

spring issue - Japan - travel - food - love - events - english - culture - life

hyogo times

March
2007



<http://hyogojet.org>

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Marimokkori, Hokkaido

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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>



from the editor

It's currently 9:07am and I am sitting at my desk at school with the slight urge to party and the song «Tequila» running through my head...you know, "da dun da na dun na da da...Tequila!" I find this somewhat strange, as I cannot remember the last time that I heard that song, nor do I regularly feel the desire to drink at work...I occasionally feel driven to drink, but rarely do I have the desire to drink! Regardless, here I am with my feet tapping, a funny smile on my face and a giggly feeling inside as people give me strange looks – though admittedly no more than usual.

I can't explain this feeling of distinct excitement right now: today is not particularly special, nor do I really have anything to look forward to. In fact, today is Entrance Examination Day, so I have nothing to do except hide out in the teachers' room in shame because no one told me that everyone else would be wearing a suit and that I – in my regular business casual clothes – would look like a bum who should not be seen by potential students...yet another situation in which I have proved myself to be the ignorant foreigner.

This whole entrance examination process is actually kind of interesting. Yesterday was not a half day, but rather a quarter day as we had only two classes, in order to prepare for these exams: the students cleaned the school from top to bottom; the teachers ran around, clucking like nervous chickens; the kyoto-sensei made more announcements in the course of an afternoon than I've heard him make in my five months here. Honestly, I had no idea that this was such a big deal – I knew that the university entrance exams were important, but apparently today's tests are just as daiji na. There were four different meetings about today's process, there was even a rehearsal! And not just a regular "do this at this time" kind of rehearsal, but a full-out, earthquake simulation type drill, complete with imaginary students kind of practice...I found it rather amusing, though that is a feeling that I should probably keep to myself.

That's one thing that I love about this country: though I often find the Japanese tried and true traditions to be somewhat amusing, I also feel really ignorant for mocking them once I come to understand them a little better. This usually means that I feel generally stupid at least once a day, but on the bright side, it's always a learning experience!

Have a magnificent March, and don't forget to email your submissions for the next issue by the 15th!

submit.hyogotimes@gmail.com



from the PR



Ay up Hyogoites! The definite highlight from this past month – and forgive me for jumping right in there – has to be the HAJET Hokkaido trip: the sculptures were amazing; Sapporo was a blast of fresh, albeit freezing, air, and; the views we took in while skiing in Niseko were spectacular! On top of that, I also learned a thing or two on the slopes. Let me share with you some gems of wisdom in the form of "Fi's 8-Step Guide to Snowboarding."

Step 1: Get your board, take a lesson and promptly get over-confident.

Step 2: Grab your similarly inexperienced mates and head for "that big one over there".

Step 3: Recklessly career down aforementioned mountain, helplessly lead by your snowboard and its whims.

Step 4: When it all gets a bit too much, sit down on "stupid, impossible, bloody..." mountain and take a load off. What you need now is a little distance between you and your board – psychological distance that is. Note: be careful not to curse your board too much on the way down, because

it will take revenge in the form of throwing itself over a ledge... and as fun as it is to be staring down into a chasm with your newly acquired Japanese mates, playing spot the snowboard, I don't recommend it... "dou shiou?"

Step 5: In the event that you do lose your board, reclaim it, tell it you're sorry and then just concentrate on getting down the mountain in one piece.

Step 6: Go for a beer and a giggle (if your stomach muscles can stand it!)

Step 7: If you're really crazy, sign up for night skiing; do one run, mostly spent lying on your back, telling everyone else, "leave me, go on without me".

Step 8: Seriously, just give up and go for an onsen! Good job!

I'll soon be handing over the reins of Hyogo AJET before my early demise. Speaking of the which, the handover that is, the new committee will be introduced via yahoo groups and in the next issue. Happy Spring!

Fi X

brenda mckinney

Love & Relationships

the language of love



Language can be one of the biggest challenges of living abroad. How many situations would be so much simpler if you only spoke Japanese? And, even if you do speak Japanese or have lived in a culture other than your own where you spoke the native language, you probably still have a few funny stories or “learning experiences”. However, as much as language can be a frustration, I am one who firmly believes it is also the key to learning about any culture.

In the same way a general knowledge of a country’s native language can dramatically enrich and improve your experiences there, the language of love varies slightly from culture to culture. I mean, c’mon; how often can “language exchange” be codeword for dating?

Sure, body language is body language...but knowing a few useful phrases may get you a little further if you truly want to get to know someone.

That being said, I wanted to take a break from the stories for a month and give you a few tips. In the last issue, we offered a few useful phrases to help celebrate the romantic holiday. This month we’re hitting you with a one-stop shop for some more of that lingo to jump-start your new (Japanese!) love life. Or at least to surprise and impress them enough to get you on a second date! Enjoy!



I want to see you soon.
Sugu ni aitai

I wanted to see you!
Aitakatta

(About) what time?
Nanji-(goro)

Are you ready?
Youi dekita

What time can I come over?
Nanji-ni kureba ii?

When do you want to meet?
Aimoshooka?

Maybe later.
Tabun kondo

I’m not interested.
Kyoumi-mi nai-wa *for women
Kyoumi nai-yo *for men

Let’s talk in Japanese/English.
Nihongo/Eigo (-de) hanasoo

Let’s go!
Ikou / Ikude

Let’s go eat.
Shokuji shiyou



You’re sexy!
Sekushii-dane

You have beautiful eyes!
Kirei-na me -dane

Shall we dance?
Odoranai

You’re a good dancer!
Dansu umai-ne

Don’t be shy!
Hazukashi-garanai-de

Treat me kindly!
Yasashiku shite-ne *ladies only

I enjoyed myself!
Tanoshikatta



Shall I walk you home?
Okutte ikou ka

I wanna know more about you.
Anata no koto motto shiritai

Make me warm.
Atatemetete.

I love you with all of my heart!
Kokoro kara aishiteru

I wish we could be forever together!
Zutto isshoni itai

I don’t want to go home!
Kaeritakunai na.

May I kiss you?
Kisu shite-mo ii?

Kiss me!
Kisu shite

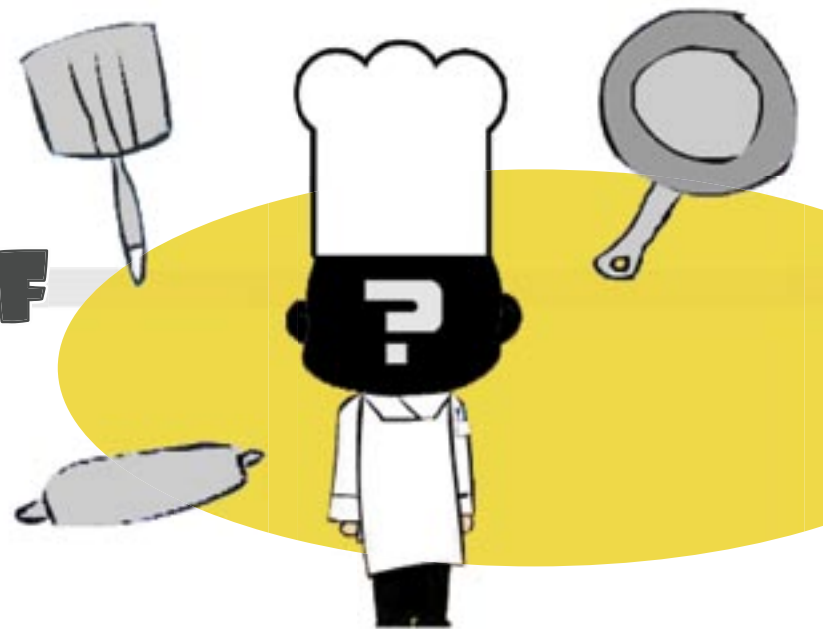
“There is always some madness in love. But there is always some reason in madness.”
– Friedrich Nietzsche



For more great phrases, check out “Making Out in Japanese” by Todd & Erika Gears. In addition to being a main source for this article, it is a well-known book and widely available in Japan. Not only will it help you score with the opposite sex in Nihongo, but you can get some pretty good everyday slang out of it too. In the meantime, feel free to rip these pages out, get out there and work your thing!



