

NUMBER 1 SHIMBUN

January 2014
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The Foreign
Correspondents' Club
of Japan



OUR
CORRESPONDENTS'
PREDICTIONS
FOR THE YEAR
OF THE HORSE

You
gotta be
kidding
me!

+ Robert Whiting profile: Beyond baseball

Tabloid's anti-Korea campaign

Will Abe's womenomics really work?

Defending the secrecy bill

Rebuilding for resilience



Rebuilding for resilience
Fortifying infrastructure to withstand disaster



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In this issue

The Front Page		4
From the President	Lucy Birmingham	
Phnomh city on the Mekong	Simon Marks	
Cover story		6
Yeas and Neighs:		
Bold predictions for the Year of the Horse		
Promises to keep	Ayako Mie	8
Profile		
Robert Whiting	Gavin Blair	10
"Payback" sells papers and earns political points	Mark Schreiber	12
Naoto Kan:	Julian Ryall	14
Thorn in the side of the "nuclear village"		
Gen Nakatani:	Justin McCurry	15
Shepherd of secrets		
U.S. leads Japan down road of eroding freedoms	Nathalie-Kyoko Stucky	16
Club News		17
Exhibition/Heard at the Club/Club Notes/Website & Social Media/ Chuck Lingam Celebrates/New Members/New in the Library		



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From the President



明けましておめでとうございます。本年もよろしくお願いたします。WISHING YOU A FULFILLING 2014, AS WE GALLOP INTO THE YEAR OF THE HORSE.

We have many exciting and positive changes to look forward to this year. We are expecting our application for "koeki shadan hojin," or public interest incorporated association, to be approved shortly.

We're also ramping up our membership marketing efforts. Our recent membership campaign was quite successful, so we're launching

the Continue Membership Development Program from Jan. 1 to March 31 this year. New Associates will receive ¥70,000 credit. They are also eligible for an instant lottery whereby every fifth approved applicant will receive a ¥30,000 dining voucher. Other new members will receive credit on their joining fee as before.

We'll also be offering orientation activities; a corporate membership development program; weekend business forum tie-in with IRS and JTB; high school graduation welcome visit tie-in with JTB; a young adult welcoming party for potential Associate members.

Our first "Asa-kai" talk with former Sony CEO Nobuyuki Idei attracted 45 attendees, far exceeding our expectations. For our second "Asa-kai" on Tues. Jan. 14 (7:30-8:45), our guest speaker will be the influential and award-winning Bloomberg columnist William Pesek. Please come to hear his insights on news topics in business and politics in the Asia-Pacific region.

I will be spreading the good word about the FCCJ in Kansai this month with a talk at two venues on Sat. Jan. 25: Knowledge Capital in the Grand Front Bldg. at JR Osaka station at 2pm, and Kyoto International House at 6:30pm. Endless thanks to FCCJ member extraordinaire Eric Johnston, deputy editor for the *Japan Times* in Osaka, who has spent many hours organizing this. (Please see the FCCJ website for more details.)

Our online Journalist Information Service (JIS) is also launching in January to better inform our regular members about media events of interest in the Kanto region, according to Freedom of the Press Committee Chairman Michael Penn. Accredited journalists should sign up at the Front Desk for access. For more information see the *Number 1 Shimbun* Oct. 2013 article, "FOP retooling for a new mission."

There has been much debate about the future of the *Number 1 Shimbun* printed version. It is the face of the club, and a vital communication and promotional tool. Advertising is key to keeping the printed version alive. The Publications Committee offered a solution at the Dec. 18 GMM: Recruit three more advertisers on annual contracts for 12 full-page ads at ¥100,000 per page, the current rate. Five such advertisers would yield revenue of ¥500,000 per issue, sufficient to cover all "cash" costs, including printing, design and distribution. FCCJ would then only have to pay for member-generated content compensated in chits (@ ¥20/word). The Publications Committee has asked the GMM to give the Club until June 2014 to make *Number 1* more cost effective. Please let us know if you can help with the effort to source advertisers. Our "koeki" status would allow us to receive donations that are tax deductible, so sponsorship might be an attractive alternative for businesses seeking advertising options.

On a very different note, we would like to offer hearty congratulations to former FCCJ president Myron Belkind for his election as president of the National Press Club. Myron is the first NPC president with a four-decade international career – as foreign correspondent and bureau chief with The Associated Press, heading bureaus in Kuala Lumpur, New Delhi, London and Tokyo. We sent him a video congratulatory message that will be shown at the traditional inaugural gala on Jan. 25. Myron, we wish you the very best!

– Lucy Birmingham



PHNOMENAL CITY ON THE MEKONG

Simon Marks finds the Cambodian capital a rich source of sass, sweat and stories

IN THE RIVER OF TIME, PUBLISHED IN 1995, JON Swain notes that even while Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam were modernizing, "they remain aloof, tragic, beautiful and provocative."

Nearly 20 years later, the same can be said of Phnom Penh, a city of relative lawlessness and laxity, where the traffic obeys few rules, the streets exude energy, the idea of urban planning is lost on the municipal authorities and tourists occasionally wake up dead in guesthouses from a heroin overdose.

Unlike its two expansive neighbors, Bangkok and Ho Chi Minh City, which have already entered the 21st century with their Skytrains and high-rise buildings, Phnom Penh lags years behind. Attempts to bring a functioning bus service to the city have failed. Huge piles of detritus clutter roads, which flood during the wet season.

Cyclo drivers sleep and urinate on the pavement outside government ministries; children run through the rain half naked; power cuts send entire districts of the city into a sweat-induced darkness during the hottest months of the year. And all this happens among the frangipani trees and the stained walls of rundown colonial buildings—at least in some areas of town. It is exactly this lack of modernity that gives Phnom Penh its edginess and charm.

When some of the old hands from the wars in Vietnam and Cambodia – including Elizabeth Becker and Mr. Swain – held a reunion in Phnom Penh in 2010 to remember the dozens of journalists who went missing during the 1970-1975 war in Cambodia, they found themselves visiting a city in total transformation. This was a Cambodia undergoing a period of fast capitalist growth and trying to deal with all the injustices that accompany it.

But as James Pringle, the veteran Scottish reporter who worked for Reuters in Saigon, Phnom Penh and also reported from China, Latin America and Africa, said: "Cambodia is one of the last paradises left."

It was Pringle who described the country as one of "slapstick and horror." For a reporter, it is this fascinating paradox that makes Cambodia such a fantastic place to work. The spotlight that lit the country prior to its first elections in 1993 went out long ago. But there is still a rich variety of stories to report on: some longtime staples (illegal logging, acts of impunity, land grabbing and human rights abuses), others of a more developing nature (the political impasse since July's

Simon Marks is executive editor of *The Cambodia Daily*.

ONLY IN PHNOM PENH CAN YOU WANDER AROUND MINISTRIES AND KNOCK ON THE DOOR OF AN OFFICE BELONGING TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

national election and a growing sense of resentment toward Prime Minister Hun Sen's 28-year leadership).

The wire agencies have largely gone the way of the spotlight. Both Reuters and Agence France Presse have stopped employing expats in their Phnom Penh bureau. But freelancers can do quite well here and there is an active English-language local press.

In fact, Phnom Penh is actually "quite a sophisticated little town," as the manager of a cruise company on the Mekong once said to me as he bought freshly made Belgian chocolates along Street 240, an area of town which has become a haven for expatriates looking to find a boutique fashion shop or who are in need of a guava, passion fruit or dragon fruit smoothie.

Unlike Ho Chi Minh City, a large proportion of Phnom Penh's colonial architecture is still intact. But Cambodia has left its colonial past behind and is now shrugging off its more recent period of upheaval and political instability.

