

Postings on ASIJ Alumni FB and Letter from ASIJ Board Chair

5 April 2016

First, I thank my 92-year-old parents for access to their Facebook to be able to post this reply. Putting the issue of awkward timing aside for the moment, here is why this debate is needed and why this posting [*letter to ASIJ BOD & BOT posted on 04.04.2016*] should remain. A principal motivation should be that every week that goes by that no one reaches Moyer's Japanese victims is another week that they suffer in silence without getting help. At least two have come forward and there could be 20 more. A '68 classmate asked me in June 2014 after the Board Chair would not comment when asked if the Japanese victims were part of the Ropes & Gray scope, "Why is it that the Japanese kids always seemed to be overlooked or never mentioned by ASIJ?"

My speculative answer to him in part:

"As for the Japanese victims, they will be ignored by the Board as long as the Board thinks it can get away with it. It would be too much bother, too much bad publicity and too much increased risk for lawsuits for them to accept any responsibility. Think about the Japanese girl now in her late 20's or 30's who was victimized as a pre-teen or teen by the highly esteemed "professor", Moyer sensei. There would be too much unbearable shame to tell her husband or her parents. She imagines the abuse was her fault. She imagines that she is the only person in this situation. She hurts but has never thought of seeing a counselor. She will bear this suffering silently the rest of her life and it will adversely affect her relationships with others (to put it mildly). Her marriage may fail because of it. She may eventually commit suicide. She will never dream of going public or complaining to ASIJ. She may never have heard of ASIJ and wouldn't recognize its complicity in her suffering. The board ... simply have "no comment". The Board Chair hides behind the convenient excuse of waiting until the investigation is over, probably knowing full well that the Japanese victims are not even part of the investigators' scope of work [correct]..... It may never cross Stephanie Toppino's mind that waiting six months to take action means prolonging the suffering of all the unreached victims by at least another six months before they can be offered counseling..."

I sent this to Stephanie Toppino and asked her to tell me if any of my speculation was incorrect and she never answered. I had previously informed her that paid face-to-face counseling for victims was available through Inochi-no-Denwa and offered to help pay for it personally if only the school would locate the Japanese victims, and again she never answered. In addition to what is documented in the appendices of my letter to the Boards, I have sought help in reaching the Japanese victims from both Buddhist and Christian organizations and from prominent individuals. I had a dialogue with the leaders of the Tokyo English Life Line (TELL). I have sent appeals in Japanese to the two largest national newspapers, Asahi Shimbun and Yomiuri Shimbun. Not one of these will touch this. The newspapers will not print my letters. The only recourse remaining is to get the ASIJ boards to take open responsibility and publicize the case nationally in Japanese.

Returning to the issue of timing, Janet Simmons consented already on March 21 to present Brian Johnson on April 4 with the list of questions that he and the Board had still not answered after all these

months. I sent her the main letter without appendices for any comments on March 31 and then the complete letter the next day. I posted the letter only after receiving no comments. I had waited ten months presuming that Janet spoke for her fellow Sisters when she asked me to give Brian Johnson plenty of time to answer previous mails. This letter was never on behalf of the Sisters and I'm sorry if that has been misunderstood. Janet and her Sisters are accomplishing amazing things while under pressures that we who were not victimized can never understand. In that situation, if there has been some miscommunication about this letter, no one can be faulted. The letter was also never meant to demean the many positive things the school does or that the Sisters are all doing, but only to focus on the hurting people and injustices remaining, especially the unreached Japanese victims

Finally, the ASIJ Community is not bound by the taboo in Japan against speaking about sexual abuse. The urgency of reaching these victims means we must speak out clearly and eloquently.

David Bruns '68

6 April 2016

Thank you all for good feedback. Here are some replies to a few of the comments: The first paragraph of the letter does not "reference the 13 sisters being in support of the letter", so it was not necessary for Janet to seek approval from her sisters. Rather, the letter says that I was requested by the sisters to give Brian Johnson plenty of time so I waited 10 months to write a new letter. I assumed that Janet spoke for her Sisters last year when she asked me to give Johnson more time. Asking me in 2015 to wait could not imply endorsement for a letter that was not yet written, and I would never consider claiming such a thing. Janet last year had great faith in Brian Johnson's integrity and was quite sure that given enough time he would reply concerning the hurting victims and injustices/cover-ups that remained. This is yet to be confirmed. Because of the time difference from Norway, the emails I sent to Janet on 31 March and 1 April were first read by other recipients before 7 am Japan time on 1 and 2 April, respectively.

The letter to ASIJ is removed from ASIJ Alumni FB as requested by Janet so that anyone who wishes to refer to it must go to the Class of '68 website at <http://www.asij1968.com/files/doc42-DavidBruns-04022016.pdf> or ask me for a copy. If you haven't read it, please note that the appendices contain substantial information that the school did not choose to include in the Ropes & Gray investigative report.

Remember the molestations suffered by Moyer's Japanese victims caused no less pain and suffering if the age of consent was low, and the school has no fewer obligations to offer them help. The fact that at least two victims are already being provided counseling by the school gives us all optimism that more victims will seek help as soon as the school lets them know that they are not alone and that the molestations they suffered were evil and not their fault. Societal reluctance to deal with sexual abuse cannot hinder the school from issuing press releases in Japanese seeking to locate Moyer's victims. When there is a will, it will be quickly done. Let's focus on encouraging ASIJ to shorten the period

before these victims are finally offered help.

David Bruns '68

7 April 2016

Dear ASIJ Community,

The letter sent Monday about unfinished business in the Moyer sexual abuse case will be discussed at the upcoming Board of Directors meeting according to a mail from Brian Johnson last night.

Please contact any directors you know and encourage them to do the right things, especially to reach all of Moyer's Japanese victims and offer them help.

David Bruns '68

Letter from ASIJ Board Chair 7 April 2016

From: Brian Johnson [mailto:BRIANJ@jp.ibm.com]

Sent: Thursday, April 07, 2016 7:41 AM

To: David Bruns

Subject: RE: Moyer Abuse Case - Unfinished Business

David,

Your letter was received and has been shared with the ASIJ Board and the 10 Sisters who came to Tokyo. I did not mail it to the trustees because you had already done so. I discussed it with the Sisters while they were here, and it will be discussed in our upcoming BOD meeting.

Brian J.

▼ "David Bruns" ---04/04/2016 08:26:30 PM---Dear Mr. Johnson: