisted of a dining room and bar on the ground floor – nicknamed No. 1 Shimbun Alley – and upstairs, a room for press conferences as well as sleeping facilities. When the Club opened for business in November, the membership was approximately 170 reporters.

Australian correspondent Richard Hughes agreed to work as the General Manager for a salary of \$80 a week plus free board and half-price on drinks. In those days, the club was a place where foreigners and Japanese were free to come and go. In his personal memoir, titled *Foreign Devil*, Hughes described the club as “the liveliest and least conventional residential club in the world” and “makeshift bordello, inefficient gaming-house and blackmarket centre.”

Wrote Hughes: “We had a mixed membership of war-weary correspondents, the world’s best reporters and combat photographers, liberal, conservative and radical commentators, and some of the world’s most plausible rogues and magisterial scoundrels. . . . No one can pretend to be uninformed in a press club. News and revelation, scandal and fact – bizarre and blue-bolted – are always on tap at the bar – at first or second hand.”

According to Hughes, the most popular bedroom among correspondents was Room 7 on the fourth floor. “I have a waiting list of seven residents who wish to transfer to Room 7. . . . This popular room overlooks the large windows of the showers and two bedrooms in the Soviet women’s billet next door. The Russian girls seldom draw the blinds.”

IT WAS NOT ONLY GHQ that attempted to influence stories by press club members. In January 1949, the *Times* correspondent Frank Hawley covered the political situation following Japan’s general election. On Feb. 26, British political representative in Japan Sir Alvary Gascoigne received a letter from Prime Minister Shigeru Yoshida via Yoshida’s secretary. According to declassified documents of the British Foreign Office at the National Archives in London, the letter contained a protest over Hawley’s article.



Thank-you note 76 journalists signed a letter of appreciation to Gen. MacArthur – before they realised there were strings attached to access.

“My attention has been called to certain recent articles in the *Times*, in which I and my party are represented as being ‘opposed to the Allied Headquarters policy’ and harboring a ‘dislike of the ideals of Anglo-Saxon democracy’. . . . I regret that such absurd, malicious and grossly distorted notions about my party, which are circulated for propaganda by our political enemy, should have been swallowed by the *Times* correspondent here, and accepted by *Times* editors in London.”

In his own report to the Foreign Office in London, Gascoigne showed a deep understanding of the role of the press and how to deal with them. “I am not, of course, replying to this

letter on paper,” he wrote. “I have simply told Yoshida’s Private Secretary to remind his chief that the press in the United Kingdom is entirely free and that what is written in the *Times* is not necessarily connected in any way with the trend of official thought held in London. . . . I mean to show Yoshida’s letter to Frank Hawley, the local *Times* representative, next time he comes to see me. But I shall do so of course in jocular fashion and with no show of attempting to influence him one way or the other.”

Recently the government of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in particular, have shown dissatisfaction over articles written by foreign correspondents, and been criticized for their attempts to intervene

on the articles’ contents. But perhaps it’s a bit unfair to single out PM Abe for such efforts. Since its founding in 1945, the FCCJ has always been something of a gadfly toward the powers that be, including GHQ.

Arising from the ruins of Tokyo 70 years ago this month, the Tokyo Correspondents Club and the subsequent Foreign Correspondents’ Club of Japan has been the home away from home for legions of distinguished journalists, spawning many dramas and legends. Along with the stories they filed, the old black-and-white photos adorn the club’s lobby as a testament to their presence. ●

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

The FCCJ: 70 years

THINK
INK!

THE FRONT PAGE OF the first issue of the *No. 1 Shimbun*, which appeared in September 1968, featured the following message from then-President Henry Hartzenbusch:

For a bunch of foreign correspondents to undertake to publish a monthly newspaper is, I believe, the height of reckless courage. . . . Try to imagine how critical a readership composed exclusively of newspapermen – and their friends – is likely to be! . . . 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.

Thankfully for the Club, there have been enough “foolhardy” souls over the years willing to maintain the publishing record of the *No. 1 Shimbun* on a regular basis, while upholding the mission defined by its first editor, China expert and AP man, John Roderick: to give Club members “a chance to read, appraise [and] enjoy the journalistic accomplishments of our brethren.”

And luckily, despite the always-spirited membership and their widely diverse opinions, weapons have never become part of the editorial process.

On this occasion of the Club’s 70th year, we present a small but representative selection of excerpts from articles that have appeared in the *No. 1 Shimbun*, celebrating the contributions of the many members – editors, writers and photographers – who have helped keep the publication lively, interesting and relevant through changing times and an evolving media world.

60s...



“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,”
– editor John Roderick quotes Mao Tse-tung, first edition of *No. 1 Shimbun*, Sept. 1968

CLUB HISTORY Press clubs, pros and cons

Kisha (press) clubs, not the sources or the media, determine who covers the news, what questions are asked in many cases, what information is released to the public and generally, how news media conduct their news-gathering operations. The press clubs are able to enforce their will because the sources cooperate with them and do not violate rules the clubs set down. Some officials and politicians complain privately that unless they go along with the clubs they will be attacked publicly. In reality, the clubs are so close to their sources that most of what is printed is just what the sources want printed.

– Richard “Dick” Halloran,
Vol. 1 No. 4, Dec. 1968

CLUB HISTORY 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*?

– *No. 1 Shimbun*, Vol. 1 No. 1, Sept. 1968



CLUB HISTORY

“Femen” ja nai

A news skit at the Club’s 23rd anniversary party – perhaps the only time topless women in the Club’s early days actually carried a message.
Vol. 1 No. 4
Dec. 1968

Two hours with a Nobel Laureate

70th ANNIVERSARY: the 1960s

Yasunari Kawabata is known for being taciturn. At first, one is struck by his apprehensiveness, which, for an interviewer, would seem to foreshadow a difficult and evasive conversation. Yet after an exhaustive day, disrupted by friends and run-of-the-mill interviews with dozens of Japanese journalists, he willingly saw me for an interview which was to last a quarter of an hour and, at the most, a half hour. It lasted two hours.

Mr. Kawabata said: “I considered for a moment refusing the Nobel Prize because I was judged on translations, which are excellent by the way . . . and though the Nobel Prize is a very great honor for an author, an honor to which I had aspired without believing I would achieve it, it is also, perhaps, a very heavy burden.

“But through me, I felt that the Nobel Academy wanted to render homage to our tradition, to the Japanese sense of beauty, and especially to honor all Japanese literature. Until now, it hasn’t been appreciated abroad, but perhaps, at last, it may shine throughout the entire world.