Young couples on motorcycles – the girls on the back dressed in short skirts with hair fashioned like Korean pop stars – zoom around the city as the sun sets, a symbol of the country's booming generation of youth. At night, the more seedy side of Phnom Penh is gathering pace with new hostess bars opening up every other week. High-rise buildings are beginning to redefine the capital's skyline. China is building a new bridge across the Tonle Sap river to cater to the growing number of vehicles entering the city. And modern coffee shops are now filled with the country's iPad-equipped elite.

The distant crack of a Kalashnikov may be harder to hear in Cambodia today, but it's not hard to imagine photojournalist Sean Flynn throwing his camera over his shoulder on his way down National Road 1 to meet his death at the hands of the Vietnamese in 1971.

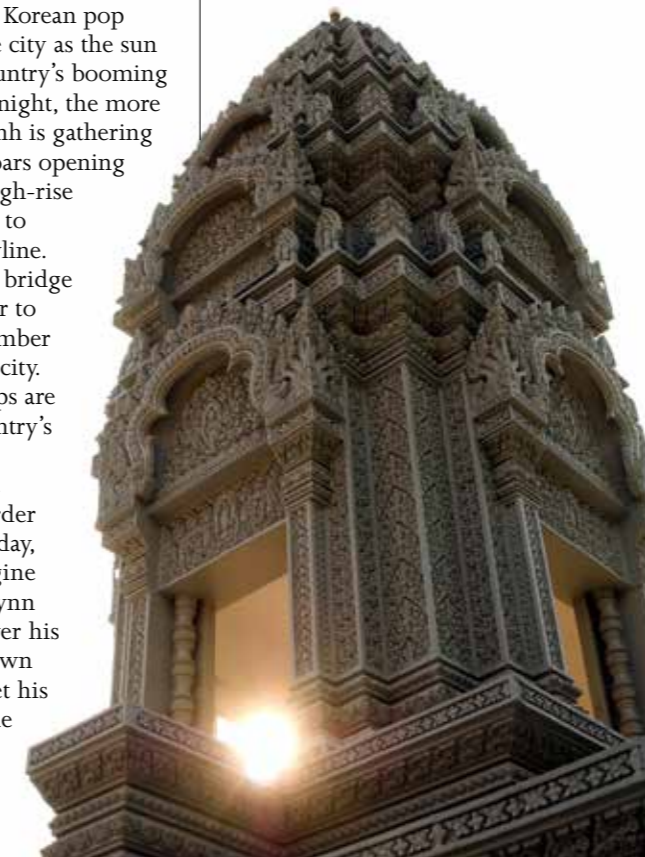
The Royal Palace in Phnom Penh

War is a part of history, and people in the provinces remain the bearers of many a bewildering story from those horrific years.

Access to information through official channels – even the most basic facts – is difficult. Good luck on getting the country's figures on foreign investment if you don't have excellent sources inside the government's investment board. On the other hand, only in Phnom Penh can you wander around ministries and knock on the door of an office belonging to the secretary of state. You just have to know how to get one of the country's old-fashioned functionaries to unlock his desk and share what's inside with the public.

For a reporter in Phnom Penh, life is cheap, and health care non-existent. Palatial apartments go for \$400 per month in central areas of town, beers in the bars cost 50 cents and cigarettes go for less than a dollar a pack.

Cambodia may be a small player in the Asean region, but it has plenty of lure for a reporter with a strong appetite for adventure. ❶



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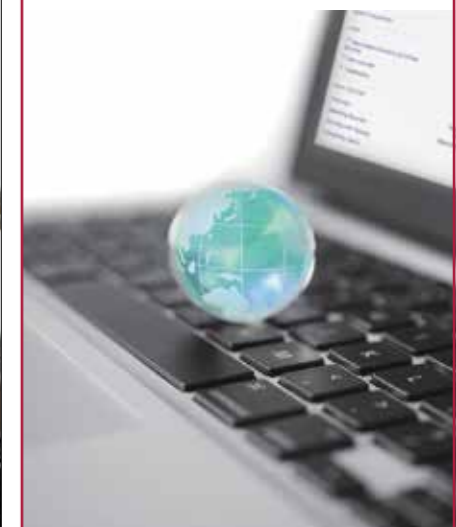
The FCCJ is pleased to offer members a substantial discount on subscriptions to LexisNexis' news database service, Nexis.com

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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.





Yeas and neighs: Bold predictions for the Year of the Horse

If our esteemed forecasters' crystal balls have any say about it, relations between Japan and China will dominate the news over the next 12 months . . . if, that is, the secrecy bill doesn't completely muzzle the press. Given the feisty attitude that pervades these predictions, however, we see little chance of that happening.

So here's what's going down over the next 365 days:

The year 2014 will mark the end of the old world order and the beginning of a new golden age but, not a new world order.
Benjamin Fulford

The defending Japan champion Rakuten Golden Eagles will fail to repeat their success of 2012. They will struggle in the early going and manager Senichi Hoshino will lose his famous temper and

start slugging players, including his own, again. No one will complain. . . . A scandal involving yakuza groups, gambling and baseball players will emerge.
Robert Whiting

PM ABE IN THE NEWS: CHINA, SENKAKU, A MOLE... AND AN AFFAIR

PM Abe writes a letter to the Chinese president thanking Beijing for the conflict in the East China Sea. Abe writes: "Now I can change the Japanese Constitution, arm the SDF, dream about Japan becoming No. 1 again, and forget all this Abenomics stuff that really never interested me in the first place."

Carsten Germis, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe forgets what he learned in his class, Japanese politics 101: "No Japanese politician is guaranteed a golden term." His government gets shaky as the public loses faith following the state secrecy law and his lackluster third arrow.

Ayako Mie, the Japan Times

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe names NHK the Ministry of Truth, introduces the new offense of "Thoughtcrime" for media references to comfort women and moves out of the home he shares with his pro-Korea, anti-nuclear wife . . . though this will remain a secret until 2074.

David McNeill, the Independent

Japan and China come close to resolving their territorial dispute, when a joint expedition of scientists discover a single surviving specimen of the endangered Senkaku (or Diaoyu) mole. But

the discovery leads to more acrimony after it emerges that the Abe government has adopted the creature as a yuru kyara (cute mascot) named **Aikoku-chan** – and that the Chinese team have, in any case, eaten it.
Richard Lloyd Parry, the Times



A year of political polarization. The Abe government will take advantage of its control of the Diet to push through what amounts to a virtual rightwing revolution. This, in turn, will provoke larger protests than we are currently witnessing. 2014 will end with the Japanese nation more divided.

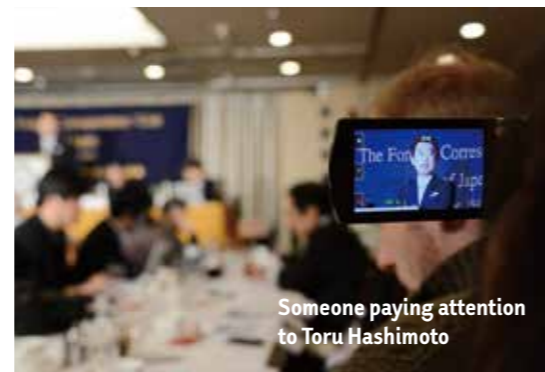
Michael Penn, Shingetsu News Agency

After a tumultuous but secret affair, Japan's Abe and South Korea's Park elope.
Bob Neff

Japan and Iran's secret ties revealed as Japan's "nuclear mafia" exports refined plutonium to Iran via its controversial spent nuclear fuel recycling plant of Monju and Rokkasho Village.
Nathalie-Kyoko Stucky

In the major leagues, Tanaka wins 20 games and Yu Darvish wins Cy Young.
Teddy Jimbo, Video News Network

Underwater volcano creates new island near the Senkaku islets: China, Japan and Taiwan agree to share it.
Sonja Blaschke,



Concerned that fewer people are paying attention to him, Osaka mayor and Japan Restoration Party co-leader Toru Hashimoto announces Japan's prewar system of military government was necessary at the time. He will challenge "revisionist" historians and foreign journalists to disprove him.
Eric Johnston, the Japan Times

HEADLINES PREDICTED FOR 2014:

Prime Minister Assures Nation Everything is Just Fine. Honest.

Julian Ryall, the Daily Telegraph

Car Showrooms Eerily Quiet on First Day of Higher Sales Tax

Weng Kin Kwan, The Straits Times Press

Abe Administration Announces Totally Kawaii 'Cool Secret Japan' Mascot

Matt Alt

Tensions in Sino-Japan Relations Ease Dramatically

Yosuke Watanabe, Kyodo News, Beijing

Japan Admits Foreign Robot Caregivers: Must Leave in Six Months and Not Marry Japanese Robots

Suvendrini Kakuchi

Japanese Music Industry Shocked as Producer Creates Female Band with Less Than 48 Members

Fred Varcoe



A galaxy included in China's to-be-announced Air Defense Identification Zone

In April, the Chinese government declares the entire known universe as an Air Defense Identification Zone in which foreign planes, spacecraft and dirigibles must file flight plans with Beijing. A Japanese gov't spokesperson calls the move "highly regrettable" but does not provide details, citing the Secrecy Law.

Steve McClure

Apple's unveiling yesterday of its iTV, a smart television that can be controlled by Siri voice command technology, left analysts yawning. "We were expecting it to at least have a hologram feature like in Star Wars, if not a function to teleport you directly into a Hollywood studio, as in Star Trek" says Jake Nolitle, an analyst with DupeU Inc.

John Boyd

A reporter will be questioned but not arrested for violations of the Special Secrets Bill. The story will be deliberately leaked, reporting will be low-key and fear will spread amongst the already timid Japanese journalist population.

Jake Adelstein, the Atlantic Wire

The New York Times Asia Pacific

WORLD U.S. N.Y./REGION BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY SCIENCE HEALTH SPORTS OPINION

AFRICA AMERICAS ASIA PACIFIC EUROPE MIDDLE EAST

Premier's Resignation Leaves Japan in Disarray

With Japan's parliamentary session just beginning, Shinzo Abe resigned as prime minister after less than a year in office.
By NORIMITSU CHISHI
Published: December 13, 2007

PM Abe's "Womenomics" policies may be more than platitudes, but he'll have to shake up the culture if they are going to make a difference

Promises to keep

by Ayako Mie

My friend Noriko Sato, a TV reporter for Fukuoka-based RKB Mainichi Broadcasting, is a meticulous planner. When she became pregnant some three years ago, she looked into what kind of childcare support she could expect from the local municipality. She was lucky.

When she returned to work after her year of child-rearing leave, Sato, 37, was assigned to an even busier beat as a court reporter. But she's been able to handle it, having put her daughter Sara in a non-government authorized day-care center, and turning to her neighbors when she and her medical doctor husband have scheduling problems. The Ministry of Health, Labor, and Welfare provides a family support system in which trained members of the local community provide some childcare while parents are working.

"You have to really keep up-to-date with the kind of support you can receive if you want to manage your work and child rearing at the same time," says Sato. "The good thing is that Sara is more socially skilled thanks to her day-care experience and her interaction with our neighbors."

Unlike my friend Sato, more than 60 percent of Japanese women now quit their jobs after giving birth, mostly because they cannot find or receive enough support to enable them to keep working while raising their children.

It's something that will have to change if the prime minister's program of Abenomics is to succeed. "Womanomics," or capitalizing on the female workforce, is one of the pillars of his economic policies, simply because Japan can no longer afford to have half of the population out of the work force at a time when the nation is suffering from a declining population and snowballing social welfare costs.

In order to halt the female brain-and-work drain, Abe hopes to extend child-rearing leave from the current 18 months to three years and solve the day-care shortage, removing thousands of children from the present waiting list.

But listening to my successful working mother friends, including my reporter friend, a chief credit analyst at one of the biggest global banks and a university lecturer, I cannot help but wonder whether Japanese women give up on their careers because the society cannot provide much support, or because the society doesn't offer jobs rewarding enough to make them want to keep it at any cost.

According to a survey by the labor ministry, one out of three women between 15

THIS COUNTRY NEEDS TO ACCEPT DIVERSITY IN GENDER, AGE, RACE, NATIONALITY, MARITAL STATUS AND SEXUAL ORIENTATION

and 39 want to be homemakers, while four out of five men want their wives to work. Maybe some women decide to become stay-at-home moms because the effort to keep their jobs is so cumbersome and costly. But many women might feel discouraged simply because Japan has failed to produce role models who show their peers that they can have both, if not everything.

My views might be biased. I am a 35-year-old single woman with no children, husband or boyfriend, and I have no prospects to get married or pregnant any time soon. I am a "loser woman" according to the best-selling book called *Make Inu no Toboe* ("Loser women cry sour grapes"). But even if I ever get married and have children, I will never give up my career.

This is partly because I grew up in a family where both of my parents worked. My 63-year-old mother still works as a Japanese college administrator while my 68-year-old father retired several years ago. While I was growing up, my mother encouraged me to be professionally ambitious and told me to keep my job at any cost. She convinced me that a woman can manage both a family life and a professional life if that's what she chooses to do.

That's not to say that I haven't seen her struggle, especially when I was in elementary school. Because I was rarely sick, she

didn't take days off to take care of me. But teachers at my school, an all-girls private school, often chastised her for not attending parents' day. On the contrary, I was proud of my mother, and I always blamed my school for holding events during daytime on weekdays, when it is impossible for a working professional to attend.

I understand that my mother and my high-powered female friends are a minority in Japanese society. They are also relatively better-positioned financially, motivated and work for big enterprises that have the great benefits to make it all happen. Such big business enterprises account for only 0.3 percent of Japanese companies, and many small-to-mid-sized enterprises cannot afford to keep women on child-care leave on their payrolls or provide flexible working hours.

For example, a college friend worked for a mid-sized catalog retailer, where she had a responsible position in charge of catalog production. After the birth of her first son, however, she lost her full-time status and

was forced to become a contract worker with much less pay. Recently, she told me that she chose to become a stay-home mom and accompany her husband to Luxembourg rather than keep working in the less-rewarding environment.

Some women even suffer discrimination from their female peers. A working mother I interviewed for a story a couple months ago confessed that she was thinking of leaving the company where she was working as a systems engineer because the female president of the company, single with no children, constantly criticized her for working shorter hours, even though it was permitted, according to the company rulebook.

The fact that problems are not limited to the private sector does not bode well for government progress. Masako Mori, state minister in charge of measures for the declining birthrate and gender equality, told me even the government lacks mid-career female public servants on a career track – as they are forced to quit their jobs when their spouses are posted overseas.

If this is the way of the world even in the public sector, where women have relatively better working conditions, it's doubtful that Japan will be able to achieve its goal to raise the percentage of female managers in the private sector to 30 percent across the board by 2020.



Sanae Takaichi, LDP policy research head



Masako Mori, minister for gender equality



Seiko Noda, LDP General Council chair

Abe likes to tout his pick of more women for government posts to illustrate how he acts on his pledges. Indeed, Abe tapped Seiko Noda, 52, as the first female chairperson of the LDP's General Council, and named Sanae Takaichi, 52, as the first woman to lead the party's policy research section. While those are important steps, the women are supported by male subordinates who are more politically experienced – and some of my Japanese reporter colleagues say they are the ones doing the real work.

I do not think we can say Japan has really changed unless we see some female bureaucrats becoming vice ministers at the powerful and often masculine ministries like finance, defense and the foreign ministry. We cannot say Japan has finally turned the page unless we have a female governor at the Bank of Japan, like President Barack Obama's pick of Janet Yellen as the first woman in U.S. history to head the Federal Reserve.

At the same time, I do understand that tapping unqualified females for executive positions solely for the sake having more women in management positions would undermine Japan's efforts to capitalize on female power. They could easily fall prey to

criticism if they fail to deliver some results in the male-dominated environment.

