

NUMBER

1

shimbun

SEPTEMBER 2004 ¥500

Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan

TROUBLE AT THE TOP

The Media and IHA

PROBING "PRIVACY"

Wither Freedom of the Press?

Japan Sherpa

Neighboring Yokohama



C O N T E N T S



LEFT: Yokohama Bay Bridge spans 860m across the mouth of Yokohama Harbor. Built in 1989, this suspension bridge consists of 176 cables, and carries a six-lane expressway and pedestrian road.



COVER: Are journalists in Japan doing their job when it comes to reporting the Imperial Family, or are they still pulling their punches? The recent flap over Princess Masako's health shows the Imperial Family is an institution out of touch with the rest of Japan.

VOLUME 36 ISSUE 9 SEPTEMBER 2004

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Features

TROUBLE AT THE TOP 8
When Japan's Crown Prince held his press conference in May, just before a trip to Europe, most thought it would be a routine affair. But the Crown Prince's criticism of the Imperial Household Agency for their treatment of his wife, Crown Princess Masako, has ignited a debate over the future of Japan's Imperial Family that continues to smolder. David McNeill reports.

PROBING "PRIVACY" 12
Any reporter in Japan knows that the English-Japanese word "privacy" is one of the media's most used and abused words. Justin McCurry expands the focus of the FCCJ seminar held last spring on the concept of privacy and the media issue.

The *Number 1 Shimbun* welcomes articles, commentary and other contributors from members of the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan and interested readers. Opinions expressed in articles are those of the contributor, and are not necessarily those of the editor, the Publications Committee, the FCCJ or members of the FCCJ Board. We reserve the right to select or reject and to edit all submissions. We encourage article proposals in advance.

Please address your articles or proposals to the editor at shimbun@fccj.or.jp. Comments, questions and other correspondence about the content of the *Number 1 Shimbun* should be addressed to the Publications Committee chair at pubs-chair@fccj.or.jp.

Published by: Paradigm, Kamiyama Ambassador 209, 18-6, Kamiyama-cho, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 150-0047, Japan

tel: (03) 5478-7941 fax: (03) 5478-7942 e-mail: inquiries@paradigm.co.jp

Publisher: Vickie Paradise Green Editor: David Umeda Art Director: Yuki Kawaguchi Advertising Sales: Euan Ford, Brendan Jennings, Andrew Joyce, Rosalind Youngjohns

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NUMBER 1 **shimbun**

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David McNeill's doctoral program eventually involved a *Monbusho*-funded research trip, where he spent two years at the University of Tokyo (1993-1995). Four years later, he spent six months at the University of Technology in Guandong before returning to Japan with his Japanese wife in early 2000. McNeill has been freelancing since for the *Irish Times*, *South China Morning Post* and, more recently, the *London Independent*, and has also worked as the editor of a policy journal called *NIRA Review* and as a copyeditor at the *Nikkei Shimbun*.

Justin McCurry is Tokyo correspondent for the *Guardian* and *Observer* newspapers in London. He also writes for the *Lancet* medical journal and the independent football magazine *When Saturday Comes*. He has written about Japan for two anthologies of football writing and makes regular appearances on RTE Radio in Dublin.

John Lawrence is a freelance writer, and actually pays his bills with a day job as an IT manager for a foreign-based firm in Yokohama. A resident of Japan for 14 years, he has written about computer security, copyright issues and the effect of technical changes on public policy in both Japan and the U.S.

Mack Chrysler joined the FCCJ on March 14, 1969 and was an active member for 27 years while in Japan. He was Tokyo bureau chief of *U.S. News & World Report* back then. In 1973, Chrysler became correspondent for the *San Francisco Examiner*. Subsequently, he worked for a number of different media, including the *San Diego Union* and Word's Communications Inc. Chrysler now resides in Utah.

PHOTOGRAPH OF MCCURRY BY AKIKO MIYAKE



Committees & Other News

Anthony Rowley

July has been a long and hot month here in Tokyo, but it has also been an active one at the FCCJ. Club committees have begun to get moving under their new (or in some cases reinstated) chairpersons. No major changes, but all committees – in particular the PAC under Roger Schreffler and Dan Sloan, the Entertainment Committee under Bob Neff and the F&B Committee under Bob Kirschenbaum – have agreed to bend their efforts especially toward attracting more younger people to the Club.

We have more younger people serving on committees this year, to widen our “menu” of attractions (and groom future chairpersons or Club presidents). A remaining gap is sports. Kyosuke Mori has agreed to stay on as chair of the Golfing subcommittee, but we are trying to get others to organize activities such as tennis, skiing, swimming, sailing, softball, soccer, etc. Dennis Normile is Board liaison and acting chairman for Sports, and he will be helping to find organizers and to coordinate their activities. Step forward if you can help, please.

The big push now is on membership. The Board will be presenting membership targets to the next General Membership Meeting in September. These will focus especially on Regular and Professional Associate categories in order to “re-balance” the membership composition of the FCCJ in terms of categories and age groups. This is as mandated by past resolutions of the General Membership, as promised in my election manifesto and is also in line with the expressed desire of many Associates to see “more journalists” in the Club.

I have meanwhile made a personal approach to some 50 bureau chiefs and chief correspondents from leading media in Tokyo to attend exploratory meetings at the FCCJ where we will discuss ways of getting their organizations to make more frequent use of the Club. If all goes well, we can look forward to a series of events involving bureau chiefs, visiting editors and other journalists in the future, to complement our existing and excellent PAC program.

Relations with the Associate Liaison Committee, under the co-chairmanship of Grady Loy and Michiko Miterai are moving

forward quite smoothly. I have not continued the practice initiated by former president Myron Belkind of issuing a standing invitation to the ALC chairperson to act as “observer” at Board meetings as I feel this goes against the letter and the spirit of the FCCJ’s Articles and By-Laws. But the chair will attend meetings by invitation, and I have made myself Board Liaison to the ALC in recognition of its importance.

The revised notices on the Correspondents tables in the Main Bar caused some unhappiness, I know. There has been no change of rules however – just a clarification, which the General Manager felt was desirable to enable staff to explain what the Correspondents signs mean. It has been Club policy for at least 25 years to have a few tables reserved chiefly for Regular members, and just three out of more than 30 tables are designated in this way.

This convention was being honored more in the breach than the observance on some recent occasions. Regular members who labor in the Work Room or elsewhere at all kinds of hours need to know that they can find at least a few seats in the Bar where they can relax.

The return of Marilyn (Monroe) to the Main Bar raised a few eyebrows – admiring and otherwise. The poor lady has been much abused in recent years after being “kidnapped,” in contravention of a previous Board resolution that she should return to the Main Bar! I am not sure where her final resting place will be, but by the time you read this she will have moved from her present spot. We have other plans for that corner of the Bar – about which, more later.

Talking of plans, the House and Property Committee under Khaldon Azhari has some exciting and imaginative schemes up its sleeve to make better use of Club space in a number of areas and to improve services for members. Sorry to keep you in suspense, but more of this at the September General Membership Meeting. Other committees are working hard to keep you professionally informed and socially entertained. Please identify yourself to Committee chairs or Board members if you feel you would like to contribute something to committee activities. All offers gratefully accepted.

We said farewell in July to Pat Killen, who has been a member of the FCCJ since 1987 (and is now a Life Member). Pat is returning with his wife Miyoko and daughter Kimberley to enjoy retirement in Dallas after a distinguished working career spanning more than three decades with *UPI* and other media organizations. We shall miss him, but his legacy will live on in a revived “Alley Cats” column in the *Number 1 Shimibun*.

There are other changes in store for our Club magazine under the new Publications Committee headed by Nobuko Hara. I would like to make a personal appeal to all Regular members to offer contributions to the *Number 1 Shimibun*. We are basically a journalists’ club, and if anyone should be able to produce a first-class paper it is the FCCJ! Please offer stories or features about what you have been up to, or what great thoughts you have been thinking. Maybe the kind of thing that you always wanted to write but your paper couldn’t find room for. We can’t pay well – just some bar credits – but the professional satisfaction of seeing your name in what we hope is destined to become a first-class publication of its kind should be some reward. Many thanks.

P.S. Please give generously for this year’s staff outing. Staff have labored through the long, hot summer, and they richly deserve their autumn break.



A journalist on assignment far from home has to deal with not only the various language and logistical difficulties inherent in such a position, but also the more vague and difficult subject of social, cultural or religious taboos. Such taboos are often unstated, and the rules the local media follow governing their coverage may be vague, conditional and subject to wildly different interpretations.

In Japan, foreign journalists come up against a variety of taboos, ranging from *yakuza* influence in the Japanese economy, to the treatment of Japan's *burakumin* and ethnic Korean communities, to the Imperial Family. Foreign journalists are often naturally attracted to taboos because they offer a chance to explore subjects that they feel, rightly, many Japanese do not want them to pursue. Furthermore, the pursuit of such subjects can, indeed, shed intellectual light on the motivations and behavior of other areas of Japanese society that are not taboo.

Smart foreign journalists know very well that there are many Japanese journalists frustrated and angry with the various taboos, and avoid lumping all Japanese journalists into one stereotype of kisha club drones who toe the party line. And even the kisha club drones by day can turn into excellent sources of information for the foreign media at night – at least for

those foreign reporters intelligent enough to get to know them.

