



Bulletin

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

Holiday Party Kicks Off OPC's 75th Anniversary Year

by Brian Byrd

In 2014, the OPC will mark its 75th anniversary. As part of its diamond jubilee, the OPC will hold a series of events beginning with a holiday party in January that will kickoff the anniversary year at the Club's birthplace: The Roundtable at the Algonquin Hotel on Tuesday, January 7 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Food, drinks and merriment will be on hand as well as time to share stories about life as a journalist. Come with a memorable reporting story, an OPC story, a story of courage or good luck. (See page 4 for details.)

The Club's founding was in 1939, the year Lou Gehrig gave his "luckiest man alive" speech as he retired from the New York Yankees, "Gone With the Wind" and "The Wizard of Oz" had theatrical releases and NBC Television began its broadcast. That same year, Adolph Hitler and the Nazis embarked on a series of transgressions that led to the start

of World War II. And on April 2, nine foreign correspondents gathered at the Algonquin Hotel's Round Table in New York to form the OPC of America. This intrepid group of men and women launched an organization whose presence and influence have been felt for the past 75 years. During this time, na-

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Senator John F. Kennedy addresses the 18th Annual Awards Dinner of the OPC.

OPC Holds Two Panel Discussions Overseas

by Sonya K. Fry

A Ford Foundation grant has enabled the OPC to take its message abroad this year. It is an idea that has been discussed for many years, but there was never enough money to make it a reality. This November, the OPC worked with the Frontline Club of London and the American University of Paris organizing panels on similar but nuanced forums, with Syria the focus of attention.

The Paris panel was held at a particularly vulnerable time. Two weeks before the November 12 discussion, two French broadcast journalists were kidnapped and then shot in Mali. Also, several French journalists have been missing in Syria since the beginning of 2013. The audience talked about the dangers of reporting and photographing and expressed solidarity with missing colleagues.

The London panel at the Frontline Club was attended by journalists who had just returned from Syria and were eager to exchange ideas on freelancing and its dangers. (See

London recap page 3.) Both discussions attracted capacity audiences.

PARIS RECAP: NOVEMBER 12

by Michael S. Serrill

On a rainy evening in Paris, some 80 people gathered for an OPC sponsored forum on the dangers of working in war zones around the world. The panel was led by *Time* contributor Vivienne Walt and CNN International correspondent Jim Bittermann, both OPC members. Panelists included: Jerome Delay, the AP's chief photographer for Africa; Fabio Bucciarelli, who has spent the past several years going in and out of Syria; Aidan Sullivan of Getty Images and Lucie Morillon of Reporters Without Borders.

The consensus of the group: there has never been a more dangerous time to be a war journalist especially in Syria. "The rules of engagement have nothing to do with those in World War II, Vietnam, even Sarajevo," said Delay. "Combatants in

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Muñoz Tries to Unlock Mystery of Bhutto's Killing in Book

EVENT RECAP: DECEMBER 4

by Allan Dodds Frank

OPC members helped pack the house at the beautiful Society of the Americas building on Park Avenue to listen to Heraldo Muñoz discuss the assassination of Benazir Bhutto as she was campaigning in Pakistan. Muñoz, a Chilean diplomat who was appointed by the U.N. to lead an international inquiry into Bhutto's murder, was discussing his new book, *Getting Away With Murder*. Under questioning by Lally Weymouth, senior associate editor *The Washington Post* and the last U.S. writer to interview Bhutto extensively, Muñoz outlined a list of suspects while admitting investigators have never cracked the crime. With telling details, Muñoz told the crowd of diplomats, journalists and foreign policy spe-

cialists about the sloppy and lackadaisical police work that preceded Bhutto's killing. He raised a series of questions about whether her assassination was practically inevitable, if not planned by those in charge, since the authorities in Pakistan ignored pleas from Bhutto, from the U.S. and elsewhere, for topflight security preparations to insure her protection.

As in any good mystery story, Muñoz tried to unravel the many potential motives by suspects inside and outside of Pakistan. He marched through Benazir's political rivals, the Taliban, factions of the military and Pakistani intelligence service, agents from other countries, among others. His conclusion, reached delicately with the Pakistani ambassador to the U.N. in the crowd, seemed to be that Pakistan was — and remains — a pretty treacherous and mysterious place.

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tions and their leaders rose and fell, wars were declared and ended, and technological advances were made throughout the world. Through all of this history, the OPC and its members have been there to bear witness, keeping generation after generation informed.

On August 5, 1960, Senator John F. Kennedy, in his first speech since winning the democratic nomination for President, remarked that the OPC "performed valuable functions

in the past and to say also that you have great responsibilities to meet in the future." For three quarters of a century, the OPC continues to meet these responsibilities through its programs, convenings, awards, scholarships and networks. When the Columbus and Magellan of foreign correspondents met on April 2, they created an entity to serve "the interests of international journalists."

The OPC 75th Anniversary Committee is in the planning stages of many more events to take place in 2014. Among those events will be a

special lighting of the Empire State Building in April to coincide with the Awards Dinner and a photo exhibit of OPC award winners later in the year. While this will be a year-long remembrance of the Club's past, it will also be a celebration of its future. In a rapidly changing world of conflict and inspiring moments, OPC members will continue to capture stories as they unfold, giving them meaning and perspective, while informing the world. Please join us throughout 2014 to celebrate the OPC's past, present and future.

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Dangers in Syria Are Particularly Acute Among Freelancers

LONDON RECAP: NOVEMBER 19

by Abigail Pesta

With some 30 journalists currently missing in Syria, a group of veteran war correspondents met in London on November 19 to debate the risks of reporting from one of the most dangerous places on earth. The event, sponsored by the Overseas Press Club of America and the Frontline Club, a London-based media club, zoomed in on topics ranging from kidnappings to the heavy flow of reporting from freelancers in the region.

“I think most information that came out of Syria last year came from freelancers,” said freelance photographer Fabio Bucciarelli in a panel discussion moderated by Stuart Hughes, a BBC News producer who lost a leg in a landline blast in Iraq. Bucciarelli, who won the OPC’s Robert Capa Gold Medal Award last year for his photography from Syria, said he appreciates the freedom of freelancing and joked that freelancers are extremely motivated to “leave the hotel” and get the story so they can get paid.

But freelancers come with a wide range of skills and experience — or lack thereof — which creates a dilemma for the publications that hire them, said Sean Ryan, associate editor of *The Sunday Times*.

Ryan said his newspaper had decided to stop commissioning work from freelance journalists in Syria, unless they’re extremely experienced, in order to prevent them from taking unnecessary risks for *The Times*. He explained the decision by recounting a specific experience with a freelancer: The reporter had pitched a story on Syria to Ryan after safely leaving the country. It was a “wonderful” story, Ryan said, and he paid well for it. Later, Ryan said, the same reporter pitched a story from inside Syria — a story Ryan didn’t think was worth the risk for the reporter. “I realized I had given him



From left: Mani, Sean Ryan, Stuart Hughes, Emma Beals, Fabio Bucciarelli

the incentive to go back,” he says. “I felt at that point it was irresponsible to give any freelancer in that position an incentive.”

The Sunday Times lost its correspondent Marie Colvin last year in a shelling in Syria. The Committee to Protect Journalists calls the country the most dangerous place in the world for journalists, with 28 correspondents killed in 2012.

Bucciarelli noted that there’s nothing black and white for publications when it comes to deciding whether to commission freelance reporting from Syria. For instance, he said, publications might have a policy not to commission freelance work, but those same publications, including *The Sunday Times*, buy photos from photo agencies that do use work from freelancers.

Talk turned to kidnappings and whether it’s safer for a correspondent to be on staff with a large media organization if the reporter gets seized. Emma Beals, founder of the Frontline Freelance Register, a group aimed at uniting and protecting journalists, said it might help in the way the search is conducted to have the backing of a major publication, but with the uncertainty in Syria today, she said she doubted it would make much difference in the outcome.

Beals, who reports from Syria, noted that in terms of entering the country and traveling around as a reporter, “It’s dangerous to assume that any ways are foolproof.” Hughes called the situation “a lottery.” One audience member mentioned that

some reporters had posed as medics, while another person in the audience — a man who had served as a medic in Syria — strongly advised against that, noting that medics are targets themselves, for instance if they are seen as helping an enemy faction.

One audience member asked about female journalists in Syria, and whether they feel a need to take added risks to prove themselves on the frontlines. Beals said, “I think in Syria, I’m going to be controversial and say it’s an advantage, actually. A lot of the great reporting that’s been coming from Syria in recent months has been from women because you can go a little bit more under cover, you can wear a hijab and sort of putter around a little bit more.” She added, “That’s not the same for every country, obviously...but as far as Syria goes, the female thing is, if not a nonissue, almost an advantage.”

The group also discussed the future for Syria, with award-winning freelance filmmaker Mani noting, “The issue for Syria is, is it going to be 10 states, or three states...I just hope inside the rebel areas it’s not going to be total chaos forever.”

When Hughes asked whether it’s worth it to report from Syria and if the public cares, photographer Bucciarelli summed it up this way: “No journalist ever thinks that his picture can stop the world...I like to make people conscious of what’s going on there. If only one person, after seeing one of my images, can think about what’s going on in Syria, I’m happy with that.”

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Syria's civil war are actually hunting down journalists," Sullivan said. "And the scary part is that they are not asking for ransom. They are using them as collateral in case they have to bargain their way out of a situation later."

The panel and the audience, which included war reporters who covered conflicts as far back as World War II, agreed that there has never been more need for conflict training, medical instruction and protective gear like flak jackets. Delay said he took his first conflict course in the 1990s, "and I realized then how stupid I had been before."

The discussion ranged across a number of questions for which there are no clear answers. Should the media publicize the kidnapping of a journalist? How do you find a "fixer" you can trust? In this time when full-time staff for many media organizations have been reduced, should you rely on freelancers? Many media companies refuse to use freelancers, especially if they have no experience in war zones or are perceived as "cowboys" or "war junkies," to use



From left: Vivienne Walt, Michael Serrill, Fabio Bucciarelli, Jerome Delay, Jim Bittermann, Lucie Morillon and Aidan Sullivan

Alan Riding's phrase. Bucciarelli, himself a freelance, said shunning the unaffiliated is not the answer. Rather, they should be provided with training — available free in the U.K. — and other support. Morillon pointed out that RWB has provided flak jackets, insurance and other help to more than 400 freelance journalists working in Afghanistan and the Middle East in recent years.

Sullivan noted that he and Getty Images have launched a campaign via social media "saying the public and our industry should do more to offer protection" to working reporters. He said he was gratified that the

American delegation to the U.N. responded by holding an hours-long debate on the issue and that the French mission is preparing a resolution addressing the failure of governments to arrest and prosecute those who kidnap and kill journalists.

The panel agreed that there are no foolproof methods for staying safe in a war zone. "The only way to prevent a kidnapping is to not be there," Sullivan said. And, unfortunately, an increasing number of media organizations are not there, as they conclude that covering Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria and a dozen other conflicts is not worth the risk and expense.

OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB



Holiday Party

January 7
6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

The OPC's Diamond Jubilee will take place at the **Algonquin Hotel**, 59 West 44th Street. Come with stories of the OPC, a reporting story, your most dangerous or proudest moment as a journalist. We will eat, drink, celebrate and tell stories.



Open Bar and Buffet
\$80 per person



Advance reservations are essential. Call the OPC 212-626-9220 or e-mail sonya@opcofamerica.org

AWARDS APPLICATION

The OPC Awards application is available online at:

opcofamerica.org

All entrants will fill out the form online and all entry material will be posted electronically except for categories that include books. Books should be sent to the OPC office.

Deadline: Thursday, January 30, 2014

OPC SCHOLARS

Lauren Rosenfeld, who won the OPC's Foundation 2012 Walter and Betsy Cronkite Scholarship, is currently working on the Fault Lines documentary series at Al Jazeera America. Rosenfeld, who received her master's degree from Berkeley in May 2012, has also worked at the Investigative Reporting Program on Rape in the Fields/Violación de un Sueño, a documentary co-production that aired on Frontline and Univision. In the documentary, "Captive Radio," which she wrote about in her winning scholarship application, has been shown at film festivals around the world.



Rosenfeld

WINNERS

Muhammad Bekjanov, an Uzbek journalist imprisoned for 14 years, and the Sri Lankan Tamil-language daily *Uthayan* won the 2013 Press Freedom Prize from Reporters Without Borders (RSF). The awards were presented November 28 to *Uthayan* editor **Vallipuram Kaanamylnaathan** and owner **Eswarapatham Saravanapavan**, and to Uzbek human rights defender **Nadejda Atayeva** on behalf of Bekjanov.



Bekjanov

Olivier Jobard, a French photographer, was awarded the third annual Tim Hetherington Grant. Jobard's winning project, "Dream of a Rain of Perfume," is about two young Afghan men who flee their country after the Taliban threaten their lives. The project is named for



From Jobard's "Dream of a Rain of Perfume." Kabul, Afghanistan: Two men hide in a relative's house. They cannot return to their homes because of the Taliban threat.

the men's dream of reaching Paris, a place where they had heard that helicopters spray the air each morning with perfume. The grant of €20,000, or about \$27,000, was established by Human Rights Watch and World Press Photo to celebrate the life of **Tim Hetherington**, a photojournalist and filmmaker killed in Libya in 2011. The contest is open to professional photographers who have participated in World Press Photo competitions.



Jobard

Bülent Mumay, a Turkish journalist who is editor in chief of the hurriyet.com.tr website, received the 2013 Human Rights Award from the South East Europe Media Organisation, an affiliate of the International Press Institute (IPI). Mumay was honored for an editorial approach that recognizes human rights and the importance of representing the views of many different groups in Turkish society. He leads a team of 30 journalists.