I also see shortcomings in Abe's three-year child-care leave vision. I do not think many women actually want to be away from work for three years, if they are serious about their careers. At Shiseido, a leading maker of beauty products, where females account for 80 percent of its domestic workforce, 75 percent of women returned to work after one year of child-rearing leave. In today's fast-paced working environment, it is almost impossible for women to keep up with their career if they are away from work for three years.

If the government really wants to develop the female workforce, they should not only solve the daycare shortage but also make it more affordable. One way to do so is increase the number of caregivers or nannies, including special nannies for sick children, which could create multi-billion-yen business opportunities. Or they could expand the economic partnership agreement program to bring nurses from the Philippines or Indonesia to nannies.

The educational system has to change more to teach children that it is natural for the husband and wife to share the burden of house chores and child rearing.

According to the labor ministry, Japanese men with children under 6 years old only spend an average of 39 minutes per day on child rearing. In order to improve this, Japanese companies and government have to find more efficient ways of working.

Lastly, what's really missing from the picture is the lack of "single and successful" as a viable choices for women. I see many talented, attractive and successful women around me, yet unmarried women are still perceived by many as a failure. Let's not suffocate them just because they are not married with children. This country needs to accept diversity in gender, age, race, nationality, marital status and sexual orientation.

I hope this country can offer a place where qualified and talented mothers can go up the corporate ladder without being considered liabilities; meanwhile, single successful women should not have to feel they are not contributing to the society just because they are not married with children. As one of the latter cases, I want to continue to say, despite the pressure, "I am single . . . and fabulous." ①

Ayako Mie is a staff writer covering politics for the *Japan Times*.

Robert Whiting

by Gavin Blair

Touching down in Japan in 1962, Robert Whiting's first job here was analyzing data gathered by U2 spy planes on reconnaissance missions over China and Russia.

"I was going to Humboldt State University and was about to flunk out. I had all sorts of problems; I just had to get away. I was going to get drafted, so I joined the Air Force," recalls Whiting. "They gave me a test, and as a result of that I was sent to electronic intelligence school, and then to Japan, to a U.S. Air Force base at Fuchu, just outside Tokyo."

The cutting edge of intelligence technology at the time, the U2 planes had temporary wheels that dropped off when they were airborne, remembers Whiting. "As they came in to land, when it got to a point where they had slowed down enough, this jeep would run alongside and this guy would reach out and stick these wheels on underneath the wing so it could land properly."

As his time came to leave the military, one of his bosses offered him the chance to join the NSA, but Whiting was already bewitched by the energy of Tokyo as it prepared to host the '64 Olympics. Returning to Japan after his discharge, he enrolled in Sophia University to study politics.

With the GI Bill providing \$200 a semester, he was on the look-out for part-time work to pay the bills. "My graduation thesis was on the Liberal Democratic Party factions. One professor knew this newspaper editor who was going to be sent to Washington D.C. to run a bureau. He asked me if I wanted to be his English tutor for a year."

The editor turned out to be the Yomiuri Shimbun's Tsuneo Watanabe, who paid Whiting ¥20,000 a few times a week to get his English up to speed. [Watanabe is now Japan's most powerful media baron.]

Watanabe was being sent overseas because he had repeatedly criticized Prime Minister Eisaku Sato in his column, leading the government to insist something be done to get the young hotshot editor out of the way.

Whiting got to know Watanabe and his wife well, but the relationship would sour years later when he reported on alleged racist treatment of legendary Yomiuri Giants' slugger Sadaharu Oh, and later

on the exaggerated crowd figures for the newly-opened Tokyo Dome. Both incidents led to him being banned from Giants' home games.

Graduating from Sophia, Whiting worked at a Japanese company for a couple of years, then "got bored of being a gaijin and moved to New York."

'I HAD PEOPLE ADMITTING TO MURDERS. THEY WERE WORRIED ABOUT BEING SUED, BUT I HAD THE TAPES, AND THESE PEOPLE DON'T SUE'

"Nobody was interested in Japan, in the politics, but people loved the stories about baseball, like how Oh would practice cutting paper with a sword to strengthen his wrists for batting." From there the idea for *The Chrysanthemum and the Bat* was born, which Whiting says he wrote on a bet.

While working as one of the few guys at the Kelly Girls temp agency, thanks to his typing abilities, Whiting finished the book with the help of a \$2,000 advance, which he used to visit Japan and gather more material. This was followed by what he calls "a miracle," when after having turned in the manuscript, and with \$120 left in the bank, Time-Life offered to send him to work in Tokyo.

After the success of *The Chrysanthemum and the Bat*, "the phone started ringing," and he was soon writing columns for Japanese publications, in-flight magazines and *Sports Illustrated*. After "putting in the hours and learning my craft, I wrote *You Gotta Have Wa*," which Whiting says, "changed everything" and led to the contract for *Tokyo Underworld*.

Told by his agent to write about something other than baseball, he came upon the story for *Tokyo Underworld* when he met Nick Zappetti, the protagonist of the book. "It was such a strong story, but it took me years to check out whether all of what he'd said was true." While researching the book, Whiting realized he was living in Rikidozan's mansions, the widow of the legendary wrestler was his landlady, and the local thugs were members of

the Tosei-Kai gang, all central to Zappetti's stories. It was "just serendipity."

Before the book came out, Whiting says the, "legal people went over and over it with a fine-tooth comb; I had people admitting to murders. They were worried about being sued, but I had the tapes, and these people don't sue."

Following *Tokyo Underworld's* publication, Whiting received a letter from representatives of Hisayuki Machii, the former boss of the Tosei-Kai gang that features heavily in its pages, who wanted to discuss the contents with him. Machii died before Whiting was able to meet, but he learned of his concerns through lawyers.

"Machii had heard that there was going to be a film and he wanted to be portrayed as a patriot, because he helped rid Japan of the communist threat. He had a letter from Douglas MacArthur expressing gratitude for his help and calling him a friend of America and Japan. The fact that he had committed two murders with his bare hands and a rap sheet as long as . . .

