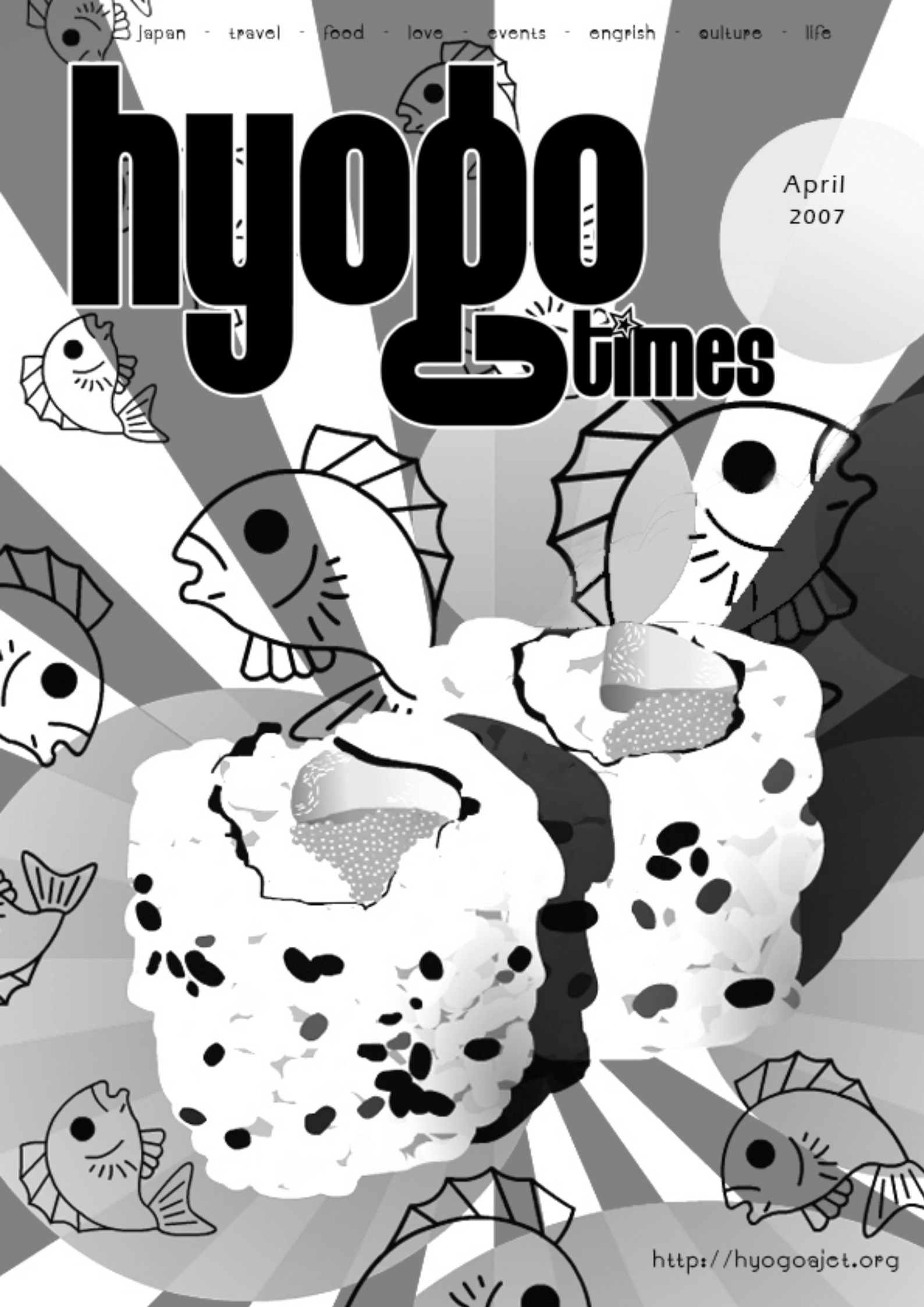


japan - travel - food - love - events - english - culture - life

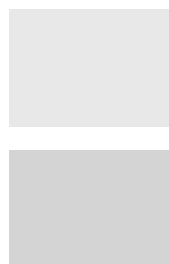
hyogo times

April
2007



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hyogo times staff

...

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...

All JETs in Hyogo are encouraged to send in articles, musings, poetry, prose, and any ideas to contribute or improve the Hyogo Times for the betterment of the Hyogo JET community.

Submit by the 15th of each month to:

submit.hyogotimes@gmail.com

<http://hyogoajet.org>



Life in Japan, as you all know and as I have mentioned before, is essentially one gigantic learning experience. While there are some cultural things I have learned that will basically serve me no purpose, such as the fact there is no Japanese man in the moon but rather two rabbits working in a rice field, other things have proved fairly important; for example, the fact that the Japanese must have invented the concept of gossip. What is said at an enkai might stay at an enkai, but what is said in everyday life is absolutely fair game to be shared with anyone! As such, questions asked and answers given – which will inevitably be repeated – must be carefully calculated as to not reflect badly on my country, make example of my ignorance, offend any of my coworkers or just plain come back to bite me in the arse...like that time I asked where I could buy a very beginners level kanji work book and the next day I had about six high school level native Japanese speaker kanji work books waiting for me on my desk...

Another case and point of being careful what I say involved one of my favourite coworkers, a business teacher named Honmyo-sensei. His favourite English phrase happens to be "So Robin, do you get used to life in Japan?" a question which he has asked me every week since I arrived in this country back in August. At first, I would laugh and say I was still trying to figure things out. Occasionally I would mention the things that were different or the things that I really liked. Once, I tried to explain that, in truth, I just continue to live my North American life but in a different country...I think that went over his head. Eventually I began to notice that whenever I gave a quality answer, I was later rewarded with a random piece of fruit – mikans, persimmons,

from the editor

even dragonfruit once and a pomello. This sort of made me feel like a puppy being given treats for doing a trick, but since I enjoyed the fruit, I didn't really mind.

One day, two other teachers were asking me about which teachers I talked to often and so I shared my enjoyment of Honmyo-sensei's way of trying to have conversations me. They laughed, I laughed and I thought it was all in good fun.

Then the next week, no question from Honmyo-sensei. And the week after that, still no question. Whether he was just busy or whether he suddenly thought I didn't like talking to him, I don't know, but it wasn't until three fruitless weeks after I had told the story of Honmyo-sensei that he sat down beside me at the computer, pointed to the screen and asked, "So Robin, do you find good news?"

Since I was reading emails and not newspapers, I didn't really know how to answer and just kind of laughed. But the following week, "So Robin, did you find good news?"...and then the week after that...and again after that. Finally, feeling somewhat frustrated, I answered by saying that the Toronto Maple Leafs had actually won a game and that was, indeed, very good news! Later that day there was an apple on my desk...I think I'm out of the doghouse!

submit.hyogotimes@gmail.com



from the PR

This is my last official duty as P.R., writing my final P.R. note. I have had a brilliant time over the past year and what better way to reminisce than to pop down a few of the highlights. These include:

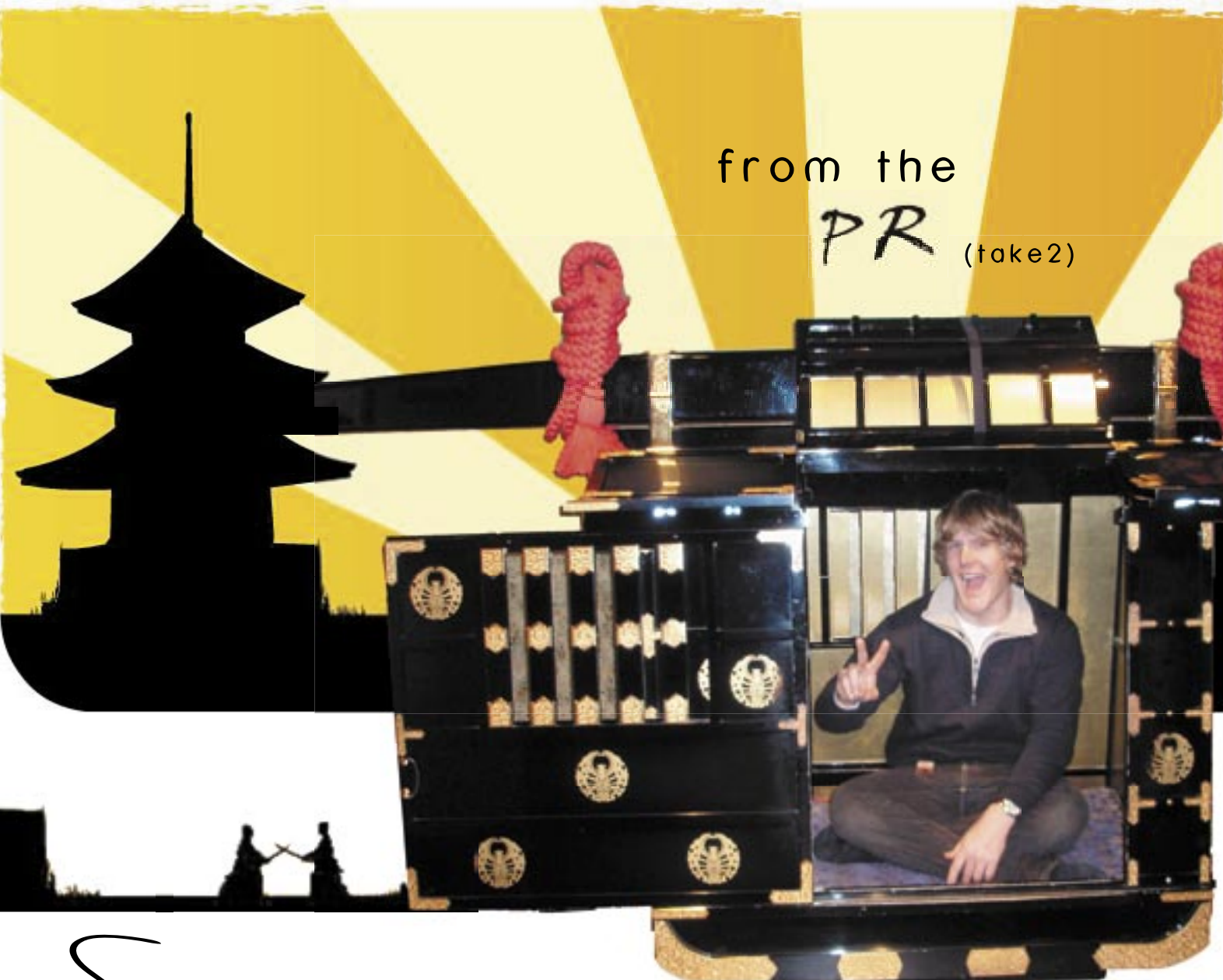
- Getting to attend all events Hyogo AJET related and having been given the chance to meet all of the new first year JETs, with their fresh banter and refreshing enthusiasm for all things Japanese. It also allowed me to catch up with the veterans over a jar or two.
- Trying my hand, and consequently failing, at surfing and snowboarding, as well as learning how not to scream like a pansy after being hit full force by a paintball. "Go on, give me your best shot!"
- Receiving the most obscene junk mail to the P.R. account. If you need any advice with regard to body enhancing operations involving nips, tucks or extensions, or if you really want to know how to please that woman, then you know where to come.
- Getting to watch a bunch of manly men shouting and running around in nothing but precariously placed nappies.
- Long, leisurely afternoons spent in Starbucks with the lovely committee – discussing matters of global importance, of course.

