



Bulletin

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB OF AMERICA, NEW YORK, NY • November 2012

Forecast for North Korea Under the New Kim

EVENT PREVIEW: DECEMBER 3

A Panel Discussion sponsored by the OPC, Liberty in North Korea, Weatherhead East Asian Institute at Columbia University and supported by the Korea Society of New York City will feature a distinguished panel on Monday, December 3.

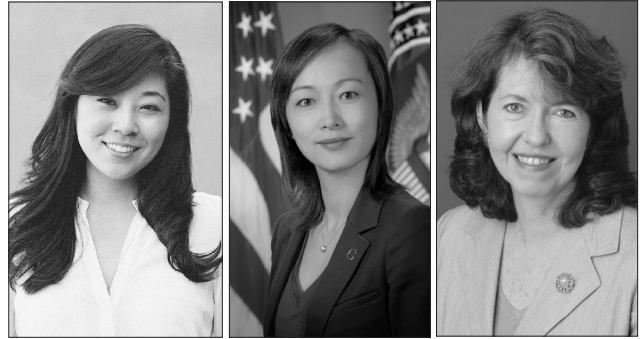
The new leader of North Korea, Kim Jong-un, is at a crossroads. He has suggested he will introduce economic reforms and improve the lives of his people, offering tantalizing glimpses of Disney characters and modern fashion. Yet he has not followed through. In fact, accounts of defectors suggest that he is actually tightening internal controls as part of a vast slave-state in which millions of people are still hungry and many are imprisoned in the gulag. Will Kim emerge as a later-day Mikhail Gorbachev committed to reform and reconciliation with the outside world? How will he manage a dependent relationship with China? What leadership changes in China, South Korea, Japan and possibly the U.S. mean for the world's most heavily militarized conflict zone? Most importantl, how long can Kim's regime last? Some of these issues were noted at an AP panel on

October 19 (see page 3) and the OPC will continue the dialog with the following panelists:

■ Hannah Song is president and chief executive officer of Liberty in North Korea (LiNK), which has brought 117 North Korean defectors out of China. LiNK is the only full-time grassroots organization in North America devoted to North Korean human rights. LiNK, headquartered in Southern California, provides protection and aid to North Korean refugees hiding in China and routes them through a modern-day underground railroad through Southeast Asia to their final destinations.

■ Stephen Noerper is senior vice president of The Korea Society in New York City. He has spent more than two and a half decades in non-profits, academia, the private sector and public service. He has served with the U.S. State Department, Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies, Nautilus Institute for Security and Sustainable Development and is associate professor of international relation at New York University.

■ Sue Mi Terry is a former U.S. intelligence analyst who is now Senior Managing Director of Gerson Global Advisors and a senior research scholar at the Weatherhead East Asian Institute, Columbia University, where she teaches a course on Korean Politics. She has served as the Deputy National In-



Panelists from left: Hannah Song, Sue Mi Terry and moderator Melanie Kirkpatrick

telligence Officer for East Asia at the National Intelligence Council in the Office of the Director of National Intelligence. She also served as the Asia Director at the National Security Council (NSC) under both Presidents Bush and Obama. Prior to joining the NSC, she served as a Senior Analyst on Asia issues in the Directorate of Intelligence, Central Intelligence Agency.

■ Melanie Kirkpatrick, formerly of *The Wall Street Journal* and author of *Escape from North Korea: The Untold Story of Asia's Underground Railroad*, will moderate. She is currently a writer and senior fellow at the Hudson Institute in Washington. She had a long career at *The Wall Street Journal*, where her positions included running the op-ed page, editing the editorials, and serving as deputy editor of the editorial page.

The panel discussion on North Korea on December 3 will begin with a reception at 6 p.m. and program at 6:30 p.m. at Club Quarters, 40 West 45 Street. Admission is free, but reservations are essential. Call the OPC at 212-626-9220 or e-mail sonya@opcofamerica.org.

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U.S. Is Losing the War for Hearts and Minds in Yemen

EVENT RECAP: NOVEMBER 12

by Aimee Vitrak

Gregory D. Johnsen, who was the 2006 David Schweisberg OPC Foundation Scholarship winner, has become a leading expert on Yemen. He's spent the past 10 years immersed in Yemen and is currently a doctoral candidate in Near Eastern studies at Princeton University. Johnsen returned to the OPC on November 12 to discuss his first book, *The Last Refuge: Yemen, Al-Qaeda, and America's War in Arabia* [W.W. Norton & Company, November, 2012]. OPC Foundation President William J. Holstein served as interlocutor.

