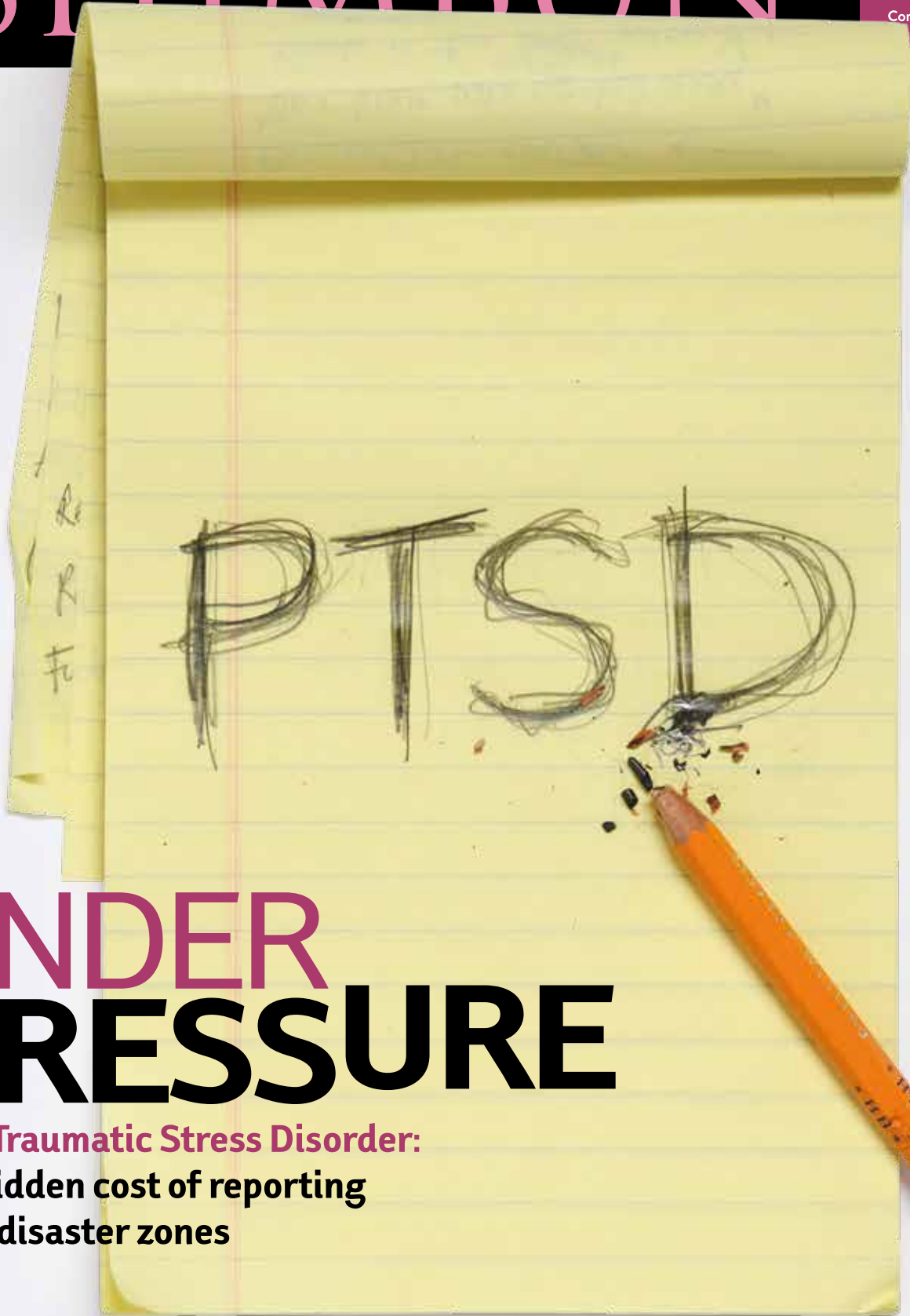


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The Foreign
Correspondents' Club
of Japan



UNDER PRESSURE

Post Traumatic Stress Disorder:
the hidden cost of reporting
from disaster zones

+

Everett Kennedy Brown captured in profile
Haruko Obokata, science, reputation and social media
Political roundtable: Where's the LDP's opposition?



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> THEME.01
> HISTORY

100 years ago...

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Cover photograph: Andrew Pothecaray

From the President



JUNE 2014 IS AN extremely important month in FCCJ history. On Thursday the 26th we'll be holding the first Annual General Meeting (AGM) as a public interest incorporated association (*koeki shadan hojin*). If all goes as planned, we will finalize the voting to elect our new Board members – three Associate

Members and six Regular Members. Associate candidates will be chosen based on the number of nominations they have received from Associate Members. However, only Regular Members can vote in this election, either by absentee ballot or in person at the AGM.

I cannot emphasize enough the importance of this election. Decisions made by the new board members will deeply influence the future of the Club and its survival. I ask you to please choose candidates very carefully, with a clear understanding of their true character and intent. Are they committed to the Club, judicious, trustworthy, without a personal agenda and able to participate effectively as part of a team?

Also during the AGM, the Board of Directors will give Members the option to vote on whether or not to move the Club. According to our new Bylaws, it is a decision ultimately made by the Board. But we feel in all fairness it should be the Members who decide. If given the green light, at the end of June the Board will sign a legally binding basic framework agreement with Mitsubishi Estate. This means we have agreed to move and the general financial terms have been settled.

Our agreement with Mitsubishi Estate will include a co-branding effort. Advantages for us include tapping into their huge business and social network to attract more FCCJ Members, and gaining wide Member benefits and networking opportunities. Mitsubishi Estate's gain would be a combination of a CSR (corporate social responsibility) and public relations boost along with a closer connection with journalists and newsmakers.

Our Marunouchi Discovery Tour on May 22, organized by Mitsubishi Estate's Tatsuo Nishimoto, gave us a fascinating overview of the company's 100-year history and revitalization efforts in the area. After a PowerPoint presentation and diorama map discussion, we headed out for a stroll through the neighborhood. Stops included the Shin Marunouchi Building to see the innovative "Egg Japan" office and support facility for entrepreneurs, and their "Ecozzeria" urban ecology initiatives. A guided tour of the historically preserved Meiji Seimei Kan and view of the reconstructed Mitsubishi Ichigokan were also highlights. Indeed, our move would enable us to remain strategically at the heart of this vibrant, historical district – where news is made.

– Lucy Birmingham



TWEETING THE "BIG DURIAN"

Diverse, multi-religious Jakarta is the world's social media capital, reports **Zakir Hussain**

AS I WRITE THIS, preparations for Indonesia's July 9 presidential election are underway. It is an unprecedented straight fight between the capital's unassuming but popular folksy governor Joko Widodo and the polished yet temperamental former general Prabowo Subianto.

The battle is the talk of the town – among cab drivers and at coffee shops – and almost everyone has an opinion. But there are no tanks on the streets or policemen standing guard outside campaign headquarters; where things get really heated is on Twitter and Facebook, for Jakarta is the world's social media capital. There was even a recent movie called *Republik Twitter*, about a university student who travels here to find the love of his life he met through – but where else – Twitter. Jokowi, as the governor is known, has 1.5 million followers, while Prabowo has some 750,000. (By comparison, outgoing President Yudhoyono has 5 million.)

The reason Jokowi is in the lead is that, since entering office in October 2012, he has embarked on ambitious efforts to weed out bureaucrats seeking bribes for public services, relocate street vendors off busy thoroughfares into markets and other public spaces, clean up the canals that contribute to annual floods, spruce up public parks and make himself available to those who want to see him. As a result, he gets a daily stream of petitioners at City Hall. Construction of a 32km-long mass rapid-transit system – Indonesia's first subway system – is also underway through the heart of the capital, as is a separate 30km-long monorail network.

If this sounds like things are looking up for the city known as the "Big Durian," they are. The capital of 10 million sees its population double during the day as many residents from the outskirts of Asia's second-largest metropolitan area (after Tokyo) travel into the thriving center for work. Congestion remains a major issue, and like much of

the city, it's often unpredictable – you could cover 20km in 20 minutes in a car on a good day, and spend an hour crawling 2km on a particularly bad one. But there are options – people can get on an ojek or motorcycle taxi at a street corner, or brave the TransJakarta bus network that has dedicated lanes in a bid to encourage people to switch to buses and leave their vehicles at home. That is, alas, a very tough proposition when rising incomes have made cars that much more affordable.

Even as it is political season in Jakarta, the big story about the capital of Southeast Asia's largest country, 16 years after becoming a full-fledged democracy, is really the booming economy. Where five years ago, many wouldn't think of relocating here, many are now moving in, be they freelancers or consultants. Decades of centralized control mean that even as an aggressive decentralization of power to the regions takes place, the national capital is where the money still flows fastest. And so skyscrapers with upwards of 50 stories and swanky shopping malls with brand-name shops are going up. Lavish luxury hotels are opening, including the Raffles Jakarta. Companies from all over the region are moving in to take advantage of growing consumer purchasing power – even though for now, the "consuming class," as the consultants describe it, numbers just one-third of the population of 250 million.

