

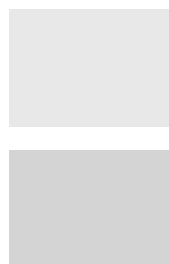
hyogo times

June
2007



<http://hyogoajet.org>

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Planting rice, Yumesaki

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...

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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://hyogojet.org>





submit.hyogotimes@gmail.com

from the editor

consistently been at a loss for what to write in an editorial. This is something that I'm sure you have all noticed, considering that every month I produce yet another 500 words of nonsense based on something ridiculous that I have done or experienced in my Japanese life, and repeatedly fail to say anything worthwhile. And since I figure there's no need to stray from the beaten path for my last words of wisdom, I still have no intention of saying anything insightful or even remotely useful!

However, because I have nothing important to say, I am (maybe for the first time ever) going to say very little. As a non-sentimental person, I never really know what to do in good bye situations, other than trying not to let the door hit me on the way out, so though I'd kind of like to write a really gushy column to thank everyone for the help and contributions, it's probably not going to happen. On the other hand, I do definitely want to say thank you to all the regular contributors and other random submitters because without them, the Hyogo Times would never have become what it is now. While I do curse you silently every time I have to send multiple emails to ask for your submissions or to follow up on your pictures, I am truly grateful for all the work you put into your writing each month...couldn't do it without you!

And of course, the biggest thanks of all has to go to the lovely Karen LeBlanc. Everything you see in the Hyogo Times stems from her artistic talent, and if anyone deserves recognition for a lot of hard work, she certainly does. Seriously, next time you see her, give her a high five, a pat on the back or a beer – she's earned it!

To Tori, your new editor, and to Emily and Adela, your new designers, I wish you the best of luck! You are all fabulous people and talented individuals so I know you will work hard to keep the HT going, all while adding your own personal twists. I look forward to reading your first issue (and the last one I'll ever get! Sob!) before leaving this fair land in August...

Thanks to everyone for all your help – it's been a blast!

Editorial!

..(mwhaha)

So, the time is fast approaching for me to take over the reigns of the old Hyogo Times. I must say, I am very nervous to be Editor. Will I maintain the standard set by my predecessor? Will I get everything edited on time? Will I have enough stories for each issue? Only time will tell.



At a recent school health check, I found out that my blood pressure has dropped to a staggering 94/55. I'm no health scientist, but obviously my heart has decided it can't be bothered pumping blood to my underused brain anymore. Perhaps the academic workout editing will provide, coupled with the stress of maintaining the integrity of such an important magazine, will get my blood pressure back to normal?

During Golden Week, I visited a friend who is living in Yamaguchi-ken, and I was able to have a browse of the Yamaguchi AJET's publication. I can't remember what it was called, but it came out every two months (rather than monthly) and was crammed full of stories. It had nothing on the Hyogo Times, but I must say, the Yamaguchi publication was a lot more risqué in its content – and I liked it! Some of the language was a bit uncalled for, but it was hilarious in its "oh so close to crossing the line" humor. If you have any articles that you have produced that are a little bit wrong but funny with it, or if you think you

have what it takes to make people laugh green tea through their noses, get submitting to the Hyogo Times! Help make my time as editor full of LOL's and WTF??!!ROTFL!!!'s.

Other than hopefully tapping into the talent of the hilarious people of Hyogo (I know you are out there), you probably won't notice too many changes in the Hyogo Times content. With any luck we will still have all the regular columnists on board! Also, as much as it would annoy my British parents, I have decided to keep the current standard of American English. My computer automatically reverts to American spelling anyway!

Well, I think I will leave my first editorial at that, seeing as I haven't really read the articles for this month yet. Although I heard the English Sensei Spirit Lesson Plan this month was a stroke of genius...


Keep your fingers crossed for me,

Tori

This is the last editorial I will write for the Hyogo Times...(momentary pause to allow you all to wipe away your tears)...However, my "sayounara" means Tori's "konnichi-wa!" which means new ideas and new articles.

It's somewhat strange to be writing this because it forces me to realize that my time in Japan is nearly over – though it still blows my mind that I have been here for nearly a year. Time flies when you're having fun, right? Or, when you're really bored and sleep through a total of about four months of not teaching but still having to be at school...

Since beginning this position as "Editor-in-Chief" (I love how that title makes me sound like I'm doing something important with my life, even though the magazine I edit is for a group of people who are in Japan mainly to procrastinate doing something important with their life), I have




from the PR

A great big herro to all of my fellow Hyogoites once again! Is life still treating you well? Are you tired of wearing your rain suit yet? As you sit inside, listening to the rain drum on your rooftop, enjoying the sauna that is your house, try to imagine the not so distant past when you were curled under your kotatsu, shivering and longing for warmth. Oh how our feelings have changed! When sitting around sweating, again desperate for relief, think back to those cold days and appreciate the "Cool Biz" short sleeves we can wear to work, as well as the ability to leave your bedroom without bundling up.

Along with 100% humidity, summer is just as unfortunately a time for goodbyes. Many of us have decided to head back to the real world, or the "Outside Countries," and we must appreciate the time we have left together. I know there is still a month left, but before this hectic time for the returnees, I would like to offer a big "WE'LL MISS YOU!" message on behalf of myself and the rest of Hyogo. I know that *my* Japan will not be the same without you. Until next time, take care of yourself, and each other. See you at the Sayonara Party!

-Brandon



Hey, It's been a fabulous two years over here with all of you, and it's been filled with many amazing experiences.

Thank you for reading our wonderful HT, I hope you have enjoyed it and continue to submit articles and feedback to Tori and the new team!

Sayonara,
Karen xx

Love & Relationships

dear readers...
the columnist comparison

Let's be honest. We've all been in Japan for a while now, and I don't think any of us can argue that there aren't some major cultural differences between our home and Japan. On the other hand, are we really that different deep down? This month, I thought it would be interesting to plunge into the depths of those differences by going right to the source herself – advice columnist and relationship guru “Dear Abby”. This woman knows her stuff! But what I wonder, is would her valued advice fly in the wondrous world of Nihon? Let's start with a recent excerpt:

Dear Abby: I am 37, never married, and have never even dated much. I am quiet, shy, overweight and plain. I have been seeing a man who is 42 years old, and who has also never been married. He has proposed, but I haven't given him an answer because I don't think I really love him. He is very good to me and treats me like a queen, but there is absolutely no spark. (There's also no sex. He's impotent and has no plans to do anything about it.) My question is: Do I marry him and “settle,” just to be married, or do I live the rest of my life alone? Is it better to take this chance and marry my best friend, or should I wait for a Prince Charming who might never arrive? - *Wavering in the Midwest*

ABBY answers: There's no one-size-fits-all answer to your question. Some women have married “Prince Charming” only to have him turn into an abusive frog. Other women have married their “best friend” and lived happily ever after. That you're not attracted to this man and he's unable to perform could be either good or bad, depending upon how important sex is to you. However, if you're considering marriage to him only because you're afraid you'll never attract anyone else, I urge you to go on a diet, get into an exercise program, and consult the best cosmetician you can afford about a makeover. Beauty may be only skin deep, but the way you package yourself can affect the way you feel about yourself. And once you improve your self-esteem, your luck with men could change for the better.



Ok, let's step back from the “American” answer a second here: kosher for Japan? Admittedly, this likely depends on gender. I'm not gonna lie: quiet, shy, overweight and plain can still get a foreign guy a pretty hot chick in Japan. Japanese girls may be more forgiving of looks than their male counterparts. Furthermore, the average Japanese couple has sex a mere 37 times a year, according to a recent Durex study (compared to 132 times in America or 115 in Greece). So while impotence normally has the potential of being a “hard issue to over “cum” (or not as the case may be!), I could imagine a sexless relationship being more of a possibility in Japan. Girls may also feel more pressure to settle for marriage here, especially with the ever-endearing possibility of becoming “Christmas Cake.” Based on Abby's answer, I would also say the cosmetic advice is acceptable here. But while things are a-changin' (I hope) for many couples in Japan, for now, telling a girl to get a trendy new pair of heels to go with her hot pants actually might be the prescription she needs. Let's try again...