IRONIC CHEF



orange and chili fish

serves 1

Important things you should learn: emergency numbers; your mother's birthday; how to say "my appendix has exploded and I'm about to perform surgery with only a ball point pen with a bread knife" in Japanese; how to not overcook fish.

Sure, cooking fish is not likely to be up there with important things like saying "I love you", but in the world of Ironic Chef, serving someone overcooked fish is like saying "I wish you would choke."

Fish is easy-peasy japanesey. It doesn't have to stink, as long as you remember to take out your garbage periodically, and this way of baking ensures that those of you who can read a clock will have perfect fish.

Firstly, go to the supermarket, and for the love of god, buy a whole fish that has been scaled and gutted. There is nothing to be gained by the whole macho-ism of cleaning a fish; all you're going to do is further develop your gag reflex.



Ingredients

- ◆ 1 small **CLEANED snapper** (about 15-20 cms head to end of tail)
- ◆ 1/2 clove of **garlic**, finely chopped
- ◆ 1 cm **ginger**, grated with a Japanese ginger grater thing. Watch your fingers, although – really – I shouldn't have to still be telling you that.
- ◆ 1 tsp **honey**
- ◆ 2 tsp **soy sauce**
- ◆ 1/2 small **dried chili**, finely chopped. Take out the seeds if you don't want it too hot. Again, don't touch your eyes or any kind of sensitive skin after cutting up chilies (it WILL burn like buggery) and wash your hand thoroughly.
- ◆ 1 tsp of **orange zest** (finely shave some of the skin of the orange, and then cut it into fine slices)

method:

1. Wash the fish. Play with the mouth and teeth and make it talk. This makes it fun. Be glad that you live alone. Pat fish dry with paper towels. Leave the head on. While Ironic Chef doesn't expect you to get all Japanese and suck the eyeballs out, the bones and head do add to the final flavour. You don't have to eat it at the end...unless you want to.

2. Mix all remaining ingredients.

3. Make two big slashes diagonally across each side of the fish.

4. Take a large sheet of aluminum foil (big enough to wrap up around the fish and make a parcel) and place the fish in the centre, so that the long sides of the aluminum are parallel with the long sides of the fish.

5. Pour the sauce ingredients over the top, don't worry too much about uneven distribution top and bottom, the fish will be ace without you fussing. Remember we're keeping this simple as possible.

6. Origami time! Wrap the fish in the aluminum, bringing the long sides together, and then curling up the short sides so that you have a neat little parcel.

7. Pop it into your wee toaster oven and turn the timer (Look! You don't even need to be able to read a clock!) for ten minutes. This should be more than enough, but once it's done, check to see if the flesh in the thickest part of the fish flakes when lightly scraped with a fork. Fish is best served underdone rather than overdone (sashimi anyone?), and if you think that it really is too raw, put it in for another 2 minutes AT MOST. Try leaving it in the toaster oven and let the residual heat of the oven finish the baking.

8. To serve, take the top layer of flesh off carefully with a fork. Pull off the head and the backbone and connected central bones should all lift out in one piece. Bin those unless you want the eyes. (Eew.) There should be one whole piece of fish left in your foil; serve this with the other top piece, and pour the juices from cooking over the fish.

9. Serve with a salad and a micro waved spud, and a naff piece of garnishing parsley.





A Different Pair of Shoes

micah jorrish

**"We all hustle so fuck the color, white or black
We all struggle, we act like...
We better then each other, we're supposed to
be all sistas and brothas
Feel my pain..."**
- Silkk the Shocker, "It's Going Around Outside"

I'm not gonna lie. I've led an easy life. I was born and raised a rich white kid in Middle America. I have taken for granted the "natural" privileges that many are unwilling to admit exist. Why am I writing this then? Do I want to change the world? Would I like to just bitch and moan a little bit? Well, the second one is true sometimes but I'll spare you. This is more introspective. It's a topic that I believe most foreigners, including myself, struggle dealing with while living in Japan and hopefully it might help someone out there. All I can do is throw down a few of my own words and some from others to tell about my (if only the smallest) journey into the world of racism.

**"Take the blinders from your vision,
take the padding from your ears,
and confess you've heard me crying,
and admit you've seen my tears."**
-Maya Angelou, an excerpt from "Equality"

I don't even want to get started trying to define racism, that's not my point; it's just the closest "ism" I can find relating to how I have felt. It's funny because I grew up with the notion that race doesn't exist, and was unwilling to look at it from a different perspective. I turned my back on it, acting in the unconscious hope that if I didn't acknowledge the gigantic elephant in the room, it wasn't really there. I read scientific papers that "proved" there was no such thing as race, and that was good enough for me. It was in the best of intentions, as I was an idealistic teenager, old enough to develop my own opinions, but too young to admit when I was wrong. Little did I know back then, race is certainly not scientific. Simply put, it is just thin air, a puff of smoke: an idea.

**"Don't push me cause I'm close to the edge
I'm trying not to lose my head, ah huh-huh-huh
It's like a jungle sometimes it makes me wonder
How I keep from going under"**
-Grandmaster Flash, "The Message"

Ever been stared at? Spied on? Has the seat next to yours on the bus/train/subway been mysteriously empty while others are full? Are you asked stupid or rude questions over and over and over again? Are you ever treated the way you would treat a child? Would you be treated this way if you did not look "White", "Black", "Hispanic", or just not "Japanese"? Who knows? The list of these questions can go on and on. I'll be blunt – there are stupid, arrogant people who live in this country. But before you accuse me of generalizing, let me ask you this: so what else is new? Ever heard of the KKK, neo-nazis, Jews for Jesus, Kahanism, Aryanism, etc, etc, ETC? My point is that this is something that exists in every nook, every little cranny, in every culture in this world. What's new is that, for once I am the butt of this sick little charade. I can't just ignore it anymore: I get to deal with it, stew in it, and let it (or not let it) define my existence here.