The Frontline Club in London on October 24 presented its 2013 awards. **Patrick Kingsley** won the print award for an investigation in *The Guardian* titled "Killing in Cairo: the Full Story of the Repub-

lican Guards' Club Shootings." The photojournalism award went to **Ali Ali**, who has worked for EPA Agency since he was 17, for documenting life in the Gaza Strip. **Samuel James** received a photojournalism commendation for a project commissioned by *Harper's Magazine* on makeshift and illegal oil refineries in the Niger Delta. James also won the 2012 Rebbot Award for these same pictures. **Ben Anderson** won broadcast honors for his piece for BBC's Panorama and for Vice on the drawdown of operations in Helmand Province in Afghanistan. The program included a tribute to **David Douglas Duncan**, an American photojournalist known for his dramatic combat photographs from World War II, Korea and Vietnam.

The Rory Peck Awards, which honor freelance news camera operators, were presented in November at a London ceremony hosted by OPC member **Christiane Amanpour** of CNN and ABC News. **Aris Roussinos** of Britain won the news award for "Ground Zero Mali: The Battle of Gao," a self-funded video broadcast online by Vice that showed street battles between government troops and Islamist insurgents in northern Mali. The features award went to British filmmaker **Olly Lambert** for "Syria: Across the Lines," which was commissioned and broadcast by Channel 4 Dispatches. The Sony Impact Award was presented to Bangladeshi freelancers **Soumen Guha** and **Dipak Chandra Sutradhar** for "Hazaribagh: Toxic Leather," produced by Wild Angle Productions. Azerbaijani freelancer **Idrak Abbasov** was presented the Martin Adler Prize for bravery in continuing to report after being beaten to unconsciousness and hospitalized for months. The Rory Peck Awards,

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sponsored by Sony, were set up 1995 and named after freelance camera operator **Rory Peck**, who was killed in Moscow in 1993.

PRESS FREEDOM

ATHENS: **Kostas Vaxevanis**, a Greek editor, was acquitted for a second time of breaching privacy after publishing a list of some 2,000 Greeks with Swiss bank accounts. He was tried in 2012 and cleared, but in an unusual move a prosecutor ordered a retrial that ended in late November. The list is said to include politicians, businessmen and others suspected of using the accounts to evade taxes. Its publication sparked fury among Greeks hit by deep austerity measures. Vaxevanis says the list was given in 2010 by the then French Finance Minister Christine Lagarde to her Greek counterpart.



Vaxevanis

WASHINGTON: The White House Correspondents' Association, The Associated Press, Agence France-Presse, *The Washington Post*, *The New York Times*, ABC, CBS, CNN, Fox and NBC were among 38 organizations and news companies that on November 21 sent a letter to the White House protesting restrictions on photographers' access to presidential activities.

The groups contend that the White House routinely excludes news photographers from sessions with President Barack Obama and then releases official photographs. The American Society of News Editors has urged its members "to refrain from publishing any of the photographs or videos released by



The top photo was taken by official White House photographer Pete Souza and the bottom by NYT photographer Doug Mills. The NYT ran these photos together to illustrate the disparity in access to the President.

the White House, just as you would refuse to run verbatim a press release from them."

PARIS: A gunman with a rifle opened fire November 18 in the lobby of *Libération*, a left-wing daily newspaper, gravely wounding a photographer's assistant before fleeing. Two days later, police arrested Abdelhakim Dekhar, who had served four years in prison after being convicted in 1998 as an accomplice in a 1994 robbery and car chase that left three police officers and a taxi driver dead. Police said Dekhar was the same man who the previous week stormed the Paris headquarters of popular TV news channel BFMTV, where he briefly threatened staff with a gun before rushing out. Dekhar faces charges of attempted murder.

TOKYO: The Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan joined international press freedom groups and major Japanese news organizations in protesting the Designated Secrets Bill, which was approved by the lower house of Parliament in late November and at press time was expected to pass the upper house. It

is rare for the FCCJ, which includes Japanese and non-resident journalists, to make a political statement; its protest was widely reported in Japan. Opponents say the bill will allow an already opaque government to classify nearly anything a state secret and that its harsh punishments could intimidate whistleblowers and stifle press freedom.

"It is at the very heart of investigative journalism in open societies to uncover secrets and to inform the people about the activities of government," **Lucy Birmingham**, FCCJ president, wrote in a November 11 statement. "Such journalism is not a crime, but rather a crucial part of the checks-and-balances that go hand-in-hand with democracy." Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has said the legislation is needed to secure cooperation with Japan's major ally, the United States, as well as other countries.



Birmingham



Jim Wyss is greeted by his girlfriend Ana Soler upon arrival to Miami International Airport.

CARACAS: **Jim Wyss**, The *Miami Herald's* Andean bureau chief, was held for almost two days after being detained November 7 by the Venezuela National Guard in San Cristobal, which The Associated Press described as "a hotbed for illegal transactions used to circumvent rigid currency controls." Wyss, who is based in Bogota and has made many trips to Venezuela, was report-

ing on municipal elections taking place in December that are seen as a referendum on high inflation and shortages that have marked Nicolás Maduro's six months as president after the death of Hugo Chávez. "I was exceptionally lucky," Weiss wrote after his release. "*The Miami Herald*, the U.S. State Department, airlines, local journalists and absolute strangers pushed hard for my release. I am grateful to all of them."

ISTANBUL: Rights groups accused Turkey's courts of using anti-terrorism laws to silence dissent after three journalists received life sentences for alleged links to the outlawed Marxist-Leninist Communist Party, which the government regards as a terrorist organization. They were among seven defendants handed life sentences November 5 on charges of "trying to overthrow constitutional order by means of violence." The three journalists are **Füsun Erdogan**, former head of Özgür Radyo; **Ibrahim Cicek**, editor of the weekly *Atilim*; and **Bayram Namaz**, an *Atilim* reporter. A fourth journalist, *Atilim* journalist publisher **Sedat Senoglu**, was sentenced to seven and a half years in prison.

MOGADISHU: The Islamist militia Al-Shabaab banned television viewing in the coastal town of Barawe, in the Lower Shabelle region of southern Somalia. The ban was announced on October 28 and residents were given five days to hand in their TV sets and satellite dishes. "This ban's real target is TV news stations, which annoy Al-Shabaab by showing viewers not only its atrocities but also the progress that the population has made in the regions from which Al-Shabaab has been expelled," RSF said in a statement.

KINGSTON: Jamaica has become the first independent Caribbean

country to have no criminal defamation laws — including seditious libel — on the books. After years of lobbying by the media and civil society interests, the House of Representatives on November 5 passed a bill revamping the country's libel legislation. According to the IPI, the new law repeals criminal libel, eliminates the distinction between slander and libel; reduces the period for actions from six years to two; replaces defense of justification with the defense of truth; introduces the defense of innocent dissemination; and stipulates that damages shall be at the discretion of judges, not juries. Grenada, a member of the British Commonwealth, abolished criminal libel in 2012, but maintains laws criminalizing seditious libel and insult of the monarch.

KUWAIT CITY: In a sign of widening crackdowns in Gulf Arab states on social media, two Twitter users in different cases and different countries were sentenced to prison on November 18. A Kuwait court sentenced **Musaab Shamsah** to five years for a Twitter message posted in May that authorities said insulted the Prophet Muhammad. In the United Arab Emirates, **Waleed al-Shehhi** was ordered jailed for two years and fined \$137,000 for a message posted in May about the trial of 94 men accused of links to an armed group. Shehhi is the second Emirati online activist to be convicted for posting about the UAE 94 trial. **Abdullah Al-Hadidi** was arrested in March and received a 10-month sentence that was upheld on appeal in May. He was released on November 1.