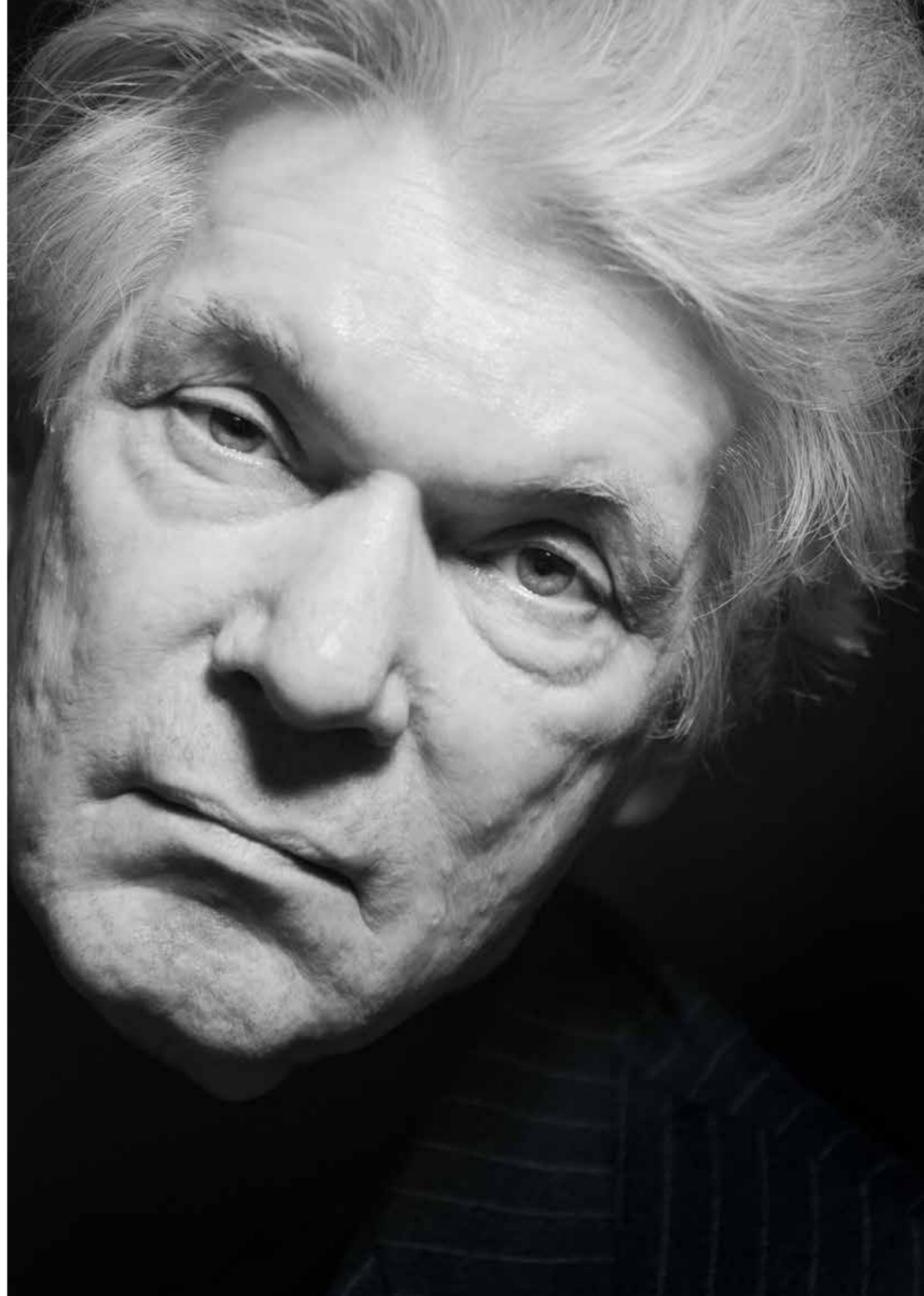
"He would get flagged at immigration going to Hawaii, because he was *boryokudan* [yakuza], and he would produce this letter. I met an agent who had stopped him and was shown the letter."

Whiting has yet to see his work make it onto the screen, having been through numerous offers, options, and screenplays with DreamWorks, Paramount, Warner Bros and HBO, with Martin Scorsese twice slated to direct. He recently accepted an offer to turn *Tokyo Underworld* into a TV series, though at this stage, he says he has, "no illusions."

His next book is set to feature more of Tokyo's colorful postwar characters, both Japanese and foreign. He is currently undergoing the process of rewrite after rewrite that he says he does with all his work.

"I have a 150,000-word draft, but unfortunately I picked the wrong 150,000. Now I've got to go back and replace them with the right ones." ❶

Gavin Blair covers Japanese business, society and culture for publications in America, Asia and Europe.



The afternoon tabloid *Yukan Fuji* is on a mission with an anti-South Korean series of headlines that clamor for attention

"Payback" sells papers and earns political points

by Mark Schreiber

One of Japan's four top buzzwords for 2013, announced at a gala event in Tokyo on Dec. 2, was *Bai-gaeshi* (literally "double payback"). The phrase was popularized in last summer's TBS TV drama, "Hanzawa Naoki," the tale of an honest young banker struggling against his venal superiors. At the conclusion of the episodes Hanzawa would blurt out "Bai-gaeshi!" vowing to extract vengeance on his tormenters, as it were, in spades. In the course of the drama's run, the scale of revenge exponentially inflated to *jubai-gaeshi* (10-fold payback) and then *hyakubai-gaeshi* (100-fold payback).

Bai-gaeshi and its incremental variants also describe the self-prescribed mission of the afternoon newspaper *Yukan Fuji* in its reportage on South Korea during much of 2013. On several occasions, the term has even been used in that context in the tabloid's own front-page headlines.

But you can pick any headline at random – like Oct. 19's "Kankoku akireta hanmichi jisatsu koi," ("South Korea's idiotic anti-Japanese suicidal acts") – and get the inescapable message. The tabloid's bright orange, 72-point characters are hard to miss, both in the newspaper itself, or on the elongated paper strips hung out to promote each day's edition on the low racks ringing rail station kiosks and in convenience stores.

The volume and frequency of *Yukan Fuji*'s negative articles on South Korea began to soar from last spring and gathered momentum over the summer. By October, at least 20 of 26 front pages (there's no edition on Sundays) featured headlines portraying the ROK in a negative light – in many instances at the exclusion of virtually all other news topics.

Instead of varying its international news with the usual mixture of domestic politics, scandals, showbiz gossip and sports, *Yukan Fuji* has largely restricted its menu to a veritable alphabet soup of anti-Korean barbs. They ranged from A, ("ad

hominem" attacks on Korea's president Park Guen-hye and her late father Park Chung-hee); and B (the high incidence of cosmetic surgery among Korean "beauty contest winners"); to C (the "comfort women" issue); D (the territorial dispute over "Dokdo" aka Takeshima island); H (the collapse of the so-called "Hanryu wave" of Korean popular culture); I (Koreans being "ingrates" for not acknowledging that Japan brought about their modernization from a semi-feudal, primitive

THE OVERALL TONE OF SUCH REPORTAGE HAS NOT ONLY INCREASED, BUT BECOME INCREASINGLY MEAN-SPIRITED AND ABUSIVE

economy); P (tens of thousands of Korean "prostitutes" plying their trade in Japan); and S (a recent bout-fixing scandal in "sumo," Korea's native sumo).

Then there's U, from the word *urijinaru*, a composite of *uri*, the Korean word for "our," and "original," as is applied to things that Koreans claim they were first to accomplish. These include origami, kendo (Japanese stick fencing), *enka* (Japanese traditional ballads), the magnetic compass, pizza ("stolen by Marco Polo"), the airplane and soccer.

Imagine how absurd it would seem if Japanese claimed they had, for example, invented kimchi. Yet to make its point, an article in the January issue of the monthly *Sapio* magazine – which was bashing Korea years before the *Yukan Fuji*'s current screed – attempts to do just that, citing a 17th-century Korean document reporting to the effect that red peppers were first imported into Korea via Japan.

How did this disquieting situation come to pass? At the risk of oversimplification, the Japanese reaction could be ascribed as a response to two recent trends. First, in *Yukan Fuji*'s own words, (from its Dec. 10 edition), the two countries' relations began to deteriorate just

two weeks after Park Guen-hye's election as president, when the ROK (and China) absented themselves from a memorial ceremony on March 11, the second anniversary of the Tohoku earthquake and tsunami. Korea claimed non-attendance due to an "office miscommunication."

Despite visits to the U.S., China and other countries, and attendance at the G20 meeting, Korea's president-elect made no effort to connect with her Japanese counterpart. (In fact, the *Korea Joongang Daily* coined the word "isolation diplomacy" to describe Park's new policy.) And during a visit to Seoul in September, U.S. Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel was subjected to an "exclusive anti-Japanese tirade."

The second phenomena was an increasingly shrill wave of often crude assaults on Japan and its institutions by Korean groups or individuals that took place in the U.S., Europe, and Asia (including Japan) – such as the aborted arson attempt by a Korean national at the Yasukuni Shrine, and the threats to boycott the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, which were

collectively described in the *Shukan Post* as "anti-Japanese harassment."

Interestingly, while the "hate speech" that's been regurgitated during street demonstrations by right-wing organizations in Shin-Okubo and other Korean enclaves in Japan attracted considerable media coverage and parliamentary debate in Japan, scant space has been devoted to analysis of the new anti-Korean slant that's been spreading through Japan's print media, both tabloid newspapers and magazines.

One exception, which appeared in *Tokyo Shimbun* on Oct. 5, attempted to disparage *Yukan Fuji*'s articles, suggesting many of the tabloid's inflammatory headlines were a case of *Yoto-kuniku* (a Chinese aphorism translated as "displaying a sheep's head and selling dog meat"), with the text of the articles failing to deliver on the headlines' promises.