Has the collaboration between Japanese journalists frustrated with taboos and foreign journalists interested in reporting them resulted in real change, as opposed to a series of teapot tempests? Yes, in a couple of important areas, including the treatment of minority groups in Japan.

The situation of Koreans in Japan has received widespread, sustained attention among international journalists for many years. Their reports, in turn, have paved the way for more serious international scholarly study of, and government attention on, the issue that has, in turn, led to a greater recognition, worldwide, of the various issues. Nobody would say that the situation for Koreans in Japan is ideal. But most people, inside Japan or out, who follow the issue admit that real progress, slow as it may be, has been made over the past few decades. For helping move that progress along, the international media in general, and many FCCJ members in particular, can take a bow.

Other taboos, while still present, are not nearly as strict as they were, though the foreign media's contribution to loosening the taboos is questionable. Mainstream Japanese media organizations, for example, now talk about the political power of Soka Gakkai in a way that only a few tabloids even hinted at a dozen years ago.

The tabloids, and some mainstream reporters, have long attacked Soka Gakkai and its honorary chairman Daisuke Ikeda, and these attacks have gained some foreign media attention. But over the past few months in particular, Soka Gakkai members have often had differences with the New Komeito, which has been called the quasi-official party of Soka Gakkai. These differences, especially over the New Komeito's support for the war in Iraq, led to a loss of power for the New Komeito in the last election. As a veteran political reporter told me, in Japan, taboos on reporting the power of one particular group tend to rise or fall in proportion to that group's political clout. Not surprising, perhaps, but a useful indication of who's up and who's down.

Other taboos, such as the *burakumin* and their political connections through men like Hiromu Nonaka, are just now starting to loosen up. Obviously, some old taboos do remain, not the least of which is the Imperial Family. One of the greatest services the late *Uwasa no Shinso* magazine

performed was printing things about the Imperial Family that nobody else would touch. Yet that is not the same as a real national debate on either the Imperial Family's past role in the 20th century, or, more importantly, its role for the 21st century.

Finally, there are taboos that have come into place more recently. Many of these are health-related. The true number of AIDS cases and other sexual diseases among ordinary Japanese, the number of outbreaks of cancer due to cigarettes, contaminated rice, or living close to a nuclear power plant or incinerator that releases dioxins, harmful food additives, as well as the competency of the medical profession in general and its political connections, are all issues of utmost importance. But they usually receive either a cursory treatment in the mainstream media, turgid reporting in specialist magazines that the layman cannot hope to follow, or sensationalistic reporting in the tabloids.

The recent flap over *The Times'* reporting on Princess Masako, detailed elsewhere in this issue, shows just how important it is for FCCJ members to challenge taboos. As the population ages and the economy continues to stagnate or show lukewarm growth, Japanese people in general are less interested in challenging taboos, and more and more interested in going with the flow, leaving a leadership vacuum that those who are interested in having more, not fewer, taboos on reporting are rushing to fill. Thus, the responsible foreign journalist in Japan will take time to learn the taboos – and break them when necessary.

WHAT'S AHEAD

We all know that China is getting the lion's share of foreign media attention these days. For October, Jon Watts, a name very familiar to FCCJ members, reports on his adventures in the Middle Kingdom and compares it to his time in Japan. In addition, Lucille Craft reports on a new legal service that many FCCJ freelancers who are tired of being cheated by unethical media outlets will definitely want to consider. As the President indicates in his column, there are changes afoot for the *Number 1 Shimbun*, some of which we hope to offer you in the October issue.

PHOTOGRAPH BY ANIKO MIYAKE

PHOTOGRAPH BY ANIKO MIYAKE

FCCJ STAFF OUTING October 9-10

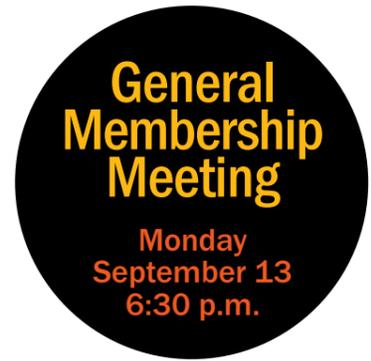
This year's annual FCCJ Staff Outing will be on October 9-10, to Sadogashima Island in Niigata Prefecture. The two-day outing gives our hardworking staff a chance to take a well-deserved break after a long, hot summer in Tokyo, and to refresh themselves for the winter season. It also gives us – the membership – a chance to show our appreciation for their efforts and courtesy by making a donation toward the cost of the outing. A donation box has been placed at the Reception Desk for contributions – or members may sign a Club chit if they prefer. Please give generously. Thank you.

— Anthony Rowley
President

First 2004-5 Board of Directors Meeting

(left to right): GM Seishi Yoda, former 3rd Director-at-Large Yoshisuke Iinuma, 1st VP Khaldon Azhari, Ex-officio Daniel Sloan, former 2nd VP Haruko Watanabe, President Anthony Rowley, former Secretary Nobuko Hara, 3rd Director-at-Large Miki Tanikawa, Membership Manager Naomich Iwamura, 2nd Director-at-Large Martin Koelling and 4th Director-at-Large Dennis Normile.

Not pictured: 2nd VP Pio d'Emilia, Secretary Monzurul Huq, Treasurer Georges Baumgartner and 1st Director-at-Large Suvendrini Kakuchi.



Regular Members are urged to attend the next GMM, held on September 13, Monday, from 6:30 p.m.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS, LOG ON TO YOUR CLUB'S WEB SITE AT WWW.FCCJ.OR.JP.

Letters to the Editor Guidelines

Notice: Deadline for submission of Letters to the Editor for the **November 2004** issue of the *Number 1 Shimbun* is **September 6, Monday, at 5 p.m.** Letters are accepted **via e-mail or fax only**. In principle, all letters submitted will appear on the *Number 1 Shimbun* section of the FCCJ Web site after being received by the Editor and in their original style and length. However, any letter may be revised, edited or rejected if the Editor judges the content to be libelous or personally offensive.

Please note that all letters to be inserted in the print edition are subject to editing for space and/or style reasons. As with the Web edition, the Editor reserves the right to reject letters deemed inappropriate.

— Eric Johnston, editor, shimbun@fccj.or.jp
Fax: (03) 3211-3168

TROUBLE AT THE TOP

The correspondents for Japan's Big Media are on trial again for their failure on covering Princess Masako's illness. How do they defend themselves?

For a family that prefers to keep a low profile and adopt a kind of bland civil servant image, these are trying times for the Imperial Household. Swathes of the world's dwindling forests have been felled to fuel media speculation on the health of Princess Masako, her relationship with her husband Prince Naruhito and their struggles to produce a male heir to the world's oldest hereditary institution.

Much of the blame for this unwanted attention lies with Naruhito himself, who sparked the latest media feeding frenzy with a press conference on May 10 that obliquely criticized his wife's handlers in the Imperial Household Agency.

As every decent foreign hack knows, since 1965, the emperor has watched his offspring bring nine female babies into the world and not a single male, a lack of success that once would have been solved by pressing into service an Imperial womb-for-hire (known as *karibara*). Today, the responsibility for continuing the supposedly 2,600-year patriarchal line has fallen on the frail shoulders of the ex-Ms. Masako Owada. Unsurprisingly, she seems to have buckled under the pressure.

Following her husband's press conference, the media speculated that the princess was depressed and had had a nervous breakdown, possibly following a lapse into the language of the stud farm last year by the IHA's Grand Steward, Toshio Yuasa, who said he wanted the couple to have another child. Masako, said the press, may be refusing to sleep with her husband and is terribly worried about her daughter Aiko, who may have a developmental disorder. Relations between her and the emperor and empress are reportedly extremely poor, and "she is waiting for them to die."

But, which media reported all of this? Not the big newsgathering organizations in Japan, which despite (or as many prefer to argue, because of) their exclusive membership to the IHA press club seldom report major scoops, but the Japanese tabloids and the foreign media. Famously, it was the *Washington Post* that first told the world about Princess Masako's engagement to Naruhito in 1993, after the Japanese press had sat on the story for months.

It was the London *Independent* that suggested in 2001 that Princess Aiko was the product of in-vitro fertilization, after a similar story appeared in the muck-racking journal *Uwasa no Shinso*. And it was *The Times* that carried most of the above detail about Masako's current condition in a May 21 piece called "The Depression of a Princess."



Richard Lloyd Parry at the May 27 Symposium on "Privacy, Press Freedom & Media Criticism."

It's all part of a long tradition of royal reporting in Japan by Big Media. As Richard Lloyd Parry, author of the May 21 article says: "Japanese journalists knew about Masako's illness. Why didn't they run the story? Because of the strange institutional taboos that still surround the

Imperial Family, which are very murky and not rational and which have a lot to do with Japan's war and postwar history. This period has not been properly dispelled or digested. There is still unfinished business."

Lloyd Parry has a point. For example, not one reporter ever asked Emperor Hirohito about his responsibility for the war in Asia, potentially one of the great stories of the last half-century. This is despite the enormous pool of journalists assigned to cover the Imperial Household Agency.