All this has made Jakarta a much more vibrant place to live over the three years I have been here. New restaurants and

watering holes open up almost weekly, with a range of cuisine from Argentinian to Uzbek for a third to a half of what you would pay in Singapore. Indonesia's growing weight in the region, and the fact that the Asean headquarters are housed here, have seen Jakarta become a diplomatic hub in its own right.

Muslim-majority Indonesia is largely tolerant and inclusive, especially in diverse, multi-religious Jakarta. Ahead of the April general election, election commission officials went out to a transgender neighborhood to encourage them to vote. At the same time, hard-line groups are also free to demonstrate publicly, making for occasionally lively copy, though the police often keep a watchful eye on them. Ubiquitous metal detectors at the entrances to most hotels, malls and office buildings are a reminder of the real terrorist threat, though thanks to police and intelligence work there has been no major attack in the capital since 2009.

Still, there has been an endless stream of possible stories, aided by officials who are generally open and willing to engage with journalists, and by the plethora of newspapers, news websites and TV stations. There is even a Japanese-language *Jakarta Shimbun*, published daily. Ministers and newsmakers often give their mobile numbers, and comment fairly freely. But they may not always pick up calls or reply to messages. When that happens, it's better to turn to Twitter. **1**

Zakir Hussain is the Indonesia bureau chief for *The Straits Times*.

Letters to the Editor

IN HER WIDE-RANGING and scholarly story ["The Gin & Tonic is humble no more," *Number 1 Shimbun*, May 2014], Mary Corbett appropriately mentions the important work of Dr. James Lind in the dread disease of scurvy, the scourge of mariners for centuries – and the adoption by the Royal Navy of the citrus juices, lemon and lime, as anti-scorbutic measures.

The great 18th-century marine explorer Captain James Cook was a firm believer in Lind's observations and was also a great supporter of Vitamin C-rich sauerkraut, which he preferred to citrus juices. He had noticed that Dutch ships routinely carried sauerkraut provisions and had less scurvy than British crews.

In June 1768, Cook ordered the loading of three-and-a-half tons of the pungent pickle on his ship the *Endeavour* for his first epic voyage to the southern seas. Once at sea, the crew initially disdained the condiment, calling it unpalatable. The cunning Captain Cook solved the problem by declaring that, in principle, servings of "Sour Krout" as he wrote it, were for officers. Lower ranks could take it or leave it.

The result was a surge in demand from the lower deck seamen – and a rationing of supplies. Cook wrote in his diary that the moment common sailors see their superiors set a value on something, "it becomes the finest stuff in the world."

In the *Endeavour's* three-year voyage, not a man was lost to scurvy, thanks to Cook's "Sour Krout." But despite Cook's advocacy of preserved cabbage, the citrus solution was the way the Royal Navy eventually dealt with the scurvy issue, as Mary recorded.

So Brits remain "limeys" instead of "cabbage heads," as might have been the case if Cook's example had prevailed.

– **Geoffrey Tudor**

I WAS VERY SORRY to hear about the passing of John and D [Rich; "In Memoriam," *Number 1 Shimbun*, May 2014]. I actually got to know John in the final period of his life, when he wrote an article for *Korea Witness*, a book published by the Seoul Foreign Correspondents' Club in 2006. I got the piece from John by dictation. He told me about his memories of critical periods, including the Korean War, where he was one of the first broadcast TV journalists. (If

Vietnam was the first "television war," Korea was the pre-television war, and John was one of the original TV correspondents – he would send the film by air to NY, then provide voice to match by phone.)

I talked to John for more than an hour on the phone, calling from Seoul to either London, where he had family, or Maine. I last contacted him at the FCCJ where he was visiting. He picked up the phone in the lounge. I said, "John Rich?" He responded, "No, he died some time ago." Then he quickly corrected, with a laugh, "This is he." John's last great achievement is an enormous photo book of pictures that he took of the Korean War, which were uncovered in an attic. I saw it a few days ago on the shelf of the Korean Overseas Information Center – a terrific, colorful volume, with pages of pictures plus text by John.

– **Don Kirk**



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Research shows that the immediate victims of a disaster are not the only sufferers; reporters who cover tragic events often deal with similar symptoms



Trauma survivors: Are journalists among the 3/11 victims?

A study by a Japanese organization that monitors stress levels in journalists indicates that as many as 20 percent of the local journalists who covered the aftermath of the Tohoku earthquake of March 2011 may be suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Indicators of this disorder – previously diagnosed in reporters who have covered wars, natural disasters and human tragedies – include flashbacks, an inability to concentrate on tasks, broken sleep and a sense of anxiety.

Members of the FCCJ who reported from the disaster zone after the triple-whammy of massive earthquake, tsunami and nuclear meltdown three years ago have admitted to shock at the human and physical scale of the tragedy, as well as a sense of helplessness, stress and being “emotionally overwhelmed.” None interviewed for this article, however, believe that their sensations are symptomatic of PTSD.

“I think it affects everybody in different ways and to different degrees,” says pho-

by Julian Ryall

tographer Martin Hladik. “But I also believe that once you have photographed a war or a major natural disaster, then you are no longer the same person. You have been changed.”

Hladik compares photographing Tohoku with reporting the conflict in Kosovo in the late 1990s. “After covering Kosovo, I promised myself that I would never again get involved in shooting disasters or wars because I was not able to keep an emotional distance from the people I photographed,” he said. “It cut me too deep, so I gave up the dream I had of becoming a war photographer.

“I’m a photographer who is emotionally involved because I believe that is the only way to shoot good images,” he said. “I did not feel the same involvement in Tohoku as in Kosovo, but there were a few moments when I had tears in my eyes as I was returning to Tokyo.”

Nevertheless, Hladik’s experiences in Kosovo had at least prepared him for the sight of death and destruction on an enormous scale. For most Japan-based journalists more used to covering cabinet

reshuffles and the state of the economy, the Tohoku disaster took us out of our comfort zones and exposed us to raw human misery. And it was deeply unpleasant.

Similar reactions are commonplace even today, three years after the disaster, as journalists have discovered on their periodic returns to the hardest-hit areas.

“Time and time again, I find it hard to do the interviews,” said Lars Nicolaysen, bureau chief of Germany’s DPA news agency. “I was in Minamisoma a few days ago and I interviewed four schoolchildren. One girl I spoke to had fear in her eyes and I knew I was putting pressure on her asking questions. But we’re journalists and asking the questions is part of our job.”

Nicolaysen spent the first week after the crisis at the Fukushima nuclear plant trying to report from communities around the affected areas while simultaneously trying to stay one step ahead of the plume of fallout on his motorcycle. “I live with the fear that my exposure could develop into something more serious, but I don’t believe I’ve got PTSD,” he said.

The study, conducted by Hodojin Sutoresu Kenkyu Kai (The Organization for Research

Photographer Hirohisa Fukuda pauses from work in Tohoku in March, 2011 to comfort a local victim. Research shows journalists can also suffer from disaster trauma.

Photograph by Martin Hladik

into Journalists’ Stress), examined the experiences of 270 staff at five newspapers across Tohoku through 21 multiple-choice questions. More than 75 percent said they were unsure of the most appropriate way to interact with people they met; over 30 percent believed they had hurt or emotionally burdened someone they interviewed.

Nearly 42 percent reported they were “more susceptible to crying,” 38.3 percent felt helpless or frustrated and more than 32 percent were depressed. Over 26 percent reported sleep disorders.

To estimate the number of media professionals suffering from PTSD, the group used the “Impact of Event Scale – Revised” – a system that uses a scale to measure the impact of symptoms such as the frequency of flashbacks. The research results suggested that 22.4 percent of those who worked in the zone were likely to be experiencing PTSD.

“The most shocking thing about the results is that the risk of PTSD in journalists involved in an experience like this is on the same level as firefighters or other professional disaster experts,” said Professor Yutaka Matsui, an authority on social psychology at the University of Tsukuba and one of the authors of the study.

“I feel it is inevitable that anyone who reports from a disaster zone such as Tohoku will be affected, but it is important that reporters understand that they need the appropriate help,” he told the Number 1 Shimbun. “Unfortunately, that sort of professional help is not always available after someone has been in the field here.”

The findings of the group are echoed by research compiled by the Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma, which is affiliated with Columbia Journalism School and helps newsroom managers and professional organizations to train employees about traumatic injury and self-care.

Cait McMahon, managing director of the Asia-Pacific branch of the center, said there are many lessons our profession can learn from the events of March 2011, “but the most basic ones are about self-care, based on social support and the issue of ethical treatment of victims and survivors of trauma.”

“The journalist who is ‘trauma literate’ – that is, one who understands their psychological response to horror – will be better equipped to look after themselves and low-

er the concept of stigmatization,” she said.

“[A trauma-literate journalist understands] that trauma responses are normal; it’s not because you are weak,” she said. “They also have a language and understanding of those they interview which will deepen their stories.”

McMahon believes that the risks, and associated trauma, for journalists in Asia appear to be growing. “Attacks on journalists for doing their job – reporting – is certainly increasing the world over, but especially in Asia,” she said. “It seems that a journalist’s life is cheap.

“Also, the fact that younger journalists are going off to hazardous environments with very little training in first aid or hostile-environment training creates further risks,” she added. “And they often go as freelancers, so they also don’t have an organization to back them up.”