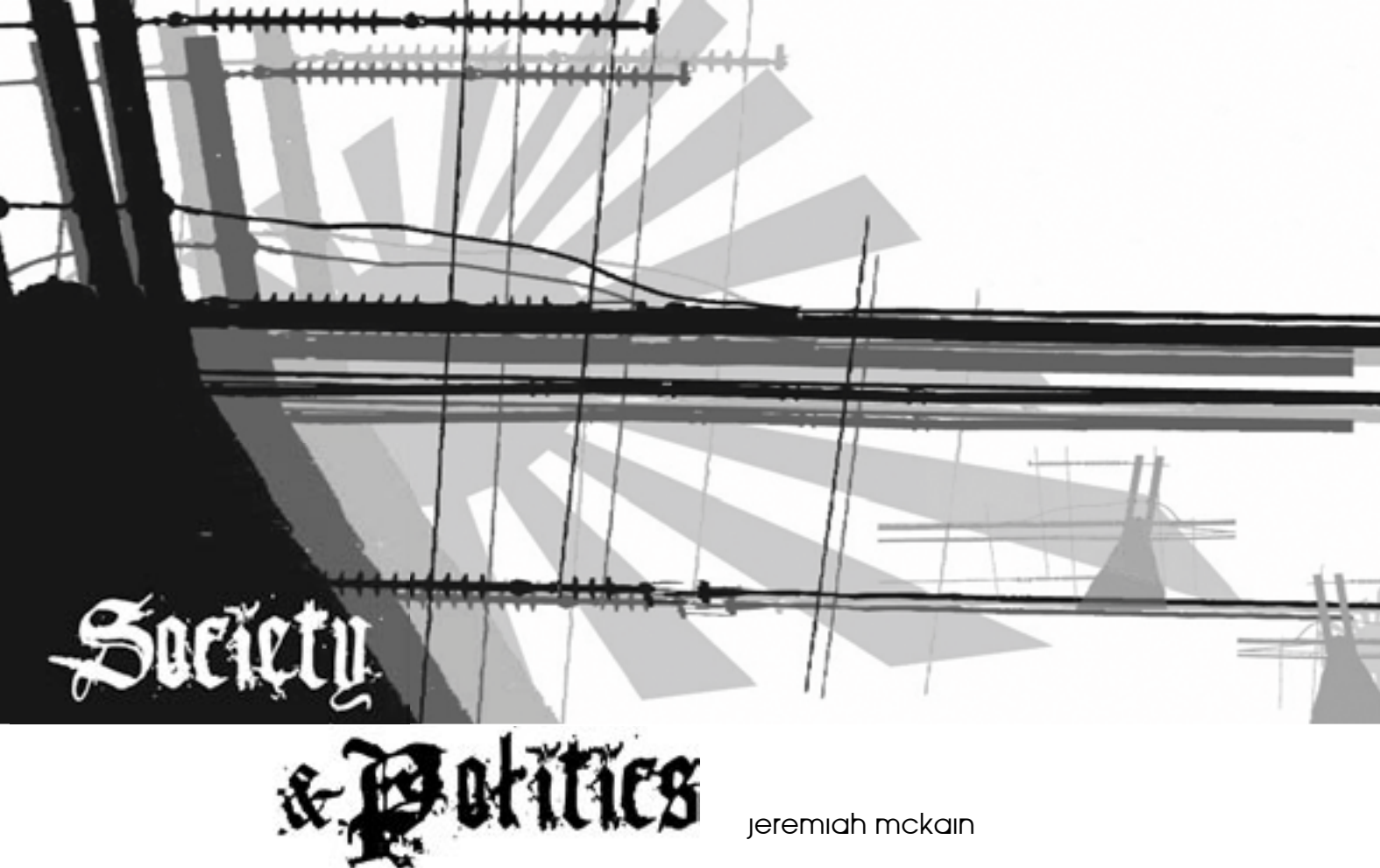
**"Only learn to take, our anger and our hate
Control our mental state, settle down, and just
set it straight
Maybe we can learn to take a second to pump
the brakes
For we said it, regret it later, and let it escalate..."**
- Eminem and Tupac, "One day at a time"

Have you felt sad, bitter, or angry because of the way you might have been treated here? Have you wanted to (or have you) lash(ed) out against it? Given a dirty look? Isolated yourself? Perhaps faced the problem by becoming part of it: "Japanese people are so..."? Hello, my name is Micah and I'm a recovering hater.

Of course I've reacted negatively to the stares, the comments, and the empty seats, but you know what? It's never helped one bit. Every ounce of energy I have used to hate the way a few people have hated on me leaves me feeling empty; a chunk of my self-respect vanishes into the air. It's tough to know what peoples' intentions are, and I'd drive myself insane trying to put it all together. There has to be a different meaning to an old woman asking if I can use chopsticks, compared to a group of high school students openly mocking me while I walk down the street. I could drive myself mad trying to figure out if my Japanese friends really like me or just want my English. Probably a little of both, but if I am never really going understand others' perceptions of me as a person, I can at least start to be conscious of my own view of others.

**"Come on baby take a ride with me
I'm up from Indiana down to Tennessee
Everything is cool as can be in a peaceful
world"**
-John Mellencamp, "Peaceful World"

I guess my conclusion is pretty simple: the world is a good place. Japan is an amazing place. Yes, I've been disrespected, annoyed, and hurt a few times, but I've got to keep going. I won't let a few people drag me down to their level. I can't lose myself, my identity, by hating back. To be myself is the only thing I can be. For the first time, I can relate to the people who stayed strong in the face of adversity: the people who followed Martin Luther King Jr, Gandhi, and Mandela. If only just a little...



out with the old, but where are the new?

With March now upon us and a new school year looming around the corner, many JETs may find themselves mulling invitations to an older co-worker's retirement party. Such an invitation turned up on my desk last week, and a subsequent conversation with the retiree in question (who, for purposes of this article shall be called Kawasaki-sensei) prompted me to dig a bit deeper into the background of one of the most pressing social issues facing Japan this century: Japan, or more specifically the Japanese population, is old and getting older. Japan's response to the challenges of an aging population will provide valuable insight into the ability of Japanese society to adapt to difficult, but necessary, reforms in both economics and immigration.

The fact that Japan is getting older is likely not news to most JETs. Even those of us with no background in Japanese Studies could conclude this with a cursory glance around the staff room. A random sample of the ten teachers in the staffroom as I write this turns up five who are either retiring this year or approaching retirement age. The statistics for the country as a whole, though somewhat less skewed, are

just as alarming. According to the CIA World Factbook, 20% of Japan's population was 65 or older in 2006, compared to just 12% of the US population and 16% of that of the UK. At 42.9 years, the median age of Japan's population is the highest in the world – almost six years older than the US figure of 36.5 years.

While the challenges of an aging population are an issue for many industrialized nations, no country faces these challenges more acutely and more immediately than Japan. The most obvious consequence of the aging Japanese population is the strain placed on its pension system. As we JETs know all too well, Japan has a compulsory government pension system that pays out benefits to all retirees. When my friend Kawasaki-sensei entered the workforce 38 years ago, the retirement age was fixed at 55 years of age. That number has risen to 65 today, much to Kawasaki-sensei's dismay. To prevent the number from rising any higher, Japan adopted reforms in 2004 which will gradually increase pension contributions to 18.3% of a person's income by the year 2017, at which point the contributions will, in theory, be fixed.

Economists are split as to whether this reform will indeed maintain the solvency of the pension system over the long term. Detractors of the current reform argue that as the world's oldest population continues to age, the ratio of workers contributing to the pension scheme to the number of retirees drawing from it will become so skewed that more drastic reform, including benefit cuts, will be necessary. This brings us to another serious problem confronting Japan: a shrinking population and workforce.

Japan's population declined for the first time in 2005, two years ahead of analysts' expectations. That the Japanese population would begin to decline has been long predicted, as the total fertility rate (the average number of births per woman) has been below replacement level (2.0 births per woman, since she didn't make that baby by herself, after all!) since the 1980s and hit 1.29 last year. This overall decline also spells trouble for the Japanese workforce with the number of working age adults expected to drop sharply in the next 50 years. Official figures from the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications estimated about 80 million working age adults in Japan in 2005: by 2050,

that number is predicted to fall to around 50 million.

How on earth can Japanese industries absorb a decrease of 30 million available workers and still remain competitive on a global level? Most experts agree that they can't. Only two solutions seem to exist for this problem: either the Japanese need to start having more babies ASAP, or Japan needs to relax its immigration regulations and allow more foreign workers in. As it stands, unless you happen to be a South American of Japanese descent, it is virtually impossible to reside and work in Japan without a degree, a specialty, and a sponsor. However, no matter how great the demand for ALTs and CIRs may be, Japan is going to need quite a bit more immigrant labor – much of it of the less skilled variety – to make up for its native shortfall. And, incidentally, to contribute to its pension system in order to keep it from going belly up!

This reality is no doubt extremely difficult for the Japanese to come terms with. We're all aware of the difficulties many of the immigrant populations in this country already face. Japan's willingness to both relax its current regulations and assist new foreign workers in integrating into Japanese society will ultimately determine whether the country can remain economically competitive in the 21st century.



report on hyogo ajet events:

Hokkaido Trip 2007

tori lowe



On Friday the 9th of February, 32 JETs from Hyogo Prefecture descended on Kansai International Airport to depart for this year's Hokkaido trip. The excitement in the air was so thick it could have been carved up by Mike Shu on a snowboard!

(That was my first attempt to use clever snowboarding terms in this report: it may be my last!)

The flight from KIX to Sapporo was short, sweet and uneventful – which is the way flying should be, really.