Johnsen said he had the initial idea for the book during a Peace Corps mission in Jordan and in 2008 he felt ready to write as he began to see Yemen as the perfect model for the U.S. approach to future diplomacy and combat with drone strikes and special forces.

Yemen, like many countries during the Arab Spring in the region, also realized a shift in power. But just because there was a shift in power, did not mean that Ali Abdullah Saleh, who was President of Yemen from 1990 to 2012, is out of the picture. Johnsen said that he still heads the General People's Congress party.

As the government in Sana'a collapsed, "a lot of cracks opened in Yemen," Johnsen said. "Al Qaeda took over the territory. [The U.S.] sees Al Qaeda as terrorists, but they see themselves as more. If teachers were needed, they supplied teachers. Same with electricity, courts, police, water. They became the defacto government."

Now, Al Qaeda in Yemen is at a crossroads: do they choose to try and govern, which opens them to U.S. attacks, or do they remain in hiding? "Just because we



Photo: Sonya K. Fry

From left: friends of the author Nate Johnson and David Hsu; book editor Brendan Curry; the author's brother Levi Johnsen; the author's mother Karen Kutik; and author Gregory Johnsen.

don't hear from them," Johnsen said, "does not mean they're not planning."

Yemen is a broken country and Johnsen said it is going to take a lot to put it back together. "Even in the capital," he said, "there are four factions that are almost like vultures on the corpse of the city. Food and gas are priced out and there's a real disconnect between the elite fighting for political control and the common person who just needs fuel and water."

The assumption the U.S. makes, Johnsen said, was that it can win the war on Al Qaeda on its own, but ultimately it will be up to individuals in countries like Yemen to take a stand. "Right now the U.S. is being so heavy handed with drone strikes," Johnsen said. "One reason Al Qaeda recruiting has grown have been the civilian and tribal casualties by U.S. air strikes. Al Qaeda has a shallow agenda, but they're the only ones fighting back against the U.S."

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Pyongyang Seen as Possible Testing Ground for Change

by William J. Holstein

Jean H. Lee, the Associated Press bureau chief in the North Korean capital of Pyongyang, on October 19 offered an audience at Columbia University a series of AP pictures of apparent change in North Korea. Nearly everyone in Pyongyang, with a population of about 1 million, now has cell phones that they use to play games and take photos. Large screen televisions have appeared in public places. An electronics shop is offering a DVD of the "101 Dalmatians." Amusement parks and mini golf courses have popped up. The Pyongyang Department Store sells Minnie Mouse bras and platform shoes. But do these and other changes portend that Kim Jong-un, the third generation of the Kim family who took power a year ago, is going to undertake sweeping changes in his isolated country that will improve the standard of living for his people and mark an opening to the outside world, much as Deng Xiaoping achieved in China? "It's still very early in this leadership," Lee said. "Whether this represents systematic change is not clear."

Even though the images and words that the AP produces from Pyongyang are clearly shaped and influenced by the regime, Lee defended her bureau's presence against accusations from media critics that it is serving the interests of a brutal regime rather than investigating the truth about starvation and a vast gulag system. "Some critics don't want us there," she said. "But isn't it better that we are there? We try to get on the ground to see what's happening. We have to flesh out the narrative."

Lee was born in the United States to a Korean-American family but joked that she failed her language classes at Korea school. After years of covering North Korea from the AP's Beijing bureau, she is quickly learning the North Korean variation of the Korean language.

Lee is a graduate of Columbia's journalism school, hence her appearance at an event co-hosted by the journalism school as well as the Weatherhead East Asian Institute, the Center for Korean Research, the APEC Study Center and the National Committee on North Korea. The room was packed to capacity. She was based in London for five years before being transferred to Beijing with the assignment to start covering the Koreans.

APTN, the television arm of the AP, opened a bureau in Pyongyang in 2006, but the wire service itself did not open a full bureau until January 2012, making it the first Western news agency to have a full-time presence. Lee has hired a North Korean photographer and relies on North Korean guides to help her move around



Jean Lee during her talk.