According to a former Imperial correspondent for a major newspaper: "At any one time about 20 to 25 journalists from different news organizations cover the IHA. But there are hundreds of journalists registered with the IHA press club, in case of an accident or incident related to the Emperor."

These journalists have exclusive access to briefings by agency officials and Imperial Family members, and usually prepare their questions collectively before submitting them for vetting, shunning most sensitive issues. Over the years they have earned a reputation for at best timidity, at worst incompetence.

"The IHA press club shows the worst aspects of the Japanese media," says Kenichi Asano, professor of journalism at Doshisha University and an ex-*Kyodo News* reporter. "The journalists there are not doing their job of informing the Japanese public about what goes on."

The correspondents speak

The irony of this situation is that the foreign journalists rely for all their stories on local sources, often reporters working in, or close to, the IHA press club.

"I have great respect for Japanese journalists who I count as colleagues and friends," says Lloyd Parry. "I couldn't work without the work already done by these people."

These journalists, and a host of former correspondents and Imperial watchers, fill the vacuum left by the sketchy reporting of Japan's first family by Big Media by feeding "peripheral" outlets: the weekly and monthly magazines (excluded from the IHA press club) and the foreign press, endless tidbits of gossip and inside information from their privileged Imperial ringside seats. One way or another, much of what goes on beyond the Imperial moat finds its way into print, although often in a hopelessly distorted and unreliable way.

The sadness of a lonely Crown Princess

an rejoiced when the highly intelligent Princess Masako married the heir to the throne. But Imperial life has made her very unhappy, writes Richard Lloyd Parry



OBVIOUS FROM the moment she was crowned, the Crown Princess Masako has been the focus of intense media scrutiny. The coronation ceremony, held in a grand hall in Tokyo, was a spectacle of immense scale. The princess, dressed in traditional Japanese court attire, was the center of attention. Her husband, Prince Naruhito, stood by her side, and together they were crowned Emperor and Empress. The ceremony was a historic moment for Japan, marking the beginning of a new reign. However, behind the public facade, the princess has been the subject of intense speculation and concern regarding her health and well-being.

The Crown Prince has declared war against the Imperial Household Agency. The story began in 1996 when the Crown Prince, then 26, met 22-year-old Masako Owada at a tea party in the Akasaka Detached Palace in Tokyo. She was a graduate of Harvard and Tokyo universities who had just passed the demanding examinations for the first track of the Japanese Foreign Ministry. He was at the age when a Japanese mother still start to worry about a son who does not have a regular girlfriend. Further discontent arose last year, several at the British Embassy under the cover of the Japan Forum Society. The Princess, he said, "suffers from the loss of her heart" that she could not travel to Europe. He "found it very regretful" that she "was not allowed to travel to Europe." To the great, she has been "greatly distressed" that she was not allowed to make overseas visits for a long time. In fact, he said, in the wedding which has been reported through the Imperial Household Agency, she was "completely exhausted" herself in trying to adjust to life as a princess. The words were spoken calmly, but it is hard to underestimate the strain of these reports on the princess. Prince Naruhito's answer was full of emotional repetition. The Princess, he said, "suffers from the loss of her heart" that she could not travel to Europe. He "found it very regretful" that she "was not allowed to travel to Europe." To the great, she has been "greatly distressed" that she was not allowed to make overseas visits for a long time. In fact, he said, in the wedding which has been reported through the Imperial Household Agency, she was "completely exhausted" herself in trying to adjust to life as a princess. The words were spoken calmly, but it is hard to underestimate the strain of these reports on the princess.

Sometimes the insiders do this for drinking money, sometimes out of friendship with tabloid and other journalists, and sometimes out of civic duty in a taboo-ridden system that many also find frustrating.

The current Imperial correspondent for a major Japanese newspaper said: "I probably put in writing less than one-tenth of one-percent of what I see and hear. For a writer, that's a kind of torture. It's a real struggle to just learn to watch."

His colleague, who writes for a news agency, goes further: "Not everybody agrees, but, personally, I believe reporters should leak information when it is important and they cannot get it published, although I don't think they should do it for money or tell lies. It's a public service because there are many publications that don't have access."

So how do these correspondents feel about their jobs and the recent reporting of the Masako issue? I interviewed two current and one former IHA press-club member for this article. Two work for major newspapers and one for a news agency. Although they denied there was any taboo on reporting the Imperial Family, all refused to allow me to use their names,

or even the organizations they work for. Nevertheless, all three correspondents gave considered, thoughtful and sometimes surprising replies to most questions. From here on, the interviewees will be referred to as Correspondents A, B and C.

Two of the journalists had harsh things to say about *The Times'* Masako piece. Correspondent A said it was a "tsukuribanashi," (lit. "a made-up story"), another that it was "laughable." Correspondent B said there was no way *The Times* could have known the things in the article because nobody does, except Masako and a handful of close friends. Correspondent C was more conciliatory and said *The Times* piece was useful because it had shaken things up and got a discussion going.

For the record, Lloyd Parry stands by the "fairness and accuracy" of everything in the May 21 article. "Nobody, officially or unofficially, has come to complain about the story. Obviously, the information about Masako does come from a person close to her. As for the source of the information about Masako's relations with the emperor, that was a quote from a Japanese journalist who is in a position to know. We judged it to be a point of view

representative of more than one person we interviewed."

My three interviewees, like all Imperial correspondents, meet the emperor face to face at least once a year in the Tochigi Prefecture Imperial retreat for an informal chat. Would they question him this year (in September) about the Masako affair? All gave an unqualified no. Correspondent A said this was part personal (he didn't believe that Masako disliked the emperor); part cultural (it's not "Japanese" to make the other person deliberately feel uncomfortable in such a setting); and part political (there was nothing to be "gained" by asking such questions, and probably a lot to be lost, implying he would be thrown out of the press club).

Correspondents A and B said Princess Masako's illness, the state of her marriage and the test-tube baby story are "personal issues." Correspondent B cited the need to be "120 percent accurate on Imperial stories." When asked why, he said: "If I make a mistake on a business or crime story, I have to make a formal apology. If I make a mistake on a story about the emperor, the head of the newspaper has to apologize."

(continued on page 10)

PHOTOGRAPH OF LLOYD PARRY BY ANIKO MIYAKE

(continued from page 9)

Prof. Asano feels these answers are evasive. “The need for 120 percent accuracy is a double standard because they don’t act this way for other stories. If they are unsure, they should ask someone in authority for their opinion and a quote. They should provide the information and let ordinary readers decide for themselves.”

As for the issue of privacy, Prof. Asano is even more blunt. “The Imperial Family is the ultimate symbol of Japan and they need a male successor. So they shouldn’t have any secrets from the public, and this includes their sexual activities.”

Lloyd Parry agrees that some issues, including Masako’s depression, are “private,” but adds: “We heard the story about Masako’s illness in January or February but decided not to use it because it was a personal matter. But in May, when her husband blamed the Imperial Household for her illness, the question was in the public domain, and you couldn’t understand the story fully until you got the rest of the information. So at that stage we decided to run it.”

The Japanese correspondents claimed they would run with a story that they

judged important enough. Asked for an example, Correspondent A said if the IHA announced that Masako had, indeed, had a nervous breakdown but asked journalists not to write it, he would ignore them. But he was not sure it would get past his editors. “Newspapers in Japan are very conservative. The managers are usually in their fifties and sixties. They’re afraid of the ultra-right. You have taboos in Islamic societies and in Christian societies. This is our taboo and you basically cannot criticize it.”

But why not ask about Masako? If a journalist takes six months off work, he has to provide an explanation. Shouldn’t she be held accountable? Correspondent B agreed but explained the problem as follows: “It’s no good arguing that we should treat the Imperial Family like ordinary people. We have to accept that they are special. This doesn’t mean we have to respect them just because they’re the Imperial Family, but we do have to accept the fact that they are different. They’re not like television talent. Legally they’re special. The constitution says they have no legal rights and no political power. The emperor can’t walk away from his

job. All he can do is pray. That’s his job. It’s really quite cruel. But that’s the reality within which we operate and we have to respect that.”

Who cares?

Does any of this matter? Interest in the Imperial Family in Japan is low and declining. Most young people do not even know the name of the man who is married to Princess Masako. Polls show that even the social attitudes of those who are interested have left behind an institution that is, in the words of Professor Herbert Bix, “totally out of sync with the times” and one that “can no longer function as a model, let alone a symbol of national unity.” The taboo on reporting Imperial issues, say the Imperial correspondents, has declined since the death of the controversial wartime emperor, Hirohito. Better then, some argue, to let the emperor and his family fade gently from history.

Which leads to a final question. Perhaps Big Media in Japan, rather than informing the Japanese public about the Imperial Family and bringing it down to earth as the British press has done to its monarchy over the last two decades, helps to suspend its aura of “mystery” and uniqueness.

As evidence, take the famous (at least outside Japan) incident on December 18, 2001, when Emperor Akihito, in the middle of a period of bitter controversy about history textbooks, spoke in detail about his own Korean roots. The speech was front-page news in Korea but barely made the inside pages of two Japanese newspapers: the *Asahi* and *Sankei*.

