

ht

 *Inside* 

Kooza!



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

Submit by the 15th of each month to:
publications@hyogo.ajet.net

Visit us online!

Message from the Editor

Happy Autumn, Hyogo!

The sweet snap of fall is in the air (along with the heavenly smell of the sweet olive trees), and October calendars are filling with fall festivals of all kinds. Make sure you take some time to get your matsuri on this season, in gratitude for falling temperatures. Check out JET events all over Japan with the listing I run on the side, here: <http://jetwit.com/wordpress/category/jet-prefecture-round-up>.

This really is my favorite season, so I'll be spending the remainder of the month practicing for, planning, and hosting English speech contest, traveling around to Tokyo and Kobe, and enjoying the culinary delights of the season.

To anyone interested in writing, there's a writer's conference in Kobe on the weekend of October 15th and 16th, and it's free, so check out their website here: www.japanwritersconference.org!



And, as usual, if you are interested in writing, we might be interested in sharing your work with Hyogo.

Now then, go outside!

Lemmon

WRITE FOR TOHOKU

The *Write for Tohoku* e-book, a collection of nonfiction short stories about Japan, is now published and ready for purchase! All proceeds go to Japan Red Cross. Alon Adika, a Kobe JET alum (2006-2009) is among the JETs and JET alumni included in the work. Go to <http://fortohoku.org> to download a copy!

Message from the Online Editor

Dear Hyogo,

Enjoying the nice fall weather? Well enjoy it while you can, because freezing kotatsu season is just around the corner! If I can make one suggestion, it would be heated carpets. I will admit the idea of covering my floor with an electrified rug wasn't exactly the most comforting thought, but these things work wonders – just be careful not to spill any drinks!

There's nothing much new to mention this month. Our Flickr photo group is very slowly getting bigger. The website is getting more and more hits, as always. The Maigo this month

is from me (for the first time). Anyone know where it is? You probably don't live that far away...

And lastly... we're still looking for more people to join the HT, so check out the "help-wanted" if you're interested: www.hyogoajet.net/hyogotimes/join-the-hyogo-times. Even if it's not for one of the listed positions, we're open to any form of contribution.

Hope you have a great month!

Jonathan



Message from the PR

Hello Hyogonians!

Has that warm, fuzzy back-to-school feeling fully kicked in yet? Enjoy it while you can; exams and warm biz will be here before you know it. Luckily, they're bringing Halloween with them! Japan is surprisingly enthusiastic about the Samhain season, and we plan to take full advantage of that by trick-or-treating with the local Smile Kids Japan orphanage and taking over Himeji for the annual Halloween bash. But keep in mind there are plenty of festivals in the area to keep you entertained until All Hallows' Eve – Nada Fighting Festival, Nishinomiya Sweets Festival, and Tajima Beef Festival to name a few – and if you feel like trekking outside the ken for a bit, Hiroshima Sake Festival is highly recommended. It's a great chance to sample

the best sake from every prefecture in Japan and bump into JETs you haven't seen in ages! (Just don't wear open-toed shoes. Open-toed shoes. Open-toed shoes. I know I'm repeating myself, but when it echoes in your mind it will be easier to remember.)

As always, if you have any suggestions, requests, questions or praise for upcoming events and so on, pr@hyogo.ajet.net is ready to receive. いただきます!

Have a lovely October everyone!

Sifton

Greetings from National AJET!

The fall has been a crazy

productive time! National AJET has released its eZine, the AJET Connect, which will continue (alongside the Hyogo Times) to provide useful information, recipes, resources, and teaching materials to you. Also keep an eye open there for volunteer opportunities and travel deals that are coming up over the Winter Break due to our partnerships with the best NPOs and travel agencies this side of the sun!

National AJET has also been busy writing surveys for the bi-annual Opinion Exchange with CLAIR, and the three Ministries of Japan.

These surveys (taken by you) help National AJET write reports which we then present to the Ministries that run the JET Programme! These surveys are a great way for you to voice your concerns and needs to the people who make recommendations to your BOEs and other contracting organizations! In other words – they are important, as are your voices! Surveys are up now, and will run until late October. Make sure to take them while you can. You can always go to ajet.net for more information.

In other news, Halloween is just around the corner. Keep your calendars open! Block 6

and 7 will be hosting a joint Halloween Party at a club in Osaka on October 29th. Final information will be out soon and the prizes will be **SWEET** for Best Dressed, Scariest, Most Creative, and a few other categories. So start thinking of your outfit and keep an eye open on the Block 6 Facebook page to see how you can RSVP.

Hope to see you all there!

Your Friendly Block 6 Representative,

Miriam



Useful information

HYOGO PAs

078-362-3026

Mail: hyogo_pa@yahoo.com

URL: www.hyogoajet.net/wiki/Living_Guide

JETLINE

03-5213-1729

Call the JETLINE and talk to a CLAIR Programme Coordinator about anything you like. We are former JETs, and can answer most questions regarding the programme, and will try to help with any issues or questions you have regarding the workplace, or life in Japan. Hours are Monday – Friday, 9am – 6pm Japan Standard Time.

AJET PSG

050-5534-5566

Need to talk? Call the AJET Peer Support Group, a free, anonymous listening and referral service for JETs by JETs, every night of the year from 8pm – 7am.

