



Bulletin

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB OF AMERICA, NEW YORK, NY • January 2013

Rohde to Speak at Foundation Scholars Luncheon

EVENT PREVIEW: FEBRUARY 22

by Jane Reilly

David Rohde, foreign affairs columnist for Reuters and two-time winner of the Pulitzer Prize, will be the keynote speaker at the annual OPC Foundation Scholarship Luncheon on Friday, February 22 at the Yale Club. At the event, the Foundation will award a combination of scholarships and funded internships to 14 graduate and undergraduate college students aspiring to become foreign correspondents. The scholarship recipients who emerged from an incredibly competitive field of more than 160 applications from 70 colleges and universities are from American University in Cairo, Cambridge University (England), Columbia University, CUNY Graduate School of Journalism, Dartmouth College, New York University, Temple University, University of California-Berkeley and the University of Minnesota.

The OPC Foundation scholarship program has grown dramatically in the past two decades and is now considered the most prominent scholarship program in the country for aspiring correspondents. This year's

applicants came from a wide range of academic institutions and from every region of the country, demonstrating the program's broad appeal. William J. Holstein, OPC Foundation president, noted, "No one else is doing what we are doing."

The OPC Foundation awards are given in the names of eminent journalists and media organizations. New this year will be the awarding of the first Nathan S. Bienstock Memorial Scholarship, endowed by the Richard Leibner and Carole Cooper Family Foundation. Bienstock was the founder of the N.S. Bienstock Inc. Talent Agency which has been recognized as the leading agency in electronic journalism. Leibner is an OPC member.

Besides addressing a distinguished audience of more than 200 luncheon guests, the scholarship



David Rohde

winners go to Reuters Times Square headquarters for the traditional reception with current and past winners the night before the luncheon. A breakfast will be hosted by Holstein and after lunch, the group tours the Associated Press headquarters and meets with veteran journalists.

For many, says Holstein, the opportunity to meet and observe prominent journalists is as valuable as any monetary award.

Media organizations have continued to cut back their international operations and, to the extent they do cover global stories, their coverage tends to be sporadic. Holstein readily acknowledges there is little the Foundation can do to reverse that trend, but adds, "What we can do, and what we have been doing with great success, is identify bright stu-

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New Book Captures Calcutta in Photos

EVENT PREVIEW: FEBRUARY 20

by Sonya K. Fry

OPC member Steven Raymer's five-year photographic project depicts Calcutta, a city of 15 million people, as a cultural, literary and intellectual center. His new book *Redeeming Calcutta: A Portrait of India's Imperial Capital* [Oxford University Press] features such stories as migrant workers in the jute industry, 6,000 licensed rickshaw drivers and tasters of the largest tea auctioneer in the world. In addition to the photography, there is an essay



Steven Raymer in Calcutta.

on the history of Calcutta.

His photos also present the decrepit Victorian-era buildings left over from the time when Calcutta

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dents who wish to become foreign correspondents, support their efforts, and help them launch careers in international journalism.” In providing them a network of support, he says, “We are upholding the notion that it is a noble calling to take the first rough cut at history by being present to witness the often tumultuous changes occurring in the world and then explaining those events.”

It is precisely to help these students launch overseas careers that the Foundation began and has now expanded its internship program. Begun in 2006 with one AP intern, the program in 2012 funded eight scholars, who are chosen from among the scholarship winners, for internships at AP bureaus in Bangkok, Jerusalem, Johannesburg and Moscow, and to Reuters bureaus in Beijing, Shanghai and Kuala Lumpur. The Foundation also sent its first Forbes intern to the *Forbes Asia* bureau in Mumbai, India. The Foundation picks up the cost of the airfare and one month’s living expenses for the winners. Interns usually use their own funds to extend their stays.

Holstein is especially pleased that someone of Rohde’s stature in the industry is addressing this year’s winners. Rohde won his first Pulitzer Prize in 1996 and the OPC Hal Boyle Award for a series of stories in *The Christian Science Monitor* that helped uncover the massacre of 8,000 Muslims in the town of Srebrenica in Bosnia. He won his second Pulitzer in 2009 as part of an eight-reporter team from *The New York Times* for their coverage of Afghanistan and Pakistan. While in Afghanistan in November 2008, he was kidnapped by members of the Taliban and spent seven months in captivity before managing to escape in June 2009. *A Rope and a Prayer: A Kidnapping from Two Sides*, the book he co-wrote with his wife Kristen Mulvihill in 2010.

Rohde began his career at ABC News in 1990 and then headed overseas as a freelance reporter based in the Baltic republics, Cuba and Syria. He served as a county and municipal reporter for *The Philadelphia Inquirer* from July 1993 to June 1994 before joining *The Christian Science Monitor*. He initially covered national news, before becoming the newspaper’s Eastern European correspondent. He joined *The New York Times* in April 1996 and worked for them through mid-2011 when he joined Reuters. He reported from Afghanistan for the first three months of the U.S.-led war against the Taliban and served as co-chief of the *Times*’s South Asia bureau from 2002 to 2005. He is also the author of *Endgame: The Betrayal and Fall of Srebrenica, Europe’s Worst Massacre Since World War II* (1997) and *Beyond War: Reimagining American Influence in a New Middle East*, which will be published in April.

Holstein is grateful to Bloomberg for hosting the judging and to the panel of judges who chose the 2013 recipients: Jacqueline Albert-Simon, *Politique Internationale*; John Daniszewski, AP; Bob Dowling; Eddie Evans, Reuters; Allan Dodds Frank; Jonathan Gage, Boston Consulting Group; Sharon Gamsin; Sally Jacobsen, AP; Felice Levin; Jeremy Main; Larry Martz; Rosalind Mas-sow; Kate McLeod; Steve Swanson, The New York Botanical Garden; and Karen Toulon, Bloomberg.