Photo: Rita Sevell

the country and obtain access, so she is deeply aware of how her efforts are circumscribed. When Kim launched a rocket test that failed, the large television screens in Pyongyang were silent about it. It was only because Lee has Internet and telephone connections with the outside world that she learned of the failure. "Sometimes you know less inside the country than you do outside," she said.

One great difficulty is understanding the difference between Pyongyang and the countryside. Rural regions have been stripped of trees and farmers are thin and hungry. Some rely on the burning of wood to fuel their agricultural vehicles because petroleum isn't available. Lee visited one commune where she was told that Kim has promised farmers that he would relax the policies requiring them to give all crops to the government, but nothing has been announced to confirm the policy change.

In contrast in the capital, Skippy Peanut Butter and Pabst Blue Ribbon beer are available in a supermarket joint venture with the Chinese. The Chinese presence, as well as the presence of ethnic Koreans from Japan and China, means that the Western embargo against Pyongyang is largely meaningless. Other products are available from Singapore, Malaysia and Singapore. The North Koreans in the capital are flocking to new karaoke bars and the flights into and out of Pyongyang to Beijing are fully booked. It might be that the Kim regime is using the capital city as an experiment as it flirts with Chinese-style reforms. If they suddenly are perceived as representing a threat, they can be choked off.

OPC Foundation Scholarship Deadline: December 1

Students studying at American colleges and universities or Americans studying abroad who aspire to become foreign correspondents are invited to apply for one of fourteen scholarships or internships to be awarded by the OPC Foundation. The Foundation pays travel and living expenses for interns in foreign bureaus at such leading news organization as the Associated Press, Reuters, and *Forbes*, among others. Judges require that applicants submit a Cover Letter, Resume and Writing Sample. Winners will attend the OPC Foundation Scholarship Luncheon on February 22, 2013 in New York City. The keynote speaker will be two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist **David Rohde**, now with Reuters. For more information, contact Executive Director **Jane Reilly** at foundation@opcofamerica.org or call 201-493-9087.

OPC SCHOLARS

Chris Stein, who won the 2010 Roy Rowan Scholarship from the OPC Foundation, has moved to Accra, Ghana, where he's a stringer for Agence France-Presse (AFP) and has written for the Christian Science Monitor. Stein moved to Ghana to cover the presidential elections on December 7 and hopes to stay for quite a while afterward. When winning the scholarship, Stein wrote about a bus trip he took across Botswana that revealed villages harboring refugees from Angola's then concluded civil war.

The 2012 Flora Lewis winner **Elisa Mala** wrote an article for the Lives section of *The New York Times Magazine* in the November 9 issue. Mala was in Oslo on July 22, 2011, at the time of the massacre and called *The New York Times* and garnered an A-1 byline. The new article relays her experience of being mugged, taken into a New York police station and then waiting for the police to conclude their business with the family of her perpetrators. Mala's article tagline read, in part: Elisa Mala is a freelance journalist and a scholar at the Overseas Press Club.

WINNERS

The Bayeux-Calvados Awards for War Correspondents were presented in late October in Bayeux, France, a few miles from where Allied forces landed June 1944 in Normandy. **Aris Messinis**, photojournalist from Greece with AFP, won the Trophy Award for his pictures from Sirte in Libya. Last year's cover of OPC's *Dateline* magazine featured a photo Messinis took during protests in Greece. **Ed Ou** of Getty Images, who won in the Young Reporter category for images from the Arab Spring in Egypt, also has an OPC connection. Ou won the 2007 Dan

Eldon Scholarship from the OPC Foundation.

Jeta Xharra, a Kosovo journalist who began her career as a fixer and producer for BBC, won the 2012 Dr. Erhard Busek — South East Europe Media Organization (SEEMO) Award for Better Understanding in South East Europe. Since 2005, Xharra has been the Kosovo director of the Balkan Investigative Reporting Network as well as a presenter on, and the editor-in-chief of, "Life in Kosovo," which combines investigative journalism and discussions.

For the first time, protests greeted winners of the María Moors Cabot Prizes. Protesters decried that the awards, administered by the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, included a citation for *El Universo*, a newspaper that Ecuadorian President Rafael Correa sued for defamation. After Ecuador's highest court upheld three-year prison sentences and multimillion-dollar fines against three *El Universo* executives in February, Correa pardoned but did not forgive the defendants. Protestors waved Ecuadorian flags and shouted support of Correa. In accepting the award on October 25, Carlos Pérez Barriga, one of the defendants, said: "We have not learned the lesson of complicity, fear and silence that the government tried to teach us." Gold Medal winners were **Miguel Angel Bastenier**, a columnist of *El Pais* in Madrid and professor of Fundación Nuevo Periodismo Iberoamericano in Colombia; **Juan Forero**, a South America correspondent for *The Washington Post* and National Public Radio; **David Luhnnow**, Latin American bureau chief for *The Wall Street Journal*; and **Teodoro Petkoff**, editor of *Tal Cual* in Caracas, Venezuela.