In an article titled “Good mental health key to success in traumatic job” in Quill,

THE JOURNALIST WHO IS ‘TRAUMA LITERATE’ UNDERSTANDS THEIR PSYCHOLOGICAL RESPONSE TO HORROR

the magazine of the Society of Professional Journalists, Carla Kimbrough-Robinson points out that journalists sometimes cover devastation, war and tragedy “simply because they must.” “They tell the stories of life and of death,” she states.

“Sooner or later, though, they may begin to suffer psychologically or emotionally. Studies have shown that journalists – just like firefighters, police officers, medics and soldiers – can suffer trauma from covering intense situations.”

Fully 20 percent of people who are exposed to traumatic events develop clinically significant psychological problems, according to the International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies website. “Feelings of grief, helplessness, irritability, depression and fear are not unusual for someone who has witnessed a traumatic event,” writes Kimbrough-Robinson. “Witnesses also might experience nightmares or upsetting thoughts some time after the event.

“The psychiatry journal article noted that journalists covering the war drank alcohol at about two to three times the amount of non-war journalists,” she added. “If journalists are using alcohol

or drugs to self-medicate, then that could signal a problem in the making.”

Illegal drugs are unlikely to be an issue in Japan, with most foreign journalists finding “therapy” in the form of talking things through with colleagues at the end of another draining day, a degree of black humor and, yes, probably too much to drink.

And that’s probably not surprising. “Seeing towns that were just flattened, like Rikuzentakata, was deeply moving,” said Lucy Birmingham, who was reporting for Time magazine. “I think that I – and all of us – kept going on the adrenalin of the experience,” she said. “There was no time to cry when we were reporting, and then there was the accumulation of the lack of sleep hanging over us, the insane hours, the exhaustion.”

Several people I spoke to describe just finding a private corner and breaking down and sobbing.

For some, it was hearing surviving kids singing a school song, for others a brief phone conversation with loved ones elsewhere, the sight of bodies being delivered to a makeshift morgue or something as simple as muddied photos in the remains of someone’s home.

“Most of the stress and trauma was in the first two weeks of the disaster. For me, it culminated in an argument in a café with Nanako, my pregnant partner,” said David McNeill, who covered the crisis for the Independent in London and Irish media.

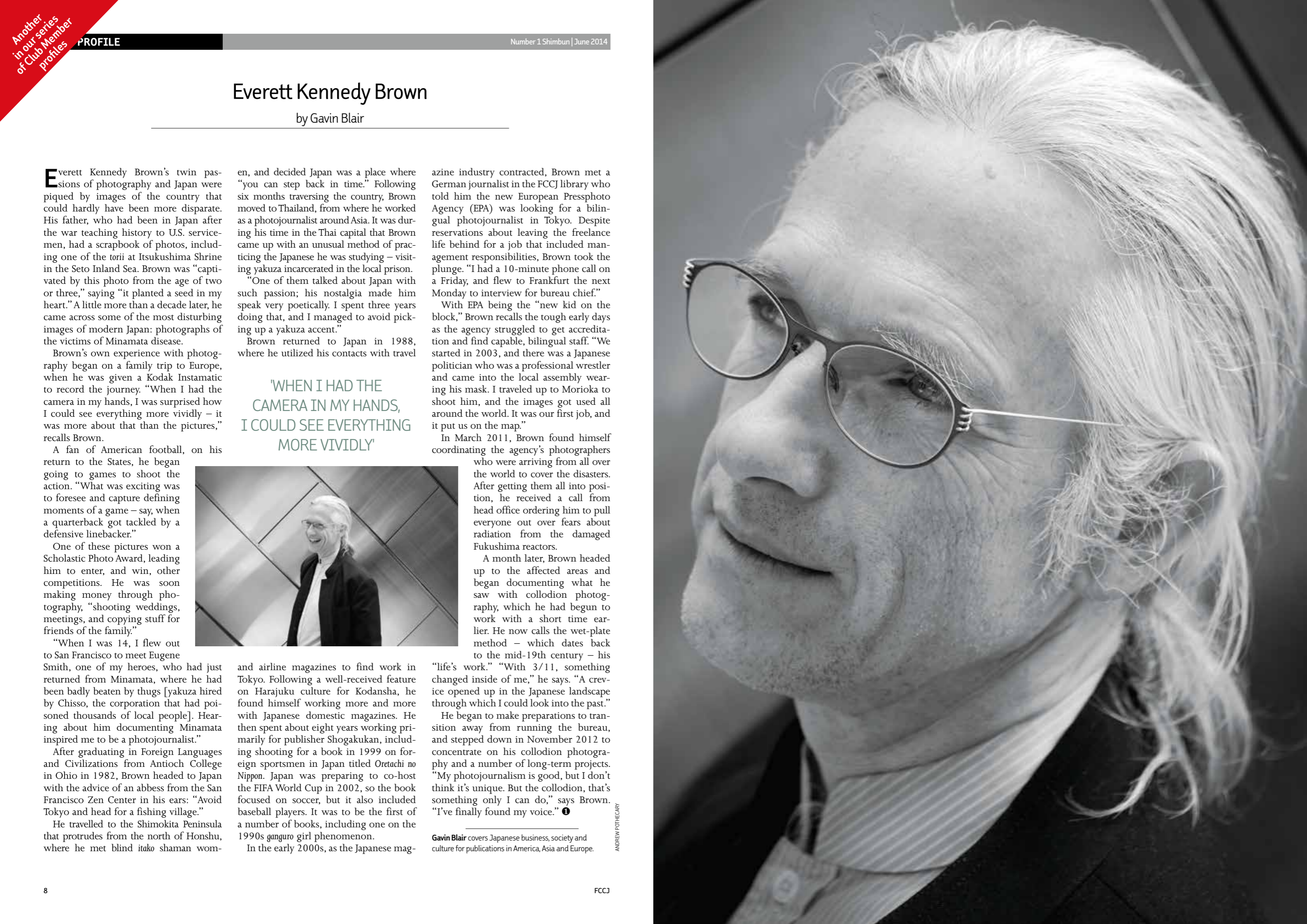
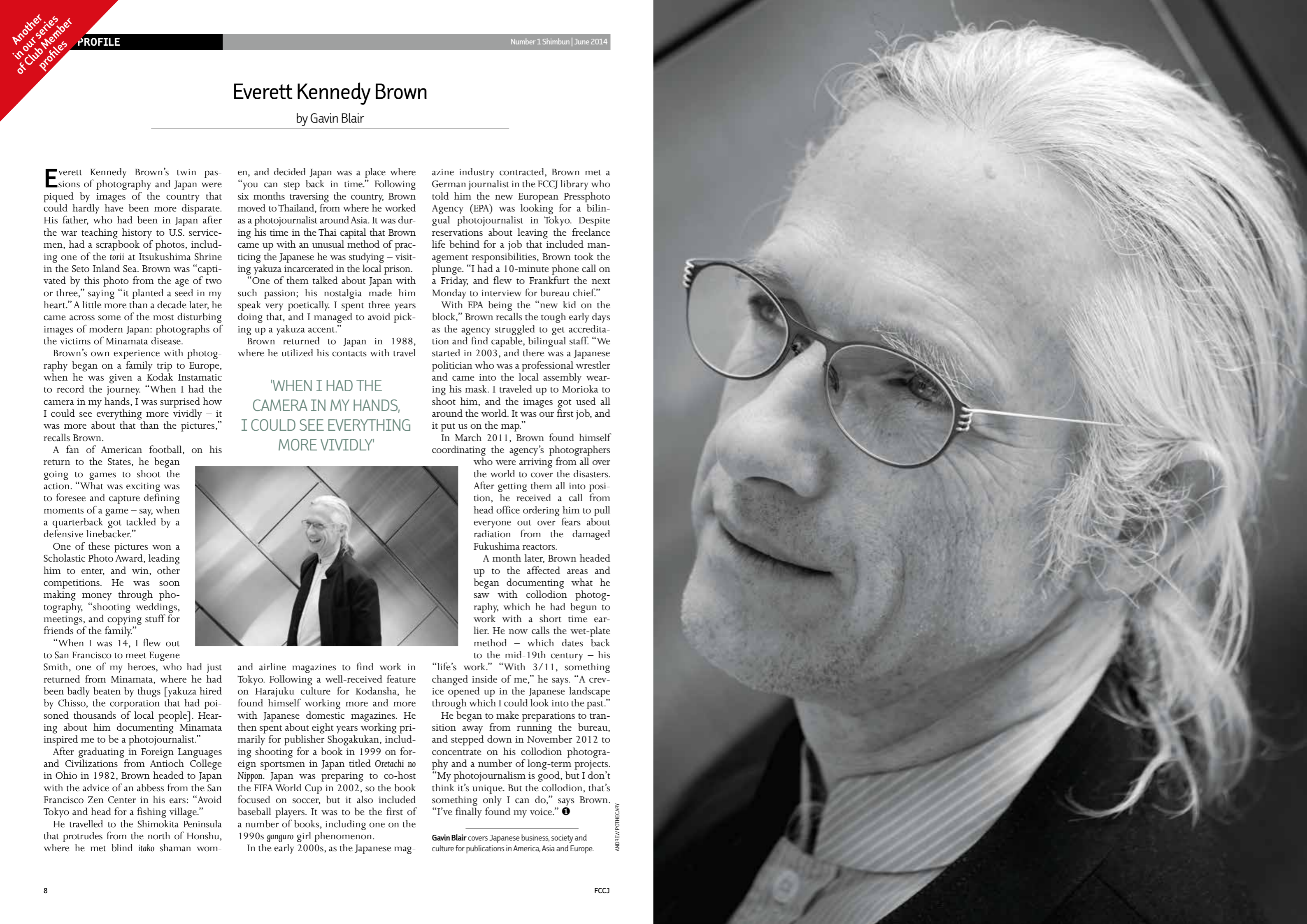
While in the affected areas, McNeill said he experienced an “overwhelming sadness” at hearing survivors’ stories. After two weeks, “shoving a notebook in people’s faces just to get the story became emotionally draining.”