“I feel nevertheless that I owe a great deal to my translators; also to Yukio Mishima, who didn’t receive the Nobel Prize last year because of his youth, but who has drawn attention to Japanese literature. It’s a pity . . . he’ll have to wait longer.

“. . . what I’m looking for particularly is to beautify, embel-

lish death. But death here doesn’t have the same meaning as in Christian Europe. The Japanese tradition isn’t immoral. It’s amoral. It is synonymous with nothingness.

“The Japanese – whose culture has been shaped by Zen – are particularly absorbed by the idea of nothingness, or rather by its contemplation. It is comparable to Western nihilism, but there is a great difference between the two conceptions. In the East, nihilism is a type of philosophy which seeks harmony between man, nature and nothingness.”

Kawabata regards affectionately a figurine in Haniwa earthenware on a lacquered table and points it out to me. It dates from the Fourth Century after Jesus Christ and he emphasizes that it is purely Japanese, preceding by two centuries the appearance of Chinese civilization on the Japanese archipelago.

He admires its simplicity and at the same time its great warmth. The hollow openings that form the eyes and mouth invite the eye to plunge into the interior, into the emptiness and obscurity, into nothingness.

“All my life is a search for beauty and I will continue searching for it to the moment of my death.”

– Jean-Francois Delassus,
Vol. 1 No. 3,
Nov. 1968

CLUB HISTORY

To the Moon and back

Members and their guests were glued to the television sets (20 of them, all color, provided by Toshiba and Sony) in the main bar, stag bar, dining room and corridors as moon man Neil Armstrong put down the earth’s most celebrated foot on the lunar surface. Others clustered around teletypes in the library to read the running accounts by AP, Reuters and UPI.

Vol. 2 No. 8,
Aug. 1969



TECH NOLOGY

Honda has no fears

What new developments are on the drawing board in [Honda founder] Soichiro Honda’s lab? “That’s a secret,” says Honda. . . . I asked whether a completely automated

brake is still a pipe dream for now. “Why?” asks Honda. “You can’t say it’s impossible.” Then he goes on about an electronic beam, a sort of radar system that not only would sound the alarm when a vehicle approaches, but

would make the necessary corrections in the car. “That at least would be one situation the driver wouldn’t have to worry about,” he remarked.

– Thomas Ross,
Vol. 2 No. 1, Jan. 1969



“In some distant day, when this Indochina War can perhaps be put in some sort of perspective, students of Journalism may be able to chronicle the work of the thousands of Men and Women who covered the conflict,”

– Edward Q. White, Vol. 4 No. 11, Nov. 1972

Bomb at our door

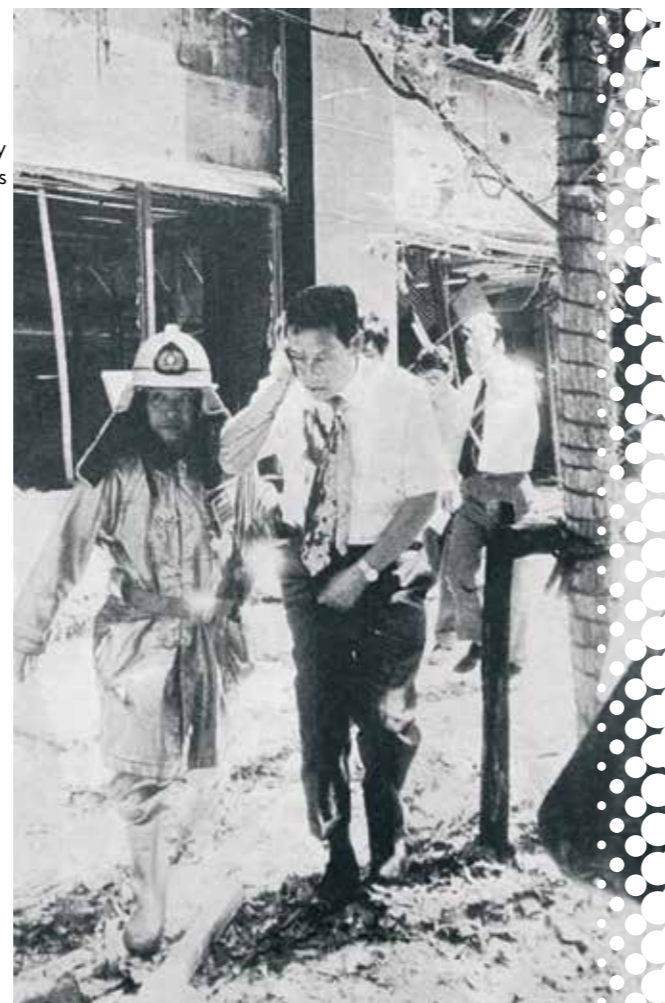
It was just after I had come downstairs to the Club office that it happened. [The bombing of the Mitsubishi Heavy Industries' head office by the East Asia Anti-Japan Armed Front.] The loud shock of the blast left little doubt in my mind that something very serious had occurred, either a bomb or a gas explosion. Everyone around me seemed stunned and not a little frightened. I was told later that several correspondents upstairs listening to Foreign Minister Toshio Kimura immediately jumped up and ran out.

I dashed out the side door and ran toward the street. . . . I ventured out from behind the edge of the building, crossed the street and started down the sidewalk toward the smoke. Several jagged pieces of glass hurtled down, smashing into the sidewalk only a few feet behind me. Instinctively, I ran into the middle of the street and continued to the next block. Just ahead of me was Happy Mayger with his camera and one of Ian Mutsu's MGM cameramen, Kakun Sho, grinding away with his movie camera. . . .

Then I saw it. The lifeless body of a naked man lying in the gutter, one leg completely blown off. It was a shocking sight to see a human being smashed and torn like that. It was impossible to make out a face. I turned away and noticed a man lying in the street, obviously badly injured, with someone trying to lift up his head. Another covered him with a coat. . . .

An American businessman named Garfield Becksted said he'd been crossing the street coming up from the Club when the bomb went off. "I saw a Japanese woman lying on the sidewalk across the street. I rushed over and tried to take her in my arms, but she died before I could do anything," he said.

– Andy Adams, Vol. 6 No. 9, Sept. 1974



Close call

Club secretary Sam Jones was on the scene to take this photo, which was used in Number 1 Shimbun

Club votes to move

With a target date at the end of the year, the Club will relocate atop the new Yurakucho Denki Building. The move was overwhelmingly approved by the general membership on Monday, Oct. 13.

Not that it was overwhelmingly welcomed. The move was accepted as inevitable. Those members who had taken advantage of an opportunity to inspect the proffered premises were impressed by the view from on high. . . .

Dissenters found the present Club comfortable and convenient, and concerned that reliance on elevators would discourage patronage. Supporters felt the new plant would be a magnet for increased patronage, especially at night.

– Irwin Chapman, Vol. 7 No. 10, Oct. 1975

A new boom in making weapons

Some of the statements of Mr. Yasuhiro Nakasone, Defense Agency Director, have stirred the weapons industries to such an extent that it is now referred to as the *danyaku boom*. Nakasone is a long-time advocate of Japan's rearmament. . . . **He is of the opinion that Japan's diplomacy in the international arena will not be effective unless it is backed up with military power.**

– Sivapali Wickremasinghe, Vol. 3. No. 4, Apr. 1970

PLUS CA CHANGE? The Okinawa story after the reversion

They say if you drive north of Koza and Kadena Air Base, Okinawa is really quite nice – green mountains, white sand and blue seas. But in the 20-mile-long strip south to the concrete-block capital of Naha, you have to endure the incredible congestion of the grittiest, sultriest urban military sprawl this side of

Norfolk, Virginia. It's the worst of Japan and America combined. . . .

The setting is hardly scenic. Some 600,000 of the 900,000 Okinawans are jammed into the strip, cheek by jowl with the U.S. Army's logistics depot, most of the 80,000 Americans, cheap California dependents' housing, used car lots, root beer stands and enough saunas and steam baths to accommodate the U.S. Marines.

Maybe the Japanese can do something with the place. The Americans certainly haven't. The town planners missed the boat, or weren't invited, when the boom got underway in the 1950s. **Everyone admits that the bases monopolize the best land, but no one knows what to do. . . .**

Maybe it will all be transformed in the post-reversion, non-nuclear world. – John M. Lee, Vol. 4 No. 3, May 1972

Emperor meets press

Emperor Hirohito of Japan, seated in the splendor of an audience room in the Imperial Palace a few weeks ago, defended his role before and during World War II as that of a constitutional monarch. . . .

The meeting with foreign newsmen, which officials of the Imperial Household Agency emphasized was an audience and not a press conference, was limited to the media of nations the Emperor and Empress visited on the trip that was the first for a reigning emperor ever outside of Japan.

But the event in itself, like the journey through Alaska to Europe, was another indication of an increasingly self-confident Japan that is groping to find better communications with the rest of the world.

Until now, the Emperor's contacts with the foreign press have been limited to private audiences with senior news executives and an occasional audience in which correspondents were merely introduced to him. He also saw two American correspondents briefly just after WWII. Japanese newsmen see the Emperor briefly once or twice a year.

But today, in the spacious audience room known as the Shakkyo-no-ma, with the ornate picture of a red-maned noh actor hung in the background, was the first time the Emperor permitted questions to be directed at him from foreign correspondents.

Under the rules set up by the Imperial Household Agency, the questions were submitted to the Emperor beforehand. But newsmen were allowed to ask one follow-up question to each prepared question.

It was in response to those that the gentle and dignified Emperor was spontaneous and forceful. In one such answer he

Heigh ho, heigh ho . . .

The press pack are taken to the Imperial Household for a first-ever meeting with the Emperor and Empress



and those who wanted to fight to oblivion. . . . He said today: "At the time of the end of the war, Prime Minister Suzuki left everything to my discretion, so I had to make a decision. But that decision was taken at the responsibility of Prime Minister Suzuki." The Emperor indicated that he considered both actions within his prerogatives as a constitutional monarch.

– Richard Halloran, Vol. 3 No 12, Dec. 1971

PLUS CA CHANGE? Confessions of a female chauvinist

I hate men:
When the spokesman at a press briefing says, "My, we have many lovely ladies among us today."
When the maitre d' rushes up to me and says, "I'm

sorry but this table is for the working press."
When another reporter asks me, "Where are you going today, to a fashion show?"
When they say, "When are

you going to get married?]"
When they ask, "Isn't it too hot to wear slacks?"
When I am taking pictures of a demonstration and male demonstrators smile at me.
A wire service's Tokyo bureau, with its cross cultural representation of chauvinists,

is to women's liberation what the aborigines of Australia are to anthropologists – one of the last vestiges of primitive society where sexual equality is concerned.

– Kathy Talbot, Vol. 7 No. 9, Sept. 1975



“Because of fog, the plane for Sakhalin may not be able to take off today.” ... Outside, it was overcast. There was no plane in sight waiting for any fog to lift,

– Mary Ganz, first Western reporter in Sakhalin, Vol. 20 No. 9, Sept. 1988

TECH NOLO GY A new type of Brother

This story is being written on yet another devilishly clever Japanese product. It weighs all of two kilograms, runs on four flashlight batteries, prints 132 characters – that’s 44 more than an ordinary typewriter – and is as quiet as a desktop calculator, which it also happens to be.

“Those bastards have done it again,” was the response of a veteran American reporter, who begged me to sell him the demonstrator model for which I had gladly forked out the full price. The product went on sale in Japan, Canada and the U.S. just before Christmas.

The Brother EP-20 Personal Printer threatens to do to portable typewriters what the Sony transistor did to the vacuum tube radio.

The machine has a memory function which allows the writers to make corrections on a liquid crystal screen instead of making mistakes on paper. This gem costs all of ¥48,000, which according to the built-in calculator, comes to \$195.90 at present rates of exchange.

– Andrew Horvat,
Vol. 14 No. 12, Dec. 1982

POLITICS No Shakespeare festival

The King broods in his castle, an aging despot corrupted by power and besieged by physical ailments. His scheming, avaricious wife and the general who is his most trusty crony may have conspired to murder the pretender to the throne.

Now, challenged by the pretender’s widow, they try desperately to keep matters from unraveling into the worst of all possible nightmares.

As the King cowers inside the moat, his two most trusted allies hatch new plots against him, and the nation’s religious leader rallies the people in the name of God to help overthrow the tyrant.

The King has threatened repeatedly to crush his enemies. But with his very survival at stake, he must decide whether to retaliate. His power is eroding. He fears the judgment of history. He hesitates . . . and then it is too late. The King flees and his crown is claimed by – who else but the widow of the man whose murder began it all?

MANILA—The hundreds of journalists who spent February in the Philippines are to be excused if they thought they’d blundered into a Shakespeare festival. But no question: the fall of Ferdinand Marcos and the triumph of Corazon Aquino must rank as one of this century’s great political dramas, one about which even the most calloused reporter could hardly be cynical.