PRESS FREEDOM

ATHENS: **Kostas Vaxevanis**,

one of Greece's best known investigative reporters and publisher of *Hot Doc* magazine, was arrested October 28 and acquitted November 1 in a fast-tracked breach of privacy trial after his magazine published a list of more than 2,000 Greeks with Swiss bank accounts who may be avoiding taxes. The list, which includes high-profile figures with links to the government, is known as the Lagarde List, after Christine Lagarde who in 2010 handed the names to Greek officials. The acquittal followed an 11-hour hearing where defense attorneys argued that government officials had purposefully shelved the list and that, by publishing it, Vaxevanis acted in the public interest.



Fernando Vidal spoke to the press after being attacked.

LA PAZ: In an attack that brought international outrage, four masked men with gasoline canisters stormed into a radio station October 29 and set the station's owner on fire while he was conducting a live interview. **Fernando Vidal**, remains under intensive care with severe burns to his head, chest, stomach and arms. Vidal, owner and editor of Radio Popular near the Argentine border in Yacuiba, was talking with two women about drug smuggling in the border region when the attack occurred. After the intruders poured gasoline on the station's equipment, they threw the fuel on Vidal and set him afire. The incident and Vidal's cries for water were reportedly heard on the air until the equipment stopped functioning. Three men were detained shortly after the attack and a fourth was arrested later.

BEIJING: The Chinese government swiftly blocked computers in mainland China from access to the English-language and Chinese-language websites of *The New York Times* on October 25 in response to an article describing at least \$2.7 billion in assets accumulated by the family of the country's prime minister, Wen Jiabao. The authorities also blocked attempts to mention *The Times* or Wen in postings on Sina Weibo (weibo.com), a popular micro-blogging site similar to Twitter.

LONDON: The BBC and other broadcasters including the Voice of America said October 18 that jammed satellite signals were disrupting their broadcasts in the Middle East and Europe. Eutelsat, major satellite operator based in Paris, confirmed that several international broadcasters had been jammed by signals coming from Syria. Eutelsat sends more than 4,250 television channels to more than 200 million cable and satellite subscribers in Europe, the Middle East and Africa. According to news reports, Syria appeared to have sought Iranian assistance to disrupt the signals. VOA and the BBC have experienced disruptions in recent years due to jamming that primarily was traced to Iran, which supports the embattled regime of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad. Eutelsat stopped relaying Iranian state television and radio channels on October 15 after the E.U. tightened sanctions against Iran.

NEW YORK: PEN International, CPJ and Internet Sans Frontières criticized Cameroon in a report to the U.N. Human Rights Council filed in October ahead of the panel's review next spring of the country's human rights. Cameroon is a "perilous country in which to be a writer or journalist both on- and off-line," the report said. The groups found authoritarian measures stifle writers, musicians and the press while sharply deteriorating free expression

in the country, where President Paul Biya has been in power for 30 years.

BANJUL: Gambian President Yahya Jammeh ordered the attorney general on October 23 to drop charges brought against **Baboucarr Ceesay**, first vice president of the Gambia Press Union, and Abubacarr Saidykhan, a freelance journalist, after they applied to hold a peaceful demonstration. The two were arrested and charged with incitement to violence, conspiracy to commit felony and seditious intention. However, two newspapers ordered closed on September 14 remain shut.



Ahmed Shaheed

NEW YORK: **Ahmed Shaheed**, the U.N. special rapporteur on human rights in Iran, reported in October to the U.N. General assembly that he is "deeply troubled" by the situation in Iran, describing a "climate of fear" where journalists, human rights defenders and minorities face wrongful arrest and imprisonment. Much of the report was focused on freedom of expression and the right to information, and how Iranian authorities have undermined press freedom through surveillance, detention, and imprisonment. The report will be the basis for a General Assembly resolution critical of Iran's human rights violations, which will likely be voted on in December.