Prof. Asano explains why: “The newspapers here were too worried about the implications of that speech and the reaction from nationalists so they ignored it. The only reason why the *Asahi* and *Sankei* published it is because they publish all press conferences on their Web sites, and somebody spotted it there. Otherwise they would have ignored it, too.”

At least one Imperial correspondent (B) agrees that by keeping news like this from the public and selectively reporting what the emperor and his family do, they help prop up the institution. “If you want to argue that we protect the mystery [*shimpiteki na bubun*] of the Imperial Family, I think we do. But no matter what we do, the family will have to reform. And the more they reform, the more the mystery will decline. That’s their dilemma.” ■



On Recent Comotions over the Imperial Family

On May 10, 2004, before leaving on a short European tour, Japan’s Crown Prince Naruhito disclosed at a press conference that his wife, Princess Masako, who had earlier withdrawn from official duties, had “completely exhausted herself” and was unable to accompany him. For this, he blamed her surroundings.

“There were moves to reject Masako’s career [as a diplomat] and her character,” he complained to stunned journalists gathered at his Togu Detached Palace in Tokyo. His heartfelt words immediately ignited debate. For Naruhito spoke as an aggrieved husband, defending his partner’s right to freedom and dignity under the postwar constitution. Never before in public had that been done.

Immediately, some royal watchers deduced that either the Imperial Household Agency or Masako’s in-laws, Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, were to blame for her poor health. Richard Lloyd Parry writing in *The Times* of London, cited this allegation of a Japanese journalist, offered in the wake of Naruhito’s cryptic statement. To wit: “Masako has become an imperial dropout.” She is “hostile towards the Emperor [Akihito] and the Empress [Michiko], and ... waiting for them to die. It sounds horrible and shocking. But this is the truth of what’s happening inside the Crown Prince’s household and the public doesn’t know about.”

Actually, the Japanese public senses only too well that the current state of the Imperial Family is a picture of unhappiness. Equally well understood, especially by Japanese officials who have a vested interest in preserving it, is the monarchy’s

fragile nature. Writers who understand the historical roots of the monarchy’s deepest problems have emphasized the consciously intended, political nature of Naruhito’s statement.

Seki Hirono, in his article in the *Asahi Shimbun Eiseiban* of June 12, 2004, for example, claimed that an “isolated” prince was attempting to highlight the overly close connection between the postwar-reformed monarchy and the Japanese state, and also the failure of the constitution of Japan to guarantee the human rights of the Imperial Family members. In an indirect way, Seki was also coming down on the side of constitutional reform.

Recent Japanese public opinion polls suggest the underlying social changes behind the Crown Prince’s remarks of May 10. For the past several years, polls have shown a major change on the issue of a woman emperor. In the first survey on this issue (*Kyodo Tsushin*, December 1975), 54.7 percent of respondents said the emperor had to be a male and 31.9 percent said that it was OK if a woman became emperor. Fourteen years later, shortly after the death of the controversial Showa Emperor Hirohito, the majority of Japanese still favored male succession. By the late 1990s, that trend had reversed, with nearly 50 percent of respondents in a *Kyodo* survey favoring a female emperor and less than a third wanting the throne limited to a male.



This trend grew stronger after December 2002, when Princess Masako, under great pressure to produce a male heir to the throne, miscarried. When she finally gave birth to a baby girl, Aiko, in November 2002, nearly 69 percent of all respondents favored a female emperor; only 3.7 percent opposed the idea. Today more than 80 percent of the Japanese people are eager to move into an era of female emperors. The Crown Prince’s defense of Masako can only strengthen this trend.

If the Imperial institution, not to mention the whole heritage of monarchy itself, has become more burdensome for the royals than for the Japanese people, does this not reflect the deeper changes that have occurred in Japanese society over the past 60 years? Consider how marital patterns and lifestyles have changed since General MacArthur, for his own short-term political reasons, had the monarchy written into the constitution of Japan.

Today, marriage occurs late, divorces are frequent, women have fewer children and they work after marriage. Conversely, men increasingly take part in child rearing and contribute to housework. In this 21st-century society, with diverse male and female lifestyles, the Imperial Family (thus by extension, the politically powerless monarchy) can no longer function as a model, let alone a symbol of national unity.

This does not mean that neo-nationalist political entrepreneurs see no use-value in the monarchy, or have given up on manipulating the Imperial house for political purposes. The discussion of female succession to the throne has become part of Japan’s constitutional revision debate. And some of the strongest friends of institutionalizing female emperors now look forward to rewriting the constitution in its entirety. How these issues play out in the future remains to be seen. ■

Contributions Welcomed

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PROBING "PRIVACY"

Wither freedom of the press?



May 27 Symposium on "Privacy, Press Freedom & Media Criticism." Panelists included (left to right) Koichi Sasamoto, director, First Editorial Bureau, Bungei Shunju; Hiroshi Iida, editorial advisor, the *Sankei Shimbun*; and nonfiction writer Akira Uozumi.

Correspondents passing through the FCCJ reception in mid-March stood a good chance of being accosted by Japanese colleagues eager to solicit their views on the latest installment in the saga of the Tanaka political clan.

On March 16, the Tokyo District court ordered Bungei Shunju, the publishers of the weekly magazine *Shukan Bunshun*, to halt publication of an issue carrying an article about the eldest daughter of the former Japanese foreign minister and noted self-publicist, Makiko Tanaka.

The weekly, the court said, had violated the younger Tanaka's privacy by relating, over three pages, how she had married against her mother's wishes, divorced and fled home to Japan.

So far, so humdrum. Like many of my colleagues, I took no more than a passing interest in the Tanakas' domestic foibles. None of the British papers, to my knowledge, covered the episode. But looking back, perhaps my insouciance was misplaced.

The court-ordered gagging of *Shukan Bunshun* was the kind of arbitrary attack on the freedom of the press sections that the media had warned of last year when the LDP and its coalition allies passed two controversial laws protecting private information and individual privacy.

Most copies of the offending issue had already made it to the newsstands before the imposition of the ban, which was later overturned by the high court. But for the magazine and others like it, the damage had already been done.

Unedifying though it may have been, the Tanaka debacle has serious implications for an industry already suffering from dwindling readership and advertising sales. So far, the media's response has been fractured and incoherent — just when the situation calls for unity and cohesion.

The reason for that lies partly in the wording of the law, which exempts the newspapers and wire services, yet retains enough ambiguity to enable courts to act against publications that depend on a mixture of hard-hitting investigative

reporting and, yes, salaciousness, for their very survival.

Simply put, for "protection of privacy," the weeklies read "media regulation."

Koichi Sasamoto, a director in the first editorial bureau at Bungei Shunju, says the weeklies' more fearless reporting (whether the Tanaka story comes under this category will be debated later) has made them prime targets for the censors.

"I think that he wanted to teach us a lesson," Sasamoto says of the district court judge who halted publication of the offending issue of *Shukan Bunshun*. "We must be careful when we write a story that it does not exceed the boundaries of what is appropriate for society to be interested in. But which sections of society? We still don't have the perfect answer."

In many ways, though, the Tanaka vs. *Shukan Bunshun* debacle is the wrong test case.

Egotism and disingenuousness reigned on both sides. The plaintiff described the coverage of her divorce — a matter of public record — as a "vicious" infringement of her privacy. Hardly. Bungei Shunju executives, meanwhile, claimed that the daughter's pedigree made her a natural successor to the Tanaka throne and was, therefore, as much of a public figure as private citizen. The Tanakas may be a clan, but they are not royalty — at least not yet.

But the case is instructive in that it demonstrates how the Liberal Democratic Party and its allies may be able to keep the media at arm's length by combining divide and rule with phony appeals to privacy and human rights.

Take the broadsheets. The *Yomiuri Shimbun* wrote favorable editorials about the privacy laws, and the Japan Newspaper Publishers and Editors Association, while expressing concern early in the debate, fudged its response in the face of disagreement among its member publications.

Hiroshi Iida, an editorial adviser at the *Sankei Shimbun*, recognized the temptation to lump Ms. Tanaka in with her better-known relatives, but agreed her privacy had been breached.

But he went on: "Newspaper reporters do not have as much freedom as their counterparts at magazines. If a newspaper had tried to report about Kakuei Tanaka and his scandals, I don't think it would have been possible. So, in a sense, I pay my respects to the reporting of the weeklies."

It is admissions of impotency like that which so exasperates foreign reporters in



Also on the May 27 panel were (Uozumi); Richard Lloyd Parry, Asia editor and Tokyo bureau chief, *The Times*; Robert Neff, contributing editor, *Business Week*; and Yoshisuke Iinuma, then-FCCJ 3rd director-at-large.

Japan, particularly those familiar with the honorable muckraking traditions of the American and British press.

Bob Neff, a contributing editor at *Business Week*, said Japanese broadsheets had deliberately overlooked three of the biggest stories in Japan in the past 25 years — Tanaka Kakuei's financial improprieties, the sex scandal that brought down former Prime Minister Sosuke Uno, and the engagement of Masako and Crown Prince Naruhito — all of which had been broken by the Western press.

"To be that incompetent, that craven, just astounds me," Neff said.