One low point came in a high school in Rikuzentakata that had been turned into a refuge center. McNeill asked a woman about her experiences, to be told that she had lost her mother, a daughter, two other members of her immediate family and their home. “When someone says that, how can you react?” he said. “All I could do was to say that I was sorry and I walked away. That was one of the worst.”

The problem, of course, is that we live and work in the world’s most seismically active country, where major natural disasters are a fact of life. There will be another major event; the only question is whether it happens on our watch.

“I dread it happening again,” said McNeill. “I don’t ever want to have to do that again.”

Julian Ryall is the Japan correspondent for The Daily Telegraph.



Everett Kennedy Brown

by Gavin Blair

Everett Kennedy Brown's twin passions of photography and Japan were piqued by images of the country that could hardly have been more disparate. His father, who had been in Japan after the war teaching history to U.S. servicemen, had a scrapbook of photos, including one of the torii at Itsukushima Shrine in the Seto Inland Sea. Brown was "captivated by this photo from the age of two or three," saying "it planted a seed in my heart." A little more than a decade later, he came across some of the most disturbing images of modern Japan: photographs of the victims of Minamata disease.

Brown's own experience with photography began on a family trip to Europe, when he was given a Kodak Instamatic to record the journey. "When I had the camera in my hands, I was surprised how I could see everything more vividly — it was more about that than the pictures," recalls Brown.

A fan of American football, on his return to the States, he began going to games to shoot the action. "What was exciting was to foresee and capture defining moments of a game — say, when a quarterback got tackled by a defensive linebacker."

One of these pictures won a Scholastic Photo Award, leading him to enter, and win, other competitions. He was soon making money through photography, "shooting weddings, meetings, and copying stuff for friends of the family."

"When I was 14, I flew out to San Francisco to meet Eugene Smith, one of my heroes, who had just returned from Minamata, where he had been badly beaten by thugs [yakuza hired by Chisso, the corporation that had poisoned thousands of local people]. Hearing about him documenting Minamata inspired me to be a photojournalist."

After graduating in Foreign Languages and Civilizations from Antioch College in Ohio in 1982, Brown headed to Japan with the advice of an abess from the San Francisco Zen Center in his ears: "Avoid Tokyo and head for a fishing village."

He travelled to the Shimokita Peninsula that protrudes from the north of Honshu, where he met blind itako shaman wom-

en, and decided Japan was a place where "you can step back in time." Following six months traversing the country, Brown moved to Thailand, from where he worked as a photojournalist around Asia. It was during his time in the Thai capital that Brown came up with an unusual method of practicing the Japanese he was studying — visiting yakuza incarcerated in the local prison.

"One of them talked about Japan with such passion; his nostalgia made him speak very poetically. I spent three years doing that, and I managed to avoid picking up a yakuza accent."

Brown returned to Japan in 1988, where he utilized his contacts with travel

'WHEN I HAD THE CAMERA IN MY HANDS, I COULD SEE EVERYTHING MORE VIVIDLY'



and airline magazines to find work in Tokyo. Following a well-received feature on Harajuku culture for Kodansha, he found himself working more and more with Japanese domestic magazines. He then spent about eight years working primarily for publisher Shogakukan, including shooting for a book in 1999 on foreign sportsmen in Japan titled *Oretachi no Nippon*. Japan was preparing to co-host the FIFA World Cup in 2002, so the book focused on soccer, but it also included baseball players. It was to be the first of a number of books, including one on the 1990s ganguro girl phenomenon.

In the early 2000s, as the Japanese mag-

azine industry contracted, Brown met a German journalist in the FCCJ library who told him the new European Pressphoto Agency (EPA) was looking for a bilingual photojournalist in Tokyo. Despite reservations about leaving the freelance life behind for a job that included management responsibilities, Brown took the plunge. "I had a 10-minute phone call on a Friday, and flew to Frankfurt the next Monday to interview for bureau chief."

With EPA being the "new kid on the block," Brown recalls the tough early days as the agency struggled to get accreditation and find capable, bilingual staff. "We started in 2003, and there was a Japanese politician who was a professional wrestler and came into the local assembly wearing his mask. I traveled up to Morioka to shoot him, and the images got used all around the world. It was our first job, and it put us on the map."

In March 2011, Brown found himself coordinating the agency's photographers who were arriving from all over the world to cover the disasters. After getting them all into position, he received a call from head office ordering him to pull everyone out over fears about radiation from the damaged Fukushima reactors.

A month later, Brown headed up to the affected areas and began documenting what he saw with collodion photography, which he had begun to work with a short time earlier. He now calls the wet-plate method — which dates back to the mid-19th century — his "life's work." "With 3/11, something changed inside of me," he says. "A crevice opened up in the Japanese landscape through which I could look into the past."

He began to make preparations to transition away from running the bureau, and stepped down in November 2012 to concentrate on his collodion photography and a number of long-term projects. "My photojournalism is good, but I don't think it's unique. But the collodion, that's something only I can do," says Brown. "I've finally found my voice." **1**

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

ANDREW POTHECARY

Twitter, blogs and Facebook have revolutionized the way people gather and exchange information, contributing to the fading influence of traditional news outlets. Now these same forces are reshaping the way scientists communicate, and the unfortunate saga of Haruko Obokata and her STAP cells is a prime example. Within days of her breakthrough announcement, self-appointed scientific watchdogs worldwide were raising questions about the images in her papers in tweets and blog posts, and working scientists were exchanging notes on their attempts to reproduce her results.

Obokata, of Kobe's RIKEN Center for Developmental Biology – along with colleagues at other institutions in Japan and at Harvard Medical School in Boston – announced on Jan. 29 that briefly putting blood cells from newborn mice in an acid bath and then carefully nurturing them could generate

pluripotent stem cells. Such cells are theoretically capable of developing into any of the cells within a body, and researchers envision the possibility of growing replacement tissue for damaged or diseased body parts as being key to new treatments for spinal cord injuries, neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's, and diabetes. In two papers published online at the journal *Nature*, Obokata and her colleagues called their new method "stimulus-triggered acquisition of pluripotency," or STAP.

Previously known methods of generating stem cells are time-consuming, expensive efforts requiring sophisticated laboratory skills and specialized equipment. The STAP technique appeared to

be an astoundingly simple, quick and inexpensive alternative. This was truly a breakthrough scientific achievement – one that was celebrated with banner headlines worldwide.

A LAB OF PASTEL COLORS

In Japan, there was also understandable pride in a local doing well. And Obokata – young, attractive and female – was a refreshing spot of color in Japan's staid scientific establishment, a point bolstered by a number of endearing personality quirks.

But while the local press was reporting how she painted her lab in pastel colors and wore a traditional *kapogi* apron instead of a lab coat, scientists around the world were growing skeptical. Though the reports had been through *Nature's* peer review process involving

vetting by a small number of senior experts in the field, researchers had begun raising questions. One of the first of these came up on the same day Obokata's papers appeared online. "I am struggling to understand the results presented in figure 1i," wrote an anonymous contributor to a website called *PubPeer*.

PubPeer was set up in October 2012 to "create an online community that uses the publication of scientific results as an opening for fruitful discussion among scientists," according to a statement on the website. In effect, *PubPeer* allows ordinary researchers to critique scientific papers after publication. Those running the site and most posters remain anonymous to avoid "negative effects on their scientific careers." For "negative effects," read lawsuits and retribution by senior scientists who might be able to influence decisions on funding and employment.

That first comment on Figure 1i in the Obokata paper put others on the case, and on Feb. 4 someone spotted the problem: The figure shows the results of a certain type of genetic test. But instead of being the results of just one such test, as is typical, it appears that one part of a picture from a separate test was spliced into the image to look as if it belongs there. Such image manipulation is strictly taboo.

Dennis Normile is the Tokyo correspondent for *Science*.

Social media topples a heroine

by Dennis Normile

SCIENCE SLEUTHS ANONYMOUS

Japanese watchdogs were also at work. The most prolific of these scientific sleuths runs Twitter and Facebook accounts and blogs with the handle "11Jigen," sometimes written as *Juuichi Jigen*, which means "11 dimensions" in Japanese. Juuichi Jigen, who has over 14,000 Twitter followers, adopted this nom de guerre after exposing alleged misconduct by a University of Tokyo researcher

who claimed to have developed an 11-dimensional theory of the universe.