Brendaninthesnow
RyanTrio



My first two impressions of Sapporo were thus: 1. It was very cold, and; 2. There is a snow-load (zing!) of traffic lights, all of which seemed to turn red as we approached. We were unfortunate enough to get caught up in Friday afternoon traffic and, in a city where the snow is piled up high on either side of the road, where the roads are icy, it's snowing and all the drivers are Japanese, Friday Afternoon Road Traffic really deserves capital letters.

Consequently we arrived to our hotel slightly late, so we had to rush to our first appointment, which was dinner at the Kirin Beer Garden.

Sorry, I had to pause for a second there as the waves of jealousy of JETs who live within reasonable traveling distance to the Kirin Beer garden passed. I really don't have to say much, other than "Tabehoudai LAMB. Nomihoudai BEER." Even if you don't speak Japanese, I am sure you can get the gist.



Kirin Beer Factory
Karen



I suppose a few highlights were the Australian sculpture of a birdman smoking a doobie with his willy hanging out; the Canada sculpture, which had a magnificent pair of breasts and; the Bailey's Ice Bar, which was inundated by what looked like every foreigner in Hokkaido.

The next day, we were all set free in Sapporo to do as we wished. Ryan and Brendan used this day to go snowboarding at a nearby ski resort that apparently had amazing "off-piste" conditions. Due to being slightly "piste" the night before (you love it!), the rest of us opted for a more relaxing day of shopping and sightseeing. It was so great to have the free time in Sapporo, and I think everyone managed to accomplish most of what they set out to do. (Eat chocolate: Check. Eat lamb: Check. Eat ramen: Check. Get snowed on: Check. Have in-depth conversation with Ainu people: Miss- maybe next time).

We headed to the Black Diamond Lodge in Niseko by bus late Saturday afternoon.

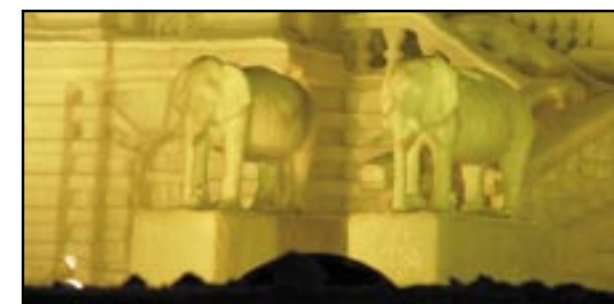
Sapporo Snow Festival 2007, Karen
top: Bailey's icebar
left: Tottoro!
centre: snowelephants
bottom-left: snowclothing
bottom-right: Disney sculpture



Sapporo Snow Festival 2007
Karen
centre-left: Canada's sculpture
bottom-left: Australia's sculpture
right: it's too hot this year!

After dinner we all rushed to the Snow Festival. Most of us were lucky to catch the snow sculptures under lights and they were fantastic. I have never seen anything quite like them in real life. Just massive, amazing sculptures MADE OUT OF SNOW!! It really is a must-see festival in Japan. To all those not staying another year: you will have to come back to Japan to see it if you haven't already. To all those staying: you had better go see it next year.

I could go into detail about every sculpture, but I will let Karen's photos, taken by no fewer than 3 separate cameras, do the talking. There was a reason I waited around for her to take them....





This is the part of the report where I have to really refrain from inserting hundreds of exclamation marks. Please use the “really excited, gushing” voice in your head to read the next few paragraphs.

I don’t think Ange could have found us better accommodation than the lodge. It was close to the slopes, the people that worked there were friendly and accommodating to our many requests, the facilities were top notch and the food was melt-in-your mouth goodness from breakfast till late-night snack. Not to mention the incredible cocktails on offer! Anyone looking at a great holiday of snowboarding, nightlife and relaxing, you need to check out the Black Diamond Lodge (www.bdlodge.com).

Sunday I had picked as “The Best Day of My Life” by 9am: as soon as I stepped off the first ski lift I knew that it was going to be a magical day. I am a very beginner snowboarder with the coordination of a drunken hippo with a stone in its foot, but even I made snowboarding look easy. Well, that’s how I imagine I looked, anyway.



Niseko, Karen



Angela snowboarding, Karen

Do you remember that show Monkey Magic? And how Monkey used to travel around on that cloud? **I was Monkey Magic.** The snow was like clouds... so soft and light... exactly as I imagine it would feel to play in the clouds like a Care Bear. There were loads of different runs suited to any ability. You would have to stay at Niseko for a week to do all of the runs- even then you would probably miss some! There was amazing variety in the kinds of runs; but with one constant factor: BEAUTIFUL, SOFT, POWDER SNOW!!!

The snowboarding was so great that a group of us went night boarding too. I went from beginner boarder to TORI XXXTREME BOARDERZZZ BOOOOYAAAAAH in just one day.

After dinner and sharing “Oh yeah but you should have seen what I did” stories (which Luke won), a few of us got a lift to a nearby outdoor onsen. Heavy snow falling whilst you bath is an experience in itself. Even though it is generally not the done thing, we had to take photos. Luckily, Karen had one of her many cameras handy! You can see the photo in the centre-fold of next months Naked Hyogo Times (limited edition available on request).



RyanTrio



20 Yuki Matsuri, Karen



The Monday group, Karen

I was one of the fools who only stayed in Hokkaido until the Monday, which may just remain one of the worst decisions I have ever made (and yes, I have made some doozies). I heard that the Monday was even better conditions than the Sunday, which quite frankly probably would have made my head explode from disbelief had I seen it, and that Tuesday was pretty special too <insert relevant emoticon here... perhaps someone bashing their head against a wall or something>.

All in all, and without the slightest hint of exaggeration, it was the most kick-arse AJET trip ever for everyone that went along.



Our Angela, Karen

Angela: I think I speak for everyone when I say THANKYOU FOR BEING SUCH AN AWESOME ORGANISATIONALIST! Whoever steps up to take the Events position next year will have some work to do if they want to be half as good!!



lorelei cortez

Good With Chopsticks – Great With a Frisbee?

hyogo jets toss the disc in the
2007 kansai open

Ominous. Cold. Occasionally damp. Synonyms for the weather in Wakayama-ken? Or, how fellow Ultimate Frisbee players describe their 6'4" giant, third-year ALT team mate, Zack Christman? Christman, along with an additional 11 Hyogo JETs, headed to Wakayama on February 24th and 25th as a pair of mixed teams to do battle in Ultimate Frisbee with nine other teams at the annual Kansai Open.

The tournament, organized by the Wakayama Flying Disc Association in conjunction with the Japan Students Flying Disc Federation West Japan Chapter, has been running for over three years, and this year hosted 168 competitors from various universities and clubs. With sponsorship from the Kao Corporation, competitors received parting gifts for the after-tourney onsen trip, and were also able to purchase Ultimate gear from sponsor Club Junior, headed by Jun Marui, organizer of the Okura Beach Ultimate Tournament.

Amongst the competitors were the defending Taj Ultimate champions and 2006 World Ultimate Club Championship contenders, Osaka Natto, who split off into two teams to compete in both the women's and open divisions. Osaka Spirits, the all-male branch of Osaka Natto, took home the championship after "combin[ing] solid defense and unstoppable offense to walk all over the second place OUHS Bouhsears 13-3," said Hyogo PA Graham Neubig, a member



of team Good with Chopsticks 2. "While the Bouhsears ran hard, the Spirits proved that no amount of physical fitness can replace good old consistency and strategy."

Following an evening of team bonding over beers around a campfire, Good with Chopsticks 1 and Good with Chopsticks 2 (also known as Team Discovery Channel) placed seventh and eighth respectively, going head-to-head in their final game. Play between the two teams was rough, as demonstrated by a diving collision between Tisha Marosi and Lorelei Cortez, but even after Julius Shaffer back-handed Christman into a bloody lip with a deep throw follow-through, a light-hearted tone was maintained and the two shared a gentlemanly drink...on the field...during the game...followed by former JET Danny Gomes who also had a drink in a show of good sportsmanship. The teams went point for

point during the 50-minute game, with the tying goal coming from Shaffer in the last 30 seconds of play. In unofficial overtime, the game winning point was scored by Good with Chopsticks 1 player Charlie Trakas on a beautiful pass from Cortez.