When it was all over, one heard Richardo Cruz, cab driver No. 1 at the Manila Hotel, say: “We owe you foreign journalists a lot. Without you, none of this would have happened.

Such comments were heard often in the aftermath of the “people’s power” revolution that vaulted an obscure 53-year-old housewife into the presidency of the world’s 16th-largest nation.

– Richard Pyle,
Vol. 18 No. 2, Feb. 1986

PLUS CA CHANGE Abe says he’ll do his best

On Sept. 4 [1985] . . . four representatives of the foreign press were invited to the Foreign Ministry for a meeting with Shintaro Abe, the foreign minister. The meeting lasted about 30 minutes. Below is a transcript of some of the exchanges that took place through an interpreter. . .

Abe: Freedom of the press is one of the basic principles of democracy in Japan, and any restrictions or limitations on the activities of foreign correspondents might be perceived as a symbol of the closed character of Japanese society, which would be very undesirable. . . .

Before I entered politics I myself was working as a reporter for about ten years and I belonged then to various kisha clubs. Of course, individual reporters are free to do their work as they please, but the kisha clubs themselves are managed very strictly and are organized in a very old-fashioned way. When I was working inside them I felt myself that the system should be reformed quickly. I remember that when I was young I and some others used to talk about improving the kisha club system, but the system was very strong, with a very long history and traditions going back as far as the Meiji Era.

The press is supposed to uphold the banner of democracy and freedom, and from that point of view the kisha club system is misguided. . . .

I have traveled around the world a great deal, but I have never seen anything like our kisha club system anywhere else. But I think things will get better now.

– Vol. 17 No. 8, Aug. 1985

POLITICS Fear and loathing in the people’s paradise

PYONGYANG—The government interpreter shifted uncomfortably on the wooden pew of the Protestant church built here as a showcase to North Korea’s supposed freedom of religion. The Rev. Pak Chun Gun leaned forward in his seat, listening politely to the insistent question of the American reporter.

“Who is more important?” I asked the pastor. “President Kim Il Sung, or God?”

The interpreter, an advanced English-language student at Kim Il Sung University, regarded me with a look of blank innocence.

“Who’s God?” he asked.

– Richard Read, Vol. 21 No. 9, Sept. 1989



Since its foundation in 1817, Cova has been living a history of more than 190 years together with La Scala, a base of art. In the 19th century, the era of raging revolution, after a brief domination of France led by Napoleon, Milan came to be again under the rule of Austria. Cova is known as a historic meeting place of the “Five Days of Milan” at the rebellion of the citizens against the Habsburgs in 1848. In any era famous artists, musicians and celebrities of the time gathered at Cova. Cova has been loved by great writers; Verdi, opera writer, wrote his works such as La Traviata and Rigoletto in the cafe’ and the cafe’ Cova and its chocolate appear in “A Farewell to Arms”, a masterpiece of Hemingway .

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MEDIA China's Sankei syndrome

China's refusal of visas to two *Sankei* newsmen due to accompany Prime Minister Zenko Suzuki on his visit to China early this fall seems to have been a singular non-event in the Japanese newspaper world. No official protests are known to have been made, either by the Foreign Ministry or the Japan Newspaper Publishers & Editors Association, and even the *Sankei* seemed resigned, terming the incident "deeply regrettable" in a nevertheless strongly worded editorial. . . .

The Sankei - which has an office in Taipei - is the only major Japanese daily without a bureau in Beijing. Maybe because, as one observer said, "the *Sankei* prefers printing the kind of juicy gossip that can be picked up in Hong Kong or Taiwan to the official pronouncements handed out in Beijing."

- Vol. 14 No. 11, Nov. 1982

PLUS CA CHANGE? Kisha clubs present problems for photographers too

How can I adequately describe the *kisha* club system in Japan without using such words as "medieval," "byzantine" or "antiquated." It is difficult for the Western mind - and especially the American mind - to grasp. We are talking about a tight group which is expected to pretty much print as gospel what is handed out to them by the news source. One veteran photographer who learned I was writing about press access in Japan joked, "Gonna be a short story, huh?" Photo District News recently asked the Foreign Press Center here in Tokyo what a visiting photographer can expect these days in terms of access to news events. The answer was terse. "Not much." (Gee, thanks a lot.) "Generally speaking, freelance photographers have a hard time." (Hit me again.)

- Sonia Katchian, Vol. 20 No. 2, Feb. 1988



Equal to equality?

The inimitable Murray Sayle, adventurer/raconteur/correspondent, tries to redress (or undress) the balance between the appearance of many topless women within the pages of the early *No. 1 Shimbun*. History will record his success or otherwise.

- Vol. 15 No. 4, Apr. 1983

The verdict

[From the courtroom at the announcement of the verdict of former Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka's trial for the Lockheed affair]

I would hesitate, then jump from my seat, run down the hall and scramble down seven flights of stairs. . . . I leapt on a waiting motorcycle and raced to the Denki Building where, within minutes after the verdict, I was at the lobby tobacco shop phoning the world's largest news organization with an exclusive English-language eyewitness account.

I was put on hold. Our Tanaka guilty bulletin was already out, quoting Japanese reporters seen dashing out of the courtroom on live television. All I had to offer the watching world were a few notes, later to be distorted in transmission, describing the look of defiance on Tanaka's face as he slowly sat down after learning he had been sentenced to four years in prison.

By 10:20 a.m. I had gone to the 20th floor and executed my duties as a pool reporter by typing out three sloppy pages of notes and eating a free hamburger.

Later, when I returned to the courtroom to relieve Nancy Ukai, the other pool reporter whose lyrical notes were to put my terse scribbles to shame, my interest in the proceedings had shifted from hard news to soft pornography. While the long row of defendants frustrated my perspective of Tanaka, I had a clear and unobstructed view of Mieko Enomoto [the former wife of defendant Toshio Enomoto, Tanaka's former secretary] in the spectators' gallery.

I can't tell you what color tie Tanaka was wearing or whether it hung several inches below his belt as is his custom, but I can tell you that Mieko had her

hands clasped on her knee as she crossed her shapely legs. Her fingernails were painted gold. Ms. Enomoto, who attained instant *tarento* status when she ratted on her ex-husband in a dramatic 1981 court session, first captured my attention upon entering the courtroom about 15 minutes before the session began.

A tall siren in a plaid suit whose neck was clamped in a white brace, she probed about with a hungry gaze, as though searching for a cinematographic "cute meet." The neck brace, one could deduce from local reports, was for a case of whiplash she sustained in a recent traffic accident. The conservative wool suit was to offset the saucy image she'd created by baring her breasts in a recent issue of *Japan Penthouse*.

