

Ormøyveien 47
N-4085 Hundvaag, Norway
9 December 2011

ASIJ Board of Directors
Attn.: Chairman
1-1-1 Nomizu, Chofu-shi,
Tokyo 182-0031, Japan

Dear Sir:

The current publicity in the United States surrounding Penn State's and Syracuse University's handling of sexual abuse cases among their employees is a reminder for ASIJ alumni such as myself that our alma mater has a similar situation that still requires focus and transparency. I am writing to urge ASIJ's board to publicly acknowledge that the school shares responsibility for past sexual abuse by its own staff during school programs, to thoroughly investigate and report on the causes and personal aftereffects, and to set a strong example in identifying and assisting victims and in helping other schools to learn from ASIJ's failures.

From my experience and personal knowledge, it seems clear that from the 60's through at least the 80's, ASIJ had a leadership culture that naively assumed that all staff could be trusted to exhibit high moral standards in relationships with students. Teachers were not held strictly accountable and were allowed to be in potentially compromising situations with students. Off campus programs did not necessarily have sufficient chaperoning. Necessary safeguards were missing.

Some of the appalling results can be clearly seen on the internet where one victim documents in a blog (<http://asij-holdingmyhand.blogspot.com/>) how ASIJ staff member Dr. Jack T. Moyer admits in writing to sexually abusing many female students over decades. While a consultant to Japan's Environment Agency in 1974, I stayed briefly at Moyer's house on Miyakejima and felt uncomfortable observing female ASIJ students on a summer research program sleeping in futon next to Moyer in a common room with no faculty chaperones.

There is nothing to say that Moyer was the only staff member involved with abuse or that only girls were victimized. Only a concerted effort from ASIJ to locate other victims will tell the extent of the consequences of ASIJ's culture. As a student in Chofu, I witnessed a single teacher, Albert Geigel, standing at a urinal in the men's room, looking down at the boy at the urinal next to him, and making inappropriate comments about his private parts. This kind of behavior may have been part of the reason some students referred to him as "Goofy Geigel".

It seems clear from the blog about Moyer that the school authorities were informed of accusations of his criminal behavior but never requested intervention from the Japanese

police. An internet search shows no public statements from the school in the case. It does not appear that there were any consequences for Moyer since the school continued to use him as a consultant for school programs after they had been warned. Much can be learned from these errors.

Though much time has passed, there are still victims suffering from pain, guilt and anger, some of whom may not know that they are not alone in this. Sexual abuse has life-long consequences. ASIJ has a solemn duty to offer confidential assistance to all possible victims, and to help as many people and other schools as possible to learn from the lessons that the school learns through this process.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David R. Bruns". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D' and 'B'.

David R. Bruns

ASIJ Class of 1968