LONDON: More than 40 worldwide media groups issued a joint statement October 23 that demanded governments, the U.N. and the news industry to take urgent action to stop violence against journalists and end impunity in attacks on the press. The statement was made in advance of the second U.N. Inter Agency meet-

ing on Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity, which will take place November 22 to 23 in Vienna.

NEW YORK: A 53-page report by CPJ on press freedom in Turkey issued in early October generated attention and debate. In Turkey, most leading dailies and cable networks, including the widely viewed CNN Turk, featured CPJ's findings. International media coverage was widespread. CPJ criticized the government of Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan for jailing 76 journalists, 61 of whom are in prison as a direct result of their writing or reporting, mainly on Kurdish issues. Although Turkey has long been seen as a model of democracy in the Middle East, CPJ's analysis puts it as the world's leading jailer of journalists. Also in October, the E.U. strongly said in its annual report on the progress of prospective E.U. members that "increasing concerns" about court cases against reporters endanger Turkey's bid for E.U. membership. The Turkish government insists no journalists have been jailed simply because of their profession but because of criminal activities.

MURDERS

The death of **Mohamed Mohamoud Tuuryare**, a website editor and program producer for Shabelle Radio in Somalia, on October 28 pushed the International Press Institute's (IPI) Death Watch to 110 deaths in 2012. With two months of the year remaining, that figure tied 2012 with 2009 for the deadliest year for the media on record. In all of last year, 102 journalists were killed. Tuuryare died a week after he was severely injured in his chest and abdomen during an apparent assassination attempt. In a separate incident, **Ahmed Farah Ilyas**, a correspondent for the privately owned Universal TV, was shot dead October 23. Unidentified gunmen killed both with no groups claiming responsibility. IPI reports

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(Continued From Page 5)

that 16 journalists have been killed this year in Somalia.

Unknown assailants gunned down **Khalid Musa Mengal**, a reporter with the daily newspaper *Ummat* in Pakistan's Balochistan province, on October 23. Balochistan is the most dangerous region for journalists in Pakistan, with the IPI reporting that four of the at least six journalists killed in Pakistan this year died in Balochistan. The next day, the Karachi Union of Journalists demonstrated outside the Karachi Press Club and denounced the failure of the governments, in particular in Balochistan, to ensure journalists' ability to work safely.

CPJ makes a strong argument that authorities in Veracruz charged the wrong man for the murder of **Regina Martínez Pérez**, a reporter who was strangled April 28 in her home. CPJ reported November 2 that the federal officials say Jorge Hernández Silva, who is not tied to the crime by physical evidence, has retracted a confession given to Veracruz authorities that Hernández said was coerced through torture and by threats against his mother. This adds to doubts that began with the decision by state authorities to consider theft as motive for the murder. Cell phones were among the few items stolen when Martínez was murdered while more valuable items were ignored. It is not clear that theft was the motive and there can be other reasons why people are interested in a reporter's phones. Martínez was a respected correspondent for *Proceso*, a national magazine, who covered politics and corruption in the Veracruz government that is investigating her death. She is one of nine journalists killed in Veracruz since December 2010 but local authorities did not link her death to her occupation.

UPDATES

NEW YORK: The 37th annual

Knight-Bagehot dinner in Manhattan on October 24 raised some \$550,000 to support the Knight-Bagehot Fellowship in Economics and Business Journalism, which is directed by OPC Foundation Board member **Terri Thompson**. The fellowships provide mid-career journalists a year of business, law and international affairs classes at the Columbia University to hone their skills in business and finance.

Anthony Shadid, an OPC member who died in February while in Syria on assignment for *The New York Times*, was a finalist for the National Book Awards for the memoir *House of Stone*, which chronicles the year Shadid spent rebuilding his great-grandfather's house in Lebanon. The prize for non-fiction was awarded to Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist **Katherine Boo** for her first book, *Behind the Beautiful Forevers: Life, Death, and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity* on November 14.



Katherine Boo in India.

New York Times Co. Chairman **Arthur Sulzberger Jr.** wrote to staff members on October 25 defending his decision to hire **Mark Thompson** as the company's next chief executive officer. It was Sulzberger's first public comment about Thompson's status since it was revealed that a BBC investigative report into sexual abuse by one of the BBC's former television stars was canceled while Thompson was director general of BBC. Thompson started at *The Times* November 12.