Both teams expressed great enjoyment at having had the opportunity to engage in some Ultimate and, in the spirit of the game, celebrated the conclusion of play with cheers and a Frisbee "stoning" of fellow team member Trakas.

Upcoming Ultimate events in Hyogo include tournaments on Awaji Island April 29-30 (Open, Women's); Okura Beach in Akashi June 9-10 (Mixed pick-up tournament on Saturday, Open and Women's team tournament on Sunday); and the fourth annual Taj Ultimate at the Tajima Dome in Hidaka 7/14-15 (Mixed).



Who's who in Hyogo

tori lowe

The Basics...

Name: Mary Ellen Patricia Kennedy

Please call me: Mary Ellen or Mellen

School and Location in Hyogo: Ichikawa-cho schools (3 Jr. High, 5 Elementary)

How we know you: I gave the worst speech at the mid-year conference...

Birthday: September 25th

Born and raised: Waterford, Connecticut, USA

Family: One younger sister (architecture student), mom (priest) and dad (engineer).

University and Degree: Connecticut College; East Asian studies with a history minor.

Other jobs you have had: Comic book store geek, mall customer service, and hotel reservations and reception.

Travels: All across the US, parts of Canada, and Japan.

Shumi wa nan desuka: Bijyutsu (art), especially ink paintings and paper collages (see some of them at <http://crazicreek.deviantart.com>).

Favourite...

Food: Mexican food.

Sports: Badminton and baseball.

Music: A huge list, but topped by Phil Elverum and David Bowie.

Shop: Muji, unless Amazon.com counts.

TV Show: Here in Japan, Kekkon Dekinai Otoko (The Man Who Can't Get Married).

Movie: Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind.

Most Proud Achievement: Getting my driver's license (at age 22) because no one thought I would ever learn to drive.

Best life experience: Besides JET? Doing a cross-country British-American theater tour of the play Metamorphosis.

Motto to live by: If something new isn't scary, you're not challenging yourself enough.

I remember when... I thought an East Asian studies degree would be cool.

What are you drinking? Yuzu. Nothing beats citron honey jam tea drink.

If you were a crayon... I'd color on all the walls (in electric blue!).

Why should we elect you President of the World? I like to think through problems logically and I try to have a pretty good sense of humor about everything.

Do you have an alibi for the Fire Extinguisher Incident at Yashiro? My room had a TV in it, so I watched Kekkon Dekinai Otoko.

Best thing about Japan so far? I like so many things, but making friends, both Japanese and other Jets from around the world, is the best.

Other interesting trivia:

I have two toes that are too small to reach the ground, so I leave four-toed footprints in the sand.

My top tip for teaching: Try to have energy and a smile, even when the kids don't.

When the class is TOO QUIET I... make fun of them: imitate them sleeping at their desks, for example

Bribery for students.. YAY or NAY? Yay for small bribes like pennies and stickers.

MELLEN



Mark

Holmes

The Basics

Name: Mark Holmes

Please call me: Mark

School and Location in Hyogo: Nishiwaki Technical Highschool, Nishiwaki: it's the Navel of Japan don't you know?!

How we know you: You probably don't. I was Blair in the English skit at Yashiro.

Birthday: 20/04/82

Born and raised: England.

Family: 1 brother (younger). 2 parents. (1 male, 1 female)

University and Degree: Oxford; Physics.

Other jobs you have had: Hospital porter (A&E), paper boy, Optoelectronics Research scientist.

Travels: None really, but I once went all the way to Lisbon to see a Radiohead gig.

Shumi wa nan desuka: Football (of the soccer variety), guitar.

Favourite...

Food: The full English breakfast.

Sports: Football.

Music: Post rock; Mono, Mogwai, Godspeed You! Black Emperor.

Shop: It's got to be Yodobashi Umeda, Bic Camera Nagoya., or any Family Mart.

TV Show: Spaced.

Movie: Donnie Darko.

Most Proud Achievement: Well, it was 'getting accepted on JET as a physicist', until I realized they accepted hundreds of us this year..... Now I have no proud achievements. They're all as mundane as each other. So I suppose I'll go with being born; pretty proud of that one.

Best life experience: University or coming to Japan.

Motto to live by: Don't let anyone put their foot in your arse.

I remember when... Pluto was a planet.

What are you drinking? It'll always be beer.

If you were a crayon... Are we talking Crayola here? I'd be 'mango tango'; a colour added in 2003.

Why should we elect you President of the World? You probably shouldn't, that would be very bad. I have no interest in politics.

Do you have an alibi for the Fire Extinguisher Incident at Yashiro? I was in my room the whole time guvn'r.

Best thing about Japan so far? That 'Taiko no Tatsujin' game!

Other interesting trivia:

I can make fart sounds with my eye socket.

My top tip for teaching: I show the students how crap I am at Japanese so they laugh, and don't mind making mistakes in English. Then they're willing to try at least!

When the class is TOO QUIET I... TOO QUIET?!?!?! I have the opposite problem. So I give them a big manly 'SHUT UP!' They understand that one.

Bribery for students.. YAY or NAY? Oh no no no!

StephEn GenovESE

The Basics

Name: Stephen Genovese

Please call me: Steve (or Stephanie if you're bored)

School and Location in Hyogo: Kita-Suma Senior High School, 10 minutes walk from Myodani Station (which is 20 minutes from Sanomiya, Kobe).

How we know you: I've probably forgotten your name several thousand times. My apologies - I'm quite bad at remembering names.

Birthday: 3rd of September, 1981.

Born and raised: Perth, Western Australia

Family: Dad, mum and sister - plus two chickens (chooks for those in the know). **University and Degree:** Curtin University of Technology (Perth, W.A.). BE in Mechatronic Engineering. You want a robot? I'll make you one.

Other jobs you have had: Colouring Competition Winner, Fruit Picker, Laser Eye Surgery Service Engineer, Acoustic Engineer.

Travels: America, Greece, Italy, England, Holland, Singapore, Indonesia, Japan.

Shumi wa nan desuka: Wakaranai - but yeah, after cheating: painting.

Favourite...

Food: Natto and Vegemite

Sports: Soccer

Music: Indie, rock and chilled out ambient stuff - check out the album "Rock Swings" by Paul Anka if you can. It's in a class of its own.

Shop: I'm not a real big fan of brand names, but I do like Muji and UniQlo.

TV Show: The Mighty Boosh - recommended.

Movie: The Taste of Tea (Cha no aji) - highly recommended.

Most Proud Achievement: Saying "Te de tabemasu kara" to the check out girl when asked if I needed chopsticks.

Best life experience: Feeling alive after finishing work on a Friday afternoon.

Motto to live by: Be in the moment. That's all you've got.

I remember when... I was little and would visit the art gallery with my mum. Simple, beautiful times (yay for nostalgia).

What are you drinking? Orange mixed with apple juice.

If you were a crayon... I'd have waxy hair and oily skin (oh wait... I do).

Why should we elect you President of the World? I'd try and install a system that isn't driven by profit but instead social-well being (not easy I know). Participatory Economics is a good start (Parecon for short).

Do you have an alibi for the Fire Extinguisher Incident at Yashiro? Sound asleep. People do sleep walk though...

Best thing about Japan so far? The fantastic public transport system - beats Perth's anytime (but then again most places do)!

Other interesting trivia:

Some of my joints are over-flexible meaning my knees can dislocate if I sit down for too long.

My top tip for teaching: The students are your friends; work with them not against them.

When the class is TOO QUIET I... play "Simon Says" games to get them talking (the loser is the one that volunteers). That's usually a good way to get them active.