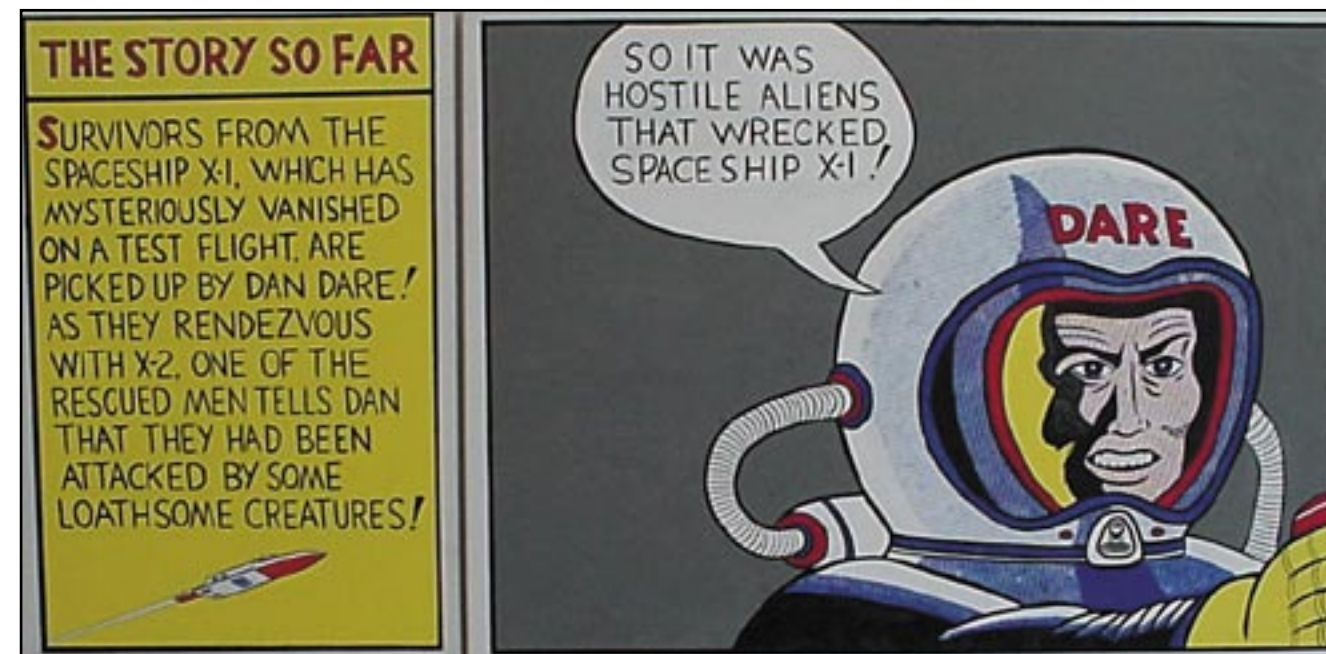
Dear Abby: I'm a 16-year-old girl with a big problem. I dated a guy I'll call “Mickey” for about a month, maybe a little longer. Then we broke up because he said he wasn't over his last girlfriend. I know now it was a lie, since I found out they had never actually broken up – he just cheated on her with me. The problem is, we are fairly good friends, and he called me a month ago and we ended up having phone sex. I thought it meant something, and I believed him when he said he'd call me the next day, but he never called. In fact, Abby, he never said another word about it. Should I act like nothing ever happened, too – even though it kills me – or should I break off this friendship? – *Embarrassed in Arkansas*

ABBY answers: Treat this as a learning experience. “Mickey” is a user who has lied to you at least twice and cheats on his girlfriend. There is no need to break off the friendship because there was no friendship to begin with. If you're smart, you'll steer clear of him in the future, because boys who behave like this bring nothing but pain.

Okay, good advice for taking the high road and saving face, but confronting the boy is probably not something that would occur to the stereotypical, demure and subservient Japanese girl. What if this was one of your *kokosei*? I could imagine this girl just letting it go to save face, especially if “Mickey” was in her homeroom and she was going to see him often. Yeah, it's *hazukashii*, but it probably wouldn't be the common response in Japan to confront this guy. Then again, I know some saucy teenagers, so the shy schoolgirl misconception might be a bad starting point. Plus, with the influence of music, media, and those crazy foreign ALTs, there is potential that this cultural norm is changing and a young Japanese girl wouldn't put up with such disrespect.



The answers Abby offers are geared toward an American audience, but I would say they are acceptable for this culture. When it comes down to it, people are people, especially with regard to raw emotions. While these are only two examples and my lowly opinion as your Hyogo love doc, it serves as an example that – even in the world of love and relationships – maybe Japan is not as different and quirky as it may seem with the day-to-day. But don't just take my word for it - get out there and find out for yourself!



Dreams are what you do

micah jorrich



I want to go to Tanzania. I want to bike across Eastern Europe. I want to be happy.

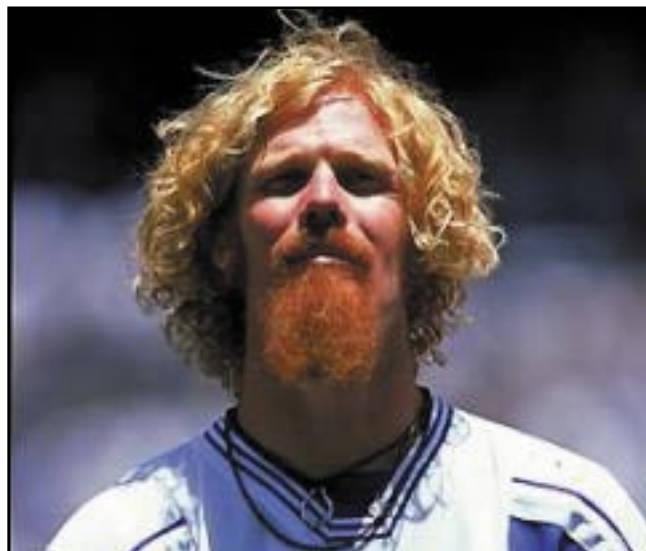
To say the least, this job in Japan has given me a lot of “Micah” time during the 40-hour workweek. I’d love to say that I’ve mastered 3 languages, written a novel, and solved the world’s problems but I am, how do you say... a wee bit lazy. Instead I find myself doing what I’ve always done since I was a kid: I lean back into my chair and let myself slip into my own little world.

I’ve always been a dreamer (see: ADD) and I doubt I will ever be able to shake it. It all goes back to my 5th grade math class. My teacher, the infinitely ineloquent and frumpy Ms. Bergeron “entertained” me with all sorts of geometry, arithmetic, and super exciting equations, all of which I completely ignored. Instead, I daydreamed. I believe this time of my life was the pivotal era where I learned to hone my dreaming, to believe in it, to turn it into something other than just a dream.

Let’s all time travel back a few years, back to that 5th grade math class. At the time, my dream focused around the desire to obtain a shiny new pair of soccer shorts. I had to start somewhere, right? These were no ordinary shorts mind you, but the pinnacle, the zenith of soccer

wear. If I were to wear these shorts, I would be just like Alexi Lalas (Hey, he was AWESOME back then! AND he had long hair!), shooting through defenders, leaving them in awe of my obviously superior soccer gear. So, I devised a plan to grasp my dream. First, I would beg my parents. If this foolproof plan were to fail, I would pray every night that I could find a pair just lying on the ground in a form of celestial intervention. Actually, that was it. For god’s sake, I was only 11! After a couple of weeks mercilessly pleading with my parents, and cursing the heavens for not recognizing my plight, I decided to take the matter into my own hands. I would earn these beautiful \$30 shorts through my own blood, sweat, and tears dammit!!! I took up odd jobs, mowed old ladies lawns, even walked a crazy little dog every afternoon that obviously thought of my leg as a seductive form of the opposite sex (Milo, you still haunt my dreams). After a few weeks of tireless, unabashed focus I had in my hand a little over \$30. This was enough to purchase the ultimate in modern sportswear, the coveted soccer shorts and some new Magic cards (Those were at least as cool as Alexi Lawless!). I can still remember the first time I took the field wearing my new prized possession. I can still picture every single one of the (I like to think) jealous faces of my teammates, and the horror in the faces of my opponents after viewing the 4-foot 6-inch boy in bright purple shorts. I had achieved my dream; I was on top of the world.

As it ended up, these shorts worked out so well for my burgeoning soccer career that I quit the sport six months later. Ok, so you’re rolling your eyes at me. So what? I managed to buy some measly soccer shorts, and actually quit the sport soon after. That’s not the point of my little anecdote. This was the time of my life where I learned that dreaming wasn’t just dreaming: there was some rhyme and reason to the crazy thoughts running through my little head. It



The height of soccer coolness.

didn’t matter that my first dream I achieved was a superficial desire for new soccer shorts. It wasn’t important that my dream didn’t pan out the way I envisioned it. I developed a powerful new tool, the ability to turn my dreams into reality.

I’d like to think that since then, I have taken my fate into my own hands at times. Perhaps I’ve made myself a little bit happier. Who knows how my life would have turned out if I constantly ignored the thoughts I developed during those fateful days in math class; the dream to travel around the world, to meet the woman of my dreams, to wake up every... ok most mornings being happy about my life. Of course, I’ve made mistakes – many, many mistakes. I’ve followed the wrong dreams for the wrong reasons. Sometimes I’ve ignored dreams I shouldn’t have. But what is life for, if not for learning from mistakes? I think I’ll keep on dreaming, and continue to listen to that little voice in my head that tells me that there is always something worth dreaming about. So thank you Ms. Bergeron, you have helped me more than you will ever know.



Chocolate Chunk Cookies



Though the externally packaged and then individually wrapped grocery store cookies that Japan has to offer are very convenient to take in a lunch, their preservative induced flavour and crunch simply cannot compare to the fluffy taste of a home made biscuit. This chocolate chunk cookie recipe really is super easy and, more importantly, super tasty! For those of you lucky enough to have a confection oven in your house, give it a try before the days get too hot and you can't even fathom using any appliance that has the slight possibility of heating your home, and enjoy the heart warming scent of fresh baked cookies. For those of you without an oven, make friends with someone who has one!