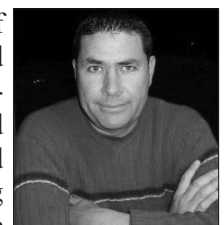
MURDERS

The body of **Radwan Gharyani**, the owner and manager of radio Tripoli FM, was found December 1 in a suburb of the Libya capital. He had been shot four times. A motive was not immediately clear.

Joas Dignos, a controversial Filipino radio journalist, was shot in the head and killed November 29 by two men on a motorcycle in Valencia City in Mindanao, police said. Dignos, who had a weekday show called *Bombardier* on DXGT radio, was known for fiery comments regarding city officials, colleagues said. In June, a grenade was hurled at the radio station while one of Dignos's commentaries was being aired. Human Rights Watch said as many as 24 journalists have been murdered since President Benigno Aquino took office in 2010 despite his promise to fight against such abuses.

Alaa Edwar, an Iraqi camera operator for Nineveh Al-Ghad television, was murdered November 24 in Mosul by gunmen who shot him three times in the head and chest. RSF said Edwar was the fourth journalist gunned down in similar circumstances in Mosul in less than two months.

Car theft appeared to be the motive in the November 4 murder of **Alberto Angulo Gerardo**, a Mexican sports journalist, who was shot dead while driving in the northern state of Sinaloa. Three carloads of gunmen chased Angulo Gerardo's car and fired when he refused to stop, according to reports. Three female relatives who were with Angulo Gerardo were injured.



Gerardo

Ghislaine Dupont and **Claude Verlon**, who had worked at Radio France Internationale since the 1980s, were abducted and killed November 2 while reporting in the remote northern Mali town of Kidal, which has remained a stronghold of

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Dupont and Verlon

separatists and insurgents despite the French military intervention and a U.N. peacekeeping mission. Dupont, a senior correspondent, spent most of her career in Africa. Verlon, a production technician, was a veteran of Iraq and Afghanistan coverage. Armed men grabbed them after they interviewed the acting head of the rebel National Movement for the Liberation of the Azawad, or NMLA, officials said. Their throats were slit and their bodies were dumped outside the town. Suspicion fell on the NMLA, the Tuareg separatist movement that invaded northern Mali last year, with al-Qaida fighters. The NMLA later fell out with al-Qaida and was chased out of much of northern Mali, except for Kidal. Killings do not match the pattern of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, which has bankrolled its operations by kidnapping and ransoming Westerners.

The bullet-riddled body of **Manuel Murillo Varela**, a freelance journalist in Honduras, was found October 24 in Tegucigalpa. Murillo Varela was a camera operator for Globo TV and for the state television, Canal 8. He was also the official camera operator for former president José Manuel Zelaya Rosales, who was overthrown in a 2009 military coup. Murillo Varela had been a past victim of violence: he and a colleague were abducted in February 2010, reportedly by police



Varela

agents, and were tortured for more than a day.

UPDATES

BOSTON: GlobalPost and its GroundTruth Project are taking applications through December 31 for international journalism fellowships that will send 20 young reporters around the world to create multimedia projects related to the youth unemployment crisis. Ten teams with two fellows each will be chosen. Each team will work in a different country. GroundTruth is funded by the Ford Foundation and headed by **Charles Sennott**, an OPC member. “The reporters will explore how the energy of unemployed youth might be harnessed for good rather than sitting idle or in many cases becoming a destructive force,” said Sennott, GlobalPost co-founder and editor at large.

DAMASCUS: Thanksgiving marked a year since **James Foley**, an American freelance journalist working for GlobalPost, was kidnapped in Syria as he drove toward the Turkish border at the end of a reporting trip. The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) said in November that at least 30 journalists are missing in Syria and believed to have been kidnapped. RSF, however, cited higher figures, saying at least 60 “news providers” are detained and more than 110 have been killed. In a November 15 blog post for Reuters, **David Rohde**, a former *New York Times* correspondent kidnapped in Afghanistan in 2008 with two Afghan colleagues and held for seven months, wrote that Syria has “an epidemic of journal-



Foley



Tice

ist kidnappings.” Rohde said four Americans were among the missing, including Foley and **Austin Tice**, a freelancer for McClatchy Newspapers and *The Washington Post*, who disappeared in August 2012. Rohde wrote that the families of two other American journalists have asked that their names not be made public.

CHICAGO: Tribune Co., which owns the *Los Angeles Times*, *Chicago Tribune* and seven other daily newspapers, on November 20 announced that it was eliminating 700 jobs, or 6 percent of its workforce, and reorganizing operational functions to save money. Tribune, which also owns 23 TV stations, sought to sell the papers this year but was unable to find a buyer. It now plans to spin off its publishing business as a separate company.

WASHINGTON: The trial for the August 2011 murder of **Viola Drath**, an OPC member, was postponed until January 6. Albrecht Muth, who was married to Drath, is charged with first-degree murder in the beating and strangulation death of his wife. Muth, 48, has denied any role in the death of 91-year-old Drath, a journalist and socialite. The trial date was changed once before, with the case stalled by concerns over Muth’s mental and physical state. In November, a judge rejected a defense bid to subpoena former CIA director David Petraeus as a potential witness.

NEW YORK: The U.N. General Assembly on November 26 condemned all attacks and violence against journalists and media workers as it adopted its first resolution on the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity. The resolution, which also created an International Day to End Impunity for crimes against journalists, called on member states “to do their utmost to prevent violence against journalists and media workers” and to ensure

accountability in investigations, to bring perpetrators to justice and to provide victims with remedies.

The Forbes family has put up for sale their 96-year-old namesake business magazine and its Web properties. The November announcement follows years of dwindling profits. The family, a pioneer in business journalism, tried to stabilize its business by selling a stake in 2006, aggressively embracing digital publishing and selling assets, including its Manhattan headquarters building. In a memo to employees, **Michael S. Perlis**, the chief executive of Forbes Media and the first non-family member to run the magazine, said “we expect interest from numerous suitors.” According to news reports, the family is seeking at least \$400 million in a sale but some observers believe the price could be closer to \$200 million.



Logan issued a correction on the Benghazi story 60 Minutes aired on October 27.

Lara Logan, a CBS News correspondent, and her producer, **Max McClellan**, took leaves of absence after she apologized on November 10 in a rare on-air correction for a discredited “60 Minutes” report in October about the 2011 attack on the American compound in Benghazi, Libya. “The most important thing to every person at ‘60 Minutes’ is the truth, and the truth is: we made a mistake,” Logan told viewers. Logan also stepped aside from her commitment to serve as host on November 26 for CPJ’s 23rd annual International Press Freedom Awards;

Magazines Switch From Print to Web to Print

Newsweek plans to return to print, *New York* magazine is going bi-weekly and *The Week* will add issues.