Bribery for students.. YAY or NAY? Of course! Why fight them? Bribing them with endorphins is good too.



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One Last Snow Out

When I embarked on my JET journey last August, I anticipated a full year of adventure in Japan and Asia. Unfortunately, last month I got word that the ice cream industry in the UK is under pressure to meet sales targets due to my absence; therefore, to save the industry from economic crisis, I have been called home and have to cut my adventure short.

And speaking of ice, the last big trip that I had the pleasure of taking was the AJET Yuki Matsuri trip to Hokkaido. The holiday was made fabulous, not only by the people that I traveled with, but by the fantastic staff at the Black Diamond Lodge where we stayed while in Niseko. Special mention has to go to their chef who fed us the best western food I've eaten in Japan.

The trip was split between the snow festival in Sapporo and the snowy mountains of Niseko. By day or by night, the sculptures in the festival were amazing. I was especially exited about the Disney one, as you can imagine! There was also a separate site with snow slides and a maze of ice. Unfortunately, we only really had time for one activity while we were there, due to the Japanese love of queuing. I did get to go through the maze though, which was a great novelty and, peculiarly, advertised various kinds of omiyage within its frozen walls.

The snow in Niseko was wonderful, as all the experienced boarders and skiers can vouch

for, and it made everything incredibly beautiful and sparkly. Apparently, the "powder" was awesome, but having had little ski experience elsewhere, I had to take peoples' word for it! I was just glad that it was lovely and fluffy because I was obviously in need of something to break my fall; I went flying at one point, and I was particularly thankful for my powder-puff landing! I was literally and metaphorically in over my head on that first day of skiing and, in retrospect, the section of red runs that I attempted almost at the top of the mountain was NOT a good idea. The views up there were devastatingly beautiful though: devastating because it made me realize how high up I was and with only one way down!

I stayed on lower land on the second and third days, due to a knee injury and sheer terror. I was far from bored while the others were off boarding though. I enjoyed snow rafting while the men in charge enjoyed pretending that they didn't speak English. There was of course the age old art of snowman building to keep me occupied, and then the lovely outdoor onsen to warm me up afterwards. Snowmobiling was the climax of events for me however; speeding through the snow at ridiculous speeds and revving like a biker chick was so thrilling I just wanted to do it all day! Basically, I made far too many good memories on this trip to account for fully here.

Hokkaido was the last AJET trip I will be able to attend as I leave Japan at the end of February, and this article doubles as my sayounara to all of you wonderful Hyogo JETs.



I have had some amazing times here, and I feel I have to say thanks to Angela since she was responsible for a lot of it. Thanks also to all the people who have made my time here so special, especially my Ozzie girls and the Hiroshima road trip gang – I will miss you all.

I will be sad to leave and miss the opportunity to meet even more fun and interesting people both within JET and the Japanese community.

I guess there is a position opening up at Hyogo Times for any interested first year writers, so get out your pens people, and see if you can outdo me!

Sayonara all!



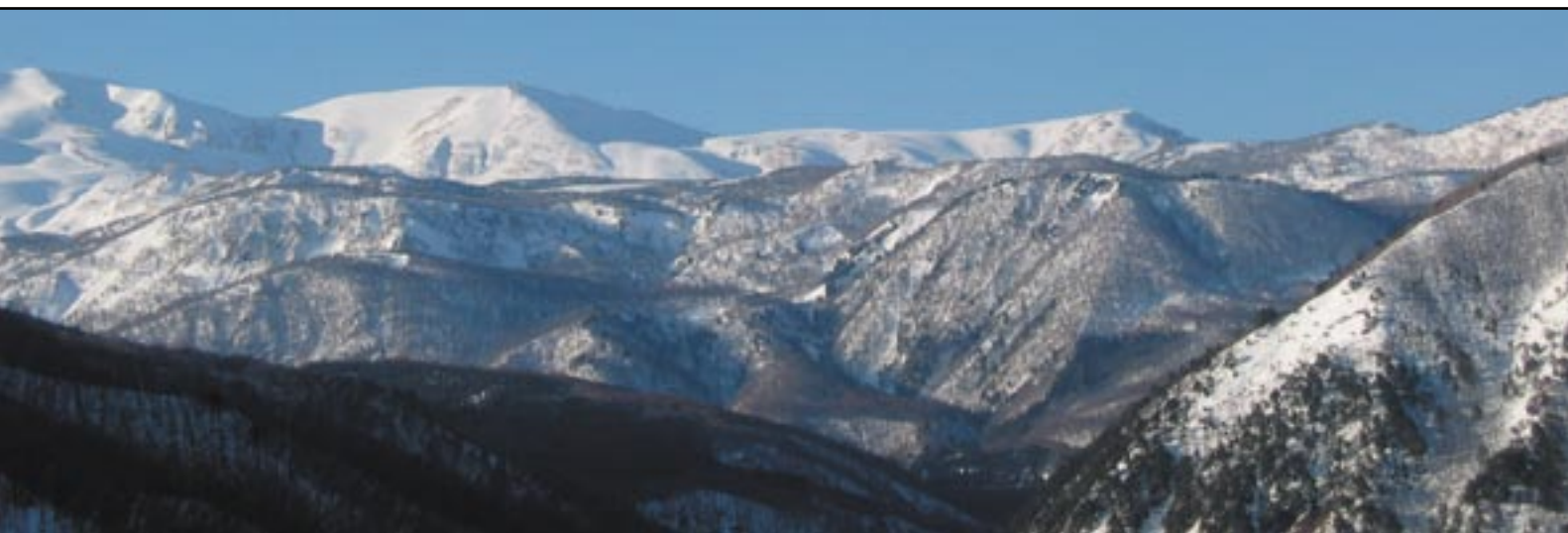
JAPAN: travel review

jeff weese



let's go to nagano!

Strapped for cash AND nenkyu? I think that might be the consensus of ALTs around this time of year as everyone realizes how much they didn't save in the first six months, all while suddenly remembering that they need to save some days of nenkyu for when mom and dad visit this spring...



However, don't let that be the reason for sitting on your tatami for the rest of the winter! There are plenty of amazing weekend winter packages to Nagano that do not require any nenkyu (maybe a half day for Taj people) or many of your yennies. You can spend anywhere between 10,000 and 35,000 yen for all inclusive weekend packages; of course, what your package is inclusive of determines which end of the price spectrum you will find yourself in. All packages will include bus transportation and lodging as the basics, but adding on lift tickets, meals and rentals don't really kick up the price that much more.

Starting with the bus, most of them leave from Osaka's Banpaku Koen (Hakuba buses are available from Himeji/Sannomiya) on Friday evening. They usually leave you plenty of time to run home after work and grab your stuff. You'll also want to be wearing something comfortable, not for sexy time with the bus driver, but because

you will want to make up for the extreme discomfort of the seats! They are definitely not made for Western bodies! Regardless, you'll be on your way by about 10:30 pm...estimated time of arrival is usually between 5:30 am and 8am, depending on where you are going. The bus will stop every 2 hours or so to let you unload your bladder and fill up on decently decent rest area food. The stops are welcomed the first two times but by the third and fourth stops around 3 am, you'll probably be thinking, "I don't need to pee and I don't need anymore yakisoba!"

As for the rest of the ski trip, when you arrive at the break of dawn (literally), you should grab a coffee to wake you up, chuck your stuff at the lodge and head to the lifts for the first run of the early morning! You'll have all day Saturday to ski or ride your heart out through the trees, in the bowls in search of the untouched fluffy white, or on the green cruisers. Back at your accommodation, they will prepare a full on meal



of local specialties for dinner and breakfast (usually included in the price), so be sure to ask your ryokan parents what time dinner is served.

After dinner, if you can stay awake, spend a few minutes wandering through the ski village, as there are usually pretty interesting onsens, omiyage shops, and tucked away bars. Sunday is more of the same on the mountain and you should push it hard this day so you'll be passed out for the bus ride home. There will surely be an onsen or bath in town or at the ryokan that you will need to partake in to feel as fresh as possible for work the next day.

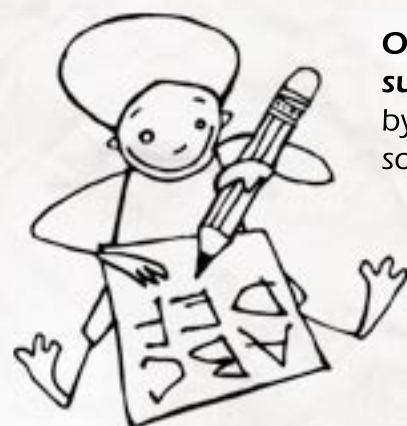
With omiyage bought and paid for, soon enough it will be time to board the same luxury liner back to Hyogo Prefecture. Squeeze yourself into your spacious seat and hopefully sleep all the way back home to arrive between 5:30 and 7:30 am Monday morning. Perfect timing to limp back to school, achy muscles and all, and sneak into the shokuinshitsu just in time for the morning meeting! An afternoon nap in the library or English office will probably be necessary, but it will all have been worth it!

Some of these packages you build yourself, and some come as a bundle already, but on average for March, you can score the transport, ryokan, meals at the ryokan, lift pass, and rentals for between 20000 and 25000yen! Awesome price for an entire weekend of fun! The top three ranked areas in Nagano are Hakuba, Nozawa Onsen, and Shiga Kogen. The ski and snowboard pamphlets on display outside travel agencies are a little difficult to sort out, so I recommend stopping in and having a chat with a lovely agent about your next exciting weekend holiday!



ESS: English sensei spirit

This month, we are running a little short on quick and easy Oral Communication lessons – come on Hyogoites, you've got to submit lessons for this section to work! You are all fabulous teachers by now, so you must have some secret weapons stored in your brains somewhere...please send them to us!



For now, here is a quick and easy lesson on conditional sentences. I used it with my second year writing students and they seemed enjoy the competitive touch to reviewing one of their JTE's lessons.

LESSON PLAN

First, divide the class into 6 teams. They will keep these teams for the whole class, and points will be counted at the end.

Warm Up: Play True/False blackboard dash using sentences from their text book to review. Check out Team Taught Pizza for instructions on this game. Alter some of the textbook sentences so that the students must listen and decide whether or not the sentence is grammatically correct. Have enough sentences so that each student gets a turn (don't worry this will only be about 6 sentences – remember they are in teams!)

Practice: Give students the handout and ask them to read it quietly for a minute or two. If necessary, do a few examples on the board to demonstrate the idea of conditional chains. In their teams, students are given one minute intervals to write a conditional sentence; after one minute, the rotate papers in their group and build off of the previous person's sentence.

Game: In a similar fashion to the tried and true shiritori, write the beginning of a conditional sentence on the board. The first student from each team must finish that sentence and pass the chalk to the next player, who will in turn continue the conditional chain. The students are doing the same thing they did in practice, only with a more competitive edge. After five minutes (or so), correct the sentences and give the teams one point for each correct sentence – depending on the level of your class, you can decide how much of the sentence must be right, ie: the whole thing, just the conditional part, etc.

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:

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submitted by Lorna Young

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Nayorimashida

(it's better than nothing!)

Heard any good Japanese jokes lately? No? That's a shame. The Japanese are such comical people...

Did you catch my sarcasm? Good; that means that you're probably not Japanese, which means you're probably more than a little frustrated with your inability to properly convey ideas and/or feelings to the locals, let alone a good knock-knock joke. Here's one by the way:

You: I have a good knock-knock joke, you start.
Friend: Knock, knock.
You: Who's there?

Crack a smile at least? Maybe not. Anywho, without further ado, presenting, not from the creators of "making out in Japanese"...

ないよりました! (naiyorimashida)
Or, "It's better than nothing!"

This column will be your monthly guide to random Japanese phrases that will be the absolute closest you'll ever get to making a funny in Nihon-go. Plus, the occasional tip on some survival Japanese and Kansai-ben (as in dialect, not feces). Feel free to submit any phrases or questions on <http://naiyorimashida.livejournal.com/>.

So let's get laughing!



Episode 1: 西洋人がビールをたしなむように日本人は酒をたしなむ。
(seiyoujin ga bi-ru wo tashinamu youni nihonjin ha sake wo tashinamu)

"Just as Westerners enjoy their beer, so the Japanese enjoy their sake."

You've probably been to an enka by now, and know that – much like Vegas – whatever happens at an enka, stays at an enka. Whatever you do, don't vomit! Good lord – they'll never let you live that one down...

食べた物を全部吐いた。(tabetamono wo zenbu haita)
"I vomited everything I ate."

仕様ががない。(shiyouganai, proper) しょうがない。(shouganai, common) しゃない。(shanai, Kansai ben)
"That's the way it goes."/"Nothing you can do about it."

Before you get to that point, however, here are some helpful phrases to gain control of your drinking situation. When old man Japanese teacher comes around with his bottle of beer and his "ma, ma, ma"-ing (that's what you say when you pour), use the following (in ascending order of cheekiness):

いいえ、けっこうだ。(iie, kekkou da)
"No, thank you."

おなかがいっぱいだ。今、休んでいる。(onaka ga ippai da. ima, yasundeiru)
"My stomach is full. I'm resting now."

いつも勝からあなたと一緒に飲むのはもううんざりだ。(itsumo kachi kara anata to isshoni nomu no ha mou unzarida)
"I'm tired of always winning at drinking with you."

Of course you would have to replace あなた (anata) with your teacher's name, but you get the idea.

And there you have it – your opportunity to tickle the Japanese funny bone....

♡ Q u i z ♡

the teaching quiz

Take this quiz to find out if you are a talented teacher or if you need more practice...

1. How would you describe the perfect lesson?

- a) Like a firm handshake. Let them know you're not weak. (1)
- b) Whatever both students and teacher want and like. (2)
- c) WET. The wetter, the better! (3)
- d) Passionate. (4)

2. The best location for a first lesson is:

- a) In a dark, private area with the blinds closed. (2)
- b) Anywhere, if we both feel like learning! (3)
- c) At the movies. (1)
- d) In a restaurant. (4)

3. For a first lesson, my hands usually are:

- a) In my pockets. (2)
- b) On my student's face or head. (4)
- c) All over the place. (3)
- d) Clapsed together behind me. (1)

4. A good first lesson is done:

- a) With tight, firm lips. (1)
- b) Mouth open wide, wet, and passionate. (4)
- c) As quickly as possible. (3)
- d) Slowly and softly. (2)

Scoring:

(0-4) Ehh...sucking air through teeth with head cocked to the side...Chotto....OUCH!

(5-10) Teaching Challenged – you have a good idea of what to do, but it might be best to brush up on your technique!

(11-16) Wow! Jozu desu! You've got the moves to make your students sing with pleasure...

adapted from The Kissing Quiz www.links2love.com

poetry and short fiction

J just

A accept

P peculiarities

A as

N nihon no dentou



J jokes

A are

P pointless:

A avoid

N needlessly

E excessive

S sarcastic

E expressions

Japanese culture:

sakura & hanami

By now you've probably seen Japan's ubiquitous Sakura (桜), or cherry blossom, in some form or another; whether it was on your yukata, stationery, dishes or in a movie or video game depicting the falling petals, you can not avoid its iconic status in Japanese culture.

So what's all the fuss about? Around the end of March through to the middle of April, Japan's ornamental cherry trees (Sakura) bloom like popcorn: one day the tree is barren; the next it's full of white or pink blossoms. Once they come into flower they only last about two weeks, after which the trees drop their petals and start to leaf. Due to this temporal nature, they hold an enduring metaphor for the ephemeral nature of life and thus they are an omnipresent symbol in Japanese culture and often depicted in Japanese art.