In all seriousness, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the committee for doing such a stellar job this year. Big thanks go to: Amy for her flowery minutes (no matter how late they come) and her constructive comments (no matter how hard they hit you – "like flogging a dead horse"); Adam for proving to be the most glam

and rock 'n' roll librarian (and Kobe rep) there ever was; Curtis for taking on the job everyone else was avoiding and creating a lovely new website; Lorelei for all her hard work on the Taj Ultimate tournament and ski-trip, most notably taking care of all of the off-the-slopes-related casualties; Jen for solely managing such a hectic charity schedule; Amanda for stepping up to help out with events when the calendar was starting to look jam-packed; Karen and Robin for their capacity to "wow." The Hyogo Times looks hot! Lastly, the biggest thanks of all has to go to Jeff and Angela for the professional sheen they brought to Hyogo AJET and the plain hard graft they have put in over the past year. Thanks a lot!

On behalf of the old committee I would also just like to say a very big thank you to everyone who has made it out to any of our events or supported us in any way over the past year. This year we had a huge rise in the number of members, which was a real boost from the start. Your enthusiasm didn't wane and consequently, neither did ours. You really made the hard work worthwhile. Thank you so much! Please extend this enthusiasm for AJET and support to the next committee. We look forward to seeing you at the Sayonara event, where the old committee will be expressing our appreciation in a very, erm, creative and visual way. You will not be disappointed. Come and see for yourself! Now it's time to hand over the reigns to Brandon Kramer (and I quote, "that genki bast@d" – ask Lorelei) and his trusty committee. I hope you acquire as many indelible memories as we have!

FiX



Spring is upon us Hyogo! We have had a few glimpses of the warmth to come and with it, the excitement of new possibilities as we emerge from under our kotatus and turn off our heaters for the first time in months. Yes spring; the time to start anew, to admire the flower blossoms, to nurse the hay fever that accompanies them. Spring is the season of change, and as such I am writing to you as a part of the new Hyogo AJET committee!

As the cherries blossom, so will the committee with fresh new ideas and events, raising an important ancient question: If a cherry-tree blossoms but no one is around to witness it, is it still beautiful? Ponder on that for a moment. If great events are planned by your new AJET committee, but no one goes to experience them, are they still awesome? We in the new committee

are very excited to work towards making this next year a great one, so please come out and enjoy it with us! If you have any suggestions, comments, criticisms, or things you would like to see happen, please send an email our way and we will do what we can to make it happen. Until next time, take care of yourself, and each other.

-Brandon



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I've graduated! From secretary, whose main skill was keeping her nose in everyone's business, to Events Co-ordinator, where I'll be able to put my finely honed talents of being a sticky beak to a more productive use and organise people's social lives. If you've got any brilliant ideas for a social extravaganza, drop us a line at hajetevents@gmail.com

Hi everyone! In case some of you don't know by now, my name is Emily. This summer I'll be starting my third and final year at Himeji Nishi Senior High School. I'll be taking partial hold of the reigns as a designer for Hyogo AJET. I love traveling, and eating, and drinking, and books, and art, so if you want to contact me about anything pertaining to these things, feel free to email me at the80sboob@hotmail.com.

Adela Lewis: Design Team

This is Adela. I will be the new co-designer of the HT. I'll be the first to admit that I don't have experience in graphic design, but I'm looking forward to learning. Be patient and the team will get you some quality stuff! I am in the wonderful inaka town of Sayo (1h15min. NW, by train, from Himeji). Nationality is American, originally from the wonderful, non-existent country of Yugoslavia. My interests lie with politics, human and animal rights, traveling (especially Europe), languages, hanging out with my wonderful boy[man?]/friend Art, and getting tipsy with friends. Looking forward to working with everyone on the new staff!

I am Tam, a first-year ALT living in Harima-cho, and one of the few lucky ladies in charge of the events committee. I hail from the home of shoo fly pie, aka Pennsylvania. For those of you who didn't meet drunk Pikachu (that was me), I enjoy frisbee golf, juggling, and checking things off my life list. It's been a strange/wonderful time in Japan so far. My "tour-guiding" skills have led me to being naked with snow monkeys, watching my near-naked fiancé wrestle for a stick, and eating way too many deer cookies. I hope to make the next year as seemingly strange/wonderful for those of you interested in AJET events. Any suggestions should be sent to my e-mail (tamatha_roman@hotmail.com) which I happen to check, out of agonizing boredom, quite frequently.

Harrol After spending the last year being a bit of a clinger-on to the HAJET committee, this year I have decided to actually join as Editor of the Hyogo Times. I am going into my third year as a JET, and basically I don't have lesson plans to write anymore, so I have loads of time on my hands! I am really looking forward to hounding you people for submissions. I think the Hyogo Times has gone from strength to strength in the last couple of years, and I would like to continue with the excellent standard of editing that Robin has set!

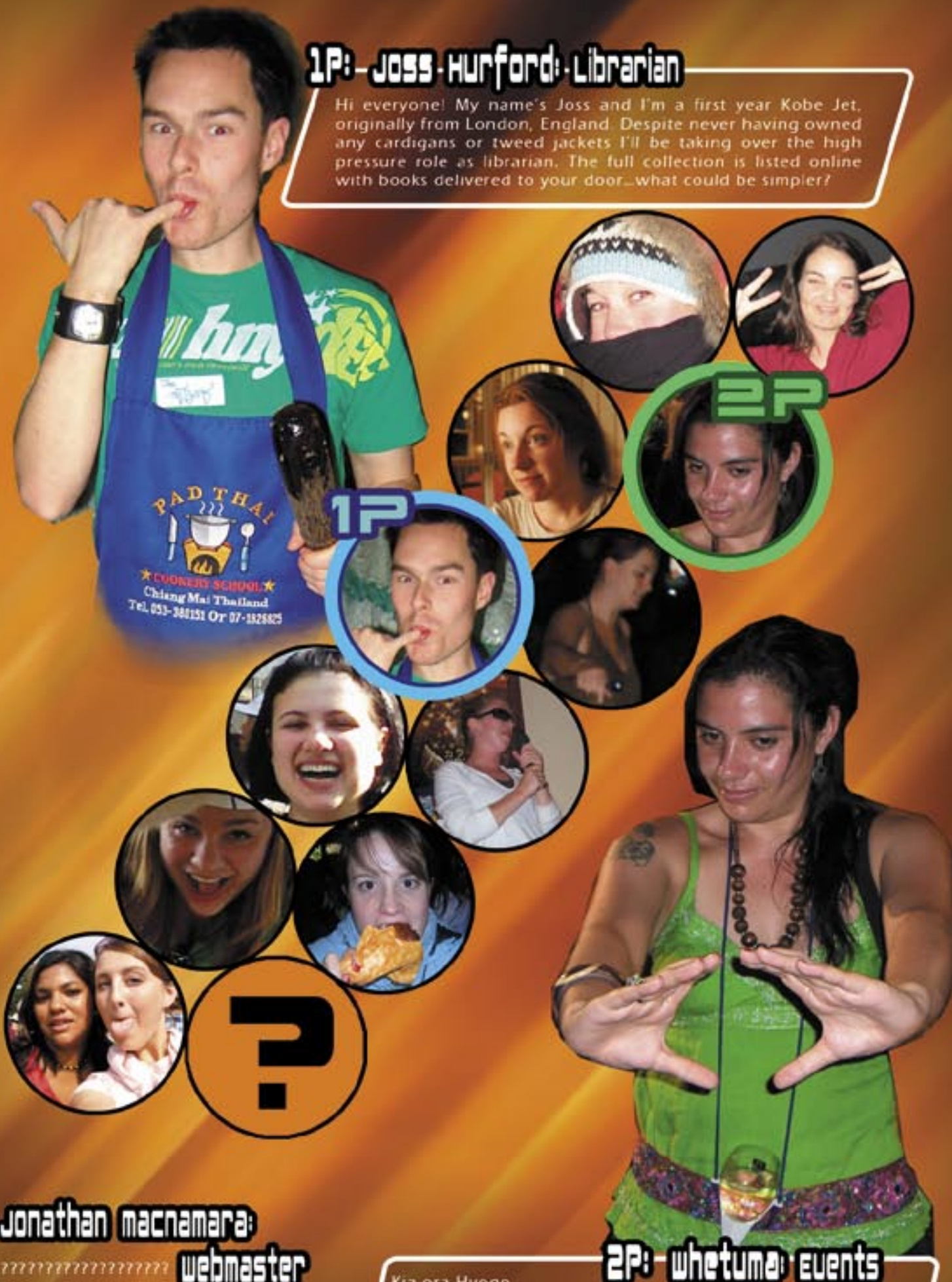
There's a girl called Kate in Hanayama.
Who loves living in Kobe in summa!
She always has cocktails in the sun,
Then passes out and burns her bum,
And now she's crying for her Mami!

Hey everyone, my name is Robyn and I live in Ono. I will be taking over for Jeff as the new Hyogo AJET treasurer. Basically what that means is that all your precious membership fees will now be flowing into my pockets (cue evil laugh). I hope we can make this year really worthwhile in terms of events, so make sure you renew your AJET membership!!

Hil My name is Kate Emory and I am the Awaji Island representative for HAJET. I practically live in Shikoku. I'm that far south. I teach at two JHS; one of which is on the tinier island of Nushima. I hope to get some of you "mainlanders" onto the Island this year to taste the bounty that is Awaji! It's beautiful and onion flavored. Expect beach parties in the near future!

Hey Hyogo, we're Kelly and Brenda and we think this is the time to get involved...we know you've got the time. Help us help others in new, exciting, fun-filled ways from more fundraisers to additional volunteer trips. Show us your heart Hyogo! We're looking forward to the upcoming year!

Hi everyone! My name's Joss and I'm a first year Kobe Jet, originally from London, England. Despite never having owned any cardigans or tweed jackets I'll be taking over the high pressure role as librarian. The full collection is listed online with books delivered to your door...what could be simpler?