Now, as her ailing ex-husband sat rigidly listening to the lengthy and detailed text of the verdict - he had his wrists slapped with a one-year suspended sentence - Ms. Enomoto sat poised, but hardly alert. Her bovine brown eyes fought off sleep. For her, as for many in the courtroom, the grand finale was getting bit dull.

Tanaka himself made little effort to conceal his impatience with the formalities of justice. Judge Mitsunori Okada tried to read the ruling as quickly as possible, but it took more than 1½ hours. Tanaka for his part struck a series of theatrical poses with an air of restlessness and defiance. One moment he would freeze with his jaw resting in a palm and his elbow propped on the table as he gazed thoughtfully at his closed fan; then he would rock back in his chair and roll his neck with his eyes closed. He was a lion in a cage, captured but not tamed by the court."

- Karl Schoenberger, Vol. 15 No. 11, Nov. 1983



“Suddenly the Club is big news, with the mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki appearing... and the Aum Supreme Truth people meeting reporters at the FCCJ,”

– cover of Vol. 27, No. 4, Apr. 1995

POLITICS **Japan: hardly a feminist hell**

It's a chicken-or-egg question. Certainly the old-boys' network in Japan remains a powerful barrier that has shut women out and discouraged them from striving for the top – notwithstanding the successes of such women as Chiaki Mukai, the astronaut, or Takako Doi, the Socialist politician. Yet if working women want to get ahead, they also have to pay their dues and not use their gender as an excuse to shirk responsibility.

One thing seems clear. If you ask me which gender seems more free and happy in Japan today, I would say women. . . .

The very fact that women are still shut out of the major corridors of power – and thus social expectations to endure exam hell, enter the top corporations and become working drones – seems, in one sense, their liberation. They seem less molded, more free to enjoy and develop other aspects of themselves and their lives. As a result, they strike me as better balanced and more expressive.

– Teresa Watanabe, the *Los Angeles Times*, Vol. 26 No 8, Aug. 1994

A drink for a friend

An extraordinary man, Terry Anderson – even though he insists he isn't. I saw him at the FCCJ, a returned-to-life survivor of 2,455 days in the hands of terrorists in Lebanon.

I bought him a drink that had been deferred for 13 years, recalling the man I knew then, admiring the remolded being I know now.

I met him first, those many years ago, at the home of Max Desfor, AP photo chief for Asia. Terry was just in from Detroit, where he had reported the disappearance of Jimmy Hoffa and the rise of a ruthless successor.

Good guy, Terry – engaging knowledgeable, easy to like. He reveled in his trade and was superbly efficient at it. I saw a young guy full of middle-aged experience – six years in the Marine Corps, time in Nam, cynical about Washington politics and



A toast

Club Members celebrate Terry Anderson's release, Dec. 4, 1991

State Department policy, tolerant even then of the gravest human faults.

I would long recall the last time I saw him, even the day – May 31, 1979. . . . How could Terry and I have known that, from that time on, time would be spun in a berserk centrifuge and we were moving into an age of violent and inspiring change.

How could Terry have foreseen himself in a dark room in Beirut, talking knuckle-rap code to Terry Waite, an Anglican churchman isolated in the next room?

I could only think back to that drink-deferred day – that some other time. . . . [After an interview] Terry proposed a quick-drink trip to the officers club.

“Can't, buddy,” I told him. “Gotta get back to Tokyo. Some other time.”

That never happened. Terry moved on. I was in Seoul when I heard a radio bulletin. A name I knew had been seized and added to the hostage pile.

Terry Anderson – held on iron leash, denied light and knowledge for months, not even told what the world knew – that his father and brother had died.

Seven years, lost and stolen – except Terry couldn't look at it that way.

“No, I didn't lose them. I loved them. I was there. I learned things, about myself and other people. I've changed in some ways, I hope for the better. I'm not going to let go of the things I got out of it.”

Chained and beaten, fed off the floor, heaped with every kind of physical and spiritual abuse – how could any man, even one hardened in the Marine Corps mold, have retrieved life and self?

No ordinary man could have done this.

Wrong, said Terry.

“It is amazing what ordinary people can do. That's just part of the human spirit.”

I took a few minutes of Terry Anderson's never-look-back future, putting that drink down beside him.

“I guess,” he said, “it's going to be a long afternoon.”

And a long life, Terry, to a man who can know it as few other men do.

– Hal Drake, *Pacific Stars and Stripes*, Vol. 24 No. 8, Aug. 1992

MEDIA **Confessions of a tabloid journalist**

The ethics thing. I

studied ethics at school. At the time I thought it was a rather irrelevant, impractical subject. But how was I to know I'd be working for Fleet Street, where your ethical standards are constantly assailed from all manner of subtle angles? Now I wish I'd studied harder.

Take dolphins, for example. Some Japanese eat dolphins, and find them rather tasty. In Britain they eat all manner of disgusting things, but the British pantheon of hypocrisy enshrines dolphins, along with whales, seals and various other wildlife not commonly found around the British Isles, as things which only a rank barbarian, or outright murderer indeed, would eat. Being self-righteous about another country's eating habits is bashing at the most visceral level, of course.

One day a publication yet more scurrilous than the *Mail* rings me up and asks if I can find some Japanese people eating dolphins.

I found them. I picked up a girl at the dolphin counter in the supermarket; I got myself invited to a dolphin-eating party; stories and pictures were front-paged all over Britain a few days later. The story was entirely true. It was also the best-paid story I ever wrote. I threw up. We may have no conscience, but some of us have queasy stomachs.

The day after that story ran, I visited a friend who works for a Japanese tabloid. “Look at this,” he said, and showed me that day's page 2. “British article runs trumped-up story about dolphin-eating,” said the headline. “Can you believe it?” he said. “What a pack of lies.” I had no comment.

We are Malthusians in a carnivorous world. Fish eat water weed, dolphins eat fish, Japanese fishermen club dolphins on the head and then get kicked in the privates by the tabloid newspaper at the head of a cruel eco-system. Then the Japanese tabloids prey on the pickings.

– Tom Gill, Vol. 22 No 1, Jan. 1990



A journalist's primer on word processors

Nowadays, computer memory is cheap and plentiful. Consider the Tandy 100 with 0.022Mb of memory.