Luncheon tickets are \$75 for OPC members and \$125 for non-members. The Foundation encourages media and corporate support at its three levels of giving: Benefactors, \$9,000; Patrons, \$6,000; and Friends, \$3,000. Tables seat 10. The reception is at 11:30 a.m.; the luncheon ends promptly at 2 p.m. All proceeds benefit the OPC Foundation. For more information, contact Jane Reilly at 201-493-9087 or foundation@opcofamerica.org.

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Holiday Party Kicks Off OPC's 2013 Event Calendar

EVENT RECAP: JANUARY 3

by Susan Kille

Was it that the maddening last weeks of December were over? Or perhaps it was the flattering rosy light of overhead heat lamps? Whatever it was, the OPC members at the Holiday Party on January 3 looked both relaxed and animated.

They were relaxed among friends while animated by those friends. Shifting small groups kept up a buzz of conversations at the tables and in the open spaces of the Terrace Club at the Rockefeller Center Club Quarters. Members home from an overseas posting for a holiday visit, such as Jim Brooke, Moscow bureau chief for Voice of America, added their faces, voices and flavor.

An open bar, antipasti, spreads, dim sum and dessert also added to the festive mood.

Minky Worden of Human Rights Watch made a late arrival after getting her three children into bed but yet, she still walked off as the winner of the evening's raffle. Vivienne Walt, who lives in Paris, reached in and drew out the winning ticket.

The night air was in the 30s as members ventured onto an outdoor 7th floor deck to see Rockefeller Center's Christmas tree. Sparkling lights on the tree and silvery flags waving around the ice rink were worth a brief, bracing reporting trip to be an eyewitness.

The OPC, which skipped a party during the 2012 holiday season, returned to the site of parties in 2010 and 2011. With 45 attendees checked in by Jane Reilly, executive director of the OPC Foundation, and Boots Duque, OPC office assistant, the evening was called a success by Sonya Fry, OPC executive director. And, after the bartender gave the "last call," a sizable group continued the animated conversation at the hotel's adjacent bar.



From left: Robert Nickelsberg, Allan Dodds Frank, Jane Reilly, Sonya Fry, Jim Brooke, Michael Serrill and Bill Holstein



Vivienne Walt who came from her home in Paris, Board member Sarah Lubman, Brunswick Group and Michael Serrill, OPC President.

Photos: Sonya K. Fry

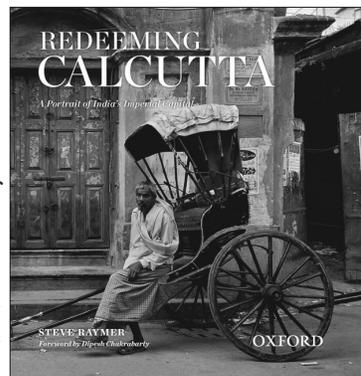


From left: Bill Holstein, OPC Foundation President; James Brooke, Voice of America in Moscow and Brion Tingler of Lenovo

(Book Night Continued From Page 1)
was capital of British India. He contrasts them with sprawling modern high-rises in Satellite Town and with the Howrah Bridge that carries more than 100,000 vehicles and a half-million pedestrians daily. Raymer, a consummate storyteller, will project his images onto a screen at the book night.

Raymer is currently a professor at Indiana University School of Journalism. Previously he directed the National Geographic Society News Service and was a *National*

Geographic magazine staff photographer working in some 90 countries. He received the "Magazine Photographer of the Year" by the National Press Photographers Association in 1976 and a citation for excellence from the OPC in 1981 for his work on the worldwide trade in endangered animals. Raymer and the OPC collaborated on a program



in the Fall of 2007 at the Asia Society on his book *Images of a Journey: India in Diaspora*.

The Book Night at Club Quarters, 40 West 45 Street, will begin at 6 p.m. with a Reception and the Talk at 6:30 p.m.

Books will be available at a discounted price. To RSVP, call the OPC at 212-626-9220 or e-mail sonya@opcofamerica.org.

Getting the Story When the News Cycle Once Paused

by Jim Michaels

In 1963 foreign correspondents were facing a changing world: a rising tide of nationalism and the emerging importance of economic news.

On top of that, technology was changing the way news was covered. “Jet travel” was capable of whisking reporters to any point of the globe.

It was fitting that the 1963 issue of *Dateline*, the OPC awards journal, was dedicated to the next generation of correspondents. Searching a box filled with old family photos and high school report cards, my daughter stumbled across the musty 1963 edition. I was about to toss it aside when I noticed my dad’s name on the first page as guest editor.

“The rules of the foreign reporting game have changed,” my dad wrote in the introduction.

At the time, he was the editor of *Forbes* magazine, where he would earn legendary status for overhauling the way Americans consumed and covered business news. But it wasn’t surprising he maintained a close connection to the OPC where he could drink and socialize with men who had a shared experience.

World War II had given Americans a taste for global news and at the same time spawned a generation of foreign correspondents who would learn their trade covering combat, tribal wars and revolutions and telexing tales back to an American public hungry for world news.

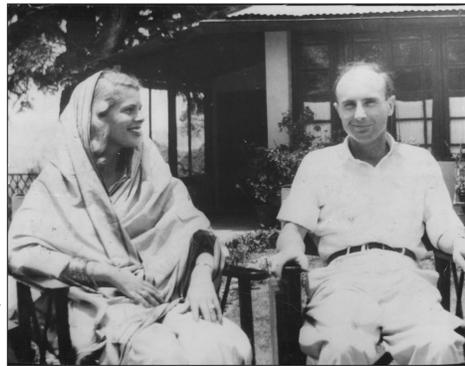
My dad, who died in 2007, stumbled into journalism after the war, joining the United Press (later UPI) in India. His boss at the Office of War Information, recommended him for the UP job, with a warning. “I would generally be over my head, outnumbered two or three to one by AP, and would either learn fast or sink,” my dad once recalled. In other words, it was the perfect job.