Even though Japan functions in grams and weigh scales, I still function in the Canadian cup and teaspoon system...I'm sure you can figure it out.



ingredients

WET

- ◆ 1/2 cup soft margarine
- ◆ 2/3 cup packed brown sugar (or white)
- ◆ 1 egg
- ◆ 1/2 tsp vanilla extract
- ◆ *Optional: 1/8 cup sifted cocoa (to add a slightly more chocolaty flavour)

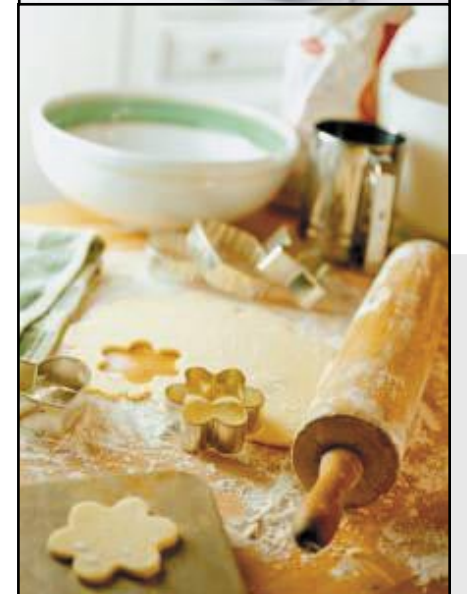
DRY

- ◆ 1 3/4 cup all purpose flour (sifted if you feel really talented)
- ◆ 1/2 tsp each baking powder & baking soda
- ◆ Dash of salt
- ◆ 1 large chocolate bar, chopped into pieces of your size preference



method:

1. - in a large mixing bowl, use a wooden spoon to cream the butter and sugar
2. - add the egg and beat until smooth: add vanilla (and cocoa)
3. - in a separate bowl, blend the flour, salt, baking powder and soda; gradually add to wet mixture
4. - stir in chocolate chunks then drop by tablespoonfuls onto a baking sheet
5. - bake at 175C for about 6-8 minutes, until edges are firm and middle is still sort of soft. Bake longer if you prefer crunchy cookies...or if you have an oven like mine which you can simply set to "cookie"...



Read & React

Recently, there have been a lot of rumors circulating about the gradual phasing out of the JET Programme. The following article seems to suggest that English education in Japan wouldn't really suffer if that were to happen...what do you think? Take a look at the article below and send you comments or opinions to submit.hyogotimes@gmail.com. Your thoughts will be published in the July issue, either anonymously or with your name.

Japan's 'secret language weapon'

Justin McCurry

Two decades on, an education initiative that has brought thousands of westerners into schools and communities gets a 'Fail' for English but an 'A+' for public diplomacy, reports Justin McCurry

Friday May 25, 2007

The Guardian Weekly

Of all the people who met the Japanese prime minister, Shinzo Abe, on his recent visit to Washington DC, those with the deepest understanding of his country were probably not his hosts in the White House but the group of men and women who had travelled [sic] from all over the US to see him. Among them were a Yale University professor and a candidate in last year's congressional elections.

Since its inception in 1986 at a summit between the countries' leaders, Ronald Reagan and Yasuhiro Nakasone, the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) programme has brought 46,000 young people from more than 50 countries to teach English and promote cultural exchange in cities, towns and villages across Japan.

This was the first time a serving prime minister had met with any of the estimated 22,000 American JET alumni. Abe told the group of about 60 that they had performed a vital diplomatic service for both countries. "Government-to-government relations are not enough to further solidify the relationship between our two countries," he said. "It is the people-to-people connection that is absolutely essential."

While few people dispute JET teachers' contribution to public diplomacy, commentators in Japan have used the programme's 20th anniversary to accuse them of failing generations

of Japanese schoolchildren in the classroom.

Despite six years of formal English study, starting at age 12, which often includes contact with a native-English-speaking assistant language teacher (ALT) working alongside a Japanese teacher of English (JTE), many teenagers leave school with a solid knowledge of grammar but an inability to sustain the most basic conversation.

In a controversial article in the Daily Yomiuri, James W Porcaro, a professor of English as a foreign language at Toyama University of International Studies, went so far as to call for the abolition of the scheme and for resources to be diverted to training for long-suffering JTEs.

"Given the staggering annual cost of all the ALTs in Japan, a cost/benefit analysis would certainly conclude that their employment involved a wasteful expenditure of massive funds for, at best, very limited and unproven gains," he wrote. Porcaro suggested that current crop of about 5,500 JET participants were interested in little more than enjoying themselves at the expense of the Japanese taxpayer.

Tomohiro Taniguchi, a Japanese foreign ministry spokesman, acknowledges that the education system had done little to improve pupils' English communication skills, but says the JET scheme was not to blame.

"JET has done a very good job in opening the eyes and minds of an otherwise closed mindset in rural populations, and that's a good infrastructure around which to build any skill, including language skills," he said. "You can keep the JET scheme going while trying to improve the -obviously poor skills of some Japanese teachers of English. But I have to admit that while JET has been successful in forging people-to-people ties, that hasn't always translated fully into the quality

of English teaching in public education."

Alasdair Pratt, who taught in rural Koichi prefecture until last year, acknowledges that the primary role of the ALT was cultural, not educational. "It was much more of an internationalisation [sic] exercise than a practical language-teaching programme," he said.

"For many people, the ALT's role in the classroom is that of the notorious 'human tape recorder' and the language instruction they provide could be equally well performed by a Japanese teacher of English."

Lynne Davis, who edits the website of the British chapter of the JET Alumni Association, agrees that the programme has had limited impact on pupils' English ability, but says that the presence of native English-speakers gives them "the chance to broaden their horizons by experiencing some aspects of a culture very different from their own and to develop more of an interest in the world outside Japan."

"In metropolitan areas this may not be such a novelty, but in rural areas it is often only through the JET programme that there are any foreigners living at all in the community."

Davis is a member of a huge global network of alumni, many of whom have gone on to build careers in Japan or with a Japanese dimension in their home country. In 2003 Anthony Bianchi, a Brooklyn-born JET, became the first North American to be elected to a Japanese city council. Several officials at the British and US embassies in Tokyo are former JETs. Others have taken their expertise into academia, business and journalism.

Philip Harper, an ALT in the scheme's early days, stayed in Japan and succeeded in breaking down barriers in the conservative world of sake-making to become the country's first foreign sake brewing master.

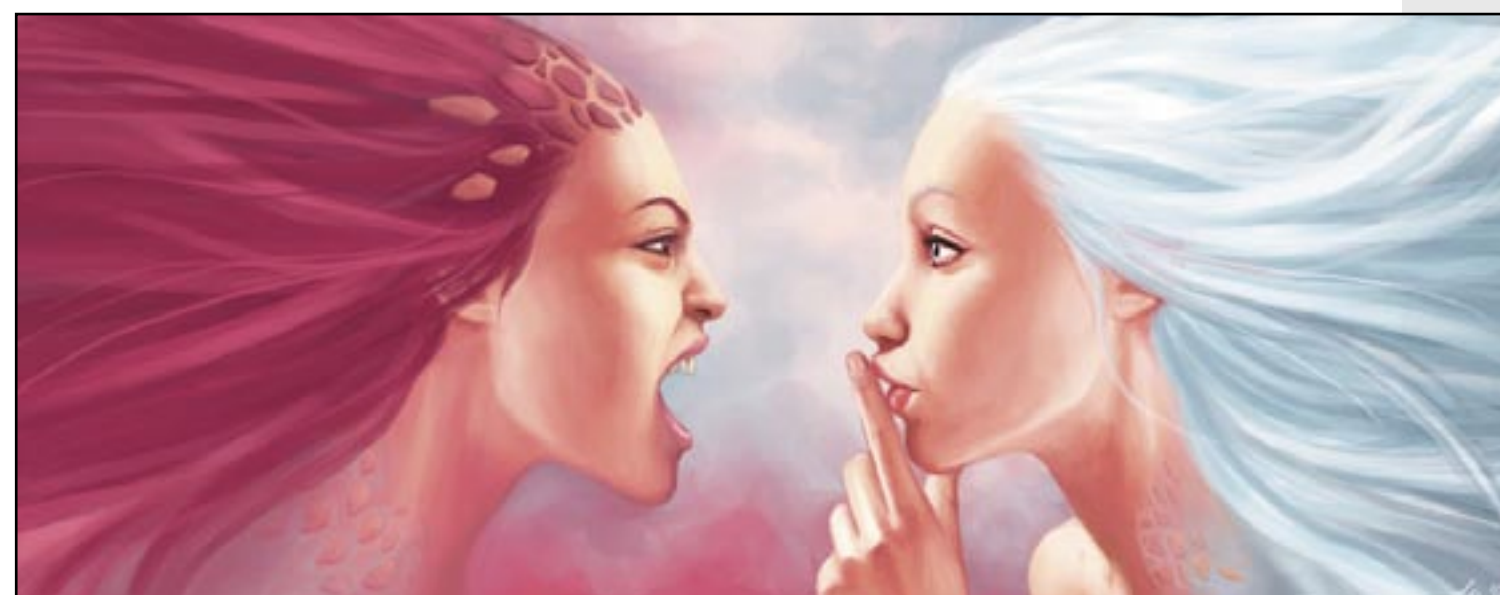
"[The JET programme] has had an enormous influence on Japanese schoolchildren and international relations," Harper, 41, said in a recent interview with the Daily Yomiuri. "Now even a small town has a person on the programme living in the community every year. I think it has become a normal part of life."