Few Tokyo correspondents have as much firsthand experience of that broadsheet-weekly disparity in editorial judgment than Richard Lloyd Parry, Asia editor and Tokyo correspondent for *The Times*.

Earlier this year, Lloyd Parry reported that Crown Princess Masako was not simply "tired," but had suffered a nervous breakdown for which she was being treated with low-dosage medication.

In researching the story, he discovered most Japanese royal journalists were familiar with the true nature of the health of the princess — who is supported by the taxpayer — but chose not to share it with their readership.

"Japanese journalists have many freedoms which they choose not to use," he said. "What is freedom of the press? What is the value in arguing for freedom of the press if we do not use the freedoms which are there for us to use and exploit?"

One answer is the tendency, driven by fear, towards self-censorship.

"We are faced with a wall and we just cannot look beyond it," says Akira Uozumi, a nonfiction writer. "If I had written about Masako's depression, I

would have had to prepare for attacks by right-wing groups.

"Yes, we are kowtowing to power. That's the reality of the majority of the Japanese media, except that the newspapers bow even lower and deeper than the magazines."

If fear — of retribution by neo-fascist thugs, of being shut out by the coterie of bureaucrats surrounding the Imperial Family and of admonishment by a population generally reverential towards the wealthy and powerful — has persuaded reporters and journalists to gag themselves, what are the prospects for investigative reporting now that the censors have added a legal weapon to their arsenal?

The auguries are not good. The media was on the defensive long before the privacy laws were passed. In the year up to August 2003, they were forced to pay compensation — more than ¥5 million in seven of the cases — in 40 libel suits, according to the National Council to Promote the Ethics of Mass Media.

And it's going to get easier for wealthy, self-important celebrities and politicians to invoke the human rights argument, thereby doing a disservice to the real victims of human rights abuses, who suffer far more than ephemeral embarrassment on the pages of a magazine.

How far, for example, will we be permitted to go in delving into the extraordinary life of the alleged U.S. army deserter, Charles Jenkins, before the privacy-as-a-human-right clause is invoked? How deep will we be able to delve into the peccadilloes of Japan's most public figure, Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, before the court injunctions are served?

Or — and this is more likely — will we have to wait until neither are of diplomatic

or political consequence before learning the truth?

Few journalists, even those on the celebrity scandal beat, interpret "public interest" as meaning "of interest to the public." On the contrary, most accept that in a democracy, the media are duty-bound to reconcile its freedoms with the individual's right to privacy.

The constitution protects both, but then the constitution makes lots of empty promises. Defending freedom of the press solely on constitutional grounds cannot be the quickest, or best, way forward. Neither can we allow ourselves to be fobbed off with the creation of a "watchdog" attached to the Justice Ministry and brimming with *amakudari* appointments to look into alleged violations of the privacy laws.

Some have suggested the creation of a self-regulating body modeled on the Press Complaints Commission in Britain, which investigates and acts on complaints against the media.

Sasamoto and Iida are among the idea's supporters, but doubt it will see the light of day.

"There should be such an organization," Sasamoto says, "but there is a very big gap between the positions of the newspapers and the magazines. To criticize each other is necessary, but it's causing unnecessary tension."

Uozumi's prescription for reducing tension between the newspapers and weeklies is equally hard to envisage. "The kisha clubs should be eliminated altogether. You have these articles by newspapers and reporting on TV that is in accordance with the wishes of the ministries."

Attractive though the prospect is of a vibrant, united print media free of cartelism, it will be a long time coming. And judging by the self-satisfaction and bitterness that divides the newspapers and the weeklies, the privacy debate promises to become even messier.

Taking a stand against media-gagging posing as a crusade for human rights, will require hard choices.

As Lloyd Parry says: "If there is a choice between compromising an individual's right to privacy and compromising the right to freedom of information, we must always compromise the right to privacy."

It is a potentially perilous course of action, but to be silenced by politicians hungry only for the right kind of publicity would be far worse. ■

PHOTOGRAPHS BY AKIKO MIYANE



Yokohama

City by the bay

Yokohama's biggest problem is that it is so close to Tokyo. Often dismissed by those within the suffocating confines of the Yamanote beltway as a mere suburb of the capital, Japan's city by the bay was, in fact, the center of commerce immediately after the opening of Japan, when Edo was just beginning to stir from its long sleep as a string of backwater hamlets.

Want proof of Yokohama's different style? Look no further than City Hall, where Yokohama voters instilled 40-year-old Hiroshi Nakata, a former House of Representatives member from 1st District Kanagawa, as mayor in 2002. Yokohama sent a message to the nation that politics as usual was not welcome. Shintaro Ishihara's coarse rhetoric may grab votes in Tokyo, but the kinder, gentler (and hipper) approach appeals to the electorate of the more urbane Yokohama.

Arrive in Yokohama from Tokyo or elsewhere and chances are you will disembark at one of two city centers: Yokohama Station if you are coming in by the regular JR lines or Shin-Yokohama if you are traveling by Shinkansen. Getting between the two stations, though, can be a trying experience. While the JR Yokohama line connects Yokohama Station with Shin-Yokohama, things aren't as easy as they seem, and it can take a considerable leap of logistics to pull this transfer off in a timely manner. The Yokohama line often, but not always, terminates at Higashi Kanagawa Station, and you must transfer to the JR Keihin Tohoku line – which often, but not always, shares the same platform – to reach Yokohama Station.

It's when you run into the exceptions to this rule, which throw off the transfers, that you find out just how brutal JR's timetables can be in wasting your time. In my personal experience, it has taken up to 25 minutes to go from Shin-Yokohama to Yokohama simply because I was off by 10 seconds on the Higashi Kanagawa transfer.

If you're on a tight schedule, use the subway. Use JR only if you are arriving at Yokohama Station and need to go to points south on the Keihin-Tohoku, Isogo or Yokohama line, such as Sakuragicho, Kannai, Ishikawacho, etc. By the way, JR's last Tokaido line train back to Tokyo leaves Yokohama Station at 17 minutes after midnight and costs ¥450 for the full run up to the Tokyo Station terminal. The last Shinkansen to Tokyo, meanwhile, is the Nozomi 34, which leaves at 23:25.

The Yokohama Metropolitan Subway operates a single line with 32 stations, with another line due to go live in 2006. Each station was given a number in 2002 for the World Cup Final to make things easier for non-Japanese speakers. Riding the five-stop direct trip between Shin-Yokohama (#25) and Yokohama (#20) Stations runs ¥230 and takes a mere 11 minutes.

Need a translator or interpreter? There are several services available. The Yokohama Association for International Communications and Exchanges, which goes by the rather desperate acronym YOKE, serves as a clearinghouse of sorts and is the perfect place to arrange for an interpreter and other English-related services. The Aoba International Lounge has volunteer interpreters on call, although not as many as YOKE. Ability of individual

JAPAN SHERPA

translators does vary greatly. If you are covering a highly specialized or technical topic, ask the association beforehand if they have an interpreter with background in that subject. You can expect to pay at least transportation charges.

Now, we all have had editors constantly harassing us about posting our story. Breathe easy because Yokohama has two branches of Kinko's where you can set up office. One is located at the west exit of Yokohama Station and the other is near JR Kannai Station. Additionally, the city is rife with Internet cafés, especially in the Kannai-Sakuragicho area, most of which charge between ¥200-600/hr. Specifically, I recommend GeraGera near Yokohama Station, which charges ¥380 per hour and has a three-hour pack special for ¥880; and MangaLand in Shin-Yokohama, which rents out Internet booths for ¥400/hr.

There is no shortage of hotels in Yokohama. However, Yokohama is not especially kind to those on a tight budget in terms of accommodations. There are few respectable places under ¥8,000 in the Shin-Yokohama area. The Shin-Yokohama International Hotel, just a five-minute walk from Shin-Yokohama Station, has rooms starting at ¥8,610. Regular rate for a single room in Shin-Yokohama Fuji View Hotel starts at ¥8,085, but the hotel occasionally has campaigns on singles as cheap as ¥5,775, with ADSL-equipped rooms starting at ¥6,930. You can find a slightly better deal in the Yokohama-Minato Mirai area. The Star Hotel Yokohama, located near Yamashita Koen, lists its cheapest single room rates starting at ¥7,200, and the Yokohama Royal Hotel in Chinatown starts its prices at ¥5,775 for a single.

Finally, I would be remiss in my duty as a sherpa if I did not mention the Italian Gelato (いーたりあん・じえらとー in hiragana) bar at the far end of the Diamond underground shopping mall off the west exit of Yokohama Station, close to the Sheraton Hotel. If you want to experience a frozen taste explosion, take 10 minutes and go. This little hole-in-the-wall simply has the best gelato I have had anywhere on the planet. A rainbow of gourmet flavors and prices ranging between ¥220-420 a cup make this a very sweet deal, indeed. Banana, cinnamon, kahlua milk and dark cherry are among my favorites.

