

# The News Quiz

## Headlines

Disney thanks Chiba University with \$1 million gift

Japanese expats fret Britain's English requirement

Gov't to improve safety standards for electric wheelchairs

What case do the quotes below relate to?

"The testimonies . . . are inconsistent and unnatural even though carrying out the crime as testified is not impossible. There is still a reasonable doubt that prevents concluding that the defendant committed such crimes."

"It's regrettable that the trial took a long time. Please take care of your health,"

## Picture



What's happening to these?

## News Maker



Who is he? And why was he in the news last week?

## Missing Words

█ % bathe with cell phones, poll finds

Kadena nixed █ in '96: paper

T-Joy cinema nixes █ premiere

In a first, █ faces fine for insider trading

█ bankruptcy proceedings to end 13 years on

nix = to forbid, refuse, or veto

As thanks for preserving hundreds of rare images used in early Disney films, Walt Disney Co. of the United States has donated \$1 million to Chiba University, the school said in a statement Tuesday. About 250 original celluloid prints and background pictures actually used in the production of animated films and sketches were found in a warehouse in the university's engineering department in 2005. They were originally transported to Japan in 1960 for a string of 17 exhibitions on Disney artwork. The university is now set to return the pictures to The Walt Disney Animation Research Library in California, one of the largest archives of animation arts in the world. The university released the announcement on the donation as Lella Smith, head of the research library, visited the university Tuesday. The pictures includes images from "Sleeping Beauty," (1959), "Cinderella" (1950), "Fantasia" (1940), and "Flowers and Trees," (1932) the world's first full-color animated film. "(The donation) will be used to promote arts and animation education as well as to promote academic research to raise children from the next generation," the university said in the statement. Walt Disney donated the works to the National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo, after the exhibitions ended in 1960. The museum then passed them on to the university for educational purposes in 1963. After the items were rediscovered in 2005, about 200 of them were redisplayed in five exhibitions across Japan from July 2006 to last September, including at the Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo.

A Tokyo cinema decided against showing a controversial documentary film by a Chinese director on Tokyo's war-related Yasukuni Shrine, citing the potential bother it may cause to other tenants in the same building, an official of movie theater operator T-Joy Co. said Tuesday. "The film has been talked about so much that it may create trouble and we don't want to cause inconvenience to the building's tenants," a T-Joy official was quoted as telling Argo Pictures, a distributor of "Yasukuni" by resident Chinese director Li Ying. Wald9 Cinema in Shinjuku Ward, operated by T-Joy, was among four cinemas in Tokyo scheduled to premiere the documentary on April 12, along with a few other cinemas in Osaka and Fukuoka. The film tells the stories of people involved with Yasukuni who have varied feelings about the war and the shrine. Constitutional scholar Yasuhiro Okudaira of the University of Tokyo criticized the theater's decision, saying a cinema that decides against showing the documentary "consequently is endorsing the idea of those people opposed to its release and is depriving (the director) of freedom of expression."

#### Man acquitted of groping employees

YOKOSUKA, Kanagawa Pref. (Kyodo) The Yokosuka branch of the Yokohama District Court acquitted a man Tuesday of groping two female employees at his bookshop in Yokosuka, Kanagawa Prefecture, casting doubt on the employees' testimonies. Judge Takashi Chubachi said: "The testimonies . . . are inconsistent and unnatural even though carrying out the crime as testified is not impossible. There is still a reasonable doubt that prevents concluding that the defendant committed such crimes." The man, owner of a secondhand bookstore, stood accused of touching a part-time worker on many occasions between February and March 2005 inside the store and hugged another part-timer in February 2005, also inside the store. Both employees were 18-year-old high school girls at the time. "Similar (acquittal) rulings have been delivered over groping and other allegations in various regions," Judge Chubachi said after handing down the ruling. "It's regrettable that the trial took a long time. Please take care of your health," he said. The man was arrested in May 2005 and detained for about 18 months.

#### In a first, CPA faces fine for insider trading

The Securities and Exchange Surveillance Commission recommended Tuesday that the Financial Services Agency order a former accountant at Japan's largest audit firm, Ernst & Young ShinNihon, to pay a ¥1.34 million penalty for insider trading. The measure, based on a violation of the Financial Instruments and Exchange Law, would be the first meted out for insider trading involving a certified public accountant. According to the SESC, the accountant, who audited the books of Marvelous Entertainment Inc., profited by investing in the company's stock after gaining access to confidential information about the firm's earnings projections. Ernst & Young ShinNihon only identified the accountant as a man in his 30s. The CPA began selling short his holdings of 261 shares in the Tokyo-based producer of music CDs, videos and game software shortly before the company announced March 12 last year that it had lowered its earnings projections for the business year that ended last March. The trade generated sales proceeds of an estimated ¥12.25 million, the financial watchdog said. The announcement subsequently made by the company, traded on the second section of the Tokyo Stock Exchange, prompted a selloff of its stock, enabling him to cover his short position at a lower price, the commission said.

The U.S. Marine Corps warmed to a Japanese proposal to move their Air Station Futenma choppers to the U.S. Air Force's Kadena Base during bilateral talks that yielded a 1996 accord on reducing and consolidating the U.S. military presence in Japan, according to a declassified Pentagon document. The marines called the proposal feasible, but U.S. Forces Japan did not endorse it after the air force opposed on grounds that the integration would hamper its operational activities in an emergency, the document compiled by U.S. Forces Japan said. In the document, a copy of which was obtained by Kyodo, the marine corps argued that it was possible to relocate the Futenma helicopter operations to Kadena and other problems could be resolved through a review of the forces deployment at Kadena, an expansion of aircraft parking space at the base and use of Naha airport in times of crisis. The air force argued that adding helicopter aprons would hamper its operations in an emergency and sharply reduce its potential, according to the document. The document says that in conclusion, overall U.S. forces in Japan would not recommend an integration of Futenma with Kadena, citing the political impact from a boost in force strength at Kadena and a decline in operational capabilities in crises. The declassified document, dated July 26, 1996, provides a technical analysis of the impact on U.S. military operations if the Futenma chopper operations were moved to Kadena. It rules out making any changes to the force strength at Kadena. Futenma also has C-130 and other fixed-wing aircraft operations. The document discusses the feasibility of the plan, mentioning the use of Naha airport, which is used by airlines and the Self-Defense Forces, and a relocation of U.S. military planes at Kadena to SDF bases in Kyushu, as a congestion-reduction measure at Kadena in the event of a crisis.

The bankruptcy proceedings for Aum Shinrikyo will conclude on March 26 even though the doomsday cult will pay only 40 percent of the ¥3.8 billion owed to victims of the crimes it committed more than a decade ago. Lawyer Saburo Abe, who was appointed by the court to manage Aum's assets in 1996, told reporters Wednesday at the Tokyo District Court that the bankruptcy process has reached its limit because of the size of Aum's huge debts. According to Abe, the cult still owes roughly ¥5.1 billion. Disbursements will end once the final round of payment is distributed to about 1,200 victims starting in June, bringing the total amount to ¥1.5 billion. "We've done everything we can. We must ask for assistance from the government from this point on," Abe said. The announcement came a day before the 13th anniversary of the sarin attack on the Tokyo subway system on March 20, 1995. The gassing left 12 people dead and some 5,500 wounded. The conclusion of the bankruptcy proceedings, however, could trigger a new phase of litigation in the form of compensation claims against the cult, or against the government in lieu of the cult. At the 16th and final meeting of the victims' and cult's representatives on March 26, Judge Kenji Nishi of the Tokyo District Court will issue instructions on the conditions for closing the bankruptcy proceedings, including details on how Aum's claimable assets will be managed in the future. Abe and the victims have urged the government to establish a special law that would provide financial support to Aum's victims. Shizue Takahashi, who lost her husband in the subway attack, criticized the government for not providing aid to the victims and their families over the past 13 years. "Although the state has the obligation to ensure the safety of its people, the government has not provided any help to us," Takahashi, the representative of Aum's victims, said at a news conference with Abe. Kazuo Asakawa, whose sister, Sachiko, was found in cardiopulmonary arrest at Nakano-Sakaue Station on the Marunouchi Line and is now paralyzed, also complained about the lack of government support. "While (the Aum members) are being provided care (via the judicial process), my sister and other victims are being abandoned. It is not rational," Asakawa said. The Liberal Democratic Party-New Komeito ruling coalition has set up project teams to explore ways of aiding the victims, examining different compensation amounts and the criteria to be met. In February, the Democratic Party of Japan, the largest opposition force, submitted a bill to the Diet that would oblige the state to pay redress on behalf of Aum. "The lobbying process is just beginning, and we must keep moving forward," Takahashi told reporters. In addition to the Tokyo subway attack, several Aum members were convicted for killing seven people in a sarin gassing in Matsumoto, Nagano Prefecture, in 1994, as well as the murder of lawyer Yokohama Tsutsumi Sakamoto and his family in 1989. Several cultists, including founder Shoko Asahara, have been sentenced to death. Following the arrest of Asahara and other key members, Aum was declared bankrupt in 1996. Abe was then named the trustee and appointed to collect the cult's assets to provide redress to its victims. Aum renamed itself Aleph in 2000.