Even in later years his office walls at *Forbes* held few photos of him with heads of state or corporate bigwigs; no awards or accolades. But a framed copy of a yellowing newspaper went with him everywhere. It was the front page of the *New York World-Telegram* announcing Mahatma Gandhi’s assassination in a bold headline.

It was a late Friday afternoon and he was shaving when UP’s stringer, P.D. Sharma, burst into his room at



The senior Jim Michaels on horse, probably on his way to interview separatist leaders in the mountains of Kashmir.



The senior Jim Michaels and his wife Fran in New Delhi in the late 1940s.

Delhi’s Imperial Hotel with the news. My dad raced to the garden of Birla House.

He arrived before the police had cordoned off the garden, where only moments earlier a Hindu fanatic had, as his UP dispatch said, “pumped three bullets from a revolver into Gandhi’s frail body.” He filed quickly and returned again, flashing a credential at a bewildered officer who let him through, according to an account by Subrata N. Chakravarty. Those critical moments at the scene gave him eyewitness details that few others had.

He cabled his world-exclusive back to New York in time for the afternoon papers.

It’s hard to imagine how big a deal that is today when news video and words flow instantly over the Internet. In the pre-Internet days a scoop like that could last hours, as competitors scrambled to catch up.

The days of the trench coat clad foreign correspondent are nearing an end. The idea of a handful of men

— there were few women among the ranks — interpreting and describing world events for the American public seems anachronistic in the world of the Internet, social media and satellite technology. World news from foreign correspondents is being replaced by a flood of raw video, twitter feeds and blogs. Some of that reporting is compelling; others crude propaganda.

Are we better informed? The correspondents of yesteryear brought context. A short video from Syria brings immediacy and might evoke strong emotions. It doesn’t tell you who is winning the war and why. Back then, foreign correspondents filed stories that summarized and prioritized, fitting the news into a hole on the front page or inside a newspaper. The process demanded context.

Even back in 1963, a *Dateline* contributor, Don Cook, the *New York Herald-Tribune*’s London bureau chief, sensed that the news business was changing. The “breathless quality” brought on by the jet age is “bad for writing, bad for reporting and bad for an informed public opinion,” Cook wrote.

His recommendation? Slow down and take the train.

Jim Michaels is a military writer at USA TODAY.

OPC SCHOLARS

Ajay Makan, who won the OPC Foundation's 2011 Standard & Poors Award for Economic and Business Reporting, is now the oil and gas correspondent in London for the *Financial Times* after covering markets and financial services in the paper's New York bureau. He had an internship with *The Economist* in London and worked as a producer on BBC's *Newsnight*.

Kristina Shevory, recipient of the 1998 Reuters scholarship, won the Arthur F. Burns Fellowship this fall. Every year, the Burns Foundation awards 10 fellowships to young American journalists to travel and report in Germany for their home publications. Shevory, an Army veteran and a longtime freelance reporter for *The New York Times*, spent several months in Germany covering the American military's role overseas.

WINNERS

John Lewis Gaddis has won the Arthur Ross Book Award and its \$15,000 prize from the Council on Foreign Relations for the best book published on international affairs for *George F. Kennan: An American Life*. The biography of the globe-trotting diplomat and political scientist also received a 2012 Pulitzer.



Gaddis

In November, **Mauri König**, a Brazilian investigative journalist, was at the Waldorf-Astoria in New York accepting a 2012 International Press Freedom Award from the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ). On December 17, death threats sent him into hiding. Earlier that day the Curitiba daily *Gazeta do Povo* where he works published a follow-up by

König and others to a May report that revealed that local police officers made personal use of official vehicles, including visits to beach and brothels. Speaking with CPJ from an undisclosed location, König said threats began in May but calls in December were more serious. He has reported extensively on human rights and corruption and was once beaten and left for dead while reporting on human trafficking.



König accepting his award.

Abigail Pesta, OPC second vice president and editorial director of Women in the World for *Newsweek* and *The Daily Beast*, won an Exceptional Merit in Media Award from the National Women's Political Caucus in November for her *Daily Beast* story "How a Blogger Blocked Sex Slavery," an account of a North Dakota blogger and a Manhattan woman who saved two young Russian women from a human trafficking threat.

PRESS FREEDOM

NEW YORK: After holding their silence for six weeks, the family of American freelance reporter **James Foley**, who was kidnapped on Thanksgiving in the northern Syria province of Idlib, lifted a news blackout, hoping that publicity may persuade his captors to release him. Foley, who worked for *Global Post*, *AFP* and others, was held also captive for six weeks in 2011 by Libyan forces. Foley's abduction came a month before **Richard Engel**, NBC's chief foreign correspondent, was seized along with his four-man camera crew and a British security guard in Idlib. Engel and his colleagues, who were held for five days by forces loyal to the Syrian government, were freed during a check-



Foley

point clash between their captors and a rebel group. **Austin Tice**, an American freelance journalist, has been missing in Syria since August 13.

NEW DELHI: **Naveen Soorinje**, a reporter for *Kasturi TV*, has been in jail since November 7 after revealing in July that a group of Hindu extremists were responsible for an attack on young women at a house party in Mangalore. He was charged with failing to alert police when the incident took place. Journalists' groups say he was carrying out his job as a reporter after being tipped to the attack.