Of those three announcements that came in early December, the most surprising was from *Newsweek*, which published what was called its last print edition at the end of 2012, when **Tina Brown** was editor. *Newsweek* has changed hands four times in three years. **Jim Impoco**, the former executive editor of Thomson Reuters Digital who was hired in September by IBT Media as editor in chief, said the magazine expects a 64-page weekly edition will begin in January or February. He described it as a “premium product” relying on subscriptions and that readers would pay more than in the past.

A day earlier, *New York* magazine said that in March it would shift from weekly to biweekly publication, with increased pages and content. Resources will be added to its increasingly popular website, nymag.com, and its iPad app will be enhanced.

The Week, a British-born news magazine that began publishing in the U.S. in 2001, already had told advertisers that next year it would increase its issues from 48 to 51. The public announcement, however, was withheld while officials waited for a good opportunity. The *New York* magazine announcement provided that opportunity.



Brown



Impoco

— by **Susan Kille**

Scott Pelley, anchor of “CBS Evening News” and also a “60 Minutes” correspondent, appeared in her place at the benefit dinner.

Boots Duque, the OPC office assistant, reports that all members of her immediate family in the Philippines are safe after Typhoon Haiyan, including a niece and her husband who lived in Tacloban City, where the storm (called Yolanda in the Philippines) came ashore. The couple lost their home and belongings but survived, while two aunts and three cousins of the niece’s husband were drowned. Boots said her family has always lived in metropolitan Manila but when her niece married, the couple, both physicians, settled in Tacloban City and had practices in a hospital owned by the husband’s family. Her family grew increasingly anxious after not hearing for three days from the niece, who is

the daughter of Boots’ brother. Then an email came saying she was safe. The niece’s older sister, also a doctor, contacted a friend two hours from Tacloban who hired a driver with a van to go look for the couple. The driver did not know the couple and had only a recent photo to go by. “When he recognized them, he himself shed tears of joy — finding them alive,” Boots said. He drove them back to the friend’s town and then the niece, her husband and her parents-in-law flew to Manila, where they plan to settle.

In a long-delayed case, a federal judge in November dismissed a lawsuit by authors opposing Google’s plan to digitize every book ever published and to make them searchable online. Google began its book-scanning project in 2004, without obtaining permission from copyright

(Continued on Page 10)

Freeland Elected to Canadian Parliament



Above, Federal Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau applauds Freeland during a speech in Toronto on October 2.



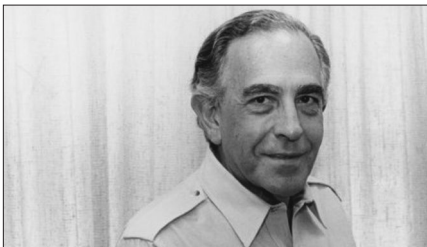
Left, Freeland celebrates her win on November 25.

Chrystia Freeland, a former OPC board member who has held several senior positions at Thomson Reuters, was elected in November to represent the Toronto Centre district in the Canadian Parliament as a member of the Liberal Party. Freeland, who is also a best-selling author, surprised the news industry in July with the announcement that she was returning to her native Canada and running for office.

— by Susan Kille

holders. Groups representing authors and publishers sued Google in 2005 claiming copyright violations. The Authors Guild said it planned to appeal.

PEOPLE REMEMBERED



Herbert Mitgang, a longtime *New York Times* journalist and an author of several books, including an exposé of government files compiled on prominent authors such as Truman Capote, John Steinbeck and Tennessee Williams, died November

21 at his home in Manhattan. He was 93. Mitgang started at *The Times* in 1945. He left for a brief period in the 1960s and was an assistant to **Fred W. Friendly**, the president of CBS News, and helped organize coverage of the Vietnam War.

He then returned to *The Times*, where he worked until his retirement in 1994. He wrote about foreign affairs, theater and the law, among other subjects. He helped create *The Times*'s Op-Ed page, which was introduced in 1970. As president of the Authors Guild and the Authors League Fund, he was a leader in the fight for authors' rights and interests.

He served as an Army intelligence officer and an Army journalist in World War II and earned six battle stars. He later wrote about his experiences in *Newsmen in Khaki: Tales of a World War II Soldier-Cor-*

respondent. Mitgang wrote or edited 15 fiction and nonfiction books, including two on Abraham Lincoln. One of his two plays, "Mr. Lincoln," had a brief run on Broadway after a successful production in Washington at Ford's Theater, where Lincoln was assassinated.



Penn Kimball, a journalist and teacher who sued the federal government after he learned that he had been secretly declared a security risk, died November 8 in Chevy Chase, Maryland. He was 98. After working at *PM* newspaper, *Time*, *Collier's*, the *New Republic*, *The New York Times* and CBS, Kimball became a professor at Columbia's Graduate School of Journalism in 1959. In 1977, he used the relatively new Freedom of Information Act to request any materials the government had about him.

In his 1983 book *The File*, he wrote that he was stunned to learn that more than 30 years earlier, after he had taken and passed the exam for the Foreign Service, the State Department had opened a security file on him that grew over the years with contributions by the FBI and the CIA that characterized him as "as a dangerous radical, a disloyal American, a national security risk, a subversive 'too clever' to be caught holding a membership card in the Communist Party."

In 1987, all three agencies agreed to expunge the files in exchange for Kimball's agreeing to drop his suit. After retiring from teaching in 1985, he stayed at Columbia as a graduate student and received a doctorate in political science in the late 1980s.

Difficulties With Visas and Access Continue in China

by Susan Kille

The leadership of China does not believe in press rights and major news organizations are being targeted for aggressive reporting. Reporters are being denied visas. Websites have been shut down.

Vice President Joe Biden discussed reprisals against the media with Chinese President Xi Jinping and other top leaders in early December while on a visit to Beijing. Biden also publicly criticized the Chinese for refusing to say if they will renew visas of journalists and for continuing to block American-based news websites.

Biden told reporters in Beijing for *The New York Times* and Bloomberg News that he warned Chinese leaders of consequences if journalists were forced out. He said Xi responded that reporters were treated according to Chinese law. *The Times* reported that nearly two dozen journalists working for it and for Bloomberg have visas that expire by the end of the month. So far, China has declined to act on the visas.

Bloomberg News found itself in the news after a front page story in *The New York Times* on November 9 reported that some Bloomberg employees said top editors, led by **Matthew Winkler**, the editor in chief, killed two investigative pieces about China due to concern that Bloomberg might be expelled from China. Winkler said in an email to *The Times* that “the stories are active and not spiked.”

According to *The Times*, one story detailed hidden financial ties between one of China’s richest men and families of the country’s top leaders; the other article was about children of senior Chinese officials employed by foreign banks. A few days later, **Michael Forsythe**, a reporter who worked on one story, was suspended. On November 18, Bloomberg laid off dozens of staff members, primarily covering sports and culture, and reassigned others. That day, Bloomberg said Forsythe had left the company. Winkler and Forsythe are OPC members.

Fortune magazine reported that Chinese authorities conducted unannounced inspections of Bloomberg bureaus in Beijing and Shanghai in late November.

On December 1, **Robert Hutton**, a London-based reporter for Bloomberg, traveling to China with David Cameron, the United Kingdom prime minister, was



Winkler



Forsythe



Hutton



Mooney



Chan

barred from a joint press event in Beijing with Cameron and Chinese Premier Li Keqiang. In a written statement, Cameron’s office said it protested Hutton’s exclusion.

China has blocked the Bloomberg News website since last year after the company published a story about the wealth of families of Chinese leaders including Xi, the former vice president who is now president. That project won the 2012 OPC Award for Best Investigative Reporting, with Forsythe one of the recipients.

Bloomberg reporters trying to enter China on new reporting assignments have not received visas. According to *The Times*, China has ordered companies not to lease Bloomberg terminals.

As the most populous nation in the world and the second largest economy, China is an important developing market for American businesses, including the media.

China blocked the English- and Chinese-language news websites of *The Times* and has not issued the paper new journalist visas following publication of stories in 2012 about the wealth of family members of former Prime Minister Wen Jiabao. That project won a Polk, OPC Malcom Forbes Award and a Pulitzer Prize for **David Barboza**. The shutdowns have cost the company about \$3 million in revenue.

The Times launched a Chinese-language website in October based on its style magazines and that also was blocked. In November, **Mark Thompson**, CEO of The New York Times Co., told Reuters that the company has no information about when the blocks will be lifted. He said the company keeps all money-losing operations under review.

Other media organizations also have visa difficulties. **Paul Mooney**, who covered Asia for three decades and spent 18 years based in Beijing, said he learned in November that his application for a resident journalist visa was rejected with no reason given. He had waited eight months for a visa that would allow him to begin a job in China for Thomson Reuters.

He returned to the United States last year after his previous visa sponsored by *The South China Morning Post* expired.

Melissa Chan, working for Al Jazeera, was the first foreign reporter expelled from China in 14 years when authorities refused to renew her visa in May 2012.

OPC Luminaries Recall Covering JFK's Assassination

by Susan Kille

OPC members recall their work 50 years earlier covering the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

When Kennedy died, **Roy Rowan** was having lunch in New York with his boss **Henry Luce**, the creator of the Time-Life magazine empire and its editor-in-chief. Rowan, who at the time was assistant managing editor of *Life* in charge of international news, was ordered to fly to the printing plant in Chicago and remake the magazine. It was Friday. Before the presses stopped, a few million copies were printed featuring Navy quarterback Roger Staubach and the upcoming Army-Navy game.

"We tore up the magazine, not knowing we would get the Zapruder film," Rowan told *The Courant* in Hartford. Editors and production staff scrambled, with no time for color photos. *Life* was on the newsstands by Monday with the iconic black-and-white Zapruder images secured by **Richard Stolley**. (See article page 13.)

"Dick did a marvelous job of talking to Mr. Zapruder — in not being aggressive and not being belligerent, and so Zapruder sold him the film," Rowan said.

Dan Rather was Southwest bureau chief in Dallas for CBS News but the job of reporting Kennedy's visit fell to the late **Bob Pierpont**, the White House correspondent. Rather, a Texan native, had the role of handling logistics during Kennedy's swing through Texas but he became the first to report the death of the president.

Rather said he was positioned just past where the motorcade was supposed to end, waiting for a cameraman to throw him film to be processed and used on CBS that night. "I didn't hear any shots," he told **Marvin Kalb** this November 22 in a conversation at the National Press Club. "I didn't know what had happened. All I knew is that I thought I had seen the presidential limousine go by in just a nanosecond. Was that the presidential limousine? Was that the First Lady? What is this?"

He went to the nearby CBS affiliate and after hearing what happened, his instincts as a former police reporter kicked in. When there's a shooting, call the hospital. The first time the switchboard hung up. The next time he was put through to a priest and a doctor who both said the president was dead. Meanwhile, the local CBS News director had the same information from a high-ranking hospital official. Rather gave the news on an open line to CBS Radio. The death was confirmed 15 minutes later.

Kalb asked Rather how he thought reporting from the assassination held up from a historical perspective.

"Was it done perfectly? Absolutely not. Were mistakes made? Of course they were," Rather responded. "But taking into full account the four dark days, Friday when the president was assassinated, Saturday when his alleged assassin was being questioned, and Sunday, when still incredibly, the assassin was assassinated while in the

hands of the police, and then Monday, when the First Lady orchestrated and planned an absolutely beautiful funeral in Washington that pulled the country together, I think journalism, on the first draft, did a better job than it often does on cataclysmic breaking news stories."

On November 22, 1963, **Seymour Topping** was at *The New York Times*. It was a rare visit for that time in his career. He was traveling from Moscow, where he had been chief correspondent, en route to be the chief correspondent in Southeast Asia. Last month after receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Society of Silurians, Topping told the group that moments after **Tom Wicker** flashed the news "it was discovered, inexplicably, that there was no advance obit for the young president." **Homer Bigart**, a renowned war correspondent, and Topping were assigned the task. By 6:30 p.m., four and a half hours after the death was announced, they had written an obituary that filled a page of *The Times*.

Topping, who had met Kennedy in Saigon in 1951, said he spent a sleepless night at the Astor Hotel. "I wept for Kennedy. I wept for my country," he said. "And I wondered what Kennedy would have done about Vietnam if he had lived."

Jim Lehrer was a young reporter for the *Dallas Times-Herald* assigned that day to cover the president's arrival and departure from Love Field. He saw Kennedy break protocol when he arrived by going to a fence to shake hands. Lehrer was supposed to stay at the airport until the president returned but after hearing the news and calling his office, he was told to go to the nearby hospital. He said he arrived just as it was announced that Kennedy was dead. He then was told that there was an arrest and he needed to get to the police office. He was able to go up to Lee Harvey Oswald when he arrived and asked: "Did you kill the president?" Oswald replied: "I didn't kill anybody." Lehrer said, "I wrote that down." He said he still had the notebook.

The *Times-Herald* published new editions every hour. Lehrer said he is still pained that he, without checking further, called in a tip that an FBI agent told him a Secret Service agent had been killed along with Kennedy. The information was wrong. "In today's world, that would have gone out like that," he told *The Daily Beast*. The account was spiked by a reporter on rewrite who called the hospital and told Lehrer: "I saved your ass and your job."

He stayed at the police station and was there when Oswald was brought into a late-night news conference. Lehrer realized later that during the conference he was standing near Jack Ruby. Lehrer's had a federal government beat at the *Times-Herald* and spent the next six months "doing nothing but assassination stories."

Lehrer's novel about the assassination is previewed on Page 16.

Life and Dick Stolley: A Book, a Film, a Performance

by Bob Dowling

By the time he took the stage at the Lentic Center in Santa Fe on November 22, **Dick Stolley** had been on the road for two months promoting *Life* magazine's 192-page special: "The Day Kennedy Died, 50 Years Later *Life* Remembers the Man and the Moment." Stolley, a former president of the OPC and a Santa Fe resident, is known to history as the then 35-year-old journalist who obtained the Abraham Zapruder film — the home-made 8-mm recording of the murder of the president told in 486 frames. The graphic frame 313, withheld in *Life*'s November 29, 1963 issue as too grisly to inflict on the Kennedy family the week after the slaying, is included. It shows the President's head exploding in a gush of pink blood from what *Life* says was Lee Harvey Oswald's last shot.