Frequent reports to the effect that Korea's economy is on the verge of collapse were largely contradicted by a report from Goldman Sachs, which in a Portfolio Strategy Research report dated Oct. 11 upgraded its GDP forecasts for Korea. And while *Yukan Fuji* regularly described Pres. Park as being a diplomatic disaster for



Yukan Fuji's Aug. 20 issue's "Bai-gaeshi" headline demonstrates an anti-Korean slant that has been spreading through Japan's print media

Korea, this appears to be contradicted by local reportage.

Tom Coyner, president of Korea-based Soft Landing Consulting, a sales consulting firm, says that Park is generally given her highest marks in diplomacy, "particularly when it comes to handling North Korea, presenting South Korea in a positive light in Europe and the U.S., and how she is taking a strong stand vis-à-vis Japan."

Yukan Fuji's heavy-handed reporting may or may not be perceived by other Japanese publications, particularly the weekly magazines, as the green light for them to leap into the fray. One thing for sure, however, is that the overall tone of such reportage has not only increased, but become increasingly mean-spirited and abusive.

Near the fundament of the media food chain are scurrilous publications such as *Jitsuwa Bunka Tabuu*, a monthly from Coremagazine Co. Inc. (which last August was identified as the source of the tall tale on eyeball-licking among primary schoolers that went viral on the internet). Recent issues of *Jitsuwa Bunka Tabuu* now include a column titled "Kankoku Baka News" ("Stupid news from Korea"), with each Japanese headline purposely ended using *nida*, the Korean form of the copula.

As media restraints fall off, even more respectable magazines now appear to be wading in with gusto. *Shukan Shincho* (Nov. 28) ran a three-page story titled "The father of president Park was a manager of 'comfort women for the U.S. military!'"

"The article cited a report on Korean women who worked at "prostitution villages" adjacent to U.S. bases, and claimed to reveal a document bearing the signature of S. Korea's late president Park Chung Hee, father of the current president.

The article went on to criticize Koreans for maintaining a "double standard" on the comfort women issue.

Needless to say, the tsunami of negative reporting threatens to drown out efforts to convey positive news from either side. "Actually," Soft Landing's Coyner observed, "when it comes to tourism, fashion trends and technology, one can often read positive things in the Korean press about Japan. The average Korean tends to have a generally favorable – or at least, not decidedly negative feelings – about Japan, so long as historical and political matters are not discussed or considered."

A former *Kyodo* journalist who sifted through a stack of back issues of *Yukan Fuji*, said of the hardline stance: "If you ask me, I think the *Sankei Shimbun* [*Yukan Fuji*'s parent paper] is doing this to please Prime Minister Abe, and gain favor among the LDP." And an editor at one of the national dailies said he believes *Yukan Fuji*'s stance is no more than a cynical move aimed at boosting circulation by pandering to readers who get a vicarious lift from the daily bashing session.

A staff member of *Yukan Fuji* who agreed to discuss his company's editorial stance toward Korea, was unapologetic. The current editorial tone, he said, was fully justified, with his newspaper's approach tailored to address readers' heightened concerns.

He did not dismiss out-of-hand the view that the chill in bilateral relations coincided with the end of the "honeymoon" for Korea's new president, when Japanese realized to their disappointment that Park appeared disinclined to undo the ill will stoked by her predecessor, Lee Myung-bak. "When and if the tensions subside, then we'll reconsider toning down the rhetoric," he said.

As long as the widespread view persists that Koreans are determined to engage in what Japanese perceive as petty harassment, readers may continue to seek catharsis in the *bai-gaeshi* formula. The question still remains, though: will the invective boil over into something even more toxic – that neither Koreans nor Japanese really want? ❶

Mark Schreiber currently writes the "Big in Japan" and "Bilingual" columns for the *Japan Times*. He dismembered the global eyeball-licking media phenomena in our August, 2013 issue.

▶ The former PM rules out a "grand coalition" with fellow former PM Koizumi to do away with nuclear energy, but vows to continue his own campaign

Naoto Kan: Thorn in the side of the "nuclear village"

by Julian Ryall

Speaking at a luncheon at the FCCJ on Dec. 12, former prime minister Naoto Kan repeated his support for another former prime minister – Junichiro Koizumi – in opposing Japan's reliance on nuclear power. This is a controversial position for Koizumi, given that the Liberal Democratic Party that he headed for so many years is so committed to restarting the nation's mothballed reactors.

Asked if he might put aside his Democratic Party of Japan affiliations to team up with Koizumi, Kan replied that he believes both politicians "can be more effective separately."

"If we were to collaborate, then people would get suspicious. [Prime Minister Shinzo] Abe and the LDP would say that he had strayed from the party," Kan said. In the same vein, Kan believes he would be accused of "snuggling up" to Koizumi by many in the DPJ.

Prime minister on March 11, 2011, when the Tohoku earthquake and tsunami struck northeast Japan, triggering the second-worst nuclear accident in history at Fukushima, Kan stepped down in August of that year and has since traveled the world promoting his vision of a world that no longer requires nuclear energy.

Even though he is no longer in government, having been deposed after the DPJ suffered a collapse in the general election of December 2012, Kan continues to push his belief that mankind cannot completely control nuclear energy – that we therefore need to harness power from renewable sources to ensure our future. Many people in Japan share that opinion, he believes, including a substan-

tial proportion of LDP members in the Diet. But they are being prevented from speaking their minds, he charges.

"I would say that more than 50 percent of LDP members share my position on nuclear energy," Kan said. "And if that is so, I hope to be able to encourage them to express their thoughts in public."

He singled out Taro Kono and Seiichiro Murakami, both of whom are long-standing and fairly senior members of the party, for having spoken against Japan's reliance on nuclear energy, in defiance of the LDP's official line. The others, he says – along with the vast majority of the media, academics, regional leaders and Japanese society at large – have been cowed by all-pervasive power of the companies, politicians, industrial bodies and other vested interests that make up the "nuclear village."

"To me, the reason they say nothing is quite clear," he said. "It is the influence of the 'nuclear village,' which means that anyone who speaks out against nuclear energy comes face-to-face with a system that stops them from rising through the ranks of their organization."

Kan firmly believes that Abe is part of the problem, and has started legal action against the prime minister for comments made on his personal blog during the campaign for the 2012 election. In the

comment, Abe accused Kan of intervening on March 12, the day after three reactors at the Fukushima Dai-ichi plant were crippled, to overrule engineers at the plant and halt the use of seawater to cool the overheating reactor vessels.

The message on Abe's blog demanded that Kan apologize to the people of Japan for threatening their safety, and that he resign. The following day, the right-wing Yomiuri and Sankei newspapers printed stories based on Abe's comments, further reinforcing his accusations.

"What was written was very different from the truth," Kan said. "Official reports by the government and Tepco since then confirm this did not happen. I never gave an order for the seawater to stop being used."

Kan has determined that other media received the same information from Tepco sources, but they checked the facts and decided there was no story; the Yomiuri and Sankei, however, decided to continue to support the LDP's line, he said. "This is what happens if you speak out against the nuclear village," Kan said. "If you are a local politician, a prefectural governor or even the prime minister, they can drive you out of office."

Kan has asked Abe to remove the incorrect claim from his website on "repeated" occasions," he said, but nothing has happened. He has since filed defamation charges and court proceedings have begun.

In the meantime, he continues his anti-nuclear crusade, as resisting the return of nuclear power has become his sole aim in politics, he said. "I was recently in Hakodate, in Hokkaido, to take part in a meeting of people opposed to the restart of the Oma nuclear plant; after that I went to Ikata to speak to people in Ehime Prefecture about the reactors there," Kan said.

"I am trying to increase the network of citizens who are speaking out against nuclear power. And when I meet the people in the towns where these reactors are based, I see just how many voices are against the plants," he said. "That makes me think it will not be possible for the government and the power companies to go over the heads of the people and forcibly restart the plants." ❶

Julian Ryall is the Japan correspondent for *The Daily Telegraph*.

▶ After overseeing the secrecy bill's passage through the Diet, a long-time Abe ally comes to the FCCJ to defend the content of the new law

Gen Nakatani: Shepherd of secrets

by Justin McCurry

Does the recent introduction of the designated law spell the end of Shinzo Abe's honeymoon period?

Having given him a relatively easy ride since he took office a year ago, Japan's media and public have turned on the prime minister. After the secrets bill became law in early December, Abe's approval ratings sank to below 50 percent; concern over the controversial legislation even united the country's editorial writers.

The unenviable task of selling the law to journalists fell to Gen Nakatani, a lower-house member of the Liberal Democratic Party and longtime Abe ally who was instrumental in the launch of Japan's U.S.-style National Security Council (NSC) and overseeing the secrecy law's stormy passage through the Diet.

"When it comes to state secrets, I seem to have a destiny that is closely intertwined with the state secrets bill and the NSC, and a strong sense of responsibility for their introduction," Nakatani said during an appearance at the Club.

Under the new law, public officials and private citizens who leak information designated as a special state secret face prison terms of up to 10 years, while journalists who seek to obtain the classified information could get up to five years.

The law was passed amid noisy demonstrations and opposition from journalists, lawyers, politicians, academics, scientists, even film directors and manga artists. Critics say the prospect of prison terms will deter whistleblowers, while journalists face jail time simply for trying to do their job. There is concern, too, that the law's vague definition of what constitutes a state secret will give officials carte blanche to keep sensitive or embarrassing information out of the public domain.

Nakatani, however, attempted to frame the law as a purely administrative measure designed to promote information sharing among officials and end the silo mentality

found among government agencies. "Until now we didn't have a government organization that could protect government secrets . . . each ministry and agency could designate certain information as secret, but there was no coordination," he said. "This is the first time we've had a law that covers all agencies and ministries. This is a good step forward."

Nakatani said the law and the NSC would, for the first time, enable officials to discuss information and make recommendations to the prime minister, as well as more easily obtain information from the U.S. and other allies. "That's why it is important that we have a framework that will ensure there are no leaks," he said.

Nakatani acknowledged widespread concern that the law will impinge on the public's right to know. In response, he said the government had made a dozen changes to the draft bill to reflect the concerns of other parties in the Diet, including tightening the definition of what constitutes a state secret, an agreement to declassify all but a few secrets after a maximum of 30 years and an assurance that ordinary citizens, including journalists, will not be penalized.

"I know there is a great deal of concern among many people about the secrecy law and whether there might be some possible violation of the public's right to know," he said. "But I would like to reassure you that in regard to the behavior of the average person, the penalties really do not apply to them. If a person eventually learns about secrets, and if this is within the confines of ordinary behavior patterns, they cannot be

penalized. The secrecy law does not in any way violate a person's right to know."

Japan's newspapers joined forces to oppose the bill. They are unconvinced by official assurances that newsgathering activities will not be affected, particularly after the justice minister, Sadakazu Tanigaki, refused to rule out raids on media organizations suspected of breaking the law. In addition, Masako Mori, the state minister in charge of the bill, said the law could be applied to Japan's nuclear power industry – a potential target for terrorists. Nakatani was asked about a theoretical incident involving Japan and China in the East China Sea that had been deemed secret by a government agency. Would a journalist who obtained information about the incident from a bureaucrat be penalized?

His answer said a lot about the nebulous wording of the law. He cited Article 24, which states that a person will be subject to penalties of up to 10 years in prison only if he is working on behalf of another nation, is seeking to benefit personally from the leak, or behaves in a way that impairs the safety of Japan and its citizens.

"Ordinary news gathering by the media is not subject to penalties," he said. "Journalists and other ordinary citizens do not know which matters are state secrets, so even if they ask about these matters, they are not subjected to penalties. The law says very clearly that penalties only apply if someone is trying to get information on behalf of a foreign government, or is involved in espionage or terrorist activities."

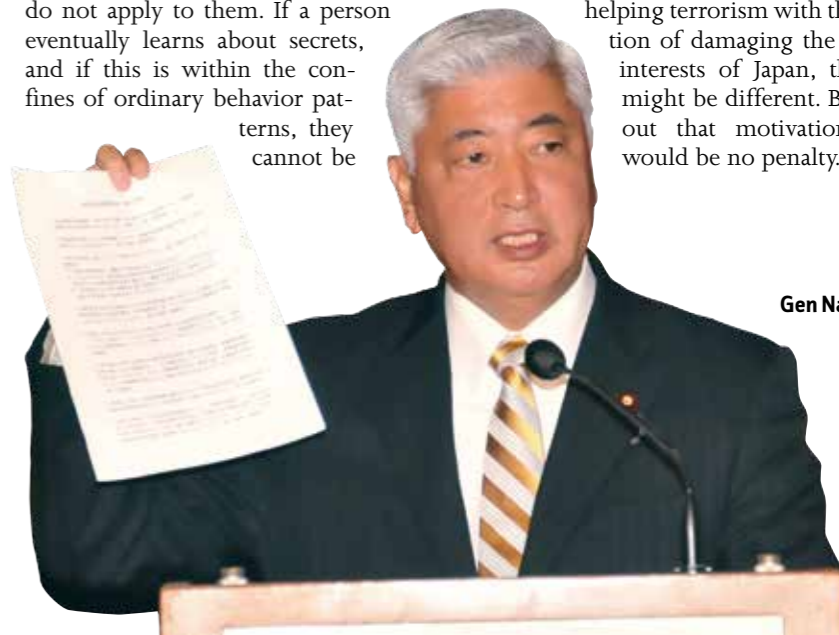
So much for the supposed safeguards against arrest for obtaining secret information. What if the journalist involved were also to report it? "If one obtains secret information and broadcasts or writes about it without knowing that it's been designated a state secret, then the journalist or media organization would not be penalized," Nakatani said.

He added: "If journalists disclose information as part of spy activities or helping terrorism with the intention of damaging the national interests of Japan, then that might be different. But without that motivation, there would be no penalty." ❶

Naoto Kan speaking at the Club



Gen Nakatani at the FCCJ



As the U.S. increasingly cracks down on whistleblowers, Japan may be tempted to wield its new secrecy law and follow suit

U.S. leads Japan down road of eroding press freedoms

by Nathalie-Kyoko Stucky

Japan's Special Intelligence Protection Act, commonly called the secrecy law, passed in December over considerable public protest, including a statement issued by the FCCJ. The law allows ministries to classify 23 types of information in four categories – defense, diplomacy, counter-terrorism and counter-intelligence – as special state secrets. This will pertain to information handled by public servants, police officials and contractors.

Some observers have pointed out the similarities between the Abe administration's new secrecy law and the Obama administration's "war on whistleblowers." The U.S. Department of Justice, for example, has recently seized the AP's phone records, allowed the FBI to pursue James Rosen of Fox News in an attempt

ing to Reporters Without Borders, which points out that the proposal is based on a "restrictive definition of who is a journalist." In its current form, this legislation would, for example, exclude bloggers and other news providers outside of traditional media circles.

But in Japan, the recent secrecy law does not even include a weak set of protections for journalists, and should the Japanese government become determined to pressure a journalist to reveal a source, it remains unclear how far they will be allowed to go. The law simply stipulates that using "unreasonable means" (which are undefined) to gain information from someone who is aware of a state secret is punishable by years in prison. Anti-secrecy law activists have pointed out that

THE RECENT SECRECY LAW DOES NOT EVEN INCLUDE A WEAK SET OF PROTECTIONS FOR JOURNALISTS

to discover his sources, and subpoenaed James Risen of the *New York Times*, also to force him to name a source.

The contentious debate following these examples testifies to the importance of investigative journalism. As the Paris-based organization Reporters Without Borders said in a press release, "Confidential sources are a vital element of a journalist's profession and without protection, sources are unlikely to come forward in the future and the truth surrounding controversial events may not materialize."

As the U.S. increasingly cracks down on whistleblowers, Japan may be tempted to wield its new secrecy law and follow suit.

However, in early Sept. 2013, The U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee approved a so-called media "shield law" that would give journalists protection against being forced to disclose confidential information or the identity of a source. This proposal still has "major flaws," accord-

this law could be used without restraint against reporters or others who seek public disclosure of sensitive information.

In private briefings to foreign journalists, Japanese government officials have offered assurances that the law will not be used in this manner. Of course, what really matters in the long run is not private assurances, but what is actually written into the text of the law.

Japan's new secrecy law seems unreasonable when compared to standards in developed countries other than the U.S. The Justice Initiative and the University of Copenhagen recently undertook a survey of the laws and practices of 20 European countries. The report concluded: "All of the surveyed states prescribe criminal penalties for the disclosure of classified national security information. However, where there is no espionage, treason or disclosure to a foreign state, the penalties in most countries are far less than in the United States: up to two

years in Denmark and the UK; four years in Spain and Sweden; five years in Belgium, Germany, Poland and Slovenia; and seven years in France. Moreover, prosecutions are rare."

Mizuho Fukushima, deputy leader of the Social Democratic Party, told an FCCJ press conference in late Nov. that she believes the new secrecy law merits comparison with heavy-handed prewar Japanese legislation: "Once you open the door to such kinds of laws, the government will have the right to designate anything as a state secret, and by speaking about it or mentioning it, you can be arrested and prosecuted."

At present, it appears that journalists covering the Defense Ministry are going to face particularly severe restraints. With diplomatic tensions vis-à-vis China and the Koreans in the background, Japan is developing a host of new weapon systems and other defense equipment. Much of what journalists now routinely report about such matters may soon be designated as special secrets, and the veil may come down on the ability to report to the public. Stories such as the recent report about Sumitomo Heavy Industries defrauding the Defense Ministry on weapons contracts for more than a decade are unlikely to be revealed unless the government chooses to reveal it.

For many years, Japan has been called a "paradise for spies" because of its supposedly weak secrecy legislation, and Tokyo hopes that – with the tougher legal regime in place – that U.S. intelligence services will now be more willing to share information. Certainly, U.S. officials directly motivated the Japanese government to pursue harsher legislation, and the U.S. State Department was one of the very few international voices to warmly welcome the new law's enactment.

But even while the U.S. seems to be veering away from its long tradition of protecting media freedoms, many have pointed out that the downward slope could easily be much steeper in Japan, which lacks some of the institutional protections of the U.S. Author Iku Aso, for example, questions whether the government even has the manpower to credibly oversee the process. As the heads of dozens of Japanese ministries and agencies are given the authority to designate new secrets, is it really plausible that the insider framework outlined in this law will have the ability and the will to monitor the process closely? ❶

Nathalie-Kyoko Stucky is a Tokyo-based journalist and member of the FCCJ's Freedom of the Press Committee.

FCCJ EXHIBITION: Photographs by Everett Kennedy Brown



EVERETT KENNEDY BROWN'S PHOTOGRAPHS HAVE appeared in No. 1 Shimbun before as both reportage and artworks, and now his large-format series impresses from the walls of the Main Bar and Masukomi sushi restaurant. This month's exhibition features his photographs from the Boso peninsula where he lives. The photographs are of the present day, but are taken using a wooden 19th-century camera, and the glass-negatives are developed by an old-fashioned wet-plate process. But they are timeless images, reflecting the continuum of the life-by-the-ocean theme of the series. The process and look of the contemporary but seemingly historical photographs fits alongside the back-and-forth of the sea that is their subject. ❶



Everett Kennedy Brown is a writer, fine art photographer, FCCJ Member and former bureau chief of European Pressphoto Agency. His latest book is 日本力.

Heard at the Club

“This is the first time we’ve had a law that covers all agencies and ministries. This is a good step forward.”

Gen Nakatani, LDP lower-house member, page 15



CLUB NOTES ...



MUSIC-BUSINESS LEGEND CLIVE DAVIS (ABOVE LEFT) SAYS THE INDUSTRY has a bright future despite the unfortunate tendency of many people not to pay for music they download or stream from the internet. Speaking at a Dec. 19 press conference at the club, the former head of the Columbia, Arista and J Records labels said he doesn't accept the premise that the digital revolution has destroyed the traditional record-company business model.

Acts that Davis played a key role in discovering, signing and nurturing during his amazing career include Janis Joplin, Carlos Santana, Blood, Sweat & Tears, Whitney Houston, Bruce Springsteen and Patti Smith. He is now chief creative officer of Sony Music Entertainment.

And Davis said he doesn't expect Sony to sell its entertainment properties, despite the urging of some shareholders who see such a move as the company's best hope of reversing its declining fortunes.

– Steve McClure

NEW MEMBERS



MIKE FIRN is the Japan Business Correspondent for China Central Television's (CCTV) English-language channel. He has lived in Japan for more than 13 years, reporting for CCTV, Al Jazeera and Bloomberg and contributing articles to newspapers including *The Daily Telegraph* and *China Daily*.

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Ibunka Shuchoryoku

Kang, T.W.
Nikkei Publishing
Gift from T.W. Kang

Mainichi Ahodansu

Gill, Tom
Kyototto Publishing
Gift from Tom Gill

Jidosha Sekkei Kakumei

Hasegawa, Yozo
Chuokoron-Shinsha
Gift from Yozo Hasegawa

Fukushima Gempatsu Jiko Time Line 2011-2012

Miyazaki, Tomomi/Kimura, Hideaki
Iwanami Shoten
Gift from Hideaki Kimura

Fukushima Gempatsu Jiko: Toden Televi-kaigi 49 jikan no Kiroku

Miyazaki, Tomomi/Kimura, Hideaki/Kobayashi, Go
Iwanami Shoten
Gift from Hideaki Kimura

Eikokujin Kisha ga Mita Rengokoku Senshoshikan no Kyomo

Stokes, Henry-Scott
Shodensha
Gift from Henry-Scott Stokes

Genesis in Japan: The Bible Beyond Christianity

Dabbs, Thomas
Texas Review Press
Gift from Thomas Dabbs

FCCJ WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA MATTERS



IF YOU AREN'T ONE OF THE INCREASING NUMBER OF FCCJ members who are now accessing our renewed website for information, updates, multimedia links and making reservations for Club events, then we hope you'll visit www.fccj.or.jp and let us know your thoughts, comments and suggestions to improve the service.

We're also expanding our social media presence. The Club is now tweeting regularly on updates of events, activities and other items of interest, so look for us and get reminders @fccjapan and on Facebook, at fccjapan.

If you've missed a recent press conference at the Club, but would like to catch up, go to our website and click on the Club News & Multimedia section at the top of the page. Under the pull down menu is a link to our YouTube channel which – at press time – hosts 43 videos.

The most watched in recent times had been the Naoto Kan event covered in these pages, but that was eclipsed by the appearance of Miss International 2012, who accused the head of a talent agency of stalking and threatening her. That event has now been watched by some 50,000 viewers. 1

WILL ALL THE 99-YEAR-OLDS IN THE HOUSE RAISE THEIR HANDS



FCCJ's oldest member, Chuck Lingam, celebrated his 99th birthday in the Club on Nov. 30, 2013 with some 20 friends. Chuck, born in Singapore in 1914, arrived in Japan in 1935. Chuck is an Open Table regular.



FCCJ

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Located in the very heart of Tokyo on the edge of the legendary Ginza and the Marunouchi business district, the FCCJ is the ideal venue for networking, entertaining, dining and relaxing and...

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For more on the benefits of membership for yourself or a colleague, contact Naomichi Iwamura at iwamura@fccj.or.jp or 03-3211-4392 for further details





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