– Tom Koppel, Vol. 22 No. 4, Apr. 1990



1992: The New List

What is hot and what is not in Tokyo and Japan

IN

The Hanada Brothers
Rie Miyazawa
Kiichi Miyazawa
Calpis Water
Sun-blocking hose
Narita Express
California wine
Foreign beef
American football
Safe sex
Meiji milk stock
Mako
Pyroclastic
Karaoke box
New World Order
Yoshiaki Mori

OUT

Chiyonofuji, Onokuni
Akina Nakamori
Toshiki Kaifu
Buttermilk
Leather skirts
Limousine Bus
Beaujolais Nouveau
Natto
Rugby
Promiscuity
NTT stock
Junko
Sekuhara
Pub crawling
Global partnership
T. Boone Pickens



Why Japan crashed

We Americans invariably tend to imagine Orientals as wise, patient and cunning. In movies and on television, the Japanese especially seem cool and calculating, in counterpoint to the plodding Americans.

Such images, reinforced by the success with which the Japanese sold us everything from automobiles to television sets, made it easy to imagine several years back that we faced a future controlled by the clever Japanese. In early 1989, columnist Jack Anderson darkly warned: “From Manhattan to Waikiki, they have bought up prime real estate and started up new plants. Japan is building a sub-economy in America that is outproducing the regular economy.

“This could also lead eventually to the collapse of American manufacturing. It also gives Japan a dangerous measure of control over our economy. Every so subtly, control is shifting from Washington to Tokyo.”

Such ominous prophecies were echoed by pundits from left to right, from liberal investment banker Felix Rohatyn to conservative publisher Malcolm Forbes, from journalists like Susan and Martin Tolchin to erstwhile strategist Edward Luttwak: The United States was facing a people who combined wisdom and cunning with an unbreakable national discipline that made Japan the tidal wave of the future. . . .

– Richard Pyle, AP, Vol. 18 No. 2, Feb. 1996



Bush's Collapse Triggers Tape Turmoil

The complete, vivid videotape of President Bush throwing up all over Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa was available that same night but U.S. and Japanese TV news editors did not know it existed for at least 48 hours, *No. 1 Shimbun* learned.

What most viewers saw on Jan. 8 was the unauthorized and abbreviated coverage by NHK, of the American leader on the floor at the state banquet, being treated for nausea and stomach flu.

Two days later, Tom Reid, the *Washington Post* bureau chief, reported that the entire sickening series of events had been captured on tape. “President Bush reeled, vomited, passed out and toppled from his chair in a faint,” Reid reported. “The tape, which shows a frightened Barbara Bush leaping to assist her husband, was viewed by the *WP*. It has not been broadcast in Japan or the U.S., and officials of the network that was responsible for filming the dinner denied that such a tape existed. . . .

“[The] tape was shown in London on Channel 4,” [ABC-TV's John] Herrick said. . . . For a few days no one realized the British station had a world-wide TV beat. In any case, ABC got the tape and showed it in the U.S. That led the Japanese networks to protest that the Americans had scooped them with the full, disgusting footage. . . . So, to salvage international cooperation, the full tape was released to the Japanese networks – and finally the populations of both nations were able to watch Bush do his number on Miyazawa.

Footnote: According to Reuters, Barbara Bush said she knew the president wasn't seriously ill because, while he lay on the floor, she heard him say to Miyazawa, “Why don't you roll me under the table and I'll sleep it off while you finish dinner.”

– Our Video Correspondent, Vol. 24 No. 1, Jan. 1992



“Any journalist who has spent time in Tokyo will have at least heard about the practice of self-censorship among major media organizations. It is a subject the *Number-One Shimbun* has touched on before and to which it will no doubt return.”

– Justin McCurry,
Vol. 37, No. 9, Oct. 2005

MEDIA The vanishing foreign correspondent

Journalist Jill Carroll, studying foreign news coverage for a report published by the Shorenstein Center at Harvard University last fall, found that the number of U.S. newspaper foreign correspondents declined from 188 in 2002 to 141 last year. (If you include the *Wall Street Journal*, which publishes editions in Europe and Asia, the decline was from 304 to 249.) . . . After Sept. 11, 2001, there was nearly universal acknowledgment that Americans would be better off if we knew more about the world. Yet by 2004 the percentage of articles related to foreign affairs that American newspapers published on their front pages had dropped to “the lowest total in any year we have ever studied,” according to a report by the Project for Excellence in Journalism and Rick Edmonds of the Poynter Institute. (It was 14 percent, down from 21 percent in 2003 and 27 percent in both 1987 and 1977.)

– Fred Hiatt, Vol. 39 No. 3, Mar. 2007

Free at last, say foreign journalists, freelancers

Like a surgeon gingerly tinkering with a sclerotic heart, Japan’s new government has spent its first months in office dithering over where to put the scalpel. Finance bureaucrats, the bankrupt construction state, pensions, military bases in Okinawa; the patient is ailing badly, but the Democrats have yet to make deep incisions. In one area of direct relevance to the foreign press, however, they have been praised for making real progress.

In September, new Foreign Minister Katsuya Okada announced what amounted to a minor tremor beneath the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Henceforth, foreign journalists, along with genuine freelancers and writers from magazines and cyberspace, will be allowed to attend his regular briefings. Instead of waving MOFA press cards to get in, applications can now be made online. “This is a matter of the public’s right to know,” Okada announced at the first test of this approach on Sept. 29, before proceeding to give a master class in how to host an open press conference.

Over 50 minutes, the foreign minister fielded questions on Okinawa, the U.S.-Japan alliance, tension with Washington and the Democrats’ battles with the bureaucracy with answers that were crisp, clear and free of MOFA bureaucratese. Okada carried on talking until he had exhausted his inquisitors, at one point ignoring official hints to wind up. More than half the questions came from the once lowly ranks of cyber scribes, who couldn’t seem to believe their luck. “That was unexpected,” Taro Kamematsu, an editor from Net-based news site J-cast, said afterward.

For years, foreign journalists and Japanese freelancers have been banging on the door of the government demanding to be let in and given the same access as their Big Media counterparts in the TV stations, wire services and daily newspapers. The weaknesses, if not corruption, of the system were clear to many, including, it seems, Okada. As members of exclusive press clubs tied umbilically to the ministries on which they reported, Big Media journalists were accused of being too close to their quarry and at times of colluding with them. Now, at a stroke, that exclusive privilege has ended.

– David McNeill,
Vol. 41 No. 11,
Nov. 2009

CLUB HISTORY Amazing discovery in bar

NO. 1 SHIMBUN ALLEY, JAPAN—While conducting surveys for this summer’s renovation, architect Naomi Sato’s crew uncovered a rare find wedged between aging pipes in the bar – a scroll dating back to the 17th century.