Soorinje

A bail application was rejected December 26 on the grounds that Soorinje's video of the attack indicated his complicity. Police have used that video to identify and arrest individuals responsible for the violence.

ATHENS: An anarchist group claimed responsibility for homemade bombs detonated January 11 at the homes of five journalists. The group, calling itself "Lovers of Lawlessness," denounced press coverage of the financial crisis as sympathetic to the austerity programs being imposed by the Greek government and foreign lenders. The day before, groups of men entered a private radio station in Athens and a public radio station in Salonika and demanded that a recording be played

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expressing solidarity with hundreds of squatters evicted from a building in central Athens that is a gathering point for far-left groups and students.

HANOI: Fourteen bloggers, writers and political and social activists were convicted January 9 of national security violations including “activities aimed at overthrowing the people’s administration” and “undermining of national unity.” They received prison terms ranging from 3 to 13 years in what human rights groups said was the largest subversion case to be brought in years. A few days after the conviction, BBC reported that Vietnamese propaganda officials operate a network of nearly 1,000 “public opinion shapers” as bloggers and to post comments online.



A free speech advocate outside of *Southern Weekend* newspaper.

BEIJING: Media organizations and party leaders often disagree, but conflicts rarely become public like the weeklong censorship dispute in January at *Southern Weekend*, an influential and relatively liberal newspaper in Guangzhou.

Hundreds of supporters rallied for three days outside the newspaper’s headquarters as striking journalists received support on the Internet from celebrities, business leaders and commentators. The journalists accused the provincial propaganda chief of censoring the paper’s New Year’s letter to readers by changing an editorial calling for political reforms into a tribute to one-party rule. Protesting journalists accepted a compromise in which officials promised to loosen some of the more intrusive censorship controls.

NEW DELHI: In a case of a brutal gang rape that stirred protests across India, a magistrate January 7 issued a blanket ban on reporting the trial of five adult men accused of beating and raping a 23-year old woman with an iron rod. She died of her injuries two weeks later. The magistrate invoked a statute that prevents anyone unconnected to a case to be in the courtroom during trial and makes it “unlawful for any person to print or publish any matter in relation to any such proceedings, except with the previous permission of the court.”

BEIJING: Chris Buckley, an Australian working for *The New York Times*, was forced to leave China on December 31 after authorities declined to issue him a visa for 2013. Four days later, the country’s Foreign Ministry said Buckley was not expelled but that his visa application had been filed incorrectly. Buckley has been a correspondent in China since 2000 and rejoined *The Times* in September after working for Reuters. Meanwhile, *The Times* has waited since March for Philip P. Pan, its new Beijing bureau chief, to be issued a visa. The English- and Chinese-language websites of *The Times* have been blocked in China since October, after an investigative article was published about the finances of the family of Prime Minister Wen Jiabao.

NAYPYIDAW, Myanmar: The government said in December that privately owned newspapers could begin publishing in April for the first time in almost 50 years. Application for licenses can be made in February. In August, the government said journalists would no longer have to submit their work to state censors before publication. In January, however, the monthly magazine *Hnyo* was ordered to stop publication after it printed photos of scantily clad women and articles on sexual themes. Government officials in the conservative

country said the magazine was only licensed to publish fashion.

WHITE PLAINS, New York: Staff members of *The Journal News* were harassed and threatened after the suburban New York daily published an interactive map on December 22 identifying handgun permit holders in Westchester and Rockland counties. Critics called the map an invasion of privacy. Gun permits are public record in New York state, but Putnam County refused the paper’s request for the information. Subsequently, staff members received threatening phone calls and emails; envelopes containing white powder that later tested non-toxic were sent to the newspaper offices at least twice; and a blogger published the names, addresses and information about hobbies and children of the paper’s editors. Armed guards were hired to protect the paper’s offices.

NEW YORK: CPJ reported in December a record of number of 232 journalists were imprisoned worldwide in 2012, an increase of 53 since 2011. Turkey topped the list with 49 journalists behind bars, followed by Iran (45) and China (32). CPJ said countries made “made extensive use of vague anti-state laws to silence dissenting political views, including those expressed by ethnic minorities.” The next countries were Eritrea (28) and Syria (15); CPJ said that none of the journalists behind bars in either country have been publicly charged with a crime or brought before a court. “We are living in an age when anti-state charges and ‘terrorist’ labels have become the preferred means that governments use to intimidate, detain, and imprison journalists,” said CPJ Executive Director Joel Simon.

OPC’s Freedom of the Press Committee sent two letters in December. One went to Juan Manuel Santos, president of Colombia, to urge a full investigation into the

death of **Guillermo Quiroz Delgado**, a television reporter who died on November 27 after being hospitalized for injuries sustained while in police custody. The other letter was to **Enrique Peña Nieto**, as he started his term as president of Mexico, asking him to affirm to the world that he intends to remove Mexico from the list of the most deadly countries for journalists by ensuring that the inquiry into the death of **Regina Martínez Pérez**, an investigative reporter in Veracruz, is not compromised by the local authorities she wrote about.

MURDERS

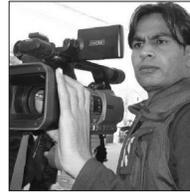
Clearly 2012 was one of the bloodiest years that journalists have experienced, but press groups differ on the toll because of varying criteria for defining journalism work and for counting deaths while on assignment. The groups found common ground in reporting growing tolls among freelancers and Internet journalists and that Syria is the deadliest country. The Swiss-based Press Emblem Campaign and the International Press Institute, based in Vienna, reported their highest numbers ever, with 141 deaths and 133, respectively. The International Federation of Journalists, based in Brussels, said 121 media personnel died in targeted attacks, bomb attacks and crossfire incidents while another 30 died from accidents or illness while at work. CPJ said 70 journalists were killed in direct relation to their work but other deaths are still being investigated.