Kassahun Yilma, an exiled Ethiopian journalist, is the 2012-13 International Journalist in Residence

at the Graduate School of Journalism of the City University of New York. **Stephen Shepard**, the dean of the school and an OPC member, was host for an October 16 reception honoring Yilma, a former staff writer at *Addis Neger*, a well-respected Ethiopian newspaper that closed in 2009 after nearly the entire staff left the country. The evening included a panel discussion.

Davia Temin, an OPC member and president and CEO of Temin and Company, started a new series of evening salons similar to those she has held for almost six years. "In a town that is both high-pressured and sometimes anonymous, I wanted to recreate the feeling of a good Swarthmore honors seminar, or late night group conversation," wrote Temin, a Swarthmore graduate. "And, I wanted it to be about knowledge and insight and camaraderie, for its own sakes." Her guests have included **Sree Sreenivasan** of the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism; filmmaker **Al Mayes**; **Diana Henriques** of *The New York Times*; **Paul Steiger** and **Dick Tofel** from ProPublica.

PARIS: **Christophe Deloire**, a French journalist, was elected October 19 to a five-year term as secretary-general heading the international organization of Reporters Without Borders (RSF). "Our visibility...and the unsuspected scale of our activities put us in a position to become the world's leading organization defending a freedom that is fundamental not only for democracy but also for economic and social progress," he said. Deloire, 41, was a television journalist before becoming an investigative reporter for the magazine *Le Point*. He has worked as an editor at a publishing house and written best-selling books including *L'Enquête Sabotée* in 2004, *Sexus Politicus* in 2006 and *Circus Politicus* in 2012. He ran the Paris-based Journalists Training Centre

from 2008 until mid-2012.

TOKYO: **Matthew Winkler**, editor-in-chief of Bloomberg News and an OPC member, scored a rare interview with Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda in October on a sensitive subject — Japan’s dispute with China over uninhabited islands in the East China Sea. Noda has called for talks with China, and diplomats from both sides have agreed to hold a meeting to resolve the crisis, Winkler reported. “These are the second- and third-largest economies in the world, and our interdependence is deepening,” Noda was quoted as saying. “If our ties cool, particularly economic ones, then it isn’t a question of one or the other country suffering. Both countries lose out.” A story based on the interview appeared in the October 22-28 issue of *Bloomberg Businessweek*.

WASHINGTON: **Jim Laurie**, a former OPC board member, left Hong Kong to help state-owned China Central Television develop a presence in the U.S. Laurie was quoted in a recent *Bloomberg Businessweek* magazine article discussing why China is trying to stage a global media assault. “There’s an overall sense in government circles that China is not always given a fair shake in Western media coverage,” he said. “They see opportunities at a time when the U.S. media is contracting.” CCTV opened a 100-person bureau in Washington this year and Xinhua, the national news agency of China, has launched an English-language edition and announced the opening of its U.S. headquarters with a billboard in Times Square.

The *Businessweek* article went on to report a backlash against the U.S. welcoming China’s state-owned media, at a time when U.S. journalists find it increasingly difficult to cover China. In a survey last year, the Foreign Correspondents’ Club of China found a third of its members had difficulties obtaining visas. In May, for

reasons that remain unclear, Chinese authorities refused to renew a visa for **Melissa Chan**, an OPC member working for Al Jazeera: it was the first time China had expelled a foreign reporter in 14 years. U.S. Rep. **Dana Rohrabacher**, R-Calif., a former journalist, introduced a bill last year that would effectively expel almost every member of the Chinese media by mandating parity between U.S. visas issued to journalists for China’s state-owned media and the visas that China grants U.S. reporters working for the government-funded Voice of America — who currently number two.

BIRTH



From left: **David, Philip and Woody Andelman**

Former OPC President **David A. Andelman** and his wife **Pamela Tittle** welcomed their grandson **Woody Andelman** into the world on October 4. He weighed 7 pounds and measured 52-centimeters in length. His parents are Philip and Sarah Andelman who live in Paris. The proud grandfather noted in an e-mail that **Woody** was delivered “in the same room where **Carla Bruni** gave birth to **Sarkozy’s** son !!”

PEOPLE REMEMBERED

OPC member since 1975 **Virginia White**, a distinguished author, editor, administrator and teacher, died October 9 in Manhattan at age 94. Born in small town Hopewell, Virginia, it was World War II that provided the opportunity to leave and begin an adventurous international life. She enlisted in the Women’s Army Corps (WAC) in 1942 and was

discharged in 1945 as a First Lieutenant.