Juuichi Jigen is a life science researcher who started uncovering scientific misconduct in 2010 after he "wasted time and money" attempting to reproduce results published by a certain Japanese researcher. Juuichi Jigen documented alleged problems with the researcher's papers, notified the researcher's university and posted all the evidence on a website. Many of the researcher's papers were subsequently retracted and he resigned his position. He was just the first on a long list of disgraced scientists listed on Juuichi Jigen's websites.

On Feb. 14, Juuichi Jigen tweeted that a section of Obokata's research article describing a certain laboratory procedure appeared to have been copied and pasted from a previously published paper by a different research group. (This was first mentioned on yet another internet bulletin board.) He also identified problems with other images in the *Nature* papers as well as in a previous Obokata paper. It is difficult to be sure exactly who was the first to spot any given problem, as the watchdogs retweet and cross-post each other's findings. But most, if not all of the questions about images and plagiarism originated with people like Juuichi Jigen and the contributors to *PubPeer*.

Anyone with sharp eyes or fraud-detection software and sufficient patience can check papers for doctored images and plagiarism. But hands-on researchers were also trying to replicate Obokata's results in the laboratory.

CROWDSOURCING THE EXPERIMENT

To help them compare notes on progress and difficulties, Paul Knoepfler, a stem cell researcher and blogger at the University of California Davis, set up a page on his website dedicated to efforts to reproduce the STAP method.

Knoepfler wrote in an email that to the best of his knowledge his was the first attempt at such widespread pooling of a scientific effort.

"That's part of the reason I was excited to give the crowd-source experiment a try on my blog," he wrote. Over roughly two months, researchers posted 137 comments and questions, and 11 groups posted results, all of them negative.

Kenneth Ka-Ho Lee, a stem cell researcher at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, went further. He decided to go step-by-step through the STAP procedure, and he blogged about it at least daily on a website called *ResearchGate*, a networking site "built by scientists, for scientists." Unfortunately, Lee gained unexpected notoriety – and uncovered one of the pitfalls of this SNS approach – when some of his results were misinterpreted.

One telltale sign of pluripotency is the activity of a certain gene that is often detected through the fluorescence of an attached protein. At one point, Lee reported getting some fluorescence. While it was clear to scientists that the signal was too weak to indicate pluripotency, several media outlets reported that Lee had validated the STAP technique when, in fact, he had concluded the opposite. "I don't think STAP cells exist and it will be a waste of manpower and research funding to carry on with this experiment any further," he wrote on *ResearchGate* on Apr. 3.

Throughout all this, RIKEN was playing catch-up. It launched an internal investigation on Feb. 13 and set up a formal committee on Feb. 17. In a preliminary report released Mar. 13, the committee found that many of the allegations raised by the watchdogs were accurate, including that the Figure 1i image was spliced together and that the description of the laboratory procedure was copied from another paper. On Apr. 1, the committee concluded that some of the problems with the papers constituted research misconduct on the part of Obokata.

INVESTIGATING THE INVESTIGATORS

The story then took another twist. Anonymous whistleblowers raised questions about image manipulation in papers authored by four of the six members of the RIKEN investigating committee. When the evidence surfaced, Shunsuke Ishii, a molecular geneticist

at the RIKEN Tsukuba Institute, hastily sent a correction to the journal involved and resigned as head of the committee, which was then considering an appeal by Obokata. He is now under investigation himself. Other committee members have continued to serve, but they are also now facing investigations.

At an Apr. 9 press conference in Osaka, Obokata tearfully admitted that there were errors in the papers. But she said they were innocent mistakes and not the result of deliberate attempts to mislead scientists. She also fiercely defended the bottom line. "STAP cells exist," she defiantly declared at one point. RIKEN rejected her appeal of the investigative committee finding, and a separate RIKEN committee is now considering disciplinary measures.

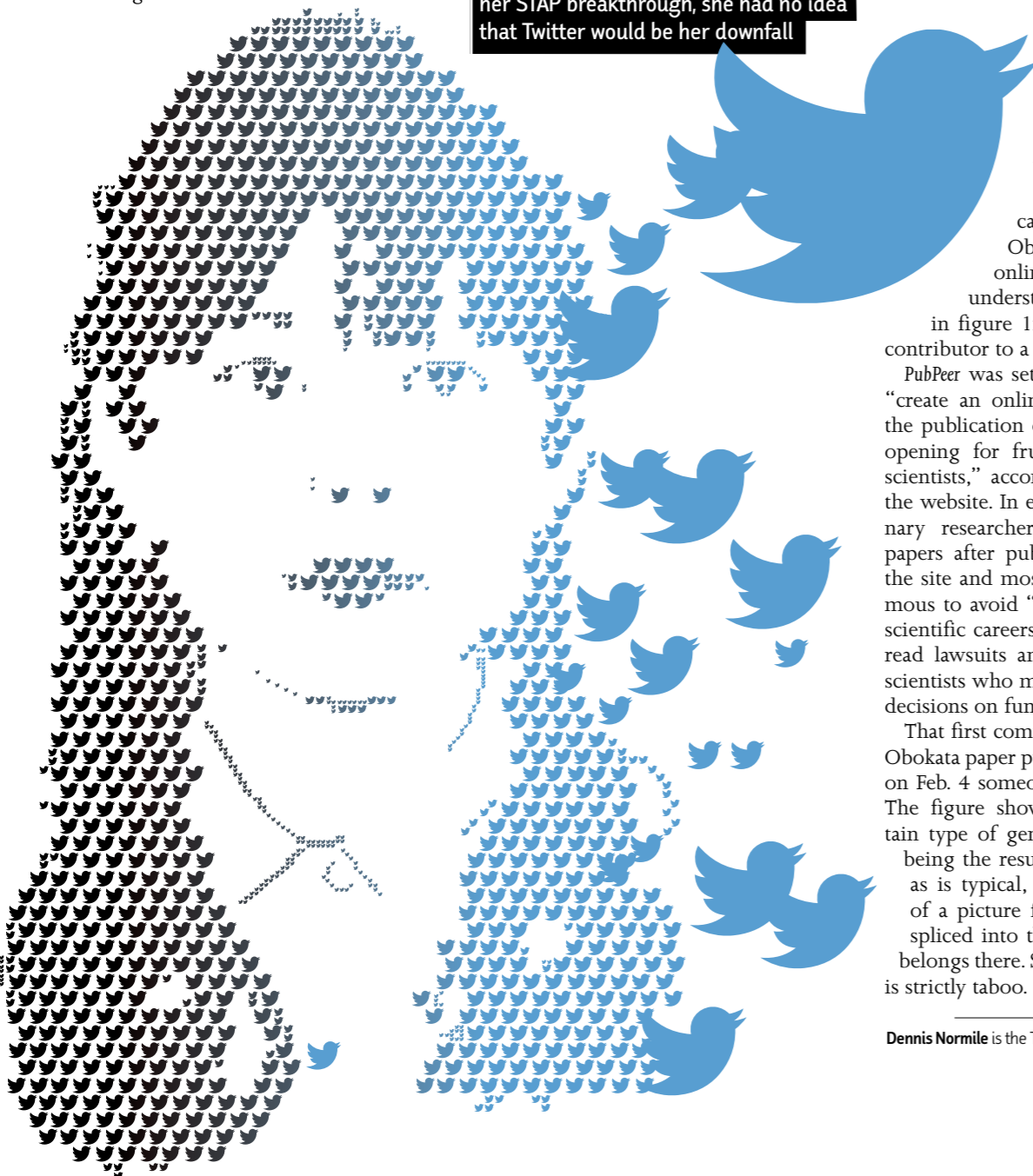
As of this writing, no research group has reported reproducing STAP cells. It very difficult to conclusively prove a negative condition in science; that is, it is possible that STAP will be proven to work under certain circumstances. But it now appears that, at the least, STAP is not the simple, quick method the Obokata team thought it to be.

The Obokata papers made such bold claims in such an active and controversial field that scrutiny was inevitable. But it is unlikely that the problems with the images and the method itself would have been identified so quickly without the current social media platforms. "I believe that science is becoming more networked in ways that permit for incredibly rapid communication and interaction in ways that would have seemed unimaginable even just 10 years ago," Knoepfler wrote in an email. The use of social media by scientists to review scientific papers after they have appeared "is a phenomenon that is here to stay and will only grow in influence," he added.

The trend might even circle back and force scientific journals to improve the peer review process. It is disturbing "that journals like *Nature* (probably *Cell*, and *Science*, too) have not been carrying out their checking responsibilities seriously," says Robert Geller, a geophysicist at University of Tokyo who has followed the STAP cell controversy, occasionally tweeting and blogging about it.

No one knows yet to what extent research will change as interconnectivity increases. But it is clear that the traditional peer review process has proven to be no match for social media. 1

When Haruko Obokata announced her STAP breakthrough, she had no idea that Twitter would be her downfall



When Bernie Krisher's 1975 interview with the Showa Emperor was bumped off the cover of Newsweek, the unofficial complaint took a roundabout route

The Emperor, Newsweek and the "Nisei Onassis"

by Eiichiro Tokumoto

From the time the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan was formed immediately after World War II, its members have rarely suffered from a lack of stories. But for many years, the Holy Grail for any journalist assigned to this country was seen as all but impossible – to gain access to the Chrysanthemum Throne and conduct an exclusive interview with the Showa Emperor (Hirohito).