But for Porcaro, whose teaching career in Japan pre-dates the JET programme, the idea that ALTs are responsible for coaxing children in rural areas out of their supposed cultural isolation is "condescending, shameful and embarrassing".

While he recognizes the programme's wider contribution to international relations, he accuses its supporters of being disingenuous, even reckless. "If [public diplomacy] is the purpose, then don't put untrained, unqualified, inexperienced and ineffective people in English-language classrooms," he said. "Set up some other programme."

<http://education.guardian.co.uk/tefl/story/0,,2092236,00.html>

Come on people - you all know how hard it is to encourage participation! Throw us a bone here and email us your thoughts!



Who's who in Hyogo

tori lowe

The Basics...

Name: Kenny, Bogeruporu-san

Please call me: Kenny, Bogeruporu-san

School and Location in Hyogo: Kobe Kita SHS, Kita-ku, Kobe

How we know you: I'm having a drunken argument about philosophy or wearing fake breasts. It depends on the night, really.

Birthday: 5-16-83

Born and raised: Illinois, U.S.A.

Family: One younger sister, two parents

University and Degree: University of Illinois - B.A. East Asian Languages and Cultures, B.A. Philosophy

Other jobs you have had: Assistant Network Administrator, Wal-Mart Drone

Travels: Just within Japan, sadly

Shumi wa nan desuka: Terebi geemu desu. Yakyu mo suki desu.

Staying another year? Yes

Favourite...

Food: Pizza (Japanese food: Okonomiyaki)

Sports: Baseball

Music: Pink Floyd

Shop: Lawson

TV Show: At the moment, Heroes

Movie: Memento

Most Proud Achievement: Finally finding an answer to this question

Best life experience: "So I was sitting in my cubicle today, and I realized, ever since I started working, every single day of my life has been worse than the day before it. So that means that every single day that you see me, it's on the worst day of my life."

Motto to live by: Variety is the spice of life

I remember when... Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles was an arcade game.

What are you drinking? Yebisu Beer, if they have it

If you were a beverage... Jack and Coke

Why should we elect you President of the World? I'm pretty good at Diplomacy (the board game)

Do you have an alibi for the Fire Extinguisher Incident at Yashiro? On the roof

Best thing about Japan so far? Green tea and Onsens

Kenny V

Other interesting trivia:

My top tip for teaching: Play cards with your students outside class.

When the class is TOO QUIET I... show a Learning English with Mr. Bean video (they don't seem to get it, though)

Bribery for students.. On my salary??



Lorelei Cortez

The Basics

Name: Lorelei Lee Cortez

Please call me: Lorelei, the lizzel, Rori

School and Location in Hyogo: Yanase Junior High School located in Santo-cho, population 6,000. Yeah, Tajima.

How we know you: Er... You might not know me or we might have met in passing, though I may very well have blacked you out of some random AJET event where I drank too much. *sigh* Oh! Ultimate Frisbee? Soccer? Touch rugby?

Birthday: April 10th

Born and raised: born in Sacramento, California, but spent the first half of my life in L.A. until the Rodney King riots. Then we moved up to Oregon. Ah, Pacific Northwest...

Family: mother, step-dad (though in all technical terms not married to my mother), two older sisters, and an older brother

University and Degree: University of Oregon (quack), Asian Studies and Japanese

Other jobs you have had: Dude, I asked my friends to shoot me if I ever worked in fast food, but they let me work at Burger King when I was 16; Safeway checker at 18; worked late nights at a Hollywood Video; and a short stint in a movie theater

Travels: Korea, China, Ireland, UK, Canada, Mexico, and various places in Japan (most recently Kyushu)

Shumi wa nan desuka: Kicking ass and taking names. I mean, sports, reading the classics, and (wait for it!) video games. My only criterion for a boyfriend is knowledge of the infinite life code from Contra... I <3 Geeks

Staying another year? Three years is enough. All these new kids on the JET Program make me nervous.

Favourite...

Food: lasagna

Sports: tennis, Ultimate

Music: I miss when Weezer used to be good...

Shop: Basically any sports shop.

TV Show: Arrested Development and 30 Rock

Movie: The Big Lebowski

Most Proud Achievement: Um, it was coming on JET until I saw all the people they let in. Zing!

Best life experience: Hmm... Winning two medals at the Berkeley National Wushu Tournament.



Motto to live by: Live every week like it's Shark Week.

I remember when...four square was cool.

If I had a million dollars... I would buy a house and invest the rest.

What are you drinking? Black coffee that my classy, non-sexual pseudo-girlfriend made me this morning and put in my thermos. =)

If you were a beverage... a gin buck (ginger ale and gin). I think that's what I'm mostly composed of anyway.

Why should we elect you President of the World? You shouldn't, mainly because I care nothing about your welfare.

Do you have an alibi for the Fire Extinguisher Incident at Yashiro? I was picking garbage up off the roof.

Best thing about Japan so far? Spa World

Other interesting trivia: I chair an uber cool Ultimate tournament in Tajima every year called Taj Ultimate (www.tajultimate.com)

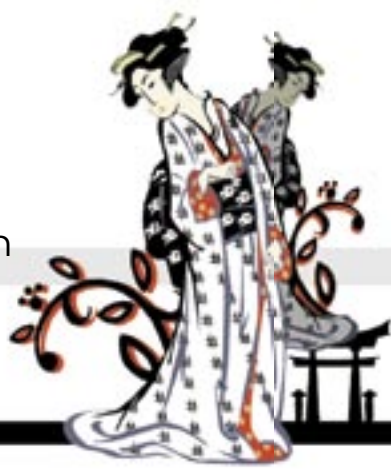
My top tip for teaching: Make a fool of yourself in class. Let the kids laugh at you.

When the class is TOO QUIET I... scream something ridiculous or pretend to ram into the wall and fall down.

Bribery for students.. YAY or NAY? Yay. I wish we could give candy to junior high school students.

JAPAN: travel review

tamatha roman



hiroshima

Hiroshima is a place that everyone should be required to visit. The monstrosities that this city has had to overcome are a tale that would shake even the most wicked of people.



To make a long story short, it was Hiroshima where the first atomic bomb was dropped on August 6th, 1945. The cause of this event was somehow justified in the minds of the responsible (Japan did some pretty risky things in World War II), but the effect was bigger than anything anyone anticipated. Approximately 140,000 lives were taken (most of them instantaneously), as well as most of a city boasting an ancient castle, garden, and heritage: everything was leveled. Everything was in tatters. Everything and everyone was somehow in pain, whether from being crushed, dying of thirst, being burned alive, or experiencing the long-term effects of radiation.

Conversely, I don't mean this to be a depressing travel review because, overall, Hiroshima is one of the loveliest cities in Japan. Though the aftershocks of this horrific event are quite evident, this city is vibrant, generous, and set on fixing a huge problem in our scary world.

My travel partners and I chose to take the bus from Hyogo, simply because it's about 18 man cheaper than taking the shinkansen. If you

like obnoxiously long bus trips, then I definitely recommend it, as the almost magical appearance of Hiroshima after what seems like a ridiculous amount of trees is not an experience you can get on the train. As for the hostel, if you're into the cheapness as much as I am, J-Hoppers Hiroshima has a fantastic location and a great atmosphere. There were a million other English teachers of various programs hanging around the hostel and the reception area offered a slew of amazing travel tips.

Luckily for us, Hiroshima was in the midst of its Flower Festival during our visit. The Peace Park was decked out with huge paper cranes made by school children all over the lawns. A thousand or so candles illuminated the night – we even got to decorate our own candle and place it among the other peace offerings. The Peace Park is a beautiful sight on its own, with the flame that will never go out until nuclear testing stops, the glass cases of colorful paper cranes and the A-bomb Dome (the building almost directly underneath the explosion), but done up for the festival, it really demonstrated the beauty of peace.

Along with the Peace Park, the other big part of Hiroshima is naturally the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum. Even before going, I knew it was going to be a tough one to get through; however, one of the toughest parts about it was the holiday crowd. We were packed in like sardines, silently tramping from one exhibition to another. I suggest that future travelers inquire about a more satisfying time!

Regardless, the crowds did not distract from the museum's expected impact: it WAS tough. Although the information is presented in an unbiased way, I felt pretty sick to be associated with people who would commit such an act. On the other hand, how could I not feel ill with images of such extreme sorrow and pain? The survivor testimonials, the real objects, such as a charred lunch box, tricycle, school uniforms and glass bottles fused together from the heat, not to mention the pictures... the magnitude of this event is baffling. It is impossible to go through this museum without feeling something, and the need for nuclear disarmament is made clear at every turn.