The admiration of these flowers generated a centuries-old tradition called Hanami (花見) or flower viewing. This custom is said to have started during the Nara Period (710–784) and can be just a stroll in the park, but traditionally involves a picnic party under the blooming trees.

This seemingly relaxing flower viewing festival is serious business in Japan. During these two weeks of the year, it seems as if the entire country goes to Hanami; parks often have almost every square inch of ground covered in plastic mats for picnics. Companies safeguard their mats all day so their spot is free for that evening's party. The weather bureau even announces a blossom forecast (桜前線 sakurazensen) each year so people are aware what stage the blossoms in their area are in.

If you are not too intoxicated at your Hanami party you may notice that the trees and their flowers take many forms and colours. Over one hundred cherry tree varieties can be found in Japan, a large majority of which are the Somei Yoshino (white blossoms) and Yamazakura (light pink blossoms). There are also cherry trees with dark pink or a more yellow blossom. The colour of the blossoms can also change while they are in bloom.



The trees come in different shapes and structures including triangular, columnar, V-shape, flat-topped, and weeping (shidarezakura). Most wild Sakura trees have blossoms with five petals; however, some species have blossoms which consist of ten, twenty or more. Trees with blossoms of more than five petals are called yaezakura.



white blossoms
(Shogetsu)



pink blossoms
(Kanzan)



yellowish blossoms
(Ukon)



5 petals
(Oshimazakura)



about 20 petals
(Ichiyo)



About 100 petals
(Kikuzakura)

Now that you're a Sakura-connoisseur, where can you apply your expertise? Luckily, these flowers can be found all around Japan. There are many places you can go for Hanami, including the grounds around Himeji castle (Hyogo-ken), Osaka castle and Sakura-no-miya-koen Park in Osaka, as well as Daigo and Maruyama Park in Kyoto. Hanami is definitely something you should experience while in Japan!

Hematology Astrology

robin crowder

march 2007

TYPE A



Your energy may be high, but your motivation is low: no matter! After a charged month in February, you deserve a little time to relax and focus on yourself. Don't be afraid to turn down invitations and spend a few days getting back in touch with your inner child.

Single As: There is something about a new suitor that just makes you edgy. Though you feel strongly attracted to this love interest, the tingly feeling inside is something other than the "new love butterflies": be careful, there might be a reason for this feeling.

Attached As: As the calm, cool and collected soul that you are, your partner is shocked when you suddenly lose your composure around the 28th. Now is the time to let down your guard and allow him or her to help you out of a difficult situation.

Lucky Days: 27th, 31st

TYPE O



Spring is in the air and your spirits are high! With the blood coursing through your veins more quickly than normally, make the most of your high energy level by finishing up some previously started projects left on the back burner. A sudden wave of inspiration around the 20th could make you a star amongst your colleagues!

Single Os: Your boundless energy carries over into your personal life this month and a regular outing leads to something far better than you could have ever imagined.

Attached Os: It's time to take your relationship to a level that both you and your partner have been avoiding for some time – stop the procrastinating and dive in!

Lucky Days: 5th, 20th

TYPE B



The lack of opportunity to be yourself and take on individual projects this month is frustrating to you; however, even ego-centric Bs need to remember that, sometimes, you have to let others take charge! What seems to be a normal and mundane occurrence around the 11th will actually turn out to be one of your most enjoyable days in March.

Single Bs: If you can't take charge in your professional life, do it in your personal life! Stop procrastinating and act on that romantic impulse you have been fighting for months.

Attached B: How do I love thee? Let me count the ways...a sudden overdose of affection from your partner makes you feel smothered, but remember that he/she must have a reason for the unexpected professions of love.

Lucky Days: 2nd, 12th

TYPE AB



Now that you finally have a little spare time, let the smell of spring be your guide and allow yourself to embark on an unusually silly adventure. A word of warning however; around the 8th, your platelets take a bit of a vacation and you might have trouble clotting an emotional wound.

Single ABs: After a dismal February, your energy producing white blood cells are back in action and you feel ready to put yourself into the dating game: go for it, no holds barred!

Attached ABs: With some much anticipated free time on your hands, you find yourself wanting to branch out and experience new things...or people...in the season of new beginnings, this might not be a bad time to start!

Lucky Days: 14th, 16th

OUT AND ABOUT IN HYOGO...

haget valentine's event



digmeoutartcafe, osaka
organised by amanda

MARCH EVENTS: KANSAI

compiled by amanda brown

CONCERT LISTINGS:

March 3 - !!!

Shinsaibashi Club Quattro
Open 18:00, Start 19:00
5800yen

March 6 - Bloc Party

Namba Hatch
Open 18:00, Start 19:00
6300yen

March 6 - Idlewild

Shinsaibashi Club Quattro
Open 18:00, Start 19:00
5500yen

March 12 - Converge (with Envy and Planes Mistaken for Stars)

Shinsaibashi Club Quattro
Open 18:00, Start 18:45: 6000yen

March 14-15 - Muse

Zepp Osaka: Open 18:00, Start 19:00
6800yen

March 19 - Red Hot Chili Peppers

Osaka Kyocera Dome: Open 17:00, Start 19:00
8000yen (A-class), 9000yen (S-class)

March 22 - The Sunshine Underground

Shinsaibashi Club Quattro
Open 18:00, Start 19:00
4500yen



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

Coming soon to Kansai: (May)

Lamb of God (6th), Good Charlotte (8th), Nate
James (18th), Stone Sour (21st), Nine Inch Nails
(23rd-24th), The View (31st)

Kobe Regatta & Athletic Club

Recently arrived in Japan?

Here are two ideas to improve your quality of life:

1. Find the nearest 100 yen store;
2. Come and join The KRAC.

The KR&AC is a Sports & Social Cub for people living and working in Japan; we currently have 21 different nationalities and our own clubhouse/bar/restaurant/gym/badminton/tennis courts.

Do you want to play indoor soccer?

It's free for members. Badminton? Same deal. Free weights? You guessed it: Free!

Maybe you want to go and have a drink where everyone knows your name?

We have regular Happy Hours, Tues – Sat 6-7:30pm. A good place to meet people and have a laugh, we are pretty casual down here.

Want to explore the area but also save some money?

We have discounts available in many local shops and restaurants for our members.

Need some advice on where to go and what to do in Japan?

Many of our members have spent years living in Japan. We have a network of contacts built on years of experience. If you need help with something then someone at the club knows the answers.

Play Sports?

Soccer, tennis, softball, rugby, cricket, darts, field hockey, rowing, sailing and we can help you if you want to play golf.

Need a convenient meeting place before you head out for the night?

We are a 10 minute walk from Sannomiya JR, Hankyu & Hanshin Stations.

Want a place to book a party/function/meeting?

We do it all the time, give us the details and our (friendly and pretty chilled out) staff will help.

Finally; most people who join tend to stay in Japan for longer than they initially planned. We must be doing something right.

So, now you know what we offer; how can you not join?

Pop in for a visit anytime and speak to some of our members/barflies.
Membership Prices available from as little as JPY6,000 a month!

Contact the Office

for an Information Package & Application Form:

Tel: 078-231-2271 from 10am to 7pm except Mondays

Email: info@krac.org

How do you get here?

Visit the KR&AC website at www.krac.org for a map & directions to the Club

UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE KRAC - NON-MEMBERS WELCOMED KRAC April Fool Disco Party, Saturday, March 31st. Doors open at 7.30 pm

No reservations required, but the order of the day is FUN for ALL!

Come and join us and bring your friends, colleagues, family, and more. NO people restrictions, NO dress restrictions - come as you are. DJ Alan Gibson will play the best of Pop Trash Music to make you forget all your troubles! As Ben Shamen would say - No Techno, No House, No Hip Hop, No Apologies, just good time music!

Only 1500 yen on the door, including that all-important first drink.

Contact the Club for more details.

Kobe Regatta & Athletic Club
Founded 1870



TENTATIVE DATES FOR AJET EVENTS:

March

Elections for AJET committee (Handover in April)

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