Why did *Life* go to all the trouble? Today it's more important than ever to know who asserts what about the tragic event. Although Stolley believes, as the Warren Commission determined that Oswald acted alone, plenty of people do not. Plots range from CIA involvement, to Fidel Castro, to the Mafia and other conspirators. There has been a reissue of previous conspiracy works and the release of new similar books and articles in the past year.

Over coffee in Santa Fe, days before his final presentation, I asked how Stolley saw this timeline of history.

"I was in New York City on 9/11 and regard that as a seminal event of my lifetime. But the Kennedy assassination is much larger and pervasive. It dominates the nation and the world half a century later."

Do you get the same questions at each stop? I asked him. "Yes, nearly always. But I try to find more creative answers" he replied with a grin.

At his appearance before a 300-person home audience, Stolley started with a 35-minute documentary of what he remembered. The film was interspersed with clips from Zapruder's camera and on-the-scene still shots. That warmed everyone up. As *Life* demonstrated through interviews with prominent and more ordinary folks for this anniversary edition, it seemed everyone could recall the exact second they heard the news.

Joining Stolley was **Hal Wingo**, a *Life* colleague also now living in Santa Fe. He told the audience he was walking down 6th Avenue to the Time-Life building in New York after lunch when he saw crowds staring into the windows of the low-brow electronics stores along the street. He was stunned. They were looking at small black and white TVs broadcasting the assassination news. "I raced to the building and soon was on an Eastern Shuttle

to Washington," he recalled.

Wingo was assigned to stake out the White House where Jackie Kennedy was expected to return around 1 a.m. She arrived after 4 a.m., stepping out of her limo in front of the press pack, facing them in her blood soaked pink suit. She could have snuck in through the side portico, Wingo recalled. She later said she stood there to "show the world what they had done".

Then Stolley took the podium to explain how he was going through the Dallas phone book to find "Z" for Zapruder, calling every 15 minutes until at 11 p.m. he

reached the clothing manufacturer. Zapruder was exhausted and refused Stolley's request to visit him. Stolley backed off, getting a commitment to meet at 9 a.m. the next day. "I got there at 8 a.m., and the press was everywhere. But Zapruder said, 'you called me first.' Stolley was ushered into a room with two Secret Service agents. "We watched the film in silence until everyone went 'ugh' when the final shot exploded Kenney's head." Then the Secret Service agents thanked Zapruder and left.

Astonished, Stolley realized he had a chance to make an offer. He opened with \$5,000 to see if Zapruder knew the value of what he had. He then bargained up to \$50,000. With the press pack banging on the door and incessantly ringing the office phone, Zapruder had had enough and sold *Life* the print rights. Stolley snuck out a back way and shipped the film to Chicago, where *Life* was holding the presses. Days afterward, the *Life* brass called Zapruder back and bought worldwide rights for \$150,000 — about \$1.123 million today. Stolley said he was later told he got the film because he won Zapruder's respect.

And so was history writ with a useful lesson for today's frenzied reporters. "Sometimes you have to be a bastard. Sometimes you have to show respect for the circumstance. I could see Abraham Zapruder was grieving. It was not a time to press him."

As the evening progressed, the two veterans recalled in a flawless Dick and Hal routine the assassination weekend, invoking color, humor and a little self-deprecation to tell their story. And a story it was. As a panel afterwards agreed, there are facts, and then there is the human insight that brings the facts to life.



Dick Stolley at The Lentic.

Kate Russell

Women Covering War: Nerve and Determination of Steel

EVENT RECAP: NOVEMBER 8

by Aimee Vitrak

When watching Edie Lederer, Tina Susman and Nicole Tung during the OPC-NYU discussion on women covering war, they each had a presence that indicated they had never been asked, “are you sure?” These are three self-directed and determined women. They’ve had to be, and not just because war reporting is a field dominated by men, but because war reporting requires gut instinct and a singular drive, which each woman relayed when discussing covering conflict.

OPC member Lederer has covered war in Vietnam, the Middle East, Afghanistan, Bosnia and elsewhere. Susman is a former Baghdad bureau chief for the *Los Angeles Times*. Tung is a freelance photographer covering the Middle East and North Africa. The panel was moderated by Professor Mohamad Bazzi with an introduction by Pete Hamill.

All three women conceded their families had wished they’d gone for the Paris or Rome bureau. “I always wanted to cover conflict,” Susman said. “I grew up watching news and being a journalist looked like an exciting job. I knew I could do it and be good at it.”

Bazzi asked how the women prepared for covering conflict. Susman said she just showed up in Somalia. “I followed what the more experienced journalists were doing. Asked questions and went with my gut.”

Lederer said a chance encounter at a lunch with a comandante of a U.S. base led her to a day in the training field to learn about weapons and mines. “Off I went to Vietnam incredibly green,” she said. She also followed around the seasoned AP press corp for a year

and learned to look for people who weren’t “war junkies” but who understood the politics and military dynamics and had a sense of what would be dangerous.

Tung said even though there are now classes and resources to prepare journalists entering conflict zones, she went into Libya without training. She ended up shadowing Jon Lee Anderson who gave her a flack jacket and helmet. She said it was a sobering lesson in how dangerous the job was when photographers Tim Hetherington and Chris Hondros were killed. Tung later took advantage of a RISC training course that instructs on first-aid in the field. “Not having a skill to make a tourniquet isn’t OK anymore,” she said.

Bazzi asked if they ever felt afraid while covering conflict. Lederer said sometimes it’s good to be afraid. “Fear makes you assess where you are, what you are doing, what risks are for you,” she



Lederer covering her first war, Vietnam. Photo from the book *War Torn*.



Susman in Ethiopia in the early 2000s.



Tung wearing her safety gear for the field.



Nicole Tung

This is the safety gear Tung equips herself with in the field. Among the items is a chemical light stick, hydration salts, face mask, USB key and Leatherman knife.

said. She once had a 45-caliber pistol pointed at her temple by a customs agent in Afghanistan. “You have to be cool,” she said with a smile. “I wasn’t afraid until that night when I thought about what had happened.”

Susman said that being a woman has often been an asset as a reporter because she has her eye trained differently and sees stories where others might not, like fresh-flower businesses and gastric bypass operations in Baghdad at the height of the war. Had she ever covered a story and regretted it because of the risk? “Never,” she said. “I have the professionalism and clout with my editors to say, ‘no, I don’t want to do that, but how about I do this...’”

said it would help him on deadline later if Lehrer could tell him if the presidential limousine would have a plexiglass bubble top during the motorcade. Kennedy was known to dislike the top, which protected against bad weather, not bullets.

It had rained that morning and the bubble was on the limo waiting at the airport. Lehrer talked to a Secret Service agent, who used a two-way radio to check on the weather downtown. The agent decided the top should be removed. *Top Down* [Random House, October] is Lehrer's fictional exploration of what that decision meant to Kennedy, a Secret Service agent and Jack Gilmore, an ambitious young reporter at Love Field that day.