As a civilian, she joined the Army Occupation Forces in Japan, where she met her husband AP war correspondent **Frank L. White**. Their son, **Charles**, was born in 1947 in Tokyo. They moved to Manila in 1950 and were later divorced. She moved to New York and took advantage of the G.I. Bill and enrolled at Columbia University. As a research administrator and grants expert she worked for the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, The Salk Institute and the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, DC and the CUNY Graduate Center back in New York.

She wrote four books on grants and launched *Grants Magazine* published by Plenum quarterly.

At age 74 when most people have retired, **White** applied to the U.S. Peace Corps, learned Hungarian and was sent to Budapest where she taught English. After her assignment ended, she continued to live in Budapest and wrote the book *Over the Hill in Hungary*.

Back in New York in 2001, she worked at the International Center where she introduced new immigrants to American culture and was a part-time professional actress.

Adelaide Burr Oursler, widow of former OPC President **Will C. Oursler**, died September 30 at her Sutton Place home in New York City, just a week short of her 98th birthday. She frequented the OPC often with her husband, and continued to attend OPC events for several years after he died in 1985. She is survived by a son, **William Duclos Oursler**, of North Carolina. **Will C. Oursler**, an author and former war correspondent for Fawcett Publications in the Pacific during World War II, served as OPC president from 1970 to 1972.

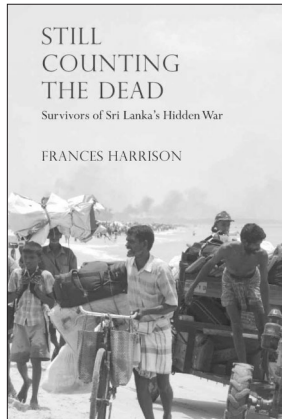


New Books

SOUTH ASIA

THE 26-YEAR CIVIL WAR in Sri Lanka ended in a bloodbath in 2009 when an all-out government campaign seized the last area controlled by the Tamil Tigers. The government slaughtered rebels and thousands of civilians trapped on a beach. The South Asia tropical island that was a paradise for tourists became a hell for its Tamil minority. The violence killed thousands and decimated the economy.

In *Still Counting the Dead: Survivors of Sri Lanka's Hidden War* [Granta, September 2012], **Frances Harrison** draws on her experience as a BBC correspondent in Sri Lanka from 2000 to 2004 to explain a vast, complex calamity by examining the ethnic tensions between the largely Buddhist and Christian Sinhalese majority and the mostly Hindu minority Tamils. Har-



ison has survivors of the bloody last months of the war tell stories of injustice and horror.

She addresses the “callous brinksmanship” of the Tamil Tigers that include the use of suicide bombing and kidnapped child fighters. She tells how at the end of the conflict, ordinary Tamils suffered the most when

they became human shields for the Tigers and were targeted by the government inside the misleadingly named no-fire zones.

A United Nations panel has cited evidence that the last months of fighting killed as many as 40,000 people but Harrison suggests the figure may be higher. Sri Lanka continues to resist

calls for an international war crimes investigation but the appalling stories Harrison recounts may increase pressure on Sri Lanka to allow accountability.



the Vietnam War in *The Five O'Clock Follies: What's a Woman Doing Here, Anyway?* [Calliope Press, October 2012]

Set during the period of the Tet offensive in 1968 Vietnam, the novel explores the difficulties of being a female reporter in a war zone during a time when “gals” were rarely assigned overseas. Freelance writer Angela Martinelli, a tall, enigmatic redhead, is an object of great interest to male correspondents, one of whom reports she arrived at Tan Son Nhut Airport wearing “high heeled bikini shoes.” Jungle boots soon replaced those shoes. Martinelli works to prove her merit as she chases truths the military denies and other correspondents’ doubt.

When Tuohy describes the downtime correspondents spend hanging out at bars, swapping gossip and waiting for the next scoop the narrative slows, but it picks up during accounts of key events: the Tet offensive, the siege of Khe Sanh, horrific injuries and even the torment of walking endlessly through the jungle.

— by Susan Kille

SOUTH EAST ASIA

THEASA TUOHY, WHO HAS worked for five daily newspapers and The Associated Press, tells the fictional story of a woman covering

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