Three newsmen – Samaa TV reporter **Saifur Rehman Baloch**, cameraman **Imran Sheikh** and NNI news agency photographer **Muhammad Iqbal** – were among the more than 100 people killed January 10 when bombs exploded 10 minutes apart in Quetta, capital of Pakistan’s restive Baluchistan province. An-



Baloch

other journalist and two other media workers were injured. On January 11, journalists across Baluchistan protested the killing of their colleagues by hoisting black flags at press clubs and wearing black armbands. The Quetta Press Club president said violence had claimed lives of about 30 journalists in the province in the past four years.



Sheikh



Protest at the Quetta Press Club.

Renato Machado Gonçalves, the manager and joint owner of a Brazilian radio station, was gunned down January 9 in front of the building that houses his home and the radio station in São João da Barra, a city in the state of Rio de Janeiro. Reporters Without Borders said robbery was ruled out as a motive and “the manner in which the crime was carried out clearly indicates that it was a targeted murder.”



Gonçalves

Elisabeth Blanche Olofio, who worked for Radio Be Oko in the Central African Republic, was killed on January 8 when rebels from the Seleka coalition stormed and looted the station. The Association of the Community Radios



Olofio

of Central Africa issued a statement saying that community radio stations are apolitical and that “journalists do not have anything to do with the ongoing conflict.”

The body of **Issa Ngumba**, a Tanzanian radio reporter who had been missing for three days, was found on January 8 hanging in a forest with a gunshot wound in his left arm. Press reports said that local observers thought his death might be connected to a report he filed about a cattle keeper who is said to have eaten parts of a shepherd’s body.

Suhail Mahmud Ali, who worked for Syria’s Dunya TV, was shot in Aleppo on January 4. His station, which is pro-government, said the death was “by terrorist bullets.”

Bwizamani Singh, a cameraman who worked for the satellite-distributed Prime News channel that covers northeast India, was killed December 23 in Imphal after police opened fire to disperse demonstrators protesting the sexual assault on a local actress and other recent violence against women in India. Police described the shooting as an accident. Five police officers were suspended.

Al-Hosseiny Abou Deif, an Egyptian reporter for the private weekly *El-Fagr*, never came out of a coma and died December 12 a week after he was struck in the head at close range by a rubber bullet while covering protests near the presidential palace in Cairo. He had filmed Muslim Brotherhood supporters beating up protesters and using live ammunition. Local journalists and news reports identified the assailant as a Muslim Brotherhood supporter.



Deif

Six years after the murder of Rus-

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sian investigative journalist **Anna Politkovskaya**, a fierce critic of the Kremlin, Dmitry Pavlyuchenkov, a former police colonel, was sentenced December 14 to 11 years in a penal colony. Pavlyuchenkov, who at the time of the murder was head of an elite police surveillance unit, admitted keeping track of Politkovskaya's movements and providing the assassin with a gun. Politkovskaya's former colleagues say they fear that a plea bargain deal in the case means that the name of the person who ordered the killing will not be known. She was killed October 7, 2006.

Five Maoist former rebels were arrested January 4 and accused of the 2004 abduction and murder of **Dekendra Thapa**, a journalist with state-run Radio Nepal. AFP reported that one of the accused confessed to burying Thapa alive. Nepalese Prime Minister Baburam Bhattarai criticized the arrest of his party members but refuted reports that he pressured officials to drop the case. The Federation of Nepali Journalists led a January



Thapa

10 protest at Bhattarai's residence and said protests would continue unless the culprits of Thapa's murder were punished. More than 16,000 people died in Nepal's decade-long civil war, which ended in 2006, and more than 1,000 are still missing but rights groups say little has been done to bring justice to victims and their families.

UPDATES

NEW YORK: *Newsweek*, a source of many paychecks for OPC members and a recipient of many of our awards, published its last print edition in December. **Tina Brown**, the editor in chief of *Newsweek*/The Daily Beast, announced last October that the 80-year-old *Newsweek*



Bob Benjamin was the inspiration behind his daughter's cartoons.



Bob Benjamin, a co-founder of the Overseas Press Club, was the only father that **Victoria Roberts**, a cartoonist for *The New Yorker*, knew. The character "Pops" in her first novel, *After The Fall* [W.W. Norton, November 2012] was inspired by Benjamin and he's also the model she uses for men in her cartoons.

In a January 3 blog on *The New Yorker* website, Roberts writes about Benjamin, who was her stepfather, and the special presents he would bring home when they lived in Mexico: "He was a self-made man who read everything and traveled extensively, always returning with a suitcase full of curious food items, like Jiffy popcorn (this was before NAFTA, and we had not seen this aluminum-foil magic) and crystallized violets."

After the Fall is about an eccentric family who after a turn in fortune moves with the contents of their penthouse to Central Park -- not near the park but in it. The book is not about homelessness. Pops is an inventor and makes the family comfortable. Benjamin, Roberts said, had a fondness for gadgets.

The fashionable and moody "Mother" is drawn on Roberts' mother, Inés. The young drama queen "Sis," Roberts concedes, is close to her. The earnest narrator is Alan, after Benjamin's youngest son from a previous marriage. Alan Benjamin is four years older than Roberts, who had been an only child; the two were raised together during the time her mother and Benjamin remained married.

Roberts, who never met her birth father, said after she finished the book she realized "I had tried to repair real life in fiction. My mother divorced Bob when I was eleven and Alan was fourteen. ... I have missed the family ever since. They are alive and together in *After the Fall*, with all of their eccentricity, and all of their faults, intact."