Until the war's end a "living god" and afterwards the "symbol of the state," his reign spanned wartime defeat, military occupation and a miraculous recovery. He was, without a doubt, one of the singular personages in 20th-century history.

In fact, it was not until three decades after the end of the war that a tiny number of FCCJ members had the good fortune to satisfy their dreams. One of them was Bernie Krisher, the Tokyo bureau chief of Newsweek magazine. The opportunity came about when Emperor Hirohito made plans to visit the United States in October 1975. It was to be his first official state visit to the U.S. (He had shaken hands with President Richard Nixon in 1972 during a stop-over in Anchorage, Alaska.)

During their two-week visit, the Emperor and Empress Nagako were to travel to Williamsburg, Washington D.C. – where they would meet then-President Gerald Ford – New York, Chicago, the West Coast and Hawaii. It was meant to be a historic moment in Japan-U.S. relations.

For seven months, Krisher had been making efforts to penetrate the "Chrysanthemum Curtain" by quietly bombarding the cabinet and Imperial Household Agency with requests for an interview. It finally parted, and, at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 20, he was led into the "Shakkyo no Ma" room at the Imperial Palace, where the interview was held.

"I was so excited I couldn't sleep last night," Krisher told the Emperor as they



The article as it appeared inside Newsweek

Muhammed Ali, who was to fight challenger Joe Frazier in Manila on Oct. 1.

Relegating Emperor Hirohito to inside-the-book status was somber news for the Japanese government.

On Sept. 26, four days before the Emperor was to depart for the U.S., a Japanese-American businessman in New York sent a letter to Washington Post publisher Katharine Graham. His name was Kay Sugahara, and he was the president of the shipping conglomerate Fairfield-Maxwell Ltd. In his letter, he told Mrs. Graham that while he was pleased with Krisher's article, a senior official in the Japanese government was extremely dissatisfied with how it appeared in the magazine.

"We found the interview extremely interesting, revealing as it did the inner qualities of a reigning monarch as well as a man, but were distressed by the lack of importance given it by Newsweek magazine."

In the letter, he quoted a telex he had received from one of his company's directors: "Met today with (Foreign Ministry's) Chief of Protocol, Mr. Hiroshi Uchida, who greatly concerned that exclusive interview given to Newsweek magazine by the Emperor very badly handled. Very special exception was made in granting exclusive interview and Japanese Government expected that Newsweek would give it top billing on occasion of visit of Emperor and Empress. Please convey feelings to interested parties."

The letter went on: "We are fully aware that Newsweek must evaluate readership interest. What disturbed the Japanese was that the Emperor was pushed aside on the international edition for Muhammed Ali."

The contents of the letter are understandable, given the importance the Foreign Ministry must have given to this upcoming trip. But why use the back-channel route of a businessman to communicate their irritation at the article's

appearance? Who was this Sugahara? And why did the activities of this New York-based shipping executive resemble those of a Japan-U.S. political lobbyist?

Born in Seattle, Washington in 1909, Kay Sugahara was a second-generation Japanese-American. After losing both parents at an early age, he struggled to graduate from UCLA, after which he operated a trading company. Upon the outbreak of war at Pearl Harbor, he was relocated to a detention camp with other Japanese-Americans. He was then recruited by the Office of Strategic Services, the forerunner of the Central Intelligence Agency, and became involved in propaganda operations directed at Japanese troops. After the war, he moved to the shipping industry, and had so much success in that endeavor he eventually became known as the "Nisei Onassis."

He also was a member of a small, loosely-knit group of individuals in the U.S. government, former State Department officials, influential members of

Kodama, a powerful right-wing figure with whom he used pre-war connections, in making arrangements to smuggle supplies of tungsten from Japan to the U.S.

By the late 1970s, individuals in the Japanese government had not forgotten their debt of gratitude to the Japan Lobby. Hideki Masaki, a Foreign Ministry bureaucrat who was also the Emperor's interpreter, was acquainted with Sugahara from the post war period, and had stayed in touch. Four months prior to the Emperor's U.S. visit, Masaki sent a letter to Sugahara, dated June 17, in which he wrote:

"As a Japanese national I am always grateful to the Grew-Dooman Group. I now share your hope for the good effects of the Emperor's visit to the United States on future Japanese-American relations."

For the Japan Lobby, which had taken it upon itself to become the behind-the-scenes supporter of Japanese-American relations after the war, the Emperor's visit was the result of years of effort. The visit could not be allowed to fail, and they

TV newsman Edwin Newman had recorded his own exclusive interview with the Emperor that would be broadcast on the Today show on the morning of Sept. 23. In addition, on Sept. 22, the Emperor also met a group audience of 31 foreign correspondents, including FCCJ member reporters from AP, Reuters, the New York Times and others. This unprecedented press barrage was conducted by the Imperial Household Agency to familiarize the overseas public with the Emperor's true face ahead of his U.S. visit. Which was all well and good, but it sucked all the air out of Krisher's erstwhile scoop.

Mrs. Graham described hearing of the other media plans: "We learned of this late in the editorial week – whereupon Ed Kosner, editor of the domestic edition, decided that rather than hold the interview until the following week as originally planned, he would run it at once while it was still unique and had news value. The international edition followed suit. They did not, however, switch to a Hirohito cover for two reasons: 1) we did not have the necessary reporting in and could not get it in within the short time available; 2) we would have been on the newsstands more than a week before the trip."

Was Kay Sugahara (and his friends at the Foreign Ministry) satisfied with her response? On Dec. 18, 1975, a week before Christmas, he sent the following message to Mrs. Graham:

"Thank you for taking the time to answer so completely and so graciously my letter. . . . The domestic reporting of the visit was extremely well done and I am sure that Mr. Uchida was gratified with the results of the coverage. With best wishes for a very Merry Christmas."

By all accounts, the imperial visit to the U.S. was a public relations success, helping to polish the image of a rebounding nation that was putting the past behind it. And surely the Newsweek interview with the Showa Emperor was one of the highlights of Bernie Krisher's very illustrious career. The communications following the article's appearance offer a peek at the untold drama behind Japan-U.S. relations in the post-war period.

Kay Sugahara died at 79 years old in 1988, a very wealthy man who left a thriving enterprise. Emperor Hirohito died in 1989. Katherine Graham in 2001. Newsweek magazine has undergone at least one "death" and "resurrection" but is still around at the time of this writing. ❶

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

'WHAT DISTURBED THE JAPANESE WAS THAT THE EMPEROR WAS PUSHED ASIDE ON THE INTERNATIONAL EDITION FOR MUHAMMED ALI'

the U.S. Congress, journalists and others, who operated behind the scenes. Sometimes called the Japan Lobby, they worked under the larger umbrella of the American Council on Japan (ACJ). On behalf of Japan's political and business establishments, they lobbied to alter Gen. MacArthur's occupation policies, on the grounds that purges and excessive efforts to dissolve the Zaibatsu would weaken Japan's economy and enable the expansion of communist influence. The core figures behind this, who supported what was called the "Reverse course" policy, included pre-war U.S. Ambassador to Japan Joseph C. Grew, Eugene H. Dooman, Grew's chief aide as counselor to the embassy in Tokyo, attorney James Lee Kauffman and others.

Sugahara established a trading company in New York, where the headquarters of the ACJ was located. His connections with U.S. intelligence were still strong, and during the Korean Conflict, he had been requested by the CIA to help procure tungsten, a scarce strategic material that was utilized for producing jet engines. Sugahara traveled to Tokyo where he obtained the cooperation of Yoshio

paid extremely careful attention to public opinion in both Japan and the U.S.

Sugahara wrote to Masaki regarding trends in U.S. public opinion. Because of this ongoing communication between their bureaucrat and the powerful businessman, the Foreign Ministry likely thought it was only natural to make an appeal through Sugahara directly to Mrs. Graham regarding the interview with the Emperor in Newsweek.

However the communication made its way to her desk, Katherine Graham took it seriously enough to write a detailed response. In her reply to Sugahara dated Oct. 31, several weeks after the Emperor's successful visit concluded, she apologized for her late response and provided the following explanation:

"Originally, the editors in New York were led to believe that Bernie Krisher would get the only exclusive interview given by the Emperor prior to his trip to the United States. This we planned to run in the issue dated Oct. 7 so that it would be on the newsstands while the Emperor was in the United States."

Unfortunately for Newsweek, on Sept. 8, 12 days before Krisher's interview, NBC-

The truth of Tiananmen

by Todd Crowell



For a quarter century after the events of June 1989, euphemisms have obscured what took place and disputes about the protest's goals continue. Are we any closer to clarity?

The 1950 Japanese film *Rashomon* owes its enduring appeal to director Akira Kurosawa's superb treatment of an ancient and universal theme: What is the truth? A samurai and his bride come upon a bandit in a forest grove, where the traveler dies and his wife is ravished. The only witness is a woodcutter. The story turns on a magistrate's efforts to extract the facts from completely different yet equally plausible perceptions of what occurred.

A similar conundrum awaits anyone who wants to unravel the meaning of the events that occurred 25 years ago on the night of June 3, 1989, in China's capital. Most people think they already know the truth about Tiananmen. The communist rulers of China, determined to crush a pro-democracy movement, sent the soldiers and tanks of the People's Liberation Army, guns blazing, into Beijing's massive central square, mowing students down by the hundreds.