Did the decision doom the president? Might Lee Harvey Oswald have thought the top was bullet-proof? Would he have held his fire? Or would he have shot anyway, shattering the glass into shards that would have killed everyone in the car?

Five years after the assassination, the agent's daughter calls Gilmore. He reluctantly agrees to her demand to speak "off the record – way, way off the record." Her father, racked by guilt, has lost the will to live. She wants to reenact the shooting at a secluded estate to show what would have happened if the bubble top had remained. And, she wants his help.

Lehrer draws on his experience in Dallas to tell the story, largely through the voice of Gilmore. At the end, Gilmore says: "For me, the fragility of what we all come to think of as order and normality has been the permanent lesson of the Kennedy assassination. Since that awful day we've known we are always only three shots away from chaos."

THE FRONTLINES

TWO RECENT BOOKS GIVE tribute to **Marie Colvin**, the vet-



Colvin embedded with Libyan anti-Qaddafi rebels.

eran American war correspondent who worked for the *Sunday Times of London*. She and French photojournalist **Remi Ochlik** died in February 2012 while covering the civil war in Syria when a makeshift press center in Homs was shelled in what was seen as a government attack targeting journalists.

On the Front Line: The Collected Journalism of Marie Colvin [Harper Collins, October] is a showcase for about 100 of Colvin's dispatches beginning with the 1986 U.S. bombing of Libya and ending with her last assignment in Syria.

Colvin covered wars but focused on noncombatants and ordinary people. She writes about an Iraqi tortured into having cosmetic surgery to become Uday Hussein's body

double, a girl in Kosovo who finds the remains of her family in plastic bags, desperate women and children in East Timor fighting through razor wire to seek sanctuary in a U.N. compound, and a Libyan soldier who describes how he and his comrades carried out an order to rape four sisters. Her refusal to leave East Timor in 1999 helped shame the U.N. into staying and the international community into forcing the Indonesians to give refugees safe passage.

She writes of crossing the freezing Chechen mountains and reports from the strongholds of the Tamil

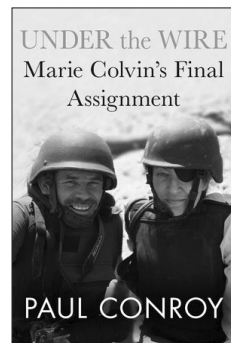
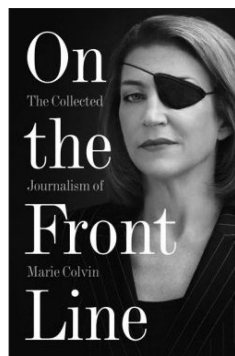
Tigers in Sri Lanka where shrapnel destroyed the sight in her left eye.

In *Under the Wire: Witnessing War with Marie Colvin* [Weinstein Books, October], **Paul Conroy** gives an account of his last assignment with Colvin. Conroy, a photographer, and Colvin reported from war zones around the world. He has written a vivid and moving account of their friendship and the last year they spent together.

Conroy's description of how he, Colvin and other journalists moved around Syria when it was impossible to know who to trust detail the risks and challenges of reporting on the civil war there. He tells how he and Colvin were smuggled into the country and crawled through a claustrophobic, muddy tunnel toward rebel-held Homs. Conroy, a former British soldier, knew it was dangerous. As Colvin's reports from Homs shocked the world, they became trapped in a hellish place. Heavy artillery fire rained down, killing and maiming hundreds of civilians. The rocket that killed Colvin blew a hole in Conroy's thigh big enough to put his hand through. His evacuation after five days of blood loss, pain and dwindling supplies is a harrowing account.

Acknowledging his friend as someone whose "reputation as a hard-arsed war reporter – one of the toughest, best and bravest of our time – preceded her," Conroy said Colvin had a "superb sense of the absurd" as well as an "easy-going manner and effortless charm." Most of all, he said, she believed in the power and responsibility of journalists to hold governments accountable and to be a "witness to the plight of ordinary civilians."

— by **Susan Kille**



New Books

MIDDLE EAST

ROBERT NICKELSBURG, a *Time* magazine contract photographer for 25 years, first entered Afghanistan in 1988 by crossing the border from Pakistan with mujahideen. He returned frequently. *Afghanistan: A Distant War* [Prestel, October] collects 150 of his color photographs spanning 25 years from before the Soviet withdrawal through the shrinking U.S. presence.

Nickelsberg, an OPC board member, covered the collapse of the Soviet-backed regime in 1992 and the civil war that followed. He witnessed the Taliban's conquest, its fall to the U.S.-led invasion in 2011 and its return to power. The book includes his own insightful commentary and essays by **Jon Lee Anderson**, **Steve Coll**, **Tim McGirk** and others.

Near the beginning of the book, a Soviet soldier sits atop a flower-bedecked armored vehicle in May

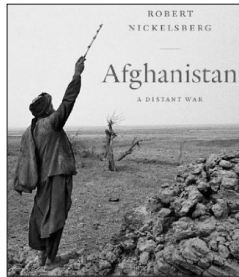


Robert Nickelsberg

A boy sells government newspapers on a Kabul street in March 1992.

1988 and shakes the hand of an Afghan soldier as the Soviets begin to withdraw. Near the end, two lines of American soldiers pass each other one in May 2013: a bareheaded group soberly facing the camera are going home and the other, walking in the opposite direction, are helmeted replacements. In between, Nickelsberg, who has a reputation for being fearless, captured images of the seemingly never-ending conflict in the country with men fighting, injured and dead.

Away from battlefields, Nickelsberg portrays poverty, oppression and politics: April 1989, military cadets hold roses aloft to celebrate the 11th anniversary of the Afghan Communist Party's seizure of power; April 1992, Ahmed Shah Massoud, the mujahideen com-



mander assassinated by Al Qaeda in September 2001, talks to journalists after a historic meeting of opposition leaders; April 1992, Hamid Karzai translates for President Sibghatullah Mojaddedi; March 1993, armed guards block women from supplies of flour during a food shortage; January 1995, destroyed laboratory equipment and books at a school in an area controlled by the Taliban; October 2004, a man votes in the country's first presidential election, where despite allegations of fraud Karzai was declared winner; April 2009, men rally in support of a law with a provision declaring "a wife shall fulfill the sexual desires of her husband."

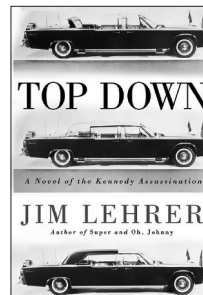
Nickelsberg's knowledge of Afghanistan earned over time and with on-the-ground reporting gives a rare depth to his photos and commentary.

NORTH AMERICA

JIM LEHRER'S 21ST NOVEL

was inspired by conversation he had in November 1963 as a reporter assigned to the Dallas airport to cover President John F. Kennedy's arrival and departure but instead wrote about Kennedy's death. Lehrer worked for the *Dallas Times-Herald*, an afternoon paper where a rewrite reporter

(Continued on Page 15)



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

UPCOMING EVENT:

**Holiday Party
January 7
at the Algonquin**
(Details, page 4)

**The OPC Awards
Application Is
Online at
opcofamerica.org
Deadline:
January 30, 2014**