Jonathan macnamara:
~~~~~webmaster

**2P: whetuma: events**

Kia ora Hyogo

Hi My name is Whetu Marama Manihera. I am an ordinary girl who is from New Zealand and looking forward to meeting more Hyogo Jets in the community. I have currently been here for 7 months now and enjoying the adventure that Japan has brought upon me. Anyway if you see me around dont be shy and say hello.



# Love & Relationships

## on safari for love: the art of nampa



A few months ago, I was meeting a friend in Kobe for dinner. When I first saw her, she had a funny look on her face and told me a random guy had just tried to pick her up by basically just stopping her and telling her she was his type. I thought it was funny that someone could just walk up to you with a blatant, "Hey! You're my type," and expect a date in return. While this friend is not from Japan, she looks Japanese, so my first thought was that this was either some awkward fellow looking for chicks in the city, or some cultural aspect of dating I did not yet understand. I would later learn, however, that this was indeed my introduction to the Nampa.

Nampa or Nampa (ナンパ) can probably be best described as "girl hunting". When I first heard about this aspect of the Japanese dating culture, I thought it was a joke, but trust me, it's out there – and it's actually pretty interesting.

"If you think it's hard to meet new people, try picking up the wrong golf ball."

– Jack Lemon

The way it works is simple: essentially, it's an advanced form of the basic pick-up. Young men stand on the street and "people watch" until they see a woman who catches their eye. Once the guy, called a *nampashi*, has found his target, he'll ask the girl out for a cup of coffee – like in my friend's case – or to karaoke. The ultimate goal is naturally to score a date, or at least a *nampasha*, picture proof of your success. This type of flirting or seduction is most common with teenagers and people in their twenties, and is actually considered a Japanese cultural phenomenon, or sub-culture, by many. Don't misunderstand the practice as pertaining only to those creepy, sleazy-looking guys aggressively trying to pick up girls at the train station: it's quite common all over. While *terekura Nampa* (telephone club nampa) and *Netto Nampa* (picking up girls online) are considered part of the culture and should be mentioned, the most famous form is obviously *suto-nan* (street nampa).

Nampa has definite techniques which are almost rules, nationally recognized masters, as well as its own vocabulary and rivalries. While nampa tends to occur in lively, public areas, and mostly by amateurs, there is a (very serious) *Nampa Kenkyukai*, or Nampa Research Association. On the Association's website, young *nampashi* men from all over Japan log on to discuss techniques, brag about their success

stories (in pretty graphic detail), share insight and information on good locations, and meet other guys to go 'hunting' with. *Nampashi* can also rate their success and conditions as a percentage and by city. If you doubt the sincerity of these guys, you may be surprised to learn that the Association has regional chapters, and many guys who are into nampa may also belong to a local *nanken* (nampa club), a more intimate forum for finding friends and sharing skills. These sites might also have a *nampa shashin kan* (online nampa photo library), or a place to trophy all those *nampasha*.

"I bet it was pretty hard to pick up girls if you had the Black Death."

– Jack Handy (Saturday Night Live)

At this point, you might be envisioning those blonde-hair 'hosts' you see standing around the streets of Kobe and Osaka in dark, cheesy suits. These guys, however, are most likely working for some kind of sex business or hostess bar, and are not participating in nampa. Nights begun as a result of nampa can, and do, end at love hotels, but the practice is very different from *enjo kosai* (or 'compensated dating'/prostitution). Most of the guys who do nampa are just out looking for a date; there are, of course, many who are doing it to find a steady girlfriend, and many married couples have met through nampa. While nampa is mainly an activity for males to pick up females, *gyakunan* (reverse nampa), where women approach men, has become more common and accepted. There is also a homosexual nampa culture, especially in Shinjuku's gay village in Tokyo, and possibly in Osaka's gay district near Umeda. Unfortunately, I could not find information about whether or not many foreign men in Japan practice nampa, so I'll leave that mystery for all of you to discover...or establish...

If you are interested and want to see this practice for yourself, Ebisubashi in Osaka is famous for *nampashi*, being locally nicknamed *hikkake bashi* (pick-up bridge). You can also visit the Nampa Kenkyukai's website at [www.nampa.ne.jp](http://www.nampa.ne.jp) for more information. As for me, I am sure my new knowledge about this quirky subculture will at least add some color to people watching whenever I cut through my local *Ito Yokado* on my way home from the station: according to the Nampa Kenkyukai bulletin board, it's the best place for guys to pick up housewives on weekday afternoons. Funny.

### Nampa 101 : The Nampa Speak

▪ ブーメランを投げる (*Bu-meran o nageru*) – Literally, throwing a boomerang. It means giving a woman your phone number (usually one who won't give you hers) in the hopes that she will call you.

▪ NP (*Enpi*) – Nampa, used for talking about nampa in front of other people

▪ 喝入れ (*Katsu Ire*) – Cheering up someone who is on a losing streak.

▪ 面接 (*Mensetsu*) – Meeting a girl you contacted by email or telephone in person for the first time. *Mensetsu* literally means 'interview'.

▪ 誠実系 (*Seijitsu Kei*) – The 'nice guy' type. Someone who pretends to be a kind, respectable person in order to sleep with girls.

▪ TMG (*Telephone Mail Getto*) – Getting both a woman's telephone number and email address.

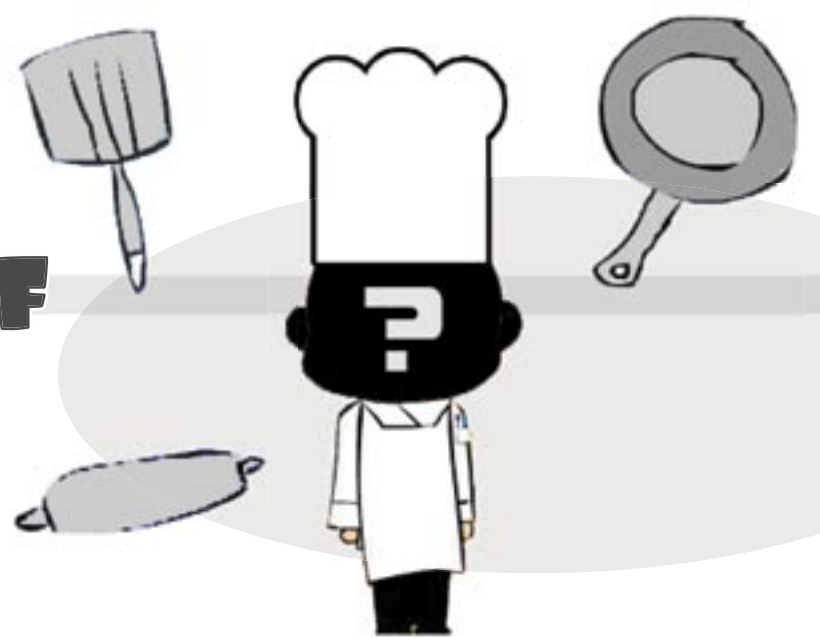
\*Warning: Some of this language is extremely offensive.

(From Japanzine's STUFF THEY DON'T TEACH YOU IN JAPANESE SCHOOL, THE NAMPA DICTIONARY)





# IRONIC CHEF



## french toast

serves 1



Quick and simple. As much as Ironic chef hates Japanese bread, French toast made with j-bread is superb. It's a good way of using up all that bread that seems to last forever (super preservatives to the rescue) and you can't face having Vegemite/Marmite/Promite toast for breakfast yet again.

Who knows, maybe it's time to try making something for breakfast, and giving the McGriddles a miss. Summer is just around the corner and we all know what Japanese people like to do to whales...



### Ingredients

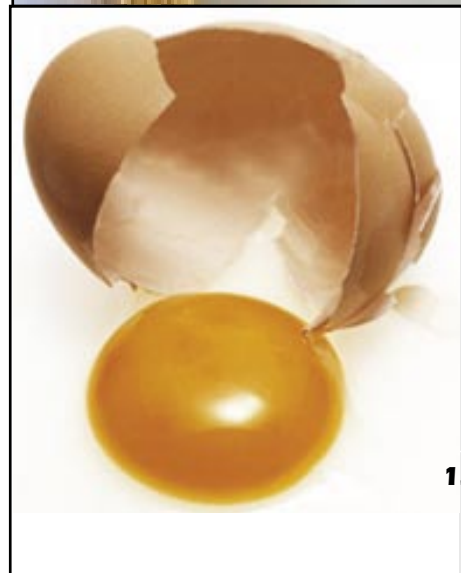
- ◆ 2 pieces of bread. The thicker the better.
- ◆ 1 egg
- ◆ 1 cup of milk.
- ◆ 1 tablespoon of brown sugar (although white will do)
- ◆ pinch of cinnamon.
- ◆ Fresh strawberries and maple syrup to serve.



### method:

1. Crack the egg into a bowl that's big enough to hold a whole piece of bread.
2. Beat egg with a fork and add the milk, sugar and cinnamon and stir until all combined.
3. Heat a frying pan over medium heat, and add a teaspoon of butter. While the butter melts, dip your bread (both sides) in the bowl until it has soaked up all the egg mix.
4. Put the bread in the hot fry pan and fry until golden and delicious.

Sweet and simple. Serve the French toast with maple syrup and fresh strawberries, or blueberries. If you're feeling overly confident, chop up an apple, and fry it with butter and cinnamon for a few minutes until the slices are soft: place the slices on the toast and drizzle with a little syrup. If you can't find or can't afford maple syrup (but really, treat yourself this once!), try it Thai-style with warmed sliced bananas, sweetened condensed milk and a sprinkle of cocoa. For an extra special start to the morning (or end to the evening), top it with ice cream and chocolate syrup. Lastly, if you're one of those crazy Canadians, bacon and maple syrup, but don't blame me when Greenpeace busts into your apartment on a lazy Sunday morning, rescuing from the threat of being sashimied.





# What's the plan, man?

micah jorrich



**What the hell am I doing here? Seriously, how did I get here?** Occasionally I wake up in the morning, and it hits me right in the gut like a punch from a prizefighter: holy shit, I live in Asia! Well, to be precise, a small island in far Eastern Asia. To be even more precise, a tiny obscure island right next to that other small island. Still, even after 19 months, that seems strange to me. I mean, what kind of path has led me to where I am and who I am today? So many difficult questions and the only answer I can come up with lately is the simplest: "Why not?"

But, what does that mean? That's not even a reason! That didn't even make sense with a couple of my questions! Don't I need a more productive answer like, "I want to study

the Japanese language and culture" or "I heard Japanese women liked short white boys from Kentucky."? No, I wore those out getting into the JET program, and when asked, I've fed people those responses or thrown terms around like "cross cultural understanding" or "internationalization". It sounds impressive, (ok, I like to think it does), but after I finish spouting that stuff off, I am left feeling empty: like a walking, talking, breathing lie.