Later, on our hostel's recommendation, we headed to the Memorial Hall for the A-bomb victims. It was a quiet, underground memorial that I felt was much more effective than the previous, crowded museum. For one thing, the hall has several screens showing the faces and names of A-bomb victims, so many of whom were children. Secondly, there is a room with video/ text memoirs of the tragic day from actual survivors, with some of the stories were written from the eyes of a six-year-old. Reading these awful memories was painful, especially as I tried to imagine someone having to relive them in order to spread the message of peace. Again, though you can't go to Hiroshima without visiting the Peace Memorial Museum, this smaller hall is also well worth a look.

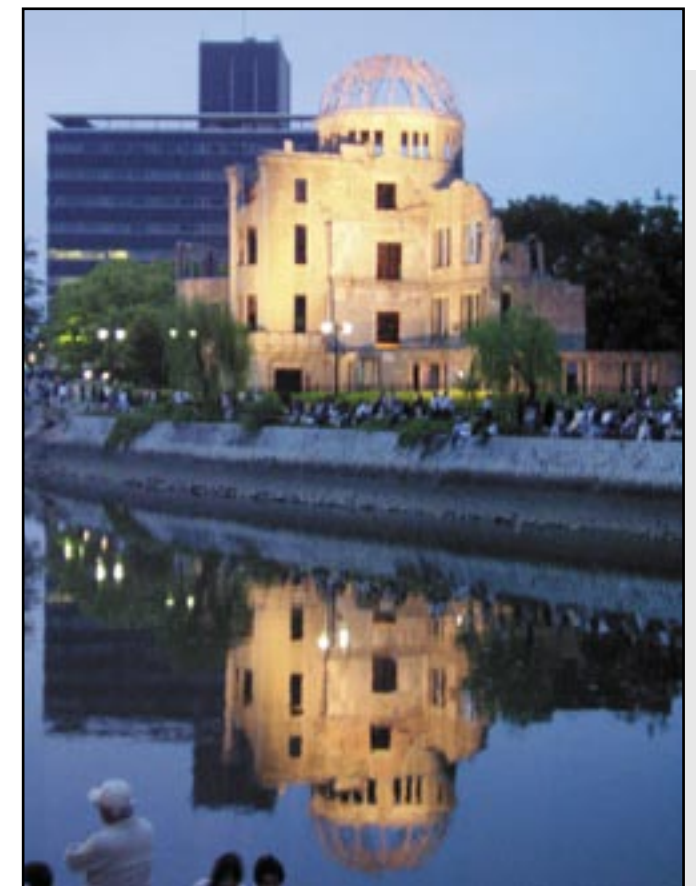
Our next stop was an exhibition on paper cranes that have been sent to Hiroshima from around the world. It turned out to be just an old bank with about 10 million cranes stuffed into three little rooms, but nonetheless, it was a whole lot of cranes! It all reminded me that there really are many people in this world who care.

Lastly, for a slightly less depressing experience in the city, though no less important, we decided to check out the food. Hiroshima is famous for its special version of the so-called "Japanese pizza/pancake", *hirosimayaki*, and it's freaking amazing! Though there are many



differences from the regular *okonomiyaki*, the Hiroshima version tends to be much larger and usually throws some *soba* noodles into the mix. You definitely can't visit the city without tasting its claim to fame food. And of course, after you indulge, Hiroshima has a decent nightlife for you to finish off the evening, or just dance off all the calories...

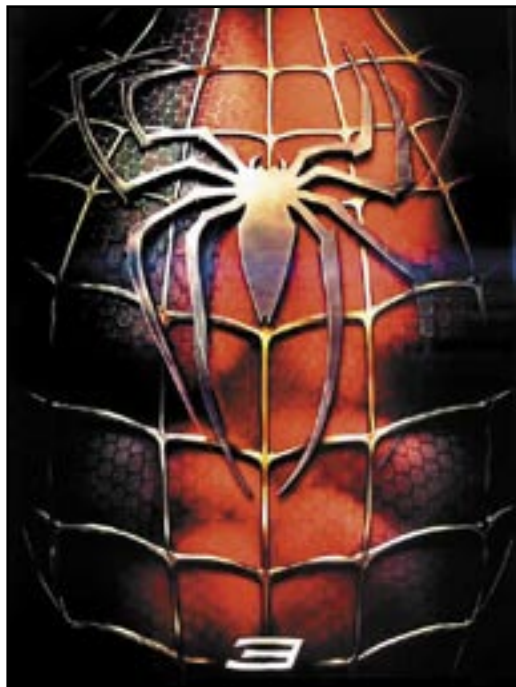
In sum, though the crowds of people were frustrating during my trip, I truly hope that Hiroshima continues to draw in knowledge-hungry tourists: I myself learned so much about I subject I really should have known more about. Though depressing at times, the city is an important journey into a past that current generations care less and less about. Hiroshima really endeavors to send out a message of peace in a not-so peaceful world: maybe one day, that message will no longer need to be sent.





barbara carter

♥ Review ♥



Movie Review:

spider-man 3 (2007)

As an arachnophobe I always watch Spider-Man with a certain amount of apprehension, but with only one spider flashing briefly in the opening credits I was able to sit back and enjoy the movie to its fullest. *Spider-Man 3* pretty much picks up where *Spider-Man 2* left off: having won the love of both Mary Jane Watson and the people of New York, things are going well for Peter Parker and his alter-ego, Spider-Man. Or so he thinks...

Spider-Man's newfound fame as the hero of New York is putting a strain on his relationship with Mary Jane. His former best friend Harry Osborn is lurking in the shadows, plotting his revenge. Throw a few strange black symbiotes from outer space and the emergence of Sandman into the mix, and maybe things aren't going so well for Spidey after all.

Unlike other Marvel movies as of late, *Spider-Man 3* continues the trend started by the first two installments, and stays true to the feel of the original Spider-Man. Tobey Maguire goes a little over the top at times, not so much as Spider-Man, but as Peter; however, he does a good job overall. The other returning cast members also hold their own, including Kirsten Dunst, whom I still don't think is right for the role of Mary Jane, though I have to admit that she made me grind my teeth far less in this film than in the previous two. Topher Grace fails at bulking up, but manages to prove himself a suitable choice for the role of Eddie Brock, Jr., even though it took a while to get used to him in the new role when my mind kept screaming "Eric!" The rather large budget of the film also means that the effects have been stepped up, and as Spider-Man swings his way through the streets of New York, he isn't quite as obviously computer animated. But, you'd have to pull out the big guns CG-wise when one of your villains is composed of sand and the other has a smile as charming as Venom's.

The appearance of Venom, of course, is held off until the end of the movie to allow for Peter to spend some quality time with the symbiote. The symbiote's effects on Spider-Man are as expected, but Peter seems to react by turning into an emo-playboy with too much eyeliner and a tendency to make inappropriate (and awkward) advances towards women. In fact, a large chunk of the movie's cheese comes from the scenes featuring Peter under the influence. That was the one disappointing thing for me: I was looking forward to seeing Peter all badass, and instead he was just... MySpace.

Regardless, director Sam Raimi knows when to be serious, and despite a staggering number of storylines, the conclusion of the film pulls no punches to bring a satisfying end to the trilogy. If you enjoyed the first two *Spider-Man* movies, I see no reason why you won't love the third one.

A final warning: be careful if you plan to see *Spider-Man 3* in the theatres. Like many movies that appeal to Japanese children, theatres will often have both dubbed and subtitled showings.

Then again, maybe in Japanese Kirsten Dunst's musical numbers would be easier to sit through.

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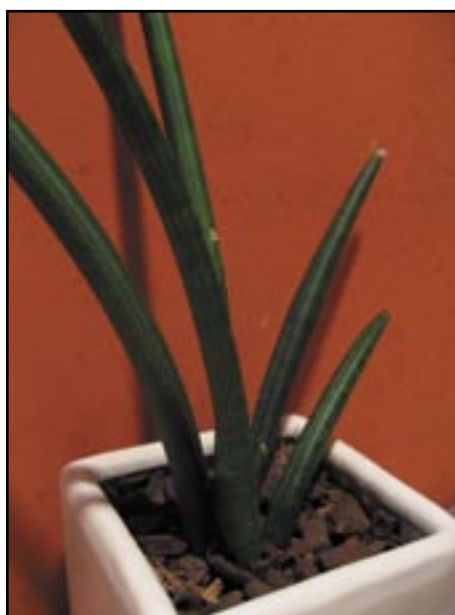
FOR AN INFORMATION PACKAGE AND AN APPLICATION FORM



-BAOBAB REVIEW-

robin crowder

restaurant review



Those of you who live near Himeji have probably already discovered the slightly hidden treasure which is the Baobab; for those of you who don't, this quaint yet exotic café is well worth the trip into the city.