—John Lawrence

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YOKE

Web site: www.yoke.city.yokohama.jp/english/services/interpretingE.html

Yokohama Community Lounge Information Corner

Tel: 045-664-4665
Web site: www.yoke.city.yokohama.jp/info_corner/index-e.html

Aoba International Lounge

Web site: www2.ocn.ne.jp/%7Eaoba/
Tel: 045-971-2040

Hodogaya International Exchange Center

Web site: www3.tky.3web.ne.jp/%7Ehiec/
Tel: 045-337-0012

Konan International Lounge

Web site: www.yk.rim.or.jp/%7Emk01-kil/ehome/index.htm
Tel: 045-848-0990

Kohoku International Lounge

Web site: homepage2.nifty.com/kohokulounge/
Tel: 045-430-5670

SUBWAY GUIDE:

Web site: www.city.yokohama.jp/me/koutuu/sub/rosen_time_kounaizu.html

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Kinko's Yokohamaeki-Nishiguchi Branch

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Kinko's Kannai Branch

Tel: 045-640-5381

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Yokohama Station:
Tel: 045-321-5799 (24 hr. open/Japanese-language only)
Kaito Bldg. 2F-5F, Minami Sawai 2-14-2
Nishi-ku, Yokohama

MangaLand

Shin Yokohama Station:
Tel: 045-475-5220 (24 hr. open/Japanese-language only)
Shin-Yoko Rupo Bldg. 3F, 3-7-7 Shin-Yokohama, Kouhoku-ku, Yokohama

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Shin-Yokohama Fuji View Hotel

Tel: 045-473-0021

Star Hotel Yokohama

Tel: 045-651-3111

Yokohama Royal Hotel

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OSAKA DIARY

Tales from the Wild, Wild West

She blew it

It was hardly a secret that many journalists in Osaka were pulling hard for former SDP gadfly Kiyomi Tsujimoto to win a seat in the July Upper House elections.

But it was not meant to be. Tsujimoto ran a lackluster campaign, and her support base never expanded beyond the left-wing NPOs and NGOs who traditionally supported her. She spent most of her campaign apologizing for past misdeeds, and said little of substance on policy matters. In short, she sounded like the typical politician that we are all-too-familiar with, not the fiery populist of old.

On election night, I did get a close-up view of the lengths to which some media were going to support her. A large television network connected to a conservative, even right-wing, media conglomerate mocked by foreigners as the "Garbage Selling" newspaper (you figure out the Japanese translation) nevertheless decided

on a piece of theater to support her. The announcer was filmed with his back to a group of supporters in Tsujimoto's campaign office to watch the returns.

If you were watching TV, it looked like a large number of Tsujimoto supporters were anxiously awaiting the results. But, as soon as the director said, "cut," nearly three-fourths of the "supporters" suddenly stood up and walked out. It turns out many were not Tsujimoto supporters, but rather TV crews or others asked to pretend like they were supporters. I'm not a TV producer, so maybe this kind of thing is common. But the whole action was fundamentally dishonest and yet another reason why we should watch Japanese TV news with a very skeptical eye, indeed.

No thanks, sailor

Over the past decade or so, Osakans have often shaken their heads at Kobe's mimicking of Osaka. Osaka gets a new airport?

Kobe will build one, too. Osaka gets a new international center? Kobe will build one, too. Osaka will promote IT investment? Well, so will Kobe.

But it now appears that Osaka may be mimicking Kobe in a way that the United States will not appreciate. Thirty years ago, Kobe passed a resolution forcing ships entering the harbor to declare if they were carrying nuclear weapons. The resolution was designed to keep U.S. warships out of Kobe harbor, as the United States then, as now, refused to make any such declaration.

In late July, Osaka city hall was considering something similar to the Kobe resolution. U.S. warships have visited Osaka on a number of occasions of late, prompting the measure from politicians who oppose the U.S.-Japan Security Treaty. The mayor of Osaka has expressed his opposition, but the fact that city hall is debating such a measure shows that opposition to the U.S. military in this part of Japan is hardly limited to a few antiwar activists.

—Eric Johnston, editor

Gadget Guru**Bang for Your Buck**

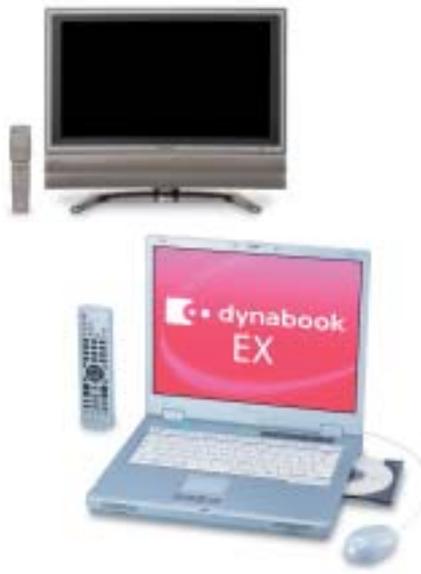
Perhaps it's the mass of gadgets on display or the frenzied atmosphere, but I always feel like I'm looking at great prices in Japanese electronics stores. But there's a difference between a great price and the best price, and the Internet is helping sort that out.

Comparison shopping sites scan prices at multiple Web sites and report back all the prices. It's a quick way to shop and worth trying next time you want to buy something.

To test these services out, I shopped for three products: the Sanyo voice recorder introduced in last month's column, a 26-inch Sharp LCD TV and a Toshiba notebook computer. Prices from three sites, Kakaku.com, Bestgate.net and Coneco.net, were compared with those from BIC Camera, across the street from the FCCJ.

The Sanyo product was priced as low as ¥21,800 online versus BIC Camera's ¥24,800. The Sharp TV could be found as cheap as ¥238,450, versus BIC Camera's ¥289,800. The cheapest online price for the Toshiba notebook was ¥188,000, versus BIC Camera's ¥212,800.

So there's money to be saved with a little searching, even after the shipping charges. But don't write off conventional stores just yet. Many are open to haggling, especially if you've done your research and can point to a better price somewhere else in the area. Some larger stores award points for purchases, which can be used to make subsequent



purchases and will give you a better price if you use cash.

In some stores, they'll also offer a longer guarantee than the maker's in exchange for giving you fewer points. For the peace of mind this sometimes brings, it could be worth considering.

Kakaku.com is at www.kakaku.com; Bestgate.net is at www.bestgate.net and Coneco.net is at www.coneco.com. BIC Camera is online at www.biccamera.com.

— Martyn Williams

Tokyo correspondent for IDG News Service

Kristen's Corner**Enhancing Your Computer's Performance**

I just wanna say one word to you: RAM. But one word doesn't fill this column, so let me tell you why you want more RAM, aka computer memory, how to figure out what you need and how to install it.

RAM is one component that makes up the brainpower of your computer. The

other two are your CPU's generation (Pentium III) and clock speed (800 Mhz).

Adding more RAM is like taking a speed-reading course – a one-time event that pays back with speed. In comparison, upgrading the main CPU chip is similar to doing a brain transplant; we're not going to go there today.

Increasing your computer's RAM allows you to run more programs simultaneously and makes everything a bit perkier. If your word processor can't keep up with your typing, then you need more memory. If you have to wait while large image files open in Photoshop, more memory will help you. If your computer just seems sluggish, more RAM will probably speed it up.

The good news is it's really easy to add more memory. The only tricky thing is figuring out which memory to buy. Every computer has a maximum amount of RAM it can accept and a specific format it requires. To find out what kind of RAM to buy, you need to know your computer's make and model number. In Windows, get this information from the System Information tool. On a Mac, look for the System Profiler.

Armed with those details, you can go to an online memory shop. There's no need for research to find out whether you need SDRAM or DRAM or any other arcane acronym. Just point your browser to www.memoryx.net, www.4allmemory.com and www.memorycity.com, and see what's available by drilling down through the menus: manufacturer, model and model number.

Once you have memory in hand, what do you do with it? If you have confidence, you can install it yourself. Open your computer's case. Inside, you'll see your hard drive, the motherboard full of chips and capacitors (the big square chip is the CPU), and smaller memory cards, arrayed in slots. Put your new memory into the next slots. Close the case and turn on your computer. The machine should automatically start using the new memory.

A small caution: depending on your machine and what RAM you purchased, you might have to take out the old chips and replace them with the new ones. The online vendors where you figured out which memory to buy have more detailed instructions on what to do, as does your computer manufacturer's Web site.

— Kristen McQuillin
FCCJ Webmaster

The train ride south to Phnom Penh after the night in Kompong Chhnang was pure anti-climax.

It was mid-June 1970 and foreign journalists had been permitted into Cambodia after General Lon Nol orchestrated a coup d'état in March while Prince Norodom Sihanouk was visiting friends in Beijing. The Vietnam War was in full swing and Cambodia, Vietnam's near neighbor to the west, was no longer neutral.

To curry favor with the Nixon Administration in Washington, the General had invited the Army of the Republic of South Vietnam (ARVN) to spend a month in Cambodia on a search-and-destroy mission. Objective: to root out COSVN, the southern headquarters of the Viet Cong that U.S. intelligence had pinpointed (erroneously) in eastern Cambodia.

ARVN forces swept in-country and began beating the Cambodian bushes with the enthusiastic backing and full logistical support of United States commanders in Saigon and Washington. Since the search was dull and unproductive, Sydney Schanberg of the *New York Times*, Don Shannon of the *Los Angeles Times* and I headed north one morning in search of something newsworthy.

We got more than we bargained for. The day began quietly and our Cambodian driver-interpreter stopped our rented Peugeot station wagon in a village outside

Phnom Penh to purchase a baguette breakfast from roadside peddlers. The French had not been in charge of their colony in any force since the Dien Bien Phu debacle in 1954, but their influence lingered. The countryside looked peaceful as we drove northwest around Tonle Sap (the Great Lake) in the middle of Cambodia, except for occasional highway checkpoints manned by carefree soldiers who waved us on with wide smiles.

The drive through Battambang, Cambodia's second-largest city, was slowed by traffic but equally peaceful. By noon we were in Siem Reap, the town that supported visitors to Angkor Wat until earlier that month when Viet Cong guerrillas occupied the ancient ruins. Tourism quickly evaporated after visitors encountered grim young men bearing AK-47s among the crumbling stone friezes, and at lunch we had the dining room in the Siem Reap Hotel almost to ourselves.

I had flown into Phnom Penh from Hong Kong on June 1, to relieve Jim Wallace, the *U.S. News & World Report* bureau chief in Saigon, and was eager to see Angkor. "Would a quick in and out be possible," I asked our waiter.

"In? *Mais oui*," he said, "only eight kilometers down that road." He smiled. "But you may have trouble getting out."

We decided to pass on Angkor and headed instead for the Thai border, scene

of recent fighting and perennial smuggling, stopping en route at a Cambodian army base in Sisophon. The Cambodian military, like ARVN, did not let a war interfere with their normal routine and the gate was unmanned. It was siesta time, and officers and men were sound asleep.

At base headquarters, a sleepy aide reluctantly roused his even sleepier Commanding Officer who joined us on the porch clad in a sarong-like *longi* to offer languid answers to our questions. All was well. His troops were alert and able. The VC would soon be driven out of the country. We pressed on westward to Poipet on the border across from Aranyaprathet in Thailand. Vendors selling everything from fruit to kitchenware lined the road there; and local entrepreneurs, many in motorized cyclos and motorcycles with sidecars, moved freely past checkpoints into and back from Thailand.

However, despite entreaties to the bored border officer in charge of immigration, customs and smuggling, we did not pass muster or checkpoints. The trip had been unproductive; it was only mid-afternoon, and we decided we had plenty of time to reach Phnom Penh before dark.

We were wrong.

(to be continued in October 2004 issue)

— Mack Chryslers

AROUND THE CLUB

Tsuneaki Ishizaka

Kitchen

An interest in chemistry as a youth has turned into a career of sorts for Tsuneaki Ishizaka, who has worked in the kitchen for over 17 years. It was not the chance to experiment with the stomachs of FCCJ members that drew him to work at FCCJ, but rather the diverse group of humanity that makes working at the Club very interesting, he says. When not working, Ishizaka-san is likely to be found on the road traveling, or reading history



Kazuyoshi Tominaga

Kitchen

While Tsuneaki Ishizaka had dreams of being a chemist as a youth, Kazuyoshi Tominaga wanted to sail away, as the captain of his own ship. After nearly three decades in the galley of the *FCCJ Maru*, though, he doesn't regret his career choice.

"I had also wanted to learn how to cook foods from around the world, so FCCJ was a great place to do so," he says.

When not serving plates of food, Tominaga-san can usually be found on the tennis court, serving balls. He insists there is no truth to the reports that Kimiko Date once urged him to turn professional.



— Akiko Miyake

NEW BOOK LIST FOR SEPTEMBER 2004

Japanese Foreign Policy at the Crossroads

Kawashima, Yutaka
Brookings Institution Press

Measuring Judicial Independence

Rasmussen, Eric B.
The University of Chicago Press

Eats, Shoots & Leaves

Truss, Lynne
Profile Books

Sake with Desserts

Tejima, Makiko
Gap Japan Co., Ltd.
Gift from Megumi Kaneko

Nenkin no Higeki

Iwase, Tatsuya
Kodansha
Gift from Tatsuya Iwase

The Future Revealed the Japanese Way

Tanaka, Yoshimi ed.
Kodansha International
Gift from Junichiro Yamaguchi

Koun Seimei Handan

Yamaguchi, Junichiro
Dynamic Sellers
Gift from Junichiro Yamaguchi

The Savage Nation

Savage, Michael
Plume Book
Gift from Steven L Herman

Hanzai naki Hanei o Mezashite

Shikita, Minoru
Mainichi Shimbunsha
Gift from Minoru Shikita

Iraq Senso, Nihon no Unmei, Koizumi no Unmei

Tachibana, Takashi
Kodansha
Gift from Takashi Tachibana

Bergdorf Blondes

Sykes, Plum
Miramax Books

Founding Mothers

Roberts, Cokie
HarperCollins

The Narrows

Connelly, Michael
Little, Brown

Food of Japan

Booth, Shirley
Interlink Books

Adobe Photoshop CS

McClelland, Deke
Deke Press/O'Reilly Media, Inc.

The Autobiography of Benvenuto Cellini

Cellini, Benvenuto
Black's Readers Service Company
Gift from Swadesh DeRoy

Love as a Second Language

Garner, Roy
iUniverse, Inc.
Gift from Roy Garner

Tell Me Lies

Miller, David ed.
Pluto Press

Tsukiji

Bestor, Theodore C.
Univ. of California Press
Gift from Theodore C. Bestor

Pompeii

Harris, Robert
Hutchinson
Gift from Eugen Mall

Classic Bonsai of Japan

Nippon Bonsai Association ed.
Kodansha International
Gift from Kodansha International

New Tastes in Green Tea

Tokunaga, Mutsuko
Kodansha International
Gift from Kodansha International

The Connoisseur's Book of Japanese Swords

Nagayama, Kokan
Kodansha International
Gift from Kodansha International

Karate

Kanazawa, Hirokazu
Kodansha International
Gift from Kodansha International

The Art of Aikido

Ueshiba, Kisshomaru
Kodansha International
Gift from Kodansha International

The Canon of Judo

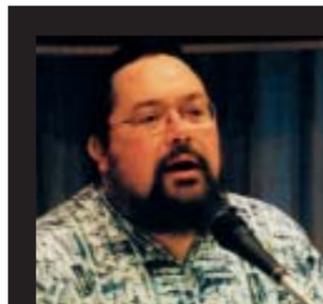
Mifune, Kyuzo
Kodansha International
Gift from Kodansha International

The Way of Ninja

Hatsumi, Masaaki
Kodansha International
Gift from Kodansha International

The New Zen Garden

Cali, Joseph
Kodansha International
Gift from Kodansha International



Book Break

Left: Theodore C. Bestor (left), professor of anthropology and Japanese studies at Harvard University, spoke about his *Tsukiji* book at the July 20 Book Break.

Right: Robert Whiting, an FCCJ member since 1982, spoke about his *The Meaning of Ichiro: The New Wave from Japan and the Transformation of Our National Pastime* book at the July 6 Book Break. Whiting's first bestseller was *The Chrysanthemum and the Bat*, and he is also author of such influential books as *You Gotta Have Wa* and *Tokyo Underworld*.



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1, 2. The FCCJ 2004 Spring Golf Tournament took place on Sat., May 29, at the Asagiri Country Club, in Fujinomiya City, Shizuoka Prefecture. The Integrated Winner of the tournament was Hideya Yonesato; also in attendance was (left to right) Koreo Hirayama (Foreign Minister Cup Winner), Takayoshi Miyauchi and Isao Saotome.



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3, 4. During a Sayonara Party on July 26, long-time member Pat Killen was presented with a Lifetime Membership by President Anthony Rowley. Pat's wife Miyoko and daughter Kimberley joined in the celebration.
5. Chef Mario Frittoli of the premier Italian restaurant Luxor in Shirokanedai was the star attraction at the June 23 "Guest Chefs from the World Series."



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6, 7, 8, 9, 10. Australia Night, Traditional Fun and Food from Down Under, took place on July 28, attended by Andy Bevar, who played the *didgeridoo*, an Aboriginal instrument; Phil Ingram, minister-counsellor (marketing), Embassy of Australia; Robert Neff, moderator of the event; and Shin Nagatomo, president, Vancel Inc. (kangaroo meat).

11. Violinist Madoka Suzuki (second prize at the Japan Chamber Music Competition), cellist Saeko Tominaga (graduate of the Julliard School of Music and winner of the 24th Artist International Young Artist Audition in New York) and pianist Kyoko Sasaki (awarded the "The Finest Accompanist of the 10th Tchaikovsky International Competition") performed at the 2004 Classic Concert Series V on June 25.



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PHOTOGRAPHS BY AKIHO MIYAKE AND MICHIO KOBAYASHI

Mario Schmidt



Mario Schmidt was born in 1969 in Bielfeld, Germany, and studied in Jerusalem in the 1990s, before going to work for ZDF in Magdeburg, Saxony-Anhalt in 1997. In 1998 and 1999, he did an apprenticeship at Norddeutscher Rundfunk (NDR). Between 2002 and 2004, he worked at NDR's foreign affairs department. Schmidt was in charge of the magazine *Weltspiegel* at NDR, and did news reports from several countries in Europe, Asia and the Middle East. Since May 1999, he has been ARD's East-Asia correspondent and Tokyo bureau chief.