So, I'm making a declaration: I am done lying to others and, more importantly, I'm done lying to myself. Why have I spent close to two years of

my life in this random country when I could have gotten a "real" job, gone to graduate school, or cured the common cold? I could continue to rationalize my existence in Japan until I'm blue in the face; instead, I'll say that I have no reason for being here other than "Why not?"

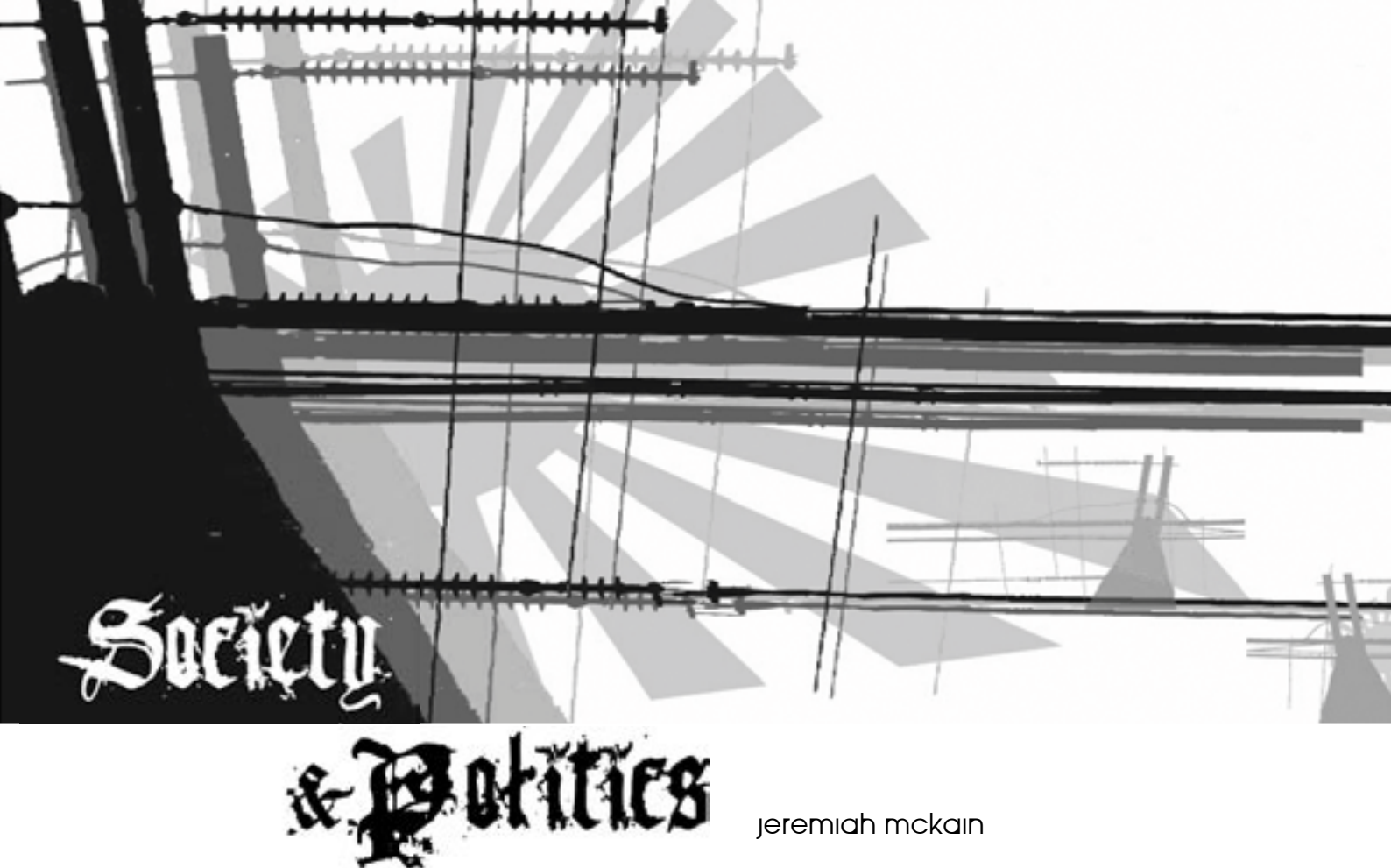
It feels refreshing to be honest with myself. I think more clearly without the obligation of **having** to work towards something. Life is too short (I love clichés) to be narrow sighted, to limit myself with plans. I think I hate plans: investment plans, retirement plans, family plans, wedding plans. Don't even get me started on cell phone plans (stupid one year contracts...). They're like those awful blinders on racehorses, keeping

them unaware, ignorant of the interesting stuff going on all around them, just to make them run faster and reach that coveted finish line....

People seem to have a plan for everything, and can be so busy planning that they forget to just **live**. In fact, last week I met a girl who had her entire life planned, from her future children's names to the exact color of her future house (red brick by the way). I haven't even decided what to eat for lunch! I asked her what happens if things change. She looked at me straight faced, squarely in the eye, and said, "They won't." Fair enough.

To each their own, but that's just not for me, not anymore. For now, I'm interested in...now. No more guilt. No more pressure. Someday, I'll probably make some plans of my own, but I'm going to make them my way. WAIT! A plan just hit me! I think I'll have a sandwich for lunch....





**Japanese politicians say the darndest things.** Sure, lawmakers everywhere get themselves into hot water with assertions such as, "It depends on what your definition of the word 'is' is", and amuse us with gaffes like "Fool me once,

shame on me, fool me twice...err...umm....ya can't get fooled again!" However, only Japanese statesmen seem to have the remarkable ability to set their society back 500 years in a single speech...and get away with it. With two high profile, highly amusing verbal faux pas making news over the last few months, I'm dedicating this month's Society and Politics to sharing with you the story behind these recent ill-timed assertions, as well as a few of the all time classics.

### Assembly Line Production

The most visible, and most controversial, gaffe in recent months came from Health Minister Hakuo Yanagisawa, who in a late-January speech to his Liberal Democratic Party colleagues offered the following gem:

*"The number of women aged between 15 and 50 is fixed. Because the number of birth-giving machines and devices is fixed, all we can ask for is for them to do their best per head."*

While Minister Yanagisawa did immediately add "though it may not be appropriate to call them machines", the damage was done. Calls for Yanagisawa's resignation were swift, and reports indicate that even his own wife scolded him over the remarks.

### Comforting Words From the Boss

The local and prefectural BoEs, which employ most of the JETs, ultimately fall under the purview of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology, making Minister Bunmei Ibuki our "big boss". During a recent speech in Nagasaki Prefecture, Ibuki offered this delightful metaphor:

*...Human rights are like butter. Butter is delicious, but if we eat butter every day, we develop metabolic syndrome. In the same way, Japan should respect human rights. However, if she respects human rights too much, she will develop human rights metabolic syndrome.*

No one is quite sure why the minister chose to liken human rights to butter (chocolate cake

would clearly have been a more logical choice), but doing so has made him few allies among advocacy groups like Amnesty International, who has in fact demanded a retraction and an apology. What I find most disconcerting about his comments is that he fails to specify just where Japan should cut itself off from the creamy goodness of human rights, and which more "healthy" alternative policies Japan should pursue (natto and onigiri?). Should Minister Ibuki be foolish enough to revisit the topic and offer specifics, no doubt through a metaphor likening immigration to tomatoes, I promise you'll read about it here first.

### Diplomacy at Its Finest

Continuing the litany of Abe cabinet members with chronic cases of foot-in-mouth disease, we come to Foreign Minister Taro Aso, who displayed his diplomatic tact by defending Japan's colonial occupation of Taiwan with the following:

*...One of the first things Japan did there was introducing compulsory education. Because of its high standard... Taiwan is catching up with the modern world.*

The Taiwanese, needless to say, were not amused.

Aso may win the title for the downright most offensive, most asinine comment in Post-War Japanese history with the following throwback to the flat-earth society. In fairness to Aso, there is some doubt about the authenticity of this quote – but I'm including it since my research for this article turned up no instances where he has denied it:

*We can't let a burakumin like [Hiromu] Nonaka become Prime Minister of Japan.*

For those who may not be familiar with the term, "burakumin" refers to members of Japan's feudal outcaste and their descendants, who until recently faced a level of discrimination comparable to African Americans in the last century. (As an interesting side note, many of the occupants of Northern Hyogo are descendants of this class, as this area was one of the few where *burakumin* were allowed to live.) Aso's comments here displayed all the sensitivity of an American politician claiming, "We can't let black men like Barak Obama become President." Can you imagine what would happen to a lawmaker who made such a statement in one of our home countries?

### Long Live the King

No opinion piece on the crazy things Japanese politicians say would be complete without at least a passing reference to the Lord High King of incendiary remarks, Tokyo Governor Shintaro Ishihara. Ishihara's willingness to speak his mind would almost be refreshing, were it not for the xenophobic bile that spews forth nearly every time he does so. Take this kernel of wisdom:

*...Atrocious crimes have been committed again and again by sangokujin [a derogatory term referring to Chinese, Koreans, and other Asians] and other foreigners. We can expect them to riot in the event of a disastrous earthquake.*

Though maybe I was too quick to call Ishihara a xenophobe. After all, he seems to have no more love for his political peers than for us foreigners. Speaking in regards to the bombing of Diet Member Hitoshi Tanaka's home, Ishihara said "A bomb was planted there. I think it was deserved."





# Who's who in Hyogo

tori lowe



Liz Cope

## The Basics...

**Name:** Elizabeth Cope

**Please call me:** Liz

**School and Location in Hyogo:** Himeji Bessho High School

**How we know you:** Eh, lots of you don't

**Birthday:** 9th April

**Born and raised:** Ireland

**Family:** Mum, Dad, 5 sisters, 1 brother (all older) and no it's not because we're a good Irish Catholic family!

**University and Degree:** Applied Languages at Dublin City University.

**Other jobs you have had:** Waitress, cashier, secretary, customer sales, tote at the dog racing tracks and a few more.

**Travels:** England, Scotland, Wales, France, Portugal, Spain, Majorca, Morocco, Tunisia, US, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos.

**Shumi wa nan desuka:** Hockey (not ice-hockey, field hockey!), traveling, shopping is up there too...

## Favourite...

**Food:** Thai, sushi, brown bread. **Sports:** Badminton and baseball.

**Sports:** see above

**Music:** a mixture but not a fan of dance music

**Shop:** In Japan- emporium. At home- topshop, Zara

**TV Show:** At the moment, Grey's Anatomy, Prison Break and Family Guy

**Movie:** City of God, Zoolander, Snatch, Trainspotting, Love Actually (it depends on my mood)

**Most Proud Achievement:** That's a tough one... surviving.

**Best life experience:** Traveling and seeing how other people live and realizing what's really important.

**Motto to live by:** Be grateful for what you have.

**I remember when...** I arrived in Hyogo with my suitcase and the worst hangover of my life, believing I really wasn't going to survive the day as they introduced me to the staff, principal and half the world. It seems so long ago now!

**What are you drinking?** Nothing

**If you were a crayon...** I'd be yellow

**Why should we elect you President of the World?** You probably shouldn't.

**Do you have an alibi for the Fire Extinguisher Incident at Yashiro?** Yes, I was busy knocking the bottle of gin off the roof! It was an accident....

**Best thing about Japan so far?** People and how you can say anything in public and no one understands.

**Other interesting trivia:** Not really.

**My top tip for teaching:** Make fun of the students- they love it!

**When the class is TOO QUIET I...** start picking on the bad kids- they always have something funny to say even if it's never in English.

**Bribery for students.. YAY or NAY?