Tucked away in one of the smaller streets off of Himeji's main Miyuki-dori shopping strip, the Baobab boasts a delightful blend of Southeast Asian cuisines. The menu specializes in curries from Thailand, Indonesia, Vietnam and India; however, the curries all come in "soup" form (not quite the hearty bowls you might get at a traditional Indian restaurant), so if that's not your style, you might want to try Thai or branch out into some of the Vietnamese main dishes. The restaurant also offers a great selection of appetizers, salads, noodles and other main courses.

And, vegetarians rejoice! The menu lists about eight different veggie only curries and some tofu dishes, along with a few salads that are either meat free or can be made that way. The Chickpea and Vegetable curry with naan bread for dipping, though not overly spicy, has light heart-warming hints of cumin. The Gado salad is probably the best lettuce leaf salad that you will find anywhere near these parts – it is a filling, meal-sized salad, topped with tofu and free of cabbage – seriously my veggie friends, how often do you find a cabbage free salad in this country!

While the food is fantastic, perhaps the restaurant's biggest selling point is its vast drinks menu: let the warm summer air guide you straight to the frozen drinks, which come in many flavours as regular milkshakes, soya shakes or traditional smoothies. Flavours range from your



traditional berry smoothie to the more exotic soy chai shake. My personal favourite is the Soya Coconut, but the Mango Citrus cools your palette on a hot day and the Black Sesame tickles your tongue in a surprising way. You can even indulge in a fruity boozy smoothie or two...However, if the more filling drinks don't tantalize your taste buds, browse through the lengthy list of imported beers, a few varieties of sake and sho-chu, a somewhat limited wine list and of course, your standard fruit juices, sodas, coffee and teas.



The Baobab's chilled out Asian boho décor coupled with the sign out front encouraging people to "Think global, act local", attracts a large and varied crowd on the weekends, but week nights are peaceful and a good idea for your first visit. There's even a complete English menu if you don't feel like demonstrating your Japanese prowess! Prices are certainly more than your average konbini dinner, but are not over the top: a standard curry will run you about 1,050yen and appetizers around 700yen – regardless, the food is well worth the price! If you're coming from the JR station, simply walk up the street to the right of the Miyuki-dori and you'll find the restaurant a few blocks up on your right hand side. Happy eating!





hyogo times feature:



NAGANO SPRING SOCCER TOURNAMENT:



hyogo finishes number 1 in your hearts, if not on the field!



Under a beautiful sunny sky in the thin air of the Nagano mountains, nine members of the Inter Hyogo girls soccer team took on some of the top teams in Eastern Japan last weekend in the annual ALT Spring Tournament. With a few heart breaking near goals and a couple of unfortunate refereeing oversights, the team finished in fifth place after six very evenly matched games.

First, facing defending champions the Onnabelievable from Tokyo, Inter Hyogo put forth a solid effort with excellent goal tending by Lorelei Cortez and some strong shots from forwards Aly Graham, Kyla Winter and Sarah Booth. Sadly, with Hyogo's only goal disallowed, the Onnabelievable took the match 1-0.

Second on the schedule, Hyogo faced off against a tough team from Saitama. Having used the first game as a "warm-up", the girls of Hyogo played a near picture-perfect game this time, with smooth passes, great communication and some nice shots on net. An unfortunate handball in the goalie box afforded Saitama the chance to capitalize on a penalty kick, giving them a one goal lead at the half. In the second half, a beautiful shot by Aly Graham put Hyogo on the scoreboard, but Saitama still managed to walk away with a 3-1 win.

In Saturday's last game, Hyogo took on a rough team from Niigata. Though they were often physically dominated by the pushy Niigata team, Hyogo clearly



**Team photo
ottom: Tisha, Kumiko, Lorelei, Aly
middle: Sarah, Kyla, Kara, Robin
top: Pumla*



dominated in skills and sportsmanship. Keeping their cool amidst a tense atmosphere, Hyogo players calmly moved the ball around the field before a sweet top-left corner goal by Lorelei Cortez gave the team their first win of the day.

After an rousing "team bonding experience" Saturday night (what happens in Nagano, stays in Nagano!), the very sore Hyogo players suited up for their final two games of the tournament. In the first game, despite strong defending by Pumla Pamla and Kara Piconeri, the less-skilled but more aggressive Yamanashi team took the, albeit very close, 2-0 victory.

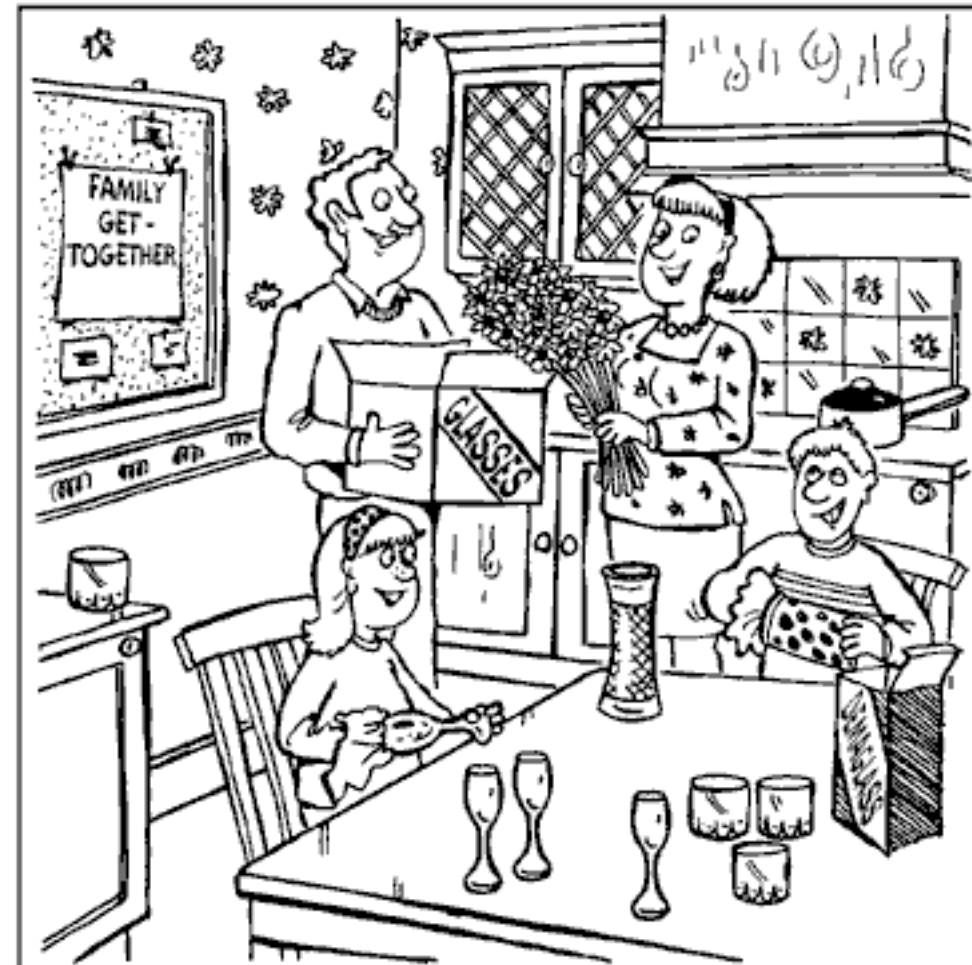
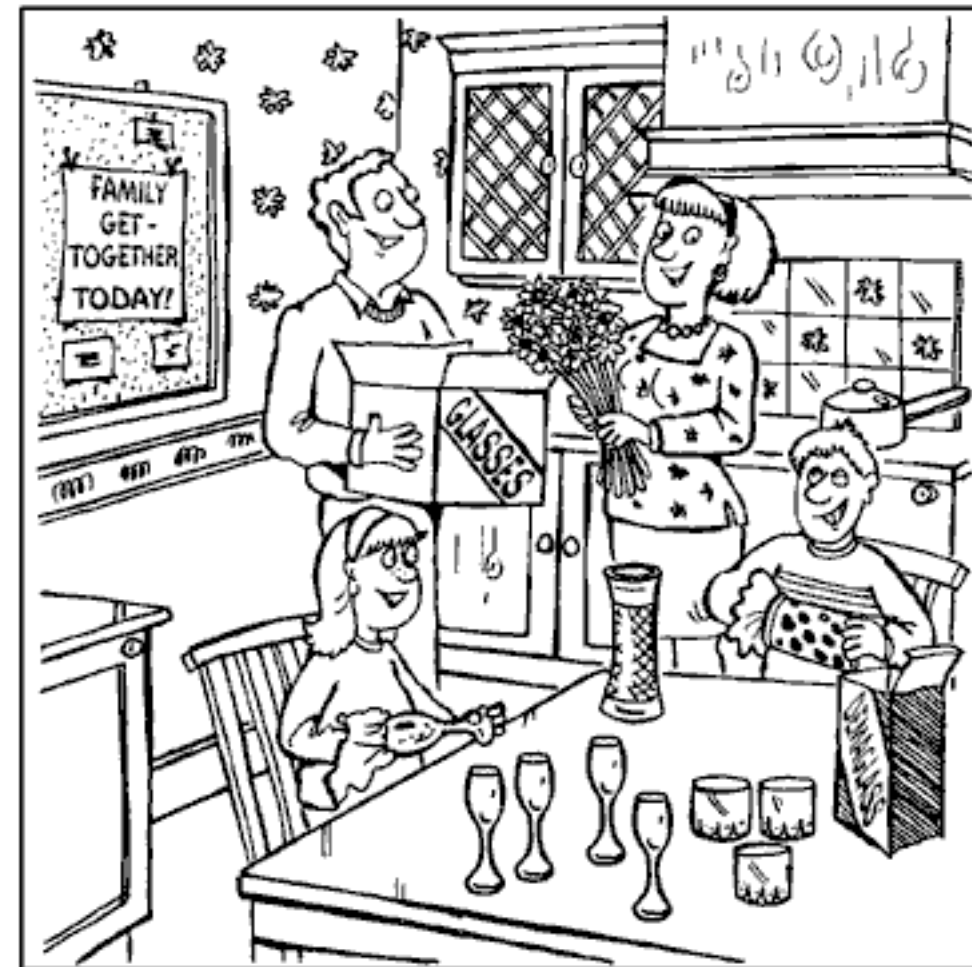
Finally, in the last match of the tournament, Inter Hyogo played a strong game against the very friendly Gifu team. With some solid midfield action by Tisha Marosi and Japanese ringer Kumiko, the first two halves ended in a 0-0 tie. Hoping for a much deserved win, Hyogo agreed to play an extra five minutes of sudden death overtime. Unfortunately, a visibly wrong offside call by the ref cost the team their biggest chance at a goal, and the final game of the tournament remained scoreless.