Antonio Negri, an Italian political philosopher considered by many to be a symbol of antiglobalism, has given up a plan to visit Japan starting Thursday due to difficulties in obtaining an entry visa, the sponsor of his planned trip said. Negri was planning to arrive Thursday to give lectures on labor and other issues at the International House of Japan in Tokyo, which had invited him, as well as at Kyoto University and the University of Tokyo. Negri has a history of convictions for his association with the Italian terrorist group Red Brigade over the assassination of Italian Prime Minister Aldo Moro and temporarily took asylum in France. He returned to Italy in 1997 and served time until 2003.

LONDON (Kyodo) The Japanese community in Britain is hoping the government will rethink plans for a new English language requirement for foreign nationals coming to work in the country. The Japanese Embassy in London has expressed "serious concern" at initial government plans to ensure that all skilled workers from outside the European Union seeking work visas have an "acceptable" level of English language proficiency. It was felt that the level suggested was too high for the many Japanese who come to Britain on intra-corporate transfers for periods of around three years. The Japanese Embassy in London, along with other foreign governments, has been lobbying hard to ensure that ICTs are exempted from the English language requirement or that the level of English required is reduced. An embassy spokesman said the initial level of English proficiency suggested by the government would have been a "hindrance" to Japanese firms dispatching staff on regular transfers. But the spokesman said he now feels the government was listening to the concerns of the Japanese and is awaiting a statement from the government in the next few weeks. The Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Britain said it believes that, if introduced in its present form for ICTs, the plan would have a "profoundly negative impact" on Japanese firms here, and could lead to some relocating elsewhere in the EU. However, there are indications the government may be about to water down its plan following pressure from foreign governments. The government says no final decision has been made on the English language requirement for ICTs but a statement will be made shortly. Sources have said the Home Office is likely to lower the level of the English requirement for ICTs. The English requirement is due to be introduced toward year's end. It is part of a general tightening up of Britain's visa system in an effort to make it fairer and more objective. The requirement is designed to ensure that foreign nationals can properly integrate into the country and are prepared to work there. Patrick Macartney, spokesman for the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said the majority of Japanese expatriates are working in Britain for a limited period of between three and five years and should therefore be treated differently from immigrants who are seeking to work and stay indefinitely. "If the English proficiency requirement were to be compulsory, even for people who stay for such limited periods in this country, this would create a huge problem for the personnel rotation policy of many Japanese companies," Macartney said. "This is especially true in cases where companies need to send their technical or engineering experts, for whom the priority is their skills and/or knowledge and not language. "The impact would be most severely felt by the manufacturing industry. Japanese companies (that) have factories in the United Kingdom might be forced to scale down or even relocate their operations because they could not secure the necessary number of technical people from Japan whose knowledge or experience was crucial to their operations." Danny Sriskandarajah, from the left-leaning think tank the Institute of Public Policy Research, said: "It (the English test) is going to be an issue. I don't actually know the level required, but if it is to be meaningful, it has to be reasonably high. It will pose a challenge for people."

TOKYO — The Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry has decided to improve safety standards for electric wheelchairs and nursing beds following a series of accidents involving elderly people, sources familiar with the matter said Friday. The ministry is planning to add them to a list of products covered by the Japanese Industrial Standards system by the end of this year after making necessary arrangements with manufacturers, the sources said. According to the National Institute of Technology and Evaluation, 96 accidents involving electric wheelchairs have taken place in Japan since 1986, when it began such investigations. Of them, 41 were fatal accidents, the institute said, adding that they included a case of an elderly person falling into a ditch beside the road.

**Nissin Food to use paper cups for Cup Noodle**

Nissin Food Products Co said Friday it will stop using polystyrene foam cups and will instead introduce paper cups for its Cup Noodle instant noodle products in a bid to contribute to environmental protection. The packages of all nine regular-size products will be replaced with paper cups in stages from April, Nissin said. Although the use of paper cups will be costlier, emissions of carbon dioxide during the production process are expected to be curbed, the company said.