** Yay

## The Basics

**Name:** Chris Wang

**Please call me:** Chris Wang

**School and Location in Hyogo:** Hyogo and Kobe Technical High Schools, Kobe

**How we know you:** that tall Asian guy who's a bit gangly.

**Birthday:** 05/14/84

**Born and raised:** Born in Portland, OR U.S.A. but raised in Seattle, WA U.S.A.

**Family:** Brother and three sisters (older), Welsh Corgi named Tucker (younger)

**University and Degree:** University of Washington, degree in Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology....blaven!

**Other jobs you have had:** Pool boy, hiking trail maintenance worker, noxious weed destroyer, trendy clothing store sales person, lab assistant at a mouse genomics lab.

**Travels:** Canada, Mexico, Grand Cayman, England, Belgium, the Netherlands, Denmark, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Italy, Spain, France, Monaco, Hong Kong, Macau, and China.

**Shumi wa nan desuka:** I designed, cut, and assembled my own longboard (long skateboard) and began to longboard daily for a few years. Sadly, it was too big to bring to Japan.

## Favourite...

**Food:** SHRIMP! In general it's Chinese and Mediterranean food. In Japan it's the almighty Mega Mac, which is kind of weird because I used to only eat McDonald's about once a year back home...

**Sports:** Skiing and tennis

**Music:** I tell my students my favorite band is Incubus, but I feel like I'm betraying my other constantly changing loves when I say that. I listen to rock, indie, electronica (downtempo, lounge, and trip hop), indietronica, and some hip hop.

**Shop:** Random Walk Bookstore in Kobe

**TV Show:** Lost. I got the DVDs for Christmas and have become slightly obsessed. I have a man-crush on Jack. I was also temporarily obsessed with Samurai Champloo before I came to Japan but was devastated when I found out that nobody knows it here.

**Movie:** Donnie Darko, or anything about the world being taken over by zombies.

**Most Proud Achievement:** Being the JET with the closest placement to Sannomiya. (only 8 minutes from my door)

**Best life experience:** Being the JET with the closest placement to Sannomiya. (only 8 minutes from my door)

**Motto to live by:** Try everything once and go back for seconds on the things you like.

**I remember when...** I didn't reflexively feel defensive every time I told somebody I'm an American.

**What are you drinking?** Airborne (Lemon Lime flavor!)

**If you were a crayon...** I'd be Orange. When I was a kid and drew pictures of myself I thought orange was the color that best matched my Eurasian skin tone. Actually, I still think it is.

**Why should we elect you President of the World?** If you don't, I'll rise as Dictator of the World instead.

**Do you have an alibi for the Fire Extinguisher Incident at Yashiro?** Yes, I was busy committing to memory my plethora of detailed notes from the previous day's lectures and seminars whilst mentally preparing myself for the following day's learning topics.

**Best thing about Japan so far?** Konbinis.

**Other interesting trivia:** I've broken my left wrist twice, my right wrist twice, my collarbone, my leg, and a few toes. I'm slightly injury prone.

**My top tip for teaching:** Be yourself. The students can tell when you're being fake and you'll lose respect.

**When the class is TOO QUIET I...** stare at them awkwardly until they crack.

**Bribery for students.. YAY or NAY?** Yay. Even better is bribery in conjunction with competition.

Chris Wang





### The Basics

**Name:** Leigh Ann Mastrini

**Please call me:** Leigh Ann

**School and Location in Hyogo:** Higashi Harima SHS in Kakogawa

**How we know you:** you probably don't...I like to hibernate.

**Birthday:** April 11, 1983

**Born and raised:** USA (Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Texas)...but for the most part Washington DC

**University and Degree:** Math from Loyola College in Baltimore, Maryland

**Other jobs you have had:** My career as a sales clerk in a soccer store was short lived and then replaced by summer jobs as a camp counselor. I've also dabbled as a receptionist, a waitress, a salad and pastry chef, and a dishwasher for a while, but the last job that I actually paid taxes on was a public policy opinion researcher.

**Travels:** most of the USA and Europe, Saudi Arabia, Iceland, and a sweet Jamaican Spring Break '01.

**Shumi wa nan desuka:** playing soccer, listening to/ finding new music, road trips and international travel, taking pictures and I have to admit: math.

### Favourite...

**Food:** Mediterranean and Mexican. I'll normally try anything...once.

**Sports:** soccer and roller derby

**Music:** I'm not really partial to anything. Right now, I have a slight life-changing addiction to [www.pandora.com](http://www.pandora.com)

**Shop:** anything that sells shoes...I like buying sneakers.

**TV Show:** GREY'S...is anything else worth watching?

**Movie:** I've got too many favorite movies to list one, so I'll just say Destiny's Child Live in Atlanta. Not really a movie, but it's the best concert I've never been to.

**Most Proud Achievement:** A study I worked on at my last job got published a week after I arrived in Japan. That coupled with leaving my last job is my most proud achievement.

**Best life experience:** Becoming Ree Ann Sensei.

**Motto to live by:** Survive or Thrive

**I remember when...** I got lost running on Day 5 of being in Japan, had to steal a bike to get home, ended up being late to Yashiro, and have been heavily looked after ever since.

**What are you drinking?** Nothing. I think that's why this survey has been so difficult.

**If you were a crayon...** hot orange?

**Why should we elect you President of the World?** I'm pretty sure giving me responsibility like that would be a huge mistake.

Leigh Ann  
Mastrini



**Do you have an alibi for the Fire Extinguisher Incident at Yashiro?** I blacked out on the roof, so it might of *actually* been me. The thing is...I really don't know what happened after I stumbled into the boy's bathroom around 2am.

**Best thing about Japan so far?** No laws against having an open container in public. I'm sure almost all the Americans can relate. It might be a problem when I go home.

**Other interesting trivia:** I'm left-handed. I like to tell outrageously true stories, and I love sweatpants. My guilty pleasure is Starbucks on a weekly basis and it puts me into caffeine shock for a couple days. I also like to do this: ... in any form of writing.

**My top tip for teaching:** Make the students do things that will give you a good laugh.

**When the class is TOO QUIET I...** light my hair on fire...and I haven't gone bald yet.

**Bribery for students.. YAY or NAY?** Absolutely. I've got 3 shipments of BlowPops about to arrive soon.

March 2007 Not-a-30-CentureFold

Hyogo  
Times





kaila krayewski

# Watch your step!★ The legacy of the eco-footprint

**Walking down the beach, you might look behind you and notice the shape your foot has made in the sand.** It might be big and deep, causing the sand to darken and water to pool in the imprint. It might be light—a barely traced outline of your sole. The weight of your body and the result of your actions marks the earth.

It is an appropriate metaphor to describe how humans are affecting the planet's ecology: our ecological footprint.

The term *ecological footprint*, eco-footprint for short, has been added to the Oxford dictionary, meaning *the amount of land required to sustain a particular person or society*.

The eco-footprint is a tool that measures sustainability. Essentially, it asks, how long can Earth maintain us?

World Wildlife Foundation (WWF) reports, among others, have shown that humans are leaving a footprint over 20 per cent larger than Earth can sustain. This means we are in ecological overshoot: we are consuming resources faster than the Earth can replace them.

The eco-footprint concept was the brainchild of Mathis Wackernagel and an associate.

Wackernagel is now executive director of the Global Footprint Network. The Network is a global steward that promotes research and awareness of planetary limits, working towards institutionalizing the eco-footprint concept.

He compares our over consumption of Earth's resources with someone who cannot stay within their monthly budget. "You can spend money more rapidly than you earn it," explains Wackernagel. "We have to provide development within the budget of one planet."

Wackernagel likens the footprint to a bank statement. It is a way to help us manage our resources more effectively, he explains. "How much do we have and how much can we use?"

By current estimations, it takes the Earth one year and three months to

reproduce what we consume in one year. In other words, we are running an ecological debt.

The WWF has been very active in footprint education. Last year, the foundation produced a report stating that humanity's footprint more than tripled over the past four decades.

By 2050, predicts the report, humanity will be consuming double what the Earth can produce. We will need two planets.

The earlier we take action, says Wackernagel, the cheaper it will be to deal with this problem.

To understand the eco-footprint, we must deconstruct it. There are many factors making up the eco-footprint.

It is common to hear the term carbon footprint. The carbon dioxide footprint accounts for the use of fossil fuels. According to the WWF report, it makes up almost half the total global ecological footprint.