Benjamin, who died in 2008, founded OPC's Robert Spiers Benjamin Award in 1998 for best reporting in any medium on Latin America. He and 12 other correspondents founded the OPC in 1939. In 1940, he chaired the club's first dinner and edited *The Inside Story*, a book written by OPC members on world affairs and their personal experiences. As Roberts said, Benjamin was self-made and he started early. At 15, he sailed to Europe on a tramp ship and sent stories to United Press on events that led to the Spanish Civil War. He sailed to South America when he was 16.

He was an intelligence officer during World War II, assigned to Chile and Argentina. He was a staff writer for the *Panama Star & Herald*, assistant editor at Dodd, Meade and Co., Time-Life bureau chief in Chile, director of Latin American operations for Vision magazine, *New York Times* correspondent in Mexico and founder of his own press agency, Inter-American Press Service, and a public relations firm. His books included *Call to Adventure* (1934), *The Vacation Guide* (1940) and *I'm an American* (1941). Benjamin married four times. His first wife, Dorothy Calhoun, who died in 1961, was a Red Cross correspondent and editor in Europe during WWII and a member of the editorial staff of Curtis Publishing.

would cease print publication and transition to an all-digital format, to be called *Newsweek Global*. The first digital-only issue was published January 4. In a poetic farewell to print, the magazine ran a Twitter hashtag — #LastPrintIssue — on its cover with a vintage black and white photo of its namesake Manhattan office building.

Rebecca Blumenstein, an OPC board member, was promoted to deputy editor-in-chief of *The Wall Street Journal* in December as **Gerard Baker**, the *Journal's* new top editor, announced his senior editorial team. In a memo to staff members, Baker described Blumenstein's duties: "She will deploy her consummate leadership skills and editorial and managerial talents to oversee Dow Jones/*WSJ* newsgathering, our integrated bureaux and news centers around the globe." She joined the *Journal* in 1995 and most recently had been deputy managing editor and Page One editor. She served as the China bureau chief from 2005 to 2008 and with her bureau colleagues shared in a 2007 Pulitzer Prize for International Reporting.



Blumenstein

Foreign Affairs published the first photographic cover in its 90-year history as part of a redesign introduced in its January/February edition. The redesign follows a year of digital focus that includes the release of an iPad app, two eBooks, full digital archives and increased online editorial content, including multimedia. "There were several reasons for the



makeover, among them to distinguish successive issues from one another, to work effectively across multiple digital platforms, and to attract an even larger general-interest readership," **Gideon Rose**, the editor, wrote in a memo to readers.



Rose

William McGurn, a conservative columnist for *The Wall Street Journal* and former foreign correspondent, began work in January as editorial-page editor at the *New York Post*. McGurn was stationed in Brussels and Hong Kong for the *Journal*, and visited war zones in Lebanon, Northern Ireland, Sri Lanka and Afghanistan. McGurn has been a speechwriter for President George W. Bush and **Rupert Murdoch**, president and CEO of News Corporation, which owns both the *Journal* and the *Post*. He replaced **Bob McManus**, who retired after 12 years in the job.



A still from the documentary on Tim Hetherington, pictured center.

PARK CITY, Utah: "Which Way Is the Front Line From Here? The Life and Time of Tim Hetherington," a documentary by **Sebastian Junger** about **Tim Hetherington**, a photojournalist who was killed by a mortar attack in Libya in April 2011, premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in January and will air on HBO in the spring. Hetherington and Junger, a writer and journalist, made the 2010 Oscar-nominated

documentary "Restrepo" about their year-long tour with a platoon in the Korengal Valley in Afghanistan. They shared a 2007 OPC award for work done during that tour. Hetherington died eight days before he was to serve as co-presenter at OPC's 2011 awards ceremony and receive a citation for his own photography under fire in Afghanistan.

BEL AIR, Maryland: With the birth of Ava Noelle Kaff in January, **Diana Kaff**, the widow of longtime *Bulletin* columnist and OPC stalwart **Al Kaff**, became a grandmother for the sixth time. Alban Kaff, the father of Ava and son of Diana and Al, reports that his mother is doing well and has moved to be close to his brother, Arthur. Congratulations on the birth of her new granddaughter or greetings of any kind can be sent to Diana Kaff, Brightview Avondell Senior Residence, 128 West Ring Factory Rd, Apt 1246, Bel Air, MD 21014-5589.

SACRAMENTO: *The Sacramento Bee* announced in November that **Jack Ohman** will be their editorial cartoonist. Ohman won the OPC's Thomas Nast Award for cartoons on an international theme in 1995 when he was on staff at *The Oregonian* in Portland, Oregon. *The Bee* hired Ohman after the death of Rex Babin, their longtime cartoonist.

PEOPLE REMEMBERED

Eugene C. Patterson, the Pulitzer Prize-winning editor of *The Atlanta Constitution* known for his courage supporting civil rights and opposing segregation while leading a Deep South newspaper during the civil rights conflicts of the 1960s, died January 12 at age 89. After leaving Atlanta, he was the managing editor of *The Washington Post*, editor of



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A Hypothesized Presidential Quashing of the Press

by Bob Dowling

Dear Mr. President:

The Overseas Press Club of America is outraged and deeply dismayed by your unrelenting attack on a free press. In no previous time in history has the right of free speech been so violated and degraded. You, sir, are running a dictatorship as you dismantle our most basic human rights. We urge you to stop these vile and illegal actions immediately.

Guess which president that letter would have gone to? The answer is Abraham Lincoln. Despite the enormous praise for the current hit movie "Lincoln" and for Lincoln himself, he was one of the most repressive presidents of the First Amendment in history, says author John Byrne Cooke. A second, almost as surprisingly, was Woodrow Wilson, Cooke writes.