This is what my own newsmagazine, *Asiaweek*, wrote in a retrospective six months after Tiananmen: "Beyond question a paroxysm of killing took place that night. What has never been clear was how many died. On June 4, the Chinese Red Cross allegedly issued an estimate of 2,600 dead. The figure was soon disavowed, but the June 5 edition of Hong Kong's *South China Morning Post* cited 'diplomatic sources' reckoning a death toll of 1,400. Next day it rose to 4,000. Two days later 7,000."

Yet for years, many publications in Asia have shown an extreme reluctance to put the words "Tiananmen" and "massacre" together. My own magazine pussyfooted around the subject by calling it a "crack-

down." Even today, the *South China Morning Post* uses the term "Tiananmen crackdown" in headlines reporting on the crowds that attend the candlelight vigil honoring the dead that takes place every year in Victoria Park, Hong Kong's smaller version of Tiananmen Square.

In part this reflects the uncertainty as to how many people were actually killed on that fateful night and whether anyone was killed within the boundaries of Tiananmen Square itself, literally and narrowly defined. The Chinese government has always maintained that the death toll was "around 200," including soldiers, and that nobody was actually slain in the square.

It also reflects a typically Asian penchant to soften traumatic events with euphemisms. On Feb. 2, 1947, the Nationalist government of Chiang Kai-shek suppressed island-wide rioting, killing thousands – many more, probably, than died in Beijing. It is known today, even in Taiwan, simply as the "2/28 Incident." Japanese refer to the bloody coup attempt in Tokyo in 1936 as the "2/26 (ni-ni-roku jiken) Incident." For that matter, they refer to the years the Japanese army rampaged through China as the "China Incident."

In a way it is irrelevant whether anyone was actually killed in Tiananmen Square itself. There is no question that a blood-letting took place in Beijing on the night of June 3, 1989. And there is no question that Tiananmen Square was the objective of the Chinese army. Beijing was a city on the edge of insurrection. The PLA converged on the city center from all sides, smashing and shooting its way through improvised street barriers. By the time

they reached the Square, the students were already filing out.

Similar questions still surround precisely what the students were demonstrating about. It is an axiom that the students were agitating for democracy in China, and the enduring symbol of their protest is the statue of the Goddess of Democracy they erected in the Square. Yet it was a curious democracy movement that began with the death of Hu Yaoban – who as Secretary-General of the Chinese Communist Party was certainly no democrat but reputed to be a man of rectitude – and ended with the students singing the anthem of international communism as they exited the Square.

For many years my Chinese colleagues argued that it was wrong to say the demonstrators were agitating for democracy. The students were really against the growing corruption that was becoming increasingly evident 10 years after China introduced market reforms. Of course, insisting that the issue was corruption puts a more tolerable light on the student motivations from the government's point of view. Being against corruption is very politically correct, and the Chinese Communist Party conducts periodic crackdowns – that word again – on corruption. High-ranking officials are caught, tried and sometimes executed. Yes, being against corruption is fine.

But it is much harder for China's rulers to admit that Chinese people might actually want greater democracy. Perhaps it is a lingering Marxist worldview, but Beijing explains all such disturbances in purely economic terms. People are upset? It must be about the economy. So the solution is to find ways to give them more prosperity. If people are busy getting on with their lives, they will be happy and not agitate for political reforms. In many ways, events over the past 25 years in China have proved them correct.

It can work for a while, but inevitably it will lead to further blowups. It may be true that the demonstrators did not debate the finer points of Westminster-style parliamentary democracy for China. Yet, Tiananmen was fundamentally and profoundly democratic. Yes, they may have been angry about their leaders' growing corruption. But the people who say the revolt was against corruption are only half right. The underlying message was this: Our leaders are corrupt and we can't do anything to get rid of them. And that is the truth of Tiananmen. ①

Todd Crowell covered Tiananmen as Chief of Correspondents for *Asiaweek*.

Ex-Diet member Takatane Kiuchi and research analyst Michael Cucek are pessimistic about the emergence of a legitimate opposition to Japan's present administration

Political roundtable: The search for a moderate center

by Patrick Zoll



Michael Cucek



Takatane Kiuchi

Takatane Kiuchi can relate to the LDP's tenuous position today; he knows what it means to gain power in a landslide victory. The former banker for Mitsubishi UFG and Merrill Lynch was elected to the Lower House in 2009 on a strong DPJ ticket. Unfortunately, like many of his colleagues, Kiuchi lost his seat in December 2012 and, since then, he's had to watch the performance of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and his party from the sidelines.

Though he likes Abenomics in principle, he misses an alternative to the powerful prime minister and has come to a simple conclusion. "All the opposition parties should come together to face the LDP," he said. "They need to offer an alternative to Abe and his party."

Michael Thomas Cucek, research analyst at the MIT center for political studies and author of the highly esteemed political blog, *Shisaku*, agreed that no major unified opposition force exists. There is one obstacle. "Abe covers everything," he said. "There is no space next to him." Cucek finds support for his thesis when looking at the polls: "When you ask people why they support Abe, the most frequent answer is: there is nobody else."

Kiuchi and Cucek made their remarks at the Club in late April during a new event called the Political Roundtable. About 20 participants sat down with the two experts to discuss the topic of "Reviving the Moderate Center in Japanese Politics." The format differs from press conferences and professional lunches in that it is intended to be a discussion between the participants and the invited guests rather

than a strict Q&A format. By taking a step back from the fast-paced day-to-day politics, the political roundtables are intended to look at larger tendencies and underlying currents, and the seating arrangement around a big table is meant to be more conducive to a discussion between equals.

However, despite the fact that journalists, academics and representatives from the diplomatic community – a representative sample of the Club's membership – were present at the first roundtable, the discussion mainly focused on comments from Cucek and Kiuchi about the possibility of the re-emergence of a strong opposition to the LDP.

The one-and-a-half years since Abe's return to power have shown that this is easier talked about than done. Despite a lot of talk and political haggling, in particular before both the Lower House election in December 2012 and the Upper House election in July 2013, the concept of "center" implies that there is something to the left and to the right. Both Cucek and Kiuchi agreed, however, that there is no political left in Japan worth speaking of anymore. Abe's economic policies, in particular, leave little room for anything else. Whereas elsewhere conservative policy makers would call for a balanced budget, cuts in expenses and fiscal discipline, Abenomics is all about stimulating – both by spending huge amounts on construction projects and ultra-loose monetary policy. As Cucek stated: "Abe's program does not fit any conservative label we can put on." This has made it practically impossible for other parties to

speak out against measures that are supposedly implemented to create jobs and raise salaries.

Cucek argued that Abe's program is all about saving the system. He cited, as an example, Abe's lobbying for opening the labor market for more immigrants – when more inclusive immigration policies are anathema to conservative nationalistic politicians elsewhere. But Abe knows that he has no other choice if he wants the reconstruction in Tohoku to continue and the buildings for the 2020 Olympics to be ready in time. Kiuchi fully supported Abe's call for more immigrants, as he sees no alternative, a reaction that clearly shows the dilemma for the people who want to present an alternative world to Abe's Japan. Kiuchi also related his experiences working with Morihiro Hosokawa during the recent Tokyo gubernatorial elections in an attempt to present an alternative to the LDP-backed Yoichi Masuzoe – when he found little room to create space, policy-wise, next to the wide aims of the prime minister.

Is Japan, therefore, stuck with Abe? Both Cucek and Kiuchi expect the present prime minister to be around for some time. Still, no politician lasts forever, and Kiuchi points to a possible danger for the prime minister if people get disenfranchised when the so-called third arrow of structural reforms does not deliver, when salaries stagnate and taxes go up. Still, he said with resignation, it is unlikely that this will lead to the revitalization of the political center: "People will get unhappy and when people are unhappy, they tend to lean to the right." Cucek seconds this belief that the status quo will not easily change. "Older people tend to be more conservative and Japan has a lot of elderly people," he said. "However, the young in this country are conservative too. They will not bring change and the women will not bring it either." ①



The Political Roundtable event is organized monthly, and is open to Members only (non-members are invited to participate once but are encouraged to join the Club after that). Please check the website for the upcoming schedule.

Patrick Zoll is the political correspondent for the Swiss daily *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*. He covers Japan, the Korean peninsula and Taiwan from his Tokyo base.

Remembering Shijuro Ogata

by Jurek Martin

The formal obituaries of Shijuro Ogata, the former deputy governor of the Bank of Japan who died in April at the age of 86, took due note of his policy-making roles over a long career, invariably executed with acumen. They also recorded that, as he frequently said with affection, he was hardly the most famous Ogata in his own household, second to his wife, Sadako, who was the UN High Commissioner for Refugees for a decade and holder of more than one Japanese government humanitarian portfolio.

What is less well known is the extent to which he was single-handedly responsible for opening up the previously closed Japanese bureaucracy to the western media – and all through the device of a tea party of his own mischievous creation.