However, Wackernagel cautions that we should not look at carbon alone. We could replace carbon, he explains, and have an equally ominous problem on our hands. He uses ethanol, a fuel produced from sugar, as an example: "Ethanol may have more demands on the atmosphere than fossil fuels," he says, noting that the agricultural production and the processing of corn into fuel are very energy-intensive.

Also making up the eco-footprint are food, mobility, housing, and goods and services.

The food footprint includes area for animals to graze, fish to swim, and food to grow, as well as energy consumed in the transportation of foods. Simply put, the less meat we eat, and the more local groceries we buy, the smaller our food footprint.

The mobility footprint includes all aspects of mobility, even walking, which it can be argued, requires road infrastructure (sidewalks) that takes energy to build and maintain.

The housing footprint looks at the area taken up by one's home, along with the energy required to build and maintain it. The smaller the house, the smaller its housing footprint.

The goods and services footprint measures what goes into our houses. This covers everything from the toys we buy our kids, to the kind of cleaning products we use, to our health care plans.

Our car emissions, the amount of water in our laundry cycle, the number of hours we heat our homes—it all adds up in our eco-footprints.

Footprints are analyzed not only for individuals, but also for organizations, nations, and humanity itself. The latest trend is figuring out exactly what our individual impact is. So what's your number?

This ecologically minded reporter took an online footprint quiz. After inputting the number of hours she spends driving, traveling on an airplane, and eating non-local foods, the results stated, "If everyone lived like you, we would need 2.5 planets".

Myfootprint.org has one such quiz. It claims, "After answering 15 easy questions you'll be able to compare your Ecological Footprint to what other people use and to what is available on this planet."

Perhaps Wackernagel's analogy comparing the Earth to an unbalanced checkbook is not completely appropriate. He concedes: "You can print money, but not the planet."

There is no declaring bankruptcy here.

The eco-footprint is a tool that can be used for comparison, provoking discourse, but will it promote action? Dave Key, director of a sustainable development consulting service, says it will only promote action for whom it has meaning.

Key says people need to acquire an emotional connection to the information about footprints and their origins for there to be change.

Wackernagel believes we can turn things around. However, he clarifies that it is not an on-off switch. He adds that he believes the fast uptake we have seen in recent years around the world shows there is widespread interest in this matter.

Some may wonder how humans can live on Earth without leaving a footprint. Key explains. He says footprints can be sustainable. He likens it to the actual mark made by a human foot: "It

makes a physical mark but no unsustainable impact," he says.

Just think of waves washing against the shore: your footprint fills with water, its form dissolving back into the sand, becoming indistinguishable on the soft, grainy surface.





# ESS: English sensei spirit

**Ah April.** We get inundated with new students and perhaps new JTEs. It is an exciting time! You get new students who are unspoiled by the hand of another ALT. You have found your way around the school. You are going to have some new students that are going to show you some RESPECTAH!

The Introduction Lesson is always a good lesson. You can go crazy with it and impress your students with your Gaijin Self.

Last year I started the class with a Quiz... the JTE and I both gave short introductions, and then asked the students a few simple questions at the end (actually, I handed out multiple choice answer sheets, so the students that didn't understand a word I said could at least take a guess).

I followed this up with an introduction sheet for the students to answer:



| Question                       | Your Answers | Name of someone with the same answer. |
|--------------------------------|--------------|---------------------------------------|
| "How old are you?"             |              |                                       |
| "Where do you live?"           |              |                                       |
| "What are your hobbies?"       |              |                                       |
| "What do you like to do?"      |              |                                       |
| "What is your favourite food?" |              |                                       |

I encouraged the students to write full sentence answers.

I let the students freely walk around the room to find another person with the same answers as themselves. Obviously, some answers may not have another student with the same answer, but I am sure you can find a way to deal with it.

At the end of the class, I asked the students for their answers.

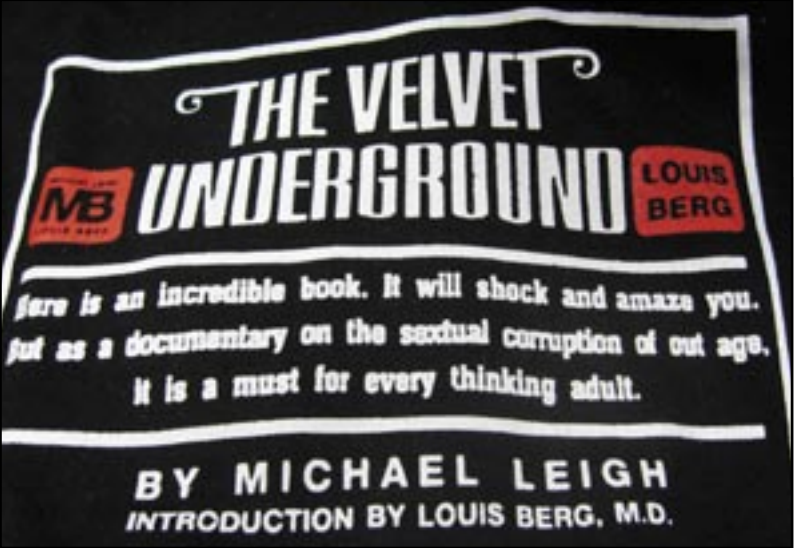
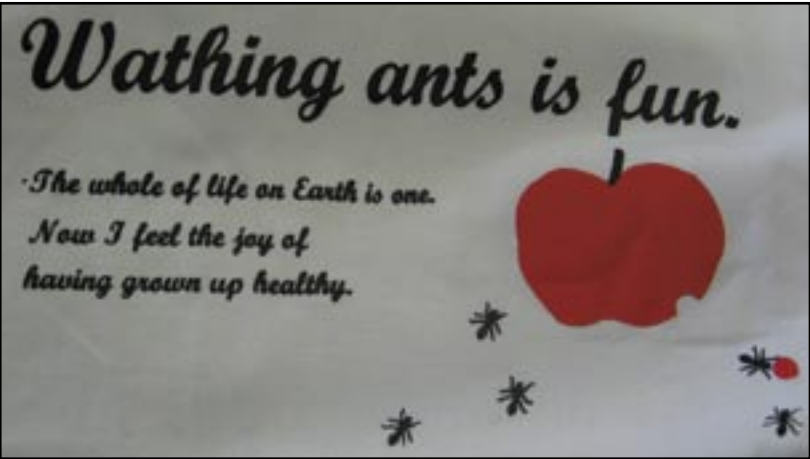
This is a very simple lesson that gets all students involved. As it is very simple, it gives the new I nenseis a false sense of confidence in their high school English class!



# let's enjoying fun!

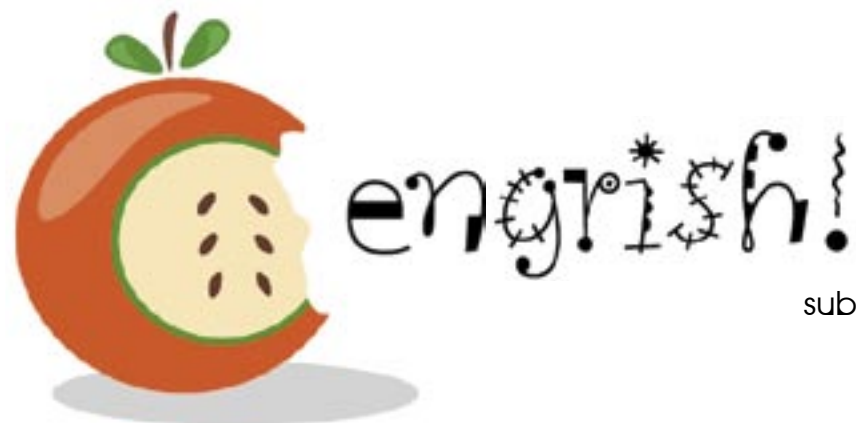
Please be inspired to send in anything amusing that you come across, such as a sign,  
a tshirt, an incident, or whatever.  
Student submissions get some of the best feedback.  
Please submit them in their original writing, warts and all.  
You can send a story or a picture or both to:

[submit.hyogotimes@gmail.com](mailto:submit.hyogotimes@gmail.com)



children's tshirt prints submitted by karen





submitted by amy pisse

animals in the news,  
as seen through the eyes of ono high school students

The Great Disappearing Ant Mystery – none to be found.

Hiroki Takao

Ants may have disappeared in Japan. This is the news that newscaster reported this morning. It is spreading around Japan. The first person who suggested that no ant was found anywhere was a member of biological club on Ono High School in Hyogo prefecture. He says 'I am a big fan of ants. Ants, come back.'

After that, his unique suggestion came up among biologists. One biologist sat 'People have lost respect for ants. This is one of the reason ants have disappeared. Another reason is the change of environment. Ants disappearing may mean other animals disappearing.'



Kangaroos Invade Australian Cities.

Shibue Mika

A few days ago, kangaroos invaded all Australian cities. They jumped about, and ate all of breads in Australia! Moreover, they used the facilities – theaters, markets, recreation facilities, pools, and so on... for free!

A baker in Sydney says 'I lost all my breads, I was shocked. But I'm going to make good use of this chance to make good friends with kangaroos!'

The number of invaders is increasing.

The World's Dogs Refusing To Be Pets.

Kishimoto Ayaka

Good evening. This is a news at seven.

Yesterday, a number of dogs are discovered by a high school student in Hyogo.

Over 10,000 dogs made group at prefectural Ono High School in Hyogo. All of them wears a collar. So, they seems to escape from their owner. According to the person concerned, these dogs will complain about their life style and rights.

The first discoverer said 'When I go to school, I see moving something at the school gate. I run after them, so I notice that they are dogs.'



Bactrian Camels Develop a Third Hump.

Shohei

Bactrian camels in the desert all over the world develop a third hump.

There is fat in the humps of the back. Not water.

This fat not only conserves energy but also there is a role to prevent that the temperature of the camel's body rises too much.

It seems that the camels might have increased humps two to three to correspond to global warming.

As a result, though the camel became able to move for a long time, shape of the back changed rough not to sit easily by human.





# Japan just wouldn't be Japan without...

robin crowder



**Omiyage:** While the concept of omiyage was more than a little foreign to me at first, I have quickly begun to enjoy the fact that on many Mondays, I arrive at school to a little something special on my desk. This week it was an "Arima Carbonic Acid Cake." Previously, I have also received "Sunflowers Chocoballs," "Shikoku's Oldest Cake," and a "Kinosaki Crab Sand" – which turned out to actually just be a cookie. I have personally brought back "Yakushima Monkey Biscuits." I can only hope that the names of all these omiyage sound more appetizing in Japanese than they do in English...



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# The Top Ten Signs I've Adapted to Life in Japan

robin crowder



While it is hard to believe that I have now been in Japan for more than half my contract, or that I am leaving in a very short amount of time, I have recently noticed some changes in my behavior and a few newly acquired mannerisms which make me think that I have adjusted very well to the Japanese life style. Since many of you might also be in the same situation, I thought it might be interesting to share some of my observations; and so I present to you, in the spirit of my love for ridiculous list-making, the Top Ten Signs That I've Adapted to Life in Japan\*:

10. When someone asks how I am, my automatic response – regardless of how I actually feel – is “I’m fine thank, and you?”

9. I no longer crave pizza on a regular basis; I crave sushi. Similarly, my frequent cravings for chocolate have been cut in half and replaced with frequent cravings for red bean mochi.

8. When I go to sit on the floor, I automatically sit in seiza, even though I can still only stay like that for about five minutes before my legs go numb because clearly you need to start breaking those tendons at an early age in order to sit like that comfortably..

7. My English abilities have increased two fold: case and point, I very very enjoyed making this list because it made me feel happy happy. In the same, I now deem “maybe no” and “see you!” to be grammatically correct and perfectly acceptable phrases.

6. Yesterday I saw a melon in the grocery store discounted to only 900yen – and I almost bought it because it was such a good price. Conversely, the store was sold out of the 38yen tofu and I refused to buy the 75yen stuff on account of it was just too expensive.



5. “Sumimasen!” comes more naturally than “Excuse me,” as does “Hai?” instead of “Yes?” when somebody calls my name. “Ah! Gomen nasai!” is also a far more appropriate sounding apology than “I’m sorry,” just as “Chotto matte ne,” rolls off the tongue more freely than “Hold on a minute.”

4. The “puke and rally” to party all night that I worked so hard to perfect in university has now been replaced with the “one drink and a catnap” to make it to the end of a two hour enka.

3. I don’t jaywalk anymore; instead, I walk the extra 10 feet to the cross walk, stand patiently behind the yellow safety line until the light changes, then wait another ten seconds for all the drivers to finish running the red light until finally I can cross... okay, well at least I don’t jaywalk as much as I used to...

2. I can fall asleep on the train standing up, without holding onto anything, and wake up instinctively at my stop.

And the number one sign that I am well adjusted to life in Japan...

1. I can type ketai text messages at a speed of 60 words per minute... while riding my bike...and without falling into the gaijin traps!

*\*Some items on the above list may have been slightly exaggerated for comedic purposes...but underneath every joke is a small hint of truth, right?*





# Nayorimashida

(it's better than nothing!)



謝ることはない。  
(ayamaru koto wa nai)  
"I don't have to apologize."

**You hear that? I'm not apologizing for nothing!**

Except that double negative, which is an absolutely atrocious display of poor English. However, the Japanese love those double negatives. Can't get enough of them. Or of calling the police in Akashi Park, but that's a whole other story... Ahem. So here are a few phrases to help you out in this apologetic culture.

よくないこともない。  
(yokunai koto mo nai)  
"OK."

Basically, there isn't a bad thing. Or there's not a not good thing, therefore, it's good.

ないことはない。  
(nai koto wa nai)  
"Maybe."

There's a possibility or a likelihood, but perhaps extenuating circumstances restrict the askee from giving the asker what he wants. For instance...

虫眼鏡がある。  
(mushi megane ga aru)  
"Do you have a magnifying glass?"

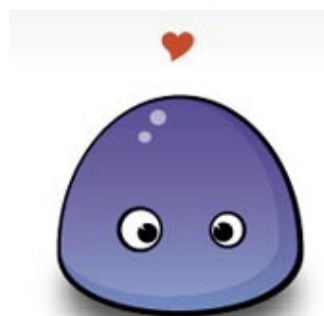
ないことはないけど。今、蟻を殺している。  
(nai koto wa nai kedo. ima, ari wo koroshiteiru)  
"I do, but... I'm killing ants now."

ないではいられない。  
(nai dewa irarenai)  
"Can't help doing it."

I have no control over my actions. Maybe something's quite sad and you can't help crying or maybe...

死んだ赤ちゃんの冗談は悪趣味が、笑わないではいられない。  
(shinda akachan no joudan wa akushumi ga, warawanai dewa irarenai)  
"Dead baby jokes are tasteless, but I can't help laughing."

I'm also not apologizing for that one.



tori lowe

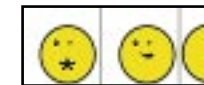
## ♥ Reviews ♥

### ♥ Book Review Shadow of the Wind by Carlos Ruiz Zafón

"Shadow of the Wind" starts with 10 year old Daniel Sempere discovering a valuable book in the cemetery of forgotten books of Barcelona. He enjoys the book so much he tries to find works by the same author while meeting many dark and tragic characters along the way. The author gives the reader a real feel for the atmosphere and the people of post-Revolution Barcelona through this mixture of detective story, love story and tragedy.

Personally, I found the characters to be slightly exaggerated and the love story sequences quite unbelievable. Actually, I was expecting the story to turn into something Stephen King-esque, but it never happened – the story stayed "this worldly" despite the promise of it perhaps crossing over into something a little more "other worldly". However, I really enjoyed this book, if only for the character of Fermin, who had some classic lines of laugh-out-loud hilarity.

**3.5 Tori Stars out of 5.**



### ♥ Movie Review: Man of the Year (2006)

In this comedy, Tom Dobbs (Robin Williams), a comedian and political commentator, runs for president. A new electronic system of voting is implemented for the vote, and a mistake in the programming ends up electing the wrong candidate.

Man of the Year was hilarious. While the movie had a bit of action, a bit of a love story and a bit of drama, what kept me watching was Robin Williams at his stand-up comic best. Slow in places, any short comings in the plot were more than made up for by clever jokes and sharp one-liners. I am laughing just thinking about it.

**4 Tori Stars out of 5**



### ♥ CD Review Orange Range: MusiQ

Released in 2004, probably most of your students own this album. MusiQ was the number one album in Japan in 2005, and the responsible artists, "Orange Range," are a boy-band sensation from Okinawa. A mixture of rock and hip hop, apparently Orange Range started out as a cover band, which probably explains their very familiar sound.

The 3rd song on the album, "Locolotion" sounds very much like "The Locomotion". It is quite catchy, but I think I preferred Kylie Minogue's version. "Zung Zung Funky Music" starts out sounding heavy rock and a bit risqué, but ends up sounding like a high-school music teacher's attempt at writing hip-hop (with a bit of plagiarism thrown in for good measure). I think the synthesizer sound and the distortion of the voices in just about every song add to my frustration with this very J-pop band. There is a lot of that "lets all sing together" stuff throughout the album, which adds to its Disney-channel charm.

You could borrow this album off your students to learn a song or two for Karaoke for a few laughs at your next enka. If it wasn't for the crazy rap parts, I would recommend adding "City Boy" to your Japanese-song repertoire (Japanese accent at its double-meaning best).

**1 Tori Stars out of 5. Sorry I didn't finish listening to it.**





karen

# Japanese culture:

## tattoos... taboos? *irezumi* in Japanese society

Have you been scared to enter an onsen because you possess a tiny decorative tattoo? Ever placed bandages over it to hide it? Tattoos, or *irezumi*, have a distinct notoriety in contemporary Japanese society, due principally to their common association to the *yakuza* (Japanese mafia). However, the tattoo is thought to have existed in Japan since around 1000 BC, and has not always been viewed so negatively. So why did the tattoo develop these associations?

The Japanese word for tattooing, *irezumi* (入れ墨, 入墨, 文身, 割青, 黥 or 刺青), translates to ink being permanently inserted under the skin, usually in the form of a decorative mark that covers one's arms, shoulders and back. Excluding the indigenous Ainu people who used tattoos for decorative and social purposes, the role of the tattoo in Japanese society fluctuated between a religious symbol and punishment for criminals until the Edo period of 1603 to 1867. From this period on, the tattoo began to develop into the complex art form we know today.

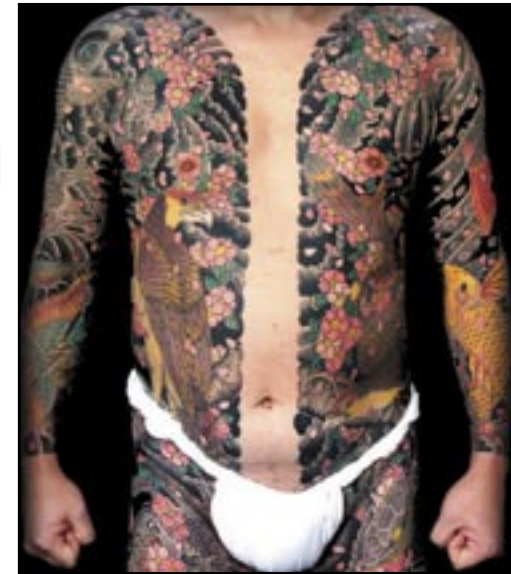
During this time, tattoos were part of the *Ukiyo-e* (Japanese wood block print) culture. Characters in the popular print designs displayed colourful, full body tattoos. This decorative tattooing became fashionable with the lower classes, such as labourers and firemen; prostitutes also used these marks to enhance their appeal to customers.

With the influence of Confucianism and Buddhism, Japanese society changed its views on tattoos. Their decorative role was reduced around 1720 when tattoos began to be employed as the endorsed punishment for criminals, instead of the amputation of their noses and ears. Criminals were marked with a ringed tattoo around their arm for each offence, or a special symbol on their forehead. Tattooing

criminals was abolished in 1870; however, the visible punishment fashioned a group of exiles with no place in normal society. Many of these social outcasts were *ronin*, masterless samurai warriors, who consequently formed gangs, leading to the origin of the *yakuza*.

As Japan endeavoured to be accepted by Christian Western societies, the Imperial Meiji government prohibited *irezumi*, viewing art form as a symbol of lower class societies. It wasn't until 1948 that tattooing was no longer strictly forbidden.