Archivists who have seen the document believe it might be a rare interview with Shintaro Tokugawa, grandson of Ieyasu and brother of Shogun Iemitsu, who expelled the “barbarian foreigners” in 1639.

The scroll is still undergoing carbon-test dating and chemical analysis to verify its authenticity. But Murray Sayle, who was around back then and still remembers such things, says, “It’s mystifying how this document could find its way to the FCCJ. I’ve heard of slow mail, but this is ridiculous.”

– Roger Schreffler,
Vol. 32 No 3, Apr. 2000



CLUB HISTORY Storm over sumo lunch

The professional luncheon on Jan. 21 featuring former sumo wrestler Keisuke Itai has triggered off a media storm that is still rumbling around the tightly controlled world of Japan’s national sport.

The ex-komusubi revealed nearly 20 names, including that of incumbent Yokozuna Akebono, as those who regularly rigged matches for a fee. Scores of Japanese reporters attended the luncheon (without paying), and the following morning newspapers and sports publications prominently headlined the story.

– Vol. 32 No. 1
Jan. 2000

祝・70周年

**Congratulations on 70th anniversary of FCCJ's founding.
May you have many more successful years to come.**

Ginza Risen serves seasonal authentic Japanese cuisine.

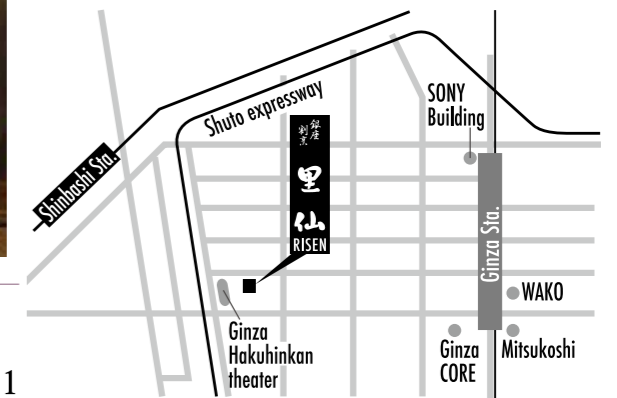
All the elements of Risen such as the tranquil atmosphere suggestive of traditional Japanese culture, the exquisite art pieces on display, and the particular Japanese way of warm-hearted hospitality, are conducive to the refined sensuous enjoyment of food and will bring you many blissful moments.



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The FCCJ wishes to thank the following for their generous donations for our 70th Anniversary Party



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POLITICS **Abe: "I'm not qualified to be Prime Minister"**

After Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Shinzo Abe accompanied Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi to Pyongyang for the summit with North Korea leader Kim Jong Il on Sept. 17, he was dubbed a potential future prime minister of Japan.

He became an overnight star after he came into sharp focus over his strong handling of the destiny of the five Japanese nationals who were kidnapped by North Korea in the 1970s. These abductees, held against their will, trained North Korean spies in Japanese language and customs.

The 48-year-old Abe spoke about this situation at the FCCJ on Dec. 16.

"I'm not qualified to become prime minister," Abe said. "And I'm not the hero. The real heroes are the abductees and their family members."

- Catherine Makino, Vol. 35 No. 1, Jan. 2003



POLITICS **Church and State**

It was supposed to be a sacred occasion, but it suddenly became rather political. The chief priest at the Yasukuni Shrine in Tokyo had performed the rites of the Shinto spring festival and was emerging from the inner sanctuary, or Naijin, when he paused to offer thanks to those participating. Suddenly, he turned to the subject of Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi's repeated and controversial visits to the shrine, where the souls of so-called "war criminals" are enshrined, along with those of countless other war-dead.

The most recent of these visits was on January 14 and the hostile reaction it provoked from Japan's near neighbors, China especially, led a special panel to recommend that a new and secular national war memorial should be built in Japan. Koizumi has delayed action on this because of fierce opposition from within his LDP; and the chief priest, Tadashi Yuzawa, made it clear there are strong objections also within the Shinto community.

"We oppose this," says the chief priest, suddenly shedding his mystical aura. It would, he insisted, result in a "loss of national pride," especially among young people. He noted that lawsuits were launched opposing the switch to a secular venue for commemorating Japan's war dead and expressed gratitude to those promoting them. What he did not mention was the larger legal or constitutional question of the separation of Church and State, an issue that seems to be characteristically fuzzy in Japan. . . .

- Anthony Rowley, Vol. 35 No. 2, Feb. 2003

MEDIA **From skeptic to proponent**

It is fashionable to speculate about the death of newspapers at the hands of the internet, but it took the writing of a blog to make me understand something else - how formulaic and conventional much newspaper writing has always been. Over the past 200 years, the various kinds of articles - 800-word news piece, 1,000-word op-ed, 1200-word feature - have become genres, as restrictive in their way as a sonnet or a limerick. As foreign correspondents, we lead interesting, unusual and privileged lives. But most of what we know, think and feel, the texture of our days, has no place in a newspaper. . . .

We are in the early stages of a dramatic transition; where the rise of the internet will lead newspapers is difficult to say. For the time being, on-line journalism has less prestige than that of print, although in ten years this may well have reversed. My guess is that there will always be physical newspapers, but that they will eventually have the same relationship to online journalism that radio has to television, with a diminished audience, but a loyal one.

One happy consequence, and part of the logic of blogging, will be to undermine the bogus cult of "objectivity" which afflicts American journalism in particular, and makes much of it so bloodless. Perhaps blogging will restore to journalism its connection with the literary tradition from which it originally emerged, among the pamphleteers and controversialists of 16th century England.

Daniel Defoe would have had a weblog, if he'd been born 300 years later, and so would Dr. Johnson and Jonathan Swift. William Blake would have had an extravagant multi-media website, and George Orwell would have been a furious blogger, although clueless about the technical aspects. All of them would have relished the lightness and directness of the form, and its supple power, perfect too for foreign correspondents - in Asia, but not of it, looking out at the world from inside a soap bubble twenty floors up above east-central Tokyo.

- Richard Lloyd Parry, Vol. 37 No. 4, Apr. 2005

TECH NOLOGY **A Rough Guide to computers**

There's never been a better time to buy a portable computer. They have overtaken desktop PCs in sales, so prices are competitive and designs plentiful. Probably the biggest task you face is deciding which type of portable to buy. . . .

While overkill for run-of-the-mill writing work, photojournalists and FCCJ Associate members involved in advertising, graphic design and marketing could find a laptop to be the most useful computer when on the road. Pricewise, figure paying between ¥200,000 and ¥300,000.

- John Boyd, Vol. 41 No. 4, Apr. 2009

10s...



PHOTOS: ROB GILHOOLY

“But nothing I had seen in those first few days prepared me for the stop after Kamaishi. When I saw Otsuchi, my mind went blank.”

– Chang-Ran Kim,
Vol. 43, No. 4, Apr. 2011



HISTORY Zone of Misery

A young lad is walking along the road with a shovel, holding a bankbook covered with sand that he apparently dug out of the debris. We are parked by the side of a road in what is left of the town of Rikuzentakata in Iwate Prefecture, and photographer Rob Gilhooly is interviewing a middle-aged couple and their son as they pick through the remains of their home. They have scraped together a pathetic plastic bag full of mementoes of their life before the Great Tohoku Earthquake.

They see the boy walking down the road – they call him Ito-kun – and beckon him over. He smiles a hello, and they say they’re delighted to see him safe and sound, and ask where his parents are. The boy says he has just come from their funeral rites. There is silence. And then he adds that he hasn’t been able to find his younger brother either. I can’t stand it any more, and – to my shame – I turn from that young boy and move a few paces away. I can’t do this any longer. I need to get out of the zone of misery that has engulfed northeastern Japan.

Those very thoughts, however, trigger an overwhelming sense of guilt. I’m lucky, because I can get out, and that’s not my home that has been reduced to splinters and shards of plastic and glass.

– Julian Ryall,
Vol. 43 No. 4,
Apr. 2011

Congratulations on the 70th year of the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan.



IVA (In Vitro Activation) - A breakthrough for infertility treatment. The revolutionary treatment for infertile women has been commenced in Rose Ladies Clinic.

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Mammy's Service, located in Shirokane, Minato-ku, Tokyo, offers babysitting services on a membership basis for clients who seek safety and trust for their children. We customize childcare to meet each client's individual requests and to protect life and safety of their children, respecting their personalities.

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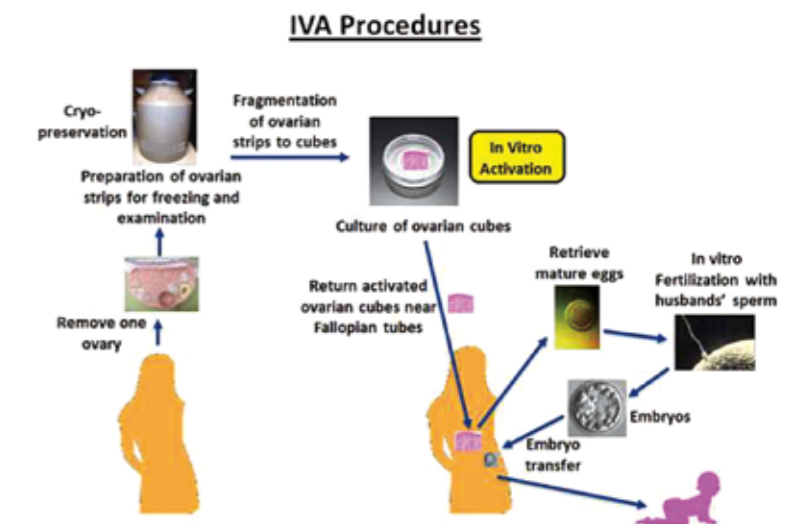


IVA, short for In Vitro Activation, is a new procedure to obtain mature eggs from women in which ovarian pieces are activated outside the body before grafting back to patients.

For a pregnancy to take place, one egg from mother needs to be fertilized by sperm from father. Inside women's ovaries, there are many follicles, each containing an egg surrounded by supporting cells. At birth, ovaries contain about 800,000 follicles in girls and, after puberty, one follicle per month reaches the mature stage and releases a mature egg. During a woman's reproductive life, only about 400 follicles reach the mature stage. Because the total number of ovarian follicles in women is fixed at birth, the number of available follicles (or ovarian reserve) decreases with age. Some women experiences 'diminishing ovarian reserve', resulting in infertility.

For women suffering from diminishing ovarian reserve and infertility, no mature follicles containing eggs are present. However, some patients still have residual small follicles in their ovaries with the potential to grow into mature ones and release mature eggs, leading to pregnancy.

Using the IVA approach, we retrieve one ovary from patients using laparoscopic surgery. Using a miniscule amount of ovarian tissue, the presence of follicles is determined. The majority of ovarian tissues are frozen for later activation. When follicles are detected, we inform the patient and activate the "sleeping" follicles by treating the thawed ovarian tissues with IVA drugs. After two days, ovarian pieces are grafted back to the patient near the oviduct under laparoscopic surgery and follicle growth will be monitored biweekly using ultrasound and serum hormone levels. When follicles reach the mature stage, mature eggs will be retrieved for fertilization with husband's sperm in the laboratory to generate early embryos for freezing. Patient will be treated with hormones to prepare the uterus for embryo implantation. When the uterus is ready for implantation, we will thaw the embryos and transfer them back to the patient for pregnancy.



Congratulations on the 70th Anniversary of the FCCJ

FCCJ archive photos



SEVEN DECADES OF PHOTOGRAPHY from the Club will be featured on the walls of the Main Bar this month – remembering the people that have appeared *and* the news that they have made. Collating, organizing – and digitizing – the collection of 70 years of photographic record is a work (not quite yet) in progress. But in the meantime, celebrate the anniversary with imagery to complement and expand on the stories extracted in this issue. For example, it's already 30 years since the then-Crown Prince and Princess danced in public for the first time – at the FCCJ's 40th anniversary. Take the opportunity to look back . . . and take steps to the future. ●

Congratulations FCCJ on your 70th anniversary!

Who could have imagined the changes you've witnessed over seven decades?
Who can imagine the changes the future will bring?

The best
is yet to
come...



The Ginza head office
of Riken Optical Co., Ltd
in 1938

As Ricoh looks forward to our 80th...
we're reflecting on the meaning of anniversaries.

Why mark anniversaries? They are milestones that prompt us to pause and take stock of our progress – looking back, but even more, looking forward: imagining the road ahead as we marvel at how far we've come; motivating tomorrow's leaders as we honor those who carried the load this far.

What's more, anniversaries open doors to new initiatives.

The conjunction of the FCCJ's 70th anniversary in November with Ricoh's 80th anniversary in February, 2016, creates an opportunity to deepen our relations with the Club. As a proud new sponsor of *Number One Shimbun*, over the months to come we will use this space to look back at Ricoh's past and ahead to the future we strive to imagine – and to change for the better.

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