Regular Members

Marco Kauffmann
Tages-Anzeiger



Mario Schmidt
ARD German Television

Professional/Journalist
Associate Member

Takane Kawashima
Meiji University

Associate Members

Woo Chull Chung
Asian Development Bank

Kenjiro Abe
Dentsu Young & Rubicam Inc.

Kosuke Ohhashi
Dentsu Young & Rubicam Inc.

Masaru Ishizumi
Kanagawa University

Ken Ogata
Freelance

Tomoyuki Harada
AALL and Company Limited

Kazumichi Otsubo
Nihon Trim Co., Ltd.



Newly elected FCCJ President Anthony Rowley paid a courtesy call on Senior Police Superintendent Yasuo Ueyama at the Marunouchi Police Station on July 12. The Marunouchi Station is responsible for security in our area, and as the Club frequently hosts visits by VIPs, it is important that we maintain close links with officers there. We are very grateful to them for their help and cooperation in this very important task. (from left): Seishi Yoda, general manager; Anthony Rowley, president; Yasuo Ueyama, senior police superintendent; Kinji Yamada, acting security chief; and Koji Ogawa, general affairs manager.



The Greg Davis Memorial Photojournalism Panel Discussion, on the topic of "The State of Photography and Journalism," was held July 1, with (from top left, clockwise) Masako Sakata, wife of Greg Davis, in attendance. The panel consisted of Marcus Bensmann, journalist; Philip Jones Griffiths, photographer and author; and Ryuichi Hirokawa, photojournalist and editor-in-chief of *Days Japan*. Photojournalist Greg Davis worked for some of the world's most influential news magazines during his 30-year career. People close to him believe that exposure to Agent Orange (at the age of 18 in Vietnam) may have contributed to his death on May 4, 2003, at the age of 54.

PHOTOGRAPHS OF PANELISTS BY AKIKO MIYAKE

PHOTOGRAPHS BY AKIKO MIYAKE

September Shows

The schedule of shows at the Club for September was not available at the time of going to press, so please refer to the FCCJ Notices at the beginning of the month for details.

— Exhibitions Committee

Guess Who Came to Dinner (Lunch)?



Donald J. Johnston Dr. William F. Vendley Dr. Fuad Muhsin Hamash Katsuya Okada Prof. Eisuke Sakakibara Katsuhiko Machida Jonny Wilkinson

Donald J. Johnston, secretary-general, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) – July 21.

Inter-Religious Council of Iraq, "Iraqi Religious Leaders Harmonize the Aspects of Their Country's Future" – **Dr. Hayder Abdul Karim Abdul Amir**, WORP local coordinator in Iraq; **Dr. William F. Vendley**, secretary general, World Conference of Religions for Peace (WCRP). The other delegation members are **Dr. Humam Mohammad Baqir Hamoudi**, senior representative of the Supreme Council of Islamic Revolution in Iraq; **Dr. Fuad Muhsin Hamash**, senior representative of the Iraqi Islamic Party; **Sheikh Hayder Abdulzahraa Ereebi**, special representative of Ayatollah Seyed Hussein Al-Sader in Alkhdimiya Hawza; **Majid Ismail Mohammad**, representative of Kurdish Ulama Committee; **Dr. Abdul Salam Al-Kubeisy**, representative of the Ulama Committee in Iraq; **Archbishop Gabriel Hana Kassab**, representative of Patriarch Emanuel Dely; **Sayed Hassan Bahralulom**, representative of Ayatollah Seyed Mohammad Saeed Al-Hakim of El-Hawza of Najaf City; and **Abdulkarim Abdul Amir Habib**, advisor to WCRP in Iraq – July 23.

Katsuya Okada, president, Democratic Party of Japan – July 22.

Prof. Eisuke Sakakibara, director, Global Security Research Center, Keio University – "A Post-Election Paradigm Shift?" – July 15.

Katsuhiko Machida, president, Sharp Corp. – "One of a Kind Management and "Made in Japan" Manufacturing" – July 14.

Jonny Wilkinson, 2003 Rugby World Cup hero, July 9.

Takao Toshikawa, editor, *Tokyo Insiderline* – "Predicting the Polls" – July 6.

Prof. Yoshihiro Tsurumi, City University of New York – "The U.S. Presidential Election and the Japanese Economy" – July 2.

Ira Shapiro, Clinton Administration insider on the upcoming U.S. Presidential Election – June 30.

Teruaki Masumoto, candidate for the House of Councilors election and kin of alleged abductee (North Korea) – June 29.

Takashi Tachibana, journalist – "Destiny of Japan, Destiny of Koizumi" – June 28.

Yo Tsumoto, historical novelist – "The Father of Japanese Industry" (Shibusawa Eiichi) – June 16.

Stephen J. Gomersall, Her Britannic Majesty's ambassador to Japan – "Japan/UK Relations" – June 18.

Saisuree Chutikul, former Cabinet minister (1991-92) and UN delegate for the National Commission on Women's Affairs, Thailand; **Mitsuko Horiuchi**, special regional advisor on Gender Issues and director of the International Labour Organisation Office in Japan; **Mu Sochua**, minister for Women's and Veterans' Affairs, Cambodia; and **Melanne Vermeer**, chairman of the Board of the Vital Voices Global Partnership – "Strategies for Combating Human Trafficking in Asia" – June 25.



Takao Toshikawa Ira Shapiro Teruaki Masumoto Takashi Tachibana Yo Tsumoto Saisuree Chutikul Mitsuko Horiuchi

Abe Fellowship Program

www.ssrc.org/fellowships/abe.
Tel: 03-5562-3506
Fax: 03-5562-3504
E-mail: ssrcABE@gol.com

The Abe Fellowship Program has been accepting applications for the 2004 competition up to September 1 (each year). The program supports individual research on:

- a) Global Issues
- b) Problems Common to Industrial and Industrializing Societies
- c) Issues that Pertain to U.S.-Japan Relations

Proposals should have a contemporary focus, be policy-relevant and show a comparative or transnational perspective. The Abe Fellowship Program is administered by the Social Science Research Council, in cooperation with the Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership, and with funds provided by CGP.

Citizens of the United States and Japan, as well as other nationals who can demonstrate a serious long-term affiliation in the research communities of either country, may apply. Applications from professions other than academia, such as journalism or the law, are welcome. Applicants must hold the Ph.D. or the terminal degree in their field, or have attained an equivalent level of professional experience. Previous language training is not a prerequisite.

Abe Fellows are eligible for up to 12 months of full-time support, which need not be continuous.

On-line Membership Directory

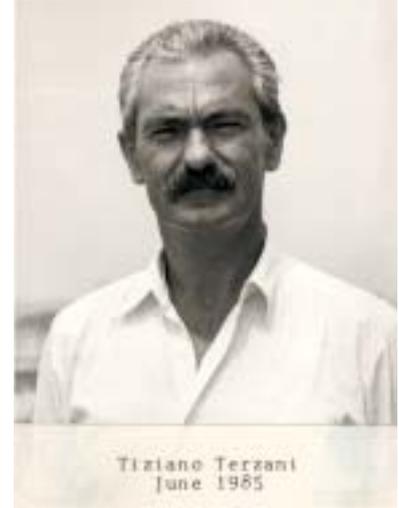
With a few clicks, you can share information about yourself with Club colleagues. This is a great opportunity to promote yourself to your fellow journalists or to offer your expertise.

The on-line membership directory contains the names of all of the FCCJ members with Web site accounts (currently 1,664 of about 2,100 total Club members) and can only be seen by members who log in to the FCCJ Web site.

WANT AN ACCOUNT?

If you do not already have a Web site account, please contact Naomichi Iwamura in the Club office. If you have an account, but need help getting logged in or using the site, drop an e-mail to webmaster@fccj.or.jp.

Obituary Tiziano Terzani



To All Members: It is with profound regret and sadness that we acknowledge the death of Tiziano Terzani, one of the great figures of Asian journalism and a Regular member of this Club from 1985 to 1990. Terzani, who died from cancer at the age of 65 at his home near Florence on July 28, had become something of a legend in his own time after a long and distinguished career as a journalist and writer. His untimely passing has been commemorated in the international press.

A former Vietnam War correspondent and long-time Asia correspondent for the German news weekly, *Der Spiegel*, as well as for Italian publications including *Corriere della Sera* and *La Repubblica*, Terzani was greatly admired and respected by "Asia hands" and other veteran correspondents around the world. Journalism will certainly be the poorer for his passing. He was also a man who will be remembered for his habitual courtesy and kindness – a gentleman among journalists.

He left behind many literary legacies, including one book that recounts his own battle with cancer. The Club extends its sincere condolences to Terzani's wife Angela and to his two children, Fulco and Saskia.

The Club will be commemorating Terzani's life and work with a suitable tribute and details will be announced as soon as possible.

— Anthony Rowley, President
August 2, 2004

General Membership Meeting

Monday
September 13
6:30 p.m.

Regular Members
are urged to attend
the next GMM,
held on September 13,
Monday, from 6:30 p.m.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS,
LOG ON TO YOUR CLUB'S
WEB SITE AT
WWW.FCCJ.OR.JP.