In the early 1980s the BoJ was generally considered to be subservient to, even under the thumb of, the mighty Ministry of Finance. Additionally, at the time, all Japanese government departments, with the exception of, naturally enough, the Foreign Ministry, which had no alternative, did not recognize the existence of foreign correspondents based in Tokyo. They preferred to deal with the strictly Japanese *kisha* (press) clubs, from which foreigners were excluded.

The same was true of Japanese industry. The prime example of this was when Toyota, announcing its first-ever foreign manufacturing facility in California, forgot to apprise the American media, which learned about it the next day from Japanese newspapers. Representations were made, from the Foreign Correspondents' Club on down, and Toyota promised never to do such a thing again.

All this never seemed right to Mr. Ogata, who combined the best of Japan's often-suppressed liberal tradition with a puckish sense of humor and who, it so happened, spoke English perfectly. So, perhaps initially more in hope than in expectation, he began a series of weekly Thursday afternoon tea parties for resident foreign correspondents at which he would expand on the BoJ's thinking on monetary and economic policy.

He never made great news but he



Shijuro Ogata speaking at the Club

did make good copy, and what the BoJ thought began to appear in the Western press, like the FT, the *Wall Street Journal* and other influential foreign publications. This was anathema to MoF, unaccustomed as it was for the central bank to have a voice at all about anything.

MoF felt it had to respond and get its views out, too, and it had the man to match Ogata in the person of Toyoo Gyohten, its articulate and aggressive senior bureaucrat, then serving as deputy minister and equally fluent in English (but also known as "the beast"). So it began Friday night wine and cheese parties for the foreign hacks, who were suspected to be more partial to liquor than tea.

Eventually this came to the attention of MITI, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry, which then truly ruled the economic roost as the acknowledged mastermind of the Japanese economic miracle, recognized by no less than Chalmers Johnson, the formidable University of California Japan specialist. MITI made available its policy makers to foreign journalists at dinners as lavish as only

the Japanese can provide, sometimes one-on-one, occasionally en masse. The foreign press reeled, in more ways than one.

Mr. Ogata, mission accomplished, reveled in all this. It was evidence, in his view, that Japan could become the more open society he desired. This was after all in his bloodline, being from a distinguished family steeped in exposure to the wider world.

In the 1860s, before the formal Meiji Restoration, his grandfather had been dispatched by the Emperor to Manchester, England, to learn more about this industrial revolution that had barely touched Japan. He reported back on the city's belching smokestacks and concluded, much as Lincoln Steffens did about Lenin's Soviet Union 60 years later, that he had "seen the future and it works."

Mr. Ogata himself was the son of the editor of the *Asahi Shimbun*, a bastion of Japanese liberalism before he, and the newspaper he ran, were eventually co-opted into the Japanese war effort in the 1940s. He was still a teenager when nuclear bombs destroyed Hiroshima and Nagasaki,

and remembered thinking at the time that the war was all over for his country. He was an old man when he had a letter published in the FT two years ago bemoaning that Japanese nationalists were provoking an unnecessary dispute with China over the Senkaku Islands. He stayed true to his beliefs throughout his life.

On a personal note, he and Sadako were my best eyes and ears (and friends) on the mystery that was Japan when I lived and reported from there, never more so than on the most difficult story I ever had to write, on the 40th anniversary of Hiroshima. Nobody ever gave me a better insight on what it meant to the Japanese.

Still, the indelible memory is of those early tea parties, down to the biscuits and the china cups. The sadness at his death is made the more acute by the knowledge that, in some ways, Japan has reverted to pre-Ogata type. ❶

Jurek Martin was Tokyo bureau chief of the *Financial Times* from 1982-1986, and was FCCJ President from 1985-1986. This article first appeared in the *Financial Times* World blog.

FCCJ EXHIBITION UNHOLY MATRIMONY - BRIDE KIDNAPPING by Noriko Hayashi



ACCORDING TO A LOCAL NGO in Kyrgyzstan, as many as 40 percent of ethnic brides – or about 15,000 a year – are thought to be victims of bride kidnapping, or *ala kachuu*, "grab and run." The authorities largely turn a blind eye to the practice, although in January 2013, the Kyrgyzstan president signed into law an increase in jail time for abductors from three years to seven-to-ten years.

There is also some confusion about the definition of "kidnapping," as some young couples elope by acting out a kidnapping scenario; then get their parents to retroactively sanction their marriage. It is clear, however, that a majority of the abductions occur against the women's will.

Unsuspecting women are often dragged off the street and taken straight to the man's house. Female elders often play a pivotal role in persuading the bride to accept the marriage by covering the girl's head with a white scarf, symbolizing her readiness to marry her kidnapper.

I visited Kyrgyzstan for the first time in 2012, and spent five months visiting villages, exploring the kidnapping issue and photographing four women who had been kidnapped. Fardia was a 20-year-old who resisted, and ended up being rescued by her brother. Cholpon, Aitilek and Dinara were three women who, for one reason or another, decided to give in and marry their abductors. I returned for a month of photography in January 2014, catching up on their stories. My pictures are just a piece of their lives. ❶

Photographer **Noriko Hayashi** focuses on social issues around the world. She began taking pictures for a local newspaper in The Gambia in 2007, when she was a student of international relations and conflict studies; now her photography is published internationally.

THE INVINCIBLES ...

THE FCCJ SPIRIT FUTSAL team emerged with a 100 percent record in their series of five matches against politicians and bureaucrats on May 23. The Club team lost every game.

The carefully selected FCCJ squad – that all-important mix of elderly, the walking wounded and the not-very-good – had appeared in a confident mood at the outset. By the time the warm-up ended, however, a good number of the players – understandably left out of their respective nations' World Cup squads – were wheezing and puffing.

The shaven-headed trio of Captain Andy Sharp, Mark Austin and Toru Fujioka initially appeared to strike fear into the politicians' team, which included LDP members Ichiro Aizawa, Akimasa Ishikawa and Yutaka Komatsu, along with a bunch of fit and skilled ringers from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology. Toshi Maeda and FCCJ General Manager Tomohiko Yanagi both



Tomohiko Yanagi, Mark Austin, Tetsuo Jimbo, Koji Ogawa (manager), Shinichi Nakajima, Toshi Maeda, Nathalie Stucky, Andy Sharp (captain), Julian Ryall (and son), Toru Fujioka

demonstrated a remarkable turn of pace and trickery, while Nathalie Stucky was calm and composed in the middle of the pitch.

Goalkeeper Shinichi Nakajima performed heroics in keeping the waves of political attackers at bay, ably assisted by the imposing figure of Tetsuo Jimbo. Julian Ryall wandered around aimlessly at the back and complained incessantly about various body parts hurting.

After permitting the politicians to record their victories, the team, managed by Koji Ogawa, went on to a post-match meal and drinks at a nearby restaurant.

Encouraged by the suggestion that the FCCJ players can only get better, Captain Sharp threw his considerable weight behind the proposal that futsal training sessions become a weekly event. **–Julian Ryall**

Heard at the Club

“Because the mainstream media avoids covering corruption in the police system, it seems I have a monopoly on this kind of reporting. Over the past 25 years, in fact, my reporting activities have led to over 100 police officers either being punished, summarily dismissed or forced to resign.”

*Yu Terasawa, May 19, 2014
Named as one of the world's "100 Information Heroes" by Reporters Without Borders.*



SWADESH DEROY SCHOLARSHIP AWARD



The Swadesh DeRoy Scholarship, awarded annually by the FCCJ, was created to encourage and support university students interested in entering journalism.

Left: Guest of Alexandra Juhasz, Akira Nagakura (committee member), Martin Fackler (key-note speaker), Elliot Silverberg, Alexandra Juhasz, Allison Kwesell, Suvendrini Kakuchi (committee member) and Masaaki Fukunaga (chair).



Left to right, Alexandra Juhasz, winner of Pen Prize, with Martin Fackler (of the *New York Times*); Elliot Silverberg, winner of Pen Prize; Allison Kwesell, winner of Photo Prize, with Suvendrini Kakuchi



NEW MEMBERS



TAMZIN BOOTH is the current Tokyo bureau chief of the *Economist*. She joined the publication in 2001, where she worked as finance correspondent and media editor in London before being posted to Paris in 2008 as European business editor. Prior to *The Economist*, she was a staff writer at the *Wall Street Journal Europe* and *Institutional Investor Magazine*. From 1995 to 1998 she worked in Hong Kong as an equity research associate for Salomon Brothers. Her interests include literature, current affairs, sailing and skiing.



MATHEW SMITH is senior editor at Engadget. He was relocated from London to cover major consumer tech companies and research projects in Japan and the rest of Asia. He worked in Sendai as part of the JET program, then became a journalist, doing freelance work for both the *Guardian* and the *Times*. He also took up judo during his time in Sendai, and managed to earn his black belt before returning to the UK.

PROFESSIONAL/JOURNALIST

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

- Mike De Jong, *Paradigm*
- Ryusaku Tanaka, *Tanaka Ryusaku Journal*
- Takeo Sato, *Freelance*
- Takayuki Yasui, *Asahi Shimbun*
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- Soichiro Iida, *Chiba Iida Farm*
- Rie Sakamoto, *UBIC Inc.*
- Kiyohiko Toyama, *New Komeito Party*
- Takeshi Yokoyama, *Take Off*
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- Tatsuo Kawasaki, *Unison Capital, Inc.*

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