Tattooing in Japan has since retained its negative image among the masses, but is nonetheless performed by secretive, traditional tattoo artists. The relationship between an artist and his human canvas is profound: the traditional *irezumi* takes the form a full body suit, and usually tells a story that is significant to both parties involved. The artist may, in fact, spend years deciding the story and the art with his client before actually beginning the inking process. As such, one cannot simply choose to become a *horishiki*, tattoo artist. A new artist must be chosen by another *horishiki*, who then takes on the role of *sempai*. Typically, the *sempai* will train his protégé for many years, teaching the complex shading styles and techniques. A typical 'body suit' (covering the arms, back, upper legs and chest, but leaving a non-tattooed space down the centre of the body) takes between 1-5 years of weekly visits to perfect and cost more than US\$30,000.



- Irezumi (入れ墨, 入墨, 文身 (also pronounced bunshin), 割青, 黥 or 刺青) – tattoo (noun or verb)
- Horimono (彫り物, 彫物, literally carving, engraving) – tattoo. This is another word for traditional Japanese tattoos.
- Horishi (彫り師, 彫物師) – a tattoo artist.
- Bokukei, bokkei (墨刑) – punishment by tattooing.
- Tebori (手彫り, literally to carve by hand) – describes the technique of tattooing by hand.
- Hanebori (羽彫り, literally to carve with a feather) – a hand-tattooing technique employing a feathering motion.
- Tsuki-bori (突き彫り) – a hand-tattooing technique employing a thrusting motion.
- Kakushibori (隠し彫り, literally hidden carving) – tattooing near the armpits, the inside of the thighs and other "hidden" body areas. Also refers to the tattooing of hidden words, for example among the petals of flowers.
- Kebori (毛彫り) – the tattooing of fine lines or of hair on tattooed figures.
- Sujibori (筋彫り) – outlining, the outline of a tattoo.
- Shakki – the sound needles make when they puncture the skin.
- Irebokuro – from ire or ireru, which means to insert, and bokuro or hokuro, a beauty spot
- Yobori – "Yo" (European) tattooing. The Japanese-English slang term for tattooing done with the Machine.
- Sumi – The ink used to tattoo, traditionally mixed by the apprentice



Common images in traditional Japanese tattoos are:

- Mythological beasts and monsters: Dragons, Kirin, Foo Dogs, Hō-ō (鳳凰, Phoenixes)
- Animals: Birds, Koi (Carp), Tigers, Snakes
- Flowers: Peonies, Cherry Blossoms, Lotuses, Chrysanthemums
- Other plants: Bamboo, Maple leaves
- Characters from traditional folklore and literature, such as the Suikoden
- Images of the "Floating World" inspired by ukiyo-e prints: geisha, samurai
- Buddhas and Buddhist deities such as Fudō Myōō and Kannon
- Shinto kami (deities) such as tengu
- Backgrounds: clouds, waves, wind bars.



Tadamasa Ueno



Roshi Ensei:  
The Tattooed Wrestler  
Hokusai Katsushika,  
Suikoden (Ukiyo-e)



# Hematology Astrology

robin crowder

march 2007

TYPE A



A new school year and a new group of students have your nervous juices flowing once again – relax! Things don't always need to be perfect for you to come out on top. Find someone who shares a newly developed interest around the 19th and you'll discover that an unconscious fear will be conquered.

**Single As:** Channel your nervous energy into a few hot dates with a new belle or beau. There's no guarantee that this relationship will last, but it will take your mind off what ails you.

**Attached As:** Though that fluttering in your heart may not be from the new love butterflies, use the feeling to pull your relationship out its "been there, done that" rut by doing something to remind you of the early days.

**Lucky Days:** 4th, 20th

TYPE O



The new school year brings the possibility for change in your working situation and you like the idea. A new coworker is worth approaching whether for help or just for fun. Around the 25th, running your mouth could put in a situation which you would rather not have to face.

**Single Os:** Once again your valiant attempts to initiate something with a new love prospect are happily received, but you lack the attention span to follow through. The chase might be fun now, but remember that eventually you won't be able to run anymore...

**Attached Os:** Keep your mouth shut! Voicing any passive aggressive opinions out of frustration this month could put your partner on the offensive and will not end favourably for either of you.

TYPE B



The warm weather leaves you feeling restless. A sudden spring cleaning or revamping of your home or life will send you down a new and exciting path. Around the 7th, a new proposal will force you to excavate the past.

**Single Bs:** Your restlessness gets you fired up to try something exotic: go with your gut instinct and you'll find yourself in the company of someone who could turn out to be your soul mate.

**Attached B:** In revamping your life, be careful not to mislead your partner into thinking your relationship needs a change too: it's actually the one place in your life where things are exactly as they should be.

**Lucky Days:** 21st, 23rd

TYPE AB



The incompetence of someone in your life is very frustrating for you this month. Embark on a new travel adventure to remove yourself from the situation and get some perspective. Between the 6th and the 10th, your red cells are working on overdrive and you feel ready to take on the world – go for it!

**Single ABs:** In like a lion, out like a lamb: follow up on any love interests between the 6th and the 10th, but let the other person take the reins after that.

**Attached ABs:** An unexpected situation puts you and your partner in direct competition with each other. This competition transfers into other aspects of your relationship, putting tensions at a high. Take a moment to breathe and think about what's important to you both.

**Lucky Days:** 8th, 26th

## KR&AC MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN



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**CONTACT THE KR&AC OFFICE TODAY:**

**Tel: 078-231-2271**

**10am - 7pm except Mondays**

**E-mail: [info@krac.org](mailto:info@krac.org)**

**FOR AN INFORMATION PACKAGE AND AN APPLICATION FORM**



compiled by amanda brown

## APRIL/MAY EVENTS: KANSAI

### CONCERT LISTINGS:

**April 7 - Little Barrie (with Big Strides)**

*Shinsaibashi Club Quattro*

Open 18:00, Start 19:00 6000yen

**April 9 - Beck**

*ZEPP Osaka* Open 18:00, Start 19:00  
7500yen

**April 9 - The Rapture**

*Shinsaibashi Club Quattro*

Open 18:00, Start 19:00 5800yen

**April 12 - Flogging Molly (with Gogol Bordello)**

*Osaka Big Cat* Open 18:00, Start 19:00  
6000yen

**April 14 - Snow Patrol**

*Shinsaibashi Club Quattro*

Open 18:00, Start 19:00 5800yen

**April 16 - Ben Kweller**

*Umeda Shangri La*

Open 18:00, Start 19:00 5000yen



**April 17 - Sonic Youth and V∞redoms**

*Namba Hatch* Open 18:00, Start 19:00  
6800yen

**April 20 - Europe ("The Final Countdown"!)**

*Kousei Nenkin Kaikan* Open 18:30, Start 19:00  
8000yen

**Open 18:30, Start 19:00**  
**8000yen**

**April 21 and 22 - Guns N' Roses**

*Intex Osaka*

Saturday - Open 15:30, Start 17:00

Sunday - Open 14:30, Start 16:00

12,000yen - tax incl, all standing

**May 6 - Lamb of God**

*Shinsaibashi Club Quattro*

Open 17:00, Start 18:00  
5500yen

**May 7 - Saosin**

*Osaka Big Cat*

Open 18:00, Start 19:00  
4800yen

**May 7 - Stevie Salas Colorcode**

*Shinsaibashi Club Quattro*

Open 18:00, Start 19:00  
6000yen

**May 8 - Good Charlotte**

*Zepp Osaka*

Open 18:00, Start 19:00  
6300yen

**May 12 - Juliette and the Licks**

*Shinsaibashi Club Quattro*

Open 18:00, Start 19:00  
5500yen

**May 21 - Stone Sour**

*Shinsaibashi Club Quattro*

Open 18:00, Start 19:00  
6000yen

**May 23 and 24 - Nine Inch Nails**

*Zepp Osaka*

Open 18:00, Start 19:00  
8000yen

**May 25 - digitalism**

*Osaka Club Karma*

Start 23:00 - all night event  
4000yen + adv drink charge

**May 31 - The View**

*Shinsaibashi Club Quattro*

Open 18:00, Start 19:00  
5500yen

**Coming soon to Kansai: (June)**

Queensryche (5th), Aqualung (6th),  
Your Song Is Good (24th)



### FESTIVALS: *courtesy of Japanvisitor.com*

**Miyako odori**

1-30 April

*Kobu Kaburenjo Theatre, Kyoto*

A highly-anticipated annual showcase of geiko  
(geisha) dances and music.

**Shinkosai**

25 April *Matsuo Taisha Shrine, Kyoto*

A thousand year old festival dedicated to the god  
of sake-brewing. There is a mikoshi procession  
and participants hold up masks of the deity on  
long sticks. Train from Kyoto station on the  
Arashiyama line to Matsuo station.

**Nozaka Mairi**

1-10 May *Daito City, Osaka Prefecture*

Thousands gather on the approach to Nozaka  
Kannon Temple to enjoy puppet plays,  
storytelling and a range of other classical arts  
and festival amusements.

**Hiroshima Flower Festival**

3-5 May *Hiroshima*

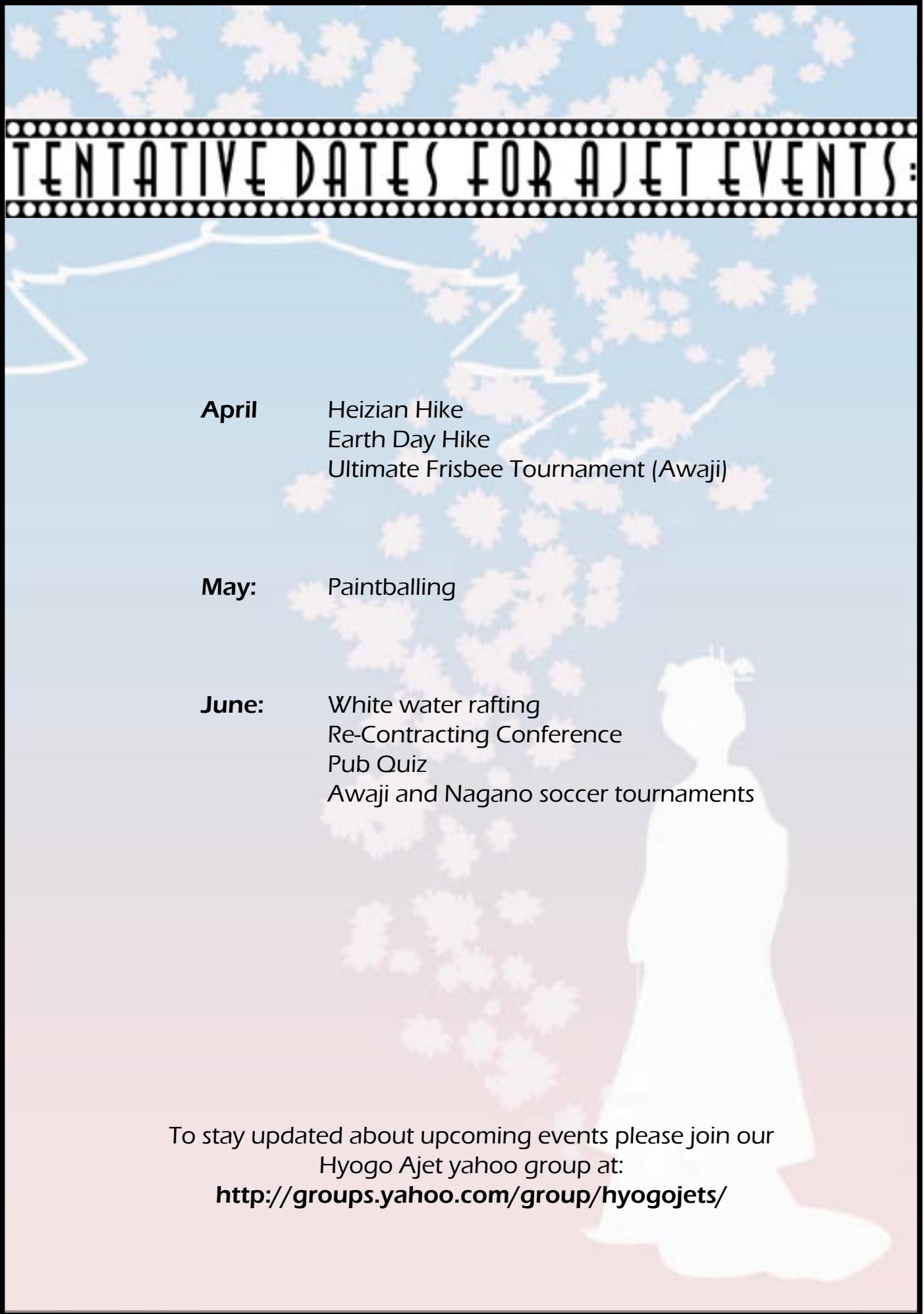
Festival for peace featuring flowers, music and a  
wide range of fun and entertainments. Attracts  
visitors from all over the world.

**Aioi Peiron Festival**

24-25 May *Aioi, Hyogo Prefecture*

Harbour festival with teams of oarsmen and  
women competing in longboat races. Also  
features street parades, dancing and fireworks.





# TENTATIVE DATES FOR AJET EVENTS:

**April**      Heizian Hike  
Earth Day Hike  
Ultimate Frisbee Tournament (Awaji)

**May:**      Paintballing

**June:**      White water rafting  
Re-Contracting Conference  
Pub Quiz  
Awaji and Nagano soccer tournaments

To stay updated about upcoming events please join our  
Hyogo Ajet yahoo group at:  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/hyogojets/>