I called up Cooke after reading his book, *Reporting the War: Freedom of the Press from the American Revolution to the War on Terrorism*. While tolerance for critical reporting has varied widely, he writes, Lincoln's record was by far the worst of any wartime president. Given the evidence in your book, I asked him, did it strike you as odd that nothing about Lincoln's war with free speech was in the movie?

"Yes it did," said Cooke. But the movie was about Lincoln and the emancipation amendment, not about Lincoln's full presidency. Lincoln was acting in the context of the times, but in doing so, he employed his full power to crush dissent.

In *Reporting the War*, first published in 2007, Cooke writes: "Under his Administration, opposition newspapers were denied the use of the mail, seized by federal marshals, intimidated and shut down (*New York Day Book*, suppressed at the same time as the *Daily News*, never resumed publication.)

"Citizens who spoke against the administration were arrested by the thousands and imprisoned without charge, with no recourse to the courts," Cooke writes.

"Encroachments on liberties enumerated in the Bill of Rights were more widespread during Lincoln's administration than at any time since the Alien and Sedition Acts were in force [under President John Adams] at the turn of the 19th century."

It's a very different view of Lincoln than seen in the movie, which depicted the president as a realpolitik leader willing to connive, buy votes, dangle patronage appointments and mislead opponents in a way that might be today be called *Lincolngate*, but all for the noble cause of winning approval of the 13th amendment to the constitution, which abolished slavery. Crushing free speech was not part of this Steven Spielberg flick.

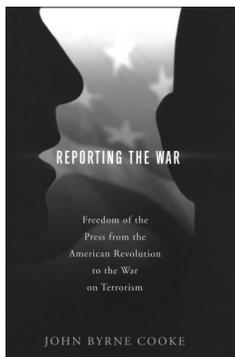
As Cooke notes, after Lincoln's assassination the U.S. Supreme Court delivered a "stinging rebuke" to his policies, ruling in *Milligan vs. the U.S.* that constitutional protections cannot be suspended under martial law far from field of battle, the basis for Lincoln's actions.

Woodrow Wilson tried unsuccessfully to gag the press with the Espionage Act in World War I, but was able to prosecute pacifists, labor leaders, newsletter writers and others who spoke out against his government's involvement in World War I.

"Woodrow Wilson, like Abraham Lincoln and William McKinley before him, lacked the impulse for tyranny, but like Lincoln he was willing to encroach on First Amendment freedoms for what he considered the greater good," Cooke concludes.

The son of broadcaster Alistair Cooke, the author covers in his book all U.S. wars from the Revolution to the War on Terrorism. It's both a good read and a handy book to have nearby when the next debate on Presidents and press freedoms erupts.

OPC member Bob Dowling is editorial adviser to websites in China and India.



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The St. Petersburg Times and chairman of Poynter Institute. He was a tank commander in George Patton's Third Army during World War II and after the war went to work for a small Texas newspaper. He was also a reporter and bureau chief for United Press in New York and London.

Richard Ben Cramer, who wrote about politics, baseball and

world affairs, died January 7 from complications of lung cancer. He was 62. He won the 1979 Pulitzer Prize for international reporting from the Middle East while working for *The Philadelphia Inquirer* but was best known for *What It Takes: The Way to the White House*, a 1,047-page behind-the-scenes account of the 1988 U.S. presidential race. He wrote a biography, *Joe DiMaggio: The Hero's Life*, that was a best-seller in 2000

and his 1986 article for *Esquire* titled "What Do You Think of Ted Williams Now?" is a hallmark of sports journalism. In 2005, he published *How Israel Lost: The Four Questions*.

Jacqueline Duhau, the longtime photo editor and office manager at *Newsweek's* Paris Bureau, died December 23. In a remembrance, OPC

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(New Books Continued From Page 12)

American newspapers in the 1950s, long before carpets, air-conditioning, and computers replaced the stale air and cigarette-scarred linoleum of the City Room.

Young Morgan's efforts to cover a mayoral campaign morph into a Teamsters' corruption scandal and a murder investigation, which leads the reader into the sordid world of Detroit's politics before the auto industry's collapse.

In some of his best writing, Martz weaves a series of endearing vignettes into the narrative describing a reporter's education at the hands of a middle-aged assistant city editor, Sandy Bell.

"Some things Sandy just pounded into us: get the story; always ask the next question; forget fancy writing; make your deadline. Some things we seemed to pick up from the city room air, thick with dust and cigarette smoke: the kinds of stories there were and the jargon that went with each one; the prissy prurience of journalism in the late '50s; the blatant racism that nearly everybody took for granted."

Morgan and Bell collaborate on Morgan's stories in a way that tells the reader in practical terms how reporters and editors conspire in their most creative moments.

"I had the lead all right," Martz writes in Morgan's voice: "But the rest of the piece was giving me a lot of trouble. I couldn't get the structure right, the tone was veering between worshipful and snotty, and I didn't know how I was going to end it."

Finally, young Morgan "bundled up the whole raggedy mess of paper, with its scribbles and crossed-out

patches, and walked it over to Sandy's desk. 'I can't get it right,' I said.

"He scanned it quickly, then read through more slowly. 'Good lead,' he said. 'The trouble is, you just sort of drift after that,' Bell tells his reporter.

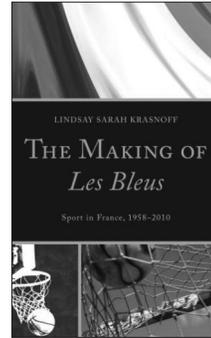
Morgan listens carefully. "What I needed, he said, was a billboard: 'Put up a sign to tell people what this story is about, why they're reading it. You need a second paragraph that says something like, 'This was part of a day's campaigning that took in four stops, reached from rich folks to poor folks and proved Lander is the candidate to beat.' In your own better language, of course."