Despite a less than desirable outcome, Inter Hyogo certainly developed as a team, improving their communication and passing with each game. And, though they may not be remembered for taking home the trophy, it's safe to say that this year's Inter Hyogo team is not likely to be forgotten...



If you can trust your students not to cheat,

If you have any great ideas for a lesson plan, or would like to take over this section completely, please email me at torilowe@hotmail.com.

[illegible]



Nayorimashida

(it's better than nothing!)

一難去ってまた一難

(ichinan satte mata ichinan)

“Out of the frying pan and into the fire.”

Well, basically, misfortunes never come alone. When it rains it pours...or whatever.

What we have here is a good ol' Japanese 諺 (kotowaza) or “proverb/saying”.

Every week, I teach my faculty a witty English saying (well, not really witty, but I do what I can in the time it takes me to commute to school), and I surprisingly met with a lot of problems when trying to explain “I’ll cross that bridge when I get to it.”

Consequently, it’s 橋のたもとに着くまでは橋を渡るな (hashi no tamoto ni tsuku made wa hashi wo wataru) in case you were wondering.

I think Japanese folks aren’t too keen on the 隠喩 (inyu) or 暗喩 (anyu) or “metaphors”. As an experiment, I introduced similes and metaphors to my conversation class and asked them to come up with their own. Here’s what I got:

“A baby’s skin is soft like a leaf.”

“There are many tables in here.”

“His head is cold like my husband’s.” (alluding to this guy’s baldness)

At any rate, I think it’s clear that they had no idea what I was talking about.

or, did I tell you this one?

オナニーをふけよう！

(onanii wo fukeyou)

“Go screw yourself.”

I originally intended to find the Japanese for “go fist yourself”, which I personally find more creative, but this was the best I could come up with.

What prompted this little burst of ire? Why so angry? Most importantly, were there RAV (random acts of violence) involved?

Well, after listening to three middle-aged Japanese women fight about who said what about who being a big ol’ bitch about God-knows-what, I started wondering what helpful vocabulary I could pull out of this little experience (as well as how many pages I could rip out of a compilation of Wordsworth’s poetry. I needed to destroy something beautiful...).

Here’s what I came up with:

うわさ (uwasa), 陰口 (kageguchi) = gossip

意地悪な陰口で傷つけられた名声 (ijiwaruna kageguchi de kizutsukerareta meisei)
“a reputation soiled by malicious gossip”

お前は引込み思案な性格だ。(omae ha hikkomi shianna seikaku da)

“You (very impolite version) have a negative personality.”

何て身勝手なやつだ。(nante migattena yatsu da)

“What a selfish jerk!”

彼女はイギリスの女王のような口ぶりだよ。(kanojo ha igirisu no joou no youna kuchiburi da yo.)

“She talks like she’s the Queen of England.”

Okay. So nobody actually said that last one in the argument, but I thought it might be fun to use. There’s also the infamous くそつたれ (kusottare), which can be used to mean anything from “Dammit!” to “Shit!” to “You bastard!” to “Screw you!” I wouldn’t recommend using any of the above at school. I feel a little sheepish typing while my teachers are walking by...

smiles nervously

let's enjoying fun!



english!

submitted by robin

If you had to immigrate to another country, which country would you choose? Why? What problems would you face? What could you contribute to your new country?

yuuka

If I had to immigrate, to Sweden. Because, I do not have to worry about a tax of the old age in Sweden. The number of children decreasing as for the Swedish problem year by year such as Japan. But, an adult does not pay a tax in old age; goddamn a tax of other countries pay it more a lot than an adult. I contribute to mixed marriage and deliver a lot of children of Swedish nationality. And, I pay a lot of taxes.

yuri

I want to immigrate to Korea. Because I have been studying Korean since second-year student junior, and I hope to go to this country someday. Some Korean don't like Japanese because Japanese worked them like a slave, made them to be hard work, massacred and ill treated in the old days. So Korea and Japan are a great divide between the two nations now. Therefore I will study hard Korean and English, I want to become bridge to be covered with a great divide. To understand them about Japanese, I want to them about Japanese good points and so on.

seigo

I'd like to immigrate to Zimbabwe because people in the country are suffering from hunger and disease. Probably, I would face a problem of language, but I could offer food and the latest medical technologies to them.



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.

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You can send a story or a picture or both to:

submit.hyogotimes@gmail.com

OUT AND ABOUT IN HYOGO...

GOLDEN WEEK GETAWAYS



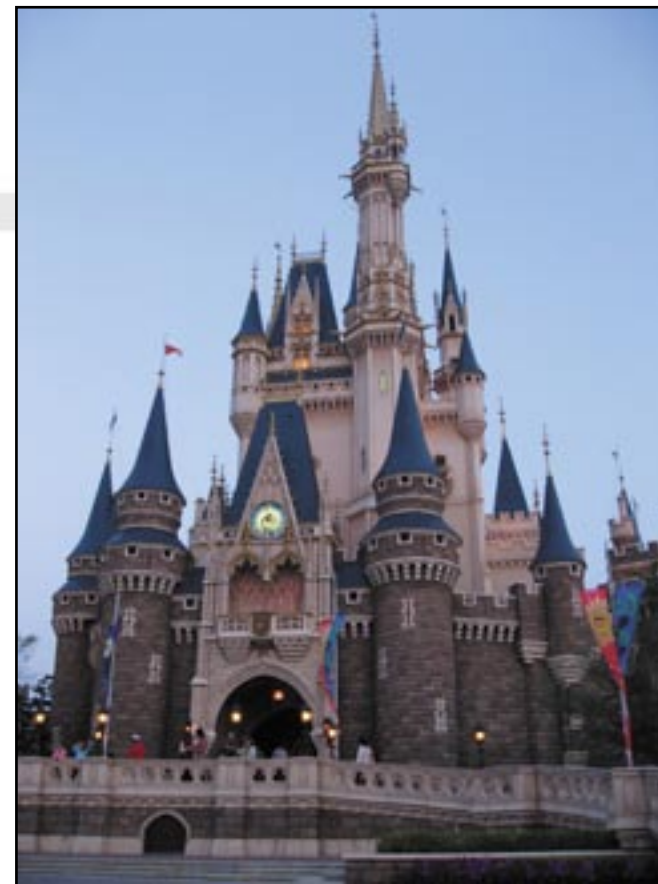
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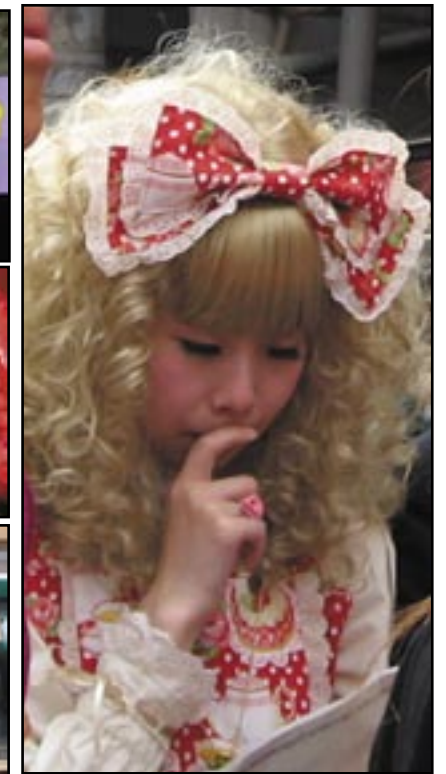
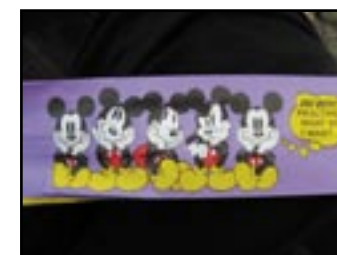
beppu, kyushu
-robin



boracay, philippines -jeff weese



tokyo
-karen



Hematology Astrology

robin crowder

june 2007

TYPE A



Sometimes it's hard to decide what's in your best interests: do you fight hard for something you believe in and risk causing problems, or take a back seat on the issue in an effort to keep the peace? When presented with a somewhat moral dilemma this month, take some time to weigh out the pros and cons before letting your headstrong personality rush into something you might regret.