Bell's advice gives Morgan a way to organize the rest of the story. The effect is magical. "He handed the pile of manuscript back to me, and suddenly the whole thing was clear. It was like a rabbit from a hat. How did he do that?"

Lodged in a textbook, these words would feel didactic. In Martz's hands, they become revelatory.

— by **John Martin, who serves with the author on the OPC Freedom of the Press Committee.**

EUROPE
SPORTS ARE A GREAT common denominator, linking individuals who otherwise might have little in common. Sports history, as **Lindsay Sarah Krasnoff** demonstrates in *The Making of Les Bleus: Sport in France, 1958-2010*, [Lexington Books, December 2012] can tell us a great deal about society and ourselves.



In *Les Bleus*, a reference to the nickname of the French national soccer team, Krasnoff examines how France set out after the onset of the Cold War to cultivate elite athletes in two global team sports, soccer and basketball. The effort, made primarily at the youth level, led to success in international contests but also eased domestic issues and tensions while teaching young players ideals of democracy and fair play. It helped create a modern, post-colonial French identity in a globalizing world.

Through her research and insight, Krasnoff provides perspective on the larger history of France, societal changes, the media revolution and public health. She weaves the stories of individual athletes to her analysis of how the Cold War forced countries to rethink their relevancy and ability to influence others through the cultural sphere. Sport, the French government concluded, was one way to have influence and the French effort was unprecedented in West European nations.

Krasnoff, an OPC member, is a historian in the State Department's Office of the Historian, where she works on the history of U.S.-European relations and contributes to the office's digital and oral history initiatives. She is a member of the North American Society for Sports History and an affiliated scholar of the Center for the Study of Sport and Leisure in Society at George Mason University.

— by **Susan Kille**

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member Christopher Dickey said Dahau had already worked at the bureau for decades when he arrived in 1985. "Jacqueline was a larger than life character – an indefatigable

journalist, in fact, with phenomenal instincts and an extraordinary ability to handle the logistics that got photographers and reporters to the place the news was happening wherever it was happening while it was happening," wrote Dickey, the Paris Bu-

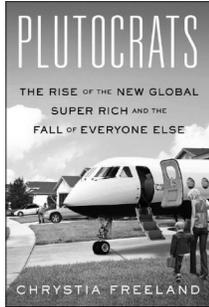
reau chief and Middle East editor for *Newsweek*. "Sure she drove us crazy sometimes, but I think it's fair to say that all of us who worked with her loved her, and it is certainly true that her like will not be seen again."

New Books

GLOBAL

CHRYSIA FREELAND SAID she decided to write *Plutocrats: The Rise of the New Global Super-Rich and the Fall of Everyone Else* [Penguin Books, October 2012] because she saw a political taboo developing with people who speak about income inequality being branded class warriors. Rising disparity, she said, is how capitalism is working today and we need to talk about it.

Freeland, editor of Thomson Reuters Digital and an OPC member, interviews, researches and writes about the wealthiest of the wealthy, the top 0.01 percent who look down on mere millionaires. These are the super rich who can spend \$3 million for a birthday party. As their incomes soar, they grow increasingly detached from the rest of us; they don't need public schools, librar-



Freeland

ies or buses. National fealty is alien when you have multiple addresses and can live wherever money can advance your agenda. Her argument is that the rise in income of people at the very top of the wealth scale and the way they are pulling apart from everybody else is the most important economic fact in America and the industrialized western world. She backs that up with historical parallels by thoroughly reporting economic drivers and consequences. She may not have the solution for overcoming disparity but she knows how to fuel the conversation.

The Gilded Age of the late nineteenth century and "robber barons" like Andrew Carnegie and John D. Rockefeller may be the closest parallel to what's going on now as new markets and technologies produce unprecedented wealth for those at the top. Today's robber barons are global and growing in turbulent world economies. *Plutocrats* shows that as global wealth is concentrated in fewer and fewer hands, the social upheavals ahead may be greater than

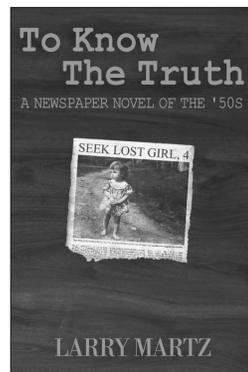
the repercussions of the first Gilded Age.

Freeland joined Reuters in 2010 from the *Financial Times*, where she had been U.S. managing editor of and previously worked in London as a deputy editor, editor of the Weekend edition, editor of FT.com and U.K. News editor. She was also Moscow bureau chief and Eastern Europe correspondent for the *Financial Times*.

— by Susan Kille

NORTH AMERICA

LARRY MARTZ, A VETERAN newspaperman and *Newsweek* reporter, writer and editor, has written a reporter's novel, a clear-eyed look at the ethical perils, personal entanglements, and reporting pitfalls faced by Billy Morgan, a young man beginning his career on the fictional *Detroit Journal* in *To Know the Truth* [AuthorHouse, November 2012]. Martz is an OPC member and



former long-serving chairman of the Freedom of the Press Committee. He got his start in daily journalism at *The Pontiac Press* in Michigan and *The Detroit News*.

The *Journal* depicted in the novel bears the scars familiar to

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Upcoming Events

**Book Night with
Steven Raymer
February 20
Redeeming Calcutta:
A Portrait of India's
Imperial Capital**

**OPC Foundation
Scholarship Luncheon
February 22
David Rohde,
Keynote Speaker**

Overseas Press Club of America
40 West 45 Street
New York, NY 10036 USA