Single As: Your love life is the one place that doesn't require a hefty pros and cons list. Be vigorous and pro-active – you'll get what (or who) you're after.

Attached As: Pushing your relationship to the next level is a high priority in your life right now, but your partner may not be in total agreement. Take a step back from the situation and consider the alternative before the bloodshed begins.

Lucky Days: 4, 17, 26

TYPE O



What seems to be a giant obstacle is actually only a small hurdle, so put on your running shoes and tackle the course with vigor. Others will admire your efforts and may look to you for advice, but remember that what works for you, will not work for everyone... be cautious when telling the tale of your success.

Single Os: You finally feel free from old relationship shackles and are ready to experience what the rest of the world has to offer...indulge yourself! It's almost time for a summer romance...

Attached Os: Knowing all the details of a relationship situation is not as vital as it seems. Ignorance is bliss and, for the sake of preserving what you already have, it's best to just let this one go...

Lucky Days: 6, 11, 21

TYPE B



Be thankful for an unexpected assistant in your life – though you may be resistant to his offers at first, this person will prove to be your saving grace during an extremely hectic month. Allow him to inspire your compassionate side and indulge in the new opportunities he presents you.

Single Bs: Don't concern yourself with where a certain good fortune comes from: simply dive right in and enjoy it while it lasts!

Attached B: Your unexpected helper is not your partner and this could cause a strain on your relationship. Consider cutting the ties and enjoying *all* your new opportunities.

Lucky Days: 17, 19, 30

TYPE AB



The world has plenty to offer us all – including you. If, however, you continue to doubt your own eligibility as a recipient, you are in danger of creating the very problem that you want to avoid. Give yourself much more respect and the universe will be generous.

Single ABs: After a long cold winter, the sun is shining and the flowers are blossoming...so is your love life! A romantic beau will find a soft spot you didn't even know you had.

Attached ABs: Respect has be earned and your partner may need to be reminded of this numerous times this month. His/her inconsiderate behavior is not a sign of a more deeply seeded problem, but a superficial personality flaw. Don't stand for it – you know you deserve better!

Lucky Days: 20, 25, 27



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JUNE/JULY EVENTS: KANSAI

compiled by amanda brown

CONCERT LISTINGS:

June 8 - Red Hot Chili Peppers

Kyocera (Osaka) Dome

Open 17:00, Start 19:00

S-reserved seat, 9000yen, A-reserved seat
8000yen

June 14 - Charlotte Hatherley

Shinsaibashi Club Quattro

Open 18:00, Start 19:00

6000yen

June 18 - I Hate Kate

Shinsaibashi Club Quattro

Open 18:00, Start 19:00

5500yen

June 24 - Your Song Is Good

Shinsaibashi Club Quattro

Open 17:00, Start 18:00

2400yen

June 27 - Mars Eurhythmics

Shinsaibashi Club Quattro

Open 18:00, Start 19:00

3300yen

July 8 - Shonen Knife

Shinsaibashi Club Quattro

Open 17:00, Start 18:00

3500yen

July 20 - Sonata Arctica

Namba Hatch

Open 18:00, Start 19:00

6500yen



SUMMER MUSIC FESTIVALS: (read more for more info!)

FUJI ROCK - (July 27 - 29th, Naeba Ski Fields,
Niigata Prefecture)

SUMMER SONIC - (August 11 - 12th, Osaka)

FUJI ROCK BASICS: <http://www.smash-uk.com/frf07/>

Tickets: 3-day tickets are 39,800yen incl tax. Single day tickets are 16,800 incl tax. See the website for more information about where you can buy tickets.

Lineup: Over 70 main acts are confirmed on the website, with more added as the festival nears. Additionally, numerous stages allow for smaller local bands to play as well.

Some of the confirmed acts are:

The Cure, The Chemical Brothers, !!! (chk chk chk), Clap Your Hands Say Yeah, Deerhoof, Damien Rice, Fountains of Wayne, G Love and Special Sauce, Jonathan Richman, Joss Stone, Gov't Mule, Groove Armada, Iggy and the Stooges, The John Butler Trio, Kaiser Chiefs, Kings of Leon, Kula Shaker, Less Than Jake, Lily Allen, Motion City Soundtrack, Muse, Sambomaster, The Shins, Shonen Knife, Tokyo Ska Paradise Orchestra, Yo La Tengo, and Your Song Is Good

SUMMER SONIC BASICS: <http://www.summersonic.com/index.html>

Taking place on numerous stages close to Sakurajima on Osaka Bay, this two-day festival is very accessible and shares a lineup with Tokyo (the acts that play Friday in Tokyo play Saturday in Osaka, and vice versa)

Tickets: Two day tickets are 24,500yen, and one day tickets are 13,500yen. You can buy tickets from most major convenience stores using their ticket kiosks.

Lineup: If artists can only commit to one location on Summer Sonic, they tend to favor Tokyo, but Osaka boasts a stellar lineup this year - not to be missed!

Friday featured acts are: Arctic Monkeys, Kasabian, Bloc Party, The Offspring, Good Charlotte, Motorhead, Hadouken!, Pet Shop Boys, Cyndi Lauper, Bright Eyes, The Polyphonic Spree, Tilly and the Wall, DJ Shadow & Cut Chemist, UNKLE, Hot Chip, Does It Offend You Yeah?, Sean Lennon, Jose Gonzalez.

Saturday featured acts are: Black Eyed Peas, Avril Lavigne, Gwen Stefani, The Goo Goo Dolls, OK Go, The Pipettes, Sum 41, Ellegarden, Fall Out Boy, MXPX, 30 Seconds To Mars, Travis, Modest Mouse, Dinosaur Jr, Interpol, Maximo Park, Klaxons, LCD Soundsystem, Sugar Ray

As always, all lineups and information is subject to change, so check the websites, slather on the sun cream, and ROCK OUT.



FESTIVALS:

Rice Planting Festival 14 June

Sumiyoshi Shrine, Osaka

Major rice-planting festival that dates back more than 1,700 years. 12 women ritually plant rice seedlings in the shrine's paddy field to the accompaniment of traditional music and rice-planting folk songs.

Access: Sumiyoshitaisha Station, Sumiyoshi-toriimae Station

Yukata Matsuri 22 - 23 June

Himeji

It is a custom of Japanese people to begin wearing Yukata (cotton summer kimono) around this time of the year. This custom originated in the Edo period, and Himeji citizens hold a Yukata Matsuri to commemorate the old custom. A night fair opens in the castle, where more than 1,000 stalls sell cotton candy (Watagashi), toys and fireworks, etc. The night fair is said to be the biggest in Western Japan.

Gion Matsuri 17 July

Yasaka Shrine, Kyoto

Kyoto's Gion festival is one of the most popular festivals in all Japan and features the most lavishly-decorated festival floats.

CLASSIFIEDS!

Tokyo Job Fair

JETAA Eastern Japan (www.jetaa.com) will be having a job fair in July aimed at helping JETs finishing their contracts (or even preparing for that for the next year) get jobs. It is free to attend, but we need you to sign up. Please visit <http://www.tokyojobfair.com> for more details.

WANTED: your classified ads!

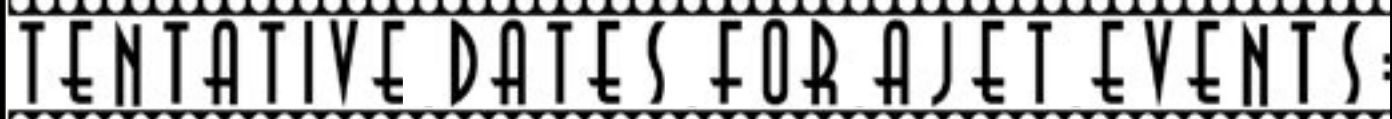
Do you have something to sell? Is there something you want to buy? Do you have language classes to give up or want to take on some more?

Are you looking for a language exchange partner...or maybe just that special someone?

Make sure to include not only what you are advertising but also all your contact details.

Send your ads by the 15th of every month to: **submit.hyogotimes@gmail.com**





TENTATIVE DATES FOR AJET EVENTS:

June

White Water Rafting
Sayonara Party

July

San-In Beach Party (not AJET)
TajUltimate
The Great Osaka Conbini Crawl 14th July
Paintballing

August

Welcome Beer Garden
Surfing Trip (TBC)
Mt Fuji Hike (TBC)

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