TELL (Tokyo English Life Line)

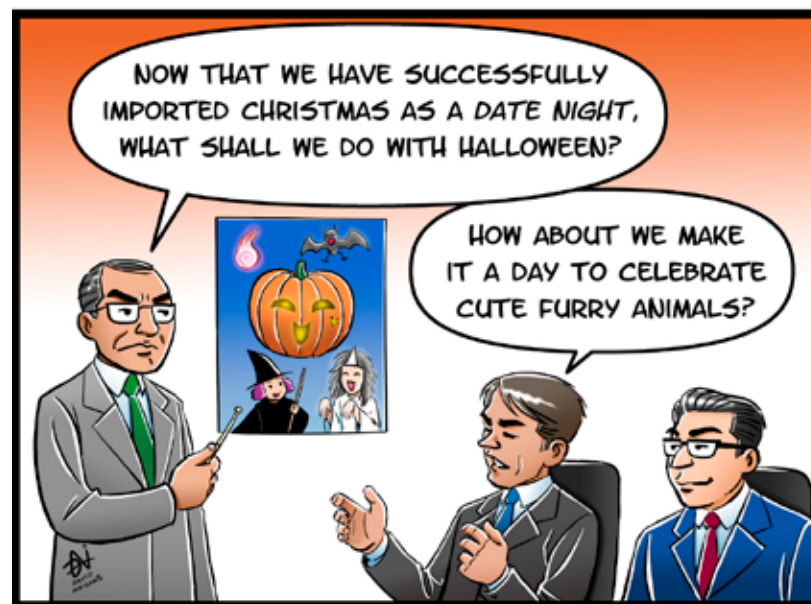
03-5774-0992

Call the Life Line for free, anonymous, and confidential telephone counseling from 9am to 11pm, 365 days a year. Trained volunteers can offer counseling and support, as well as information on a broad range of English-speaking services in Japan.

Hehe...

Life After the B.O.E.....

By David Namisato



**At the Japanese Ministry of
Reinterpreting Foreign Festivals and Holidays.
-外国祝日解釈省-**

David Namisato is an illustrator in Toronto, Canada, and a former CIR (Aomori-ken, 2002-04).

David's recent projects include children's picture book, *Fly Catcher Boy* written by Rebecca Kool and published by Gumboot Books, *Gabe and Allie in Race Through*

Time, a time travelling Canadian history comic appearing in *Kayak: Canada's History Magazine for Kids*, illustrating Archie characters for trading card company 5finity Productions, and of course the monthly *Life After the B.O.E.* comic.

www.lifeaftertheboe.com

洒落

Paul Schuble's

I-word play

みんな好き
な肉料理
ってなん
でしょうか?

Answer: すき焼き (Sukiyaki)

The riddle asks, "What's the meat dish that everyone likes?"
鋤焼き (Sukiyaki) is a traditional Japanese dish combining the words for "spade" (as in for gardening) and "cook." It seems that this name originated from the Edo period practice of cooking fish or tofu (or meat if it was available, I suppose) on the metal part of a spade instead of in a pot.

Though 「すき」 means "spade" in this case, it can also mean "to like." Hence it's the meat dish that everyone likes.

Travel Japan!



Kayasan.....

Koyasan, Wakayama

Of all of the Momiji trips

I have gone on, the place that impressed me the most has to be Koya-san, Wakayama. In mid-November, 2010, I joined the Wakayama JET contingent on a weekend tour of Mt Koya (aka Koya-san), the home of Shingon Buddhism which was introduced to Japan by Kobo Daishi in the early 800's. Mt Koya was designated as a UNESCO world heritage site in 2004.

Our weekend began with a tour of the area, where we visited some of the main temples in the district, including Kongobuji Temple and Garan. The autumn leaves were particularly beautiful up here, especially as we didn't have to fight the hoards of people that we would have encountered had we been in Kyoto.

We stayed at Rengejo-in, a working monastery that also offers lodging for travellers (called Shukubo). There are over 50 Shukubo in Koyasan, but I'm

pretty sure we stayed at the loveliest one.

During our stay we were invited to join in the morning and evening meditations, and enjoyed traditional Buddhist vegetarian dinner and breakfast. Dinner was one of the best experiences I have had in Japan. Besides the simple and delicious food, the widow of the former temple head joined us in our meal to tell us her story of learning English in pre-WWII Japan, and the reactions of people in post-WWII Japan. Many of us have our own family stories of the war, so please go for yourself to hear about her experiences. To hear the 'other side' of the story was certainly a special experience for me. We were also taught how to make our own prayer bracelets, to take away as a souvenir of our experience.

The second day we explored Okunoin Temple and cemetery

grounds. Wanting to remain close to Kobo Daishi in death, many people, including feudal lords, had their tombstones placed here. Come here on a foggy day, and you will be surrounded by haunting beauty. Many of the tombs' ages are unable to be determined, and it is not known for certain how many tombstones are in the grounds. Amongst the traditional, there are also many modern tombstones, including one that is shaped like a spaceship.

Access & information

◎ It takes around 2 hours to Koyasan Station from Osaka, changing to the Nankai line at Shinimamiya, and will set you back ¥1,400. If you want to speed things up a little, you can travel via express train from Shinimamiya, which takes 82 minutes from Shinimamiya, and

costs ¥1,610. From Gokurakubashi, take the Koya-san cable car to Koyasan Station. The bus must be taken from the station into the town, as the road is private and closed to pedestrians.

◎ Accommodation at Rengejoun costs from ¥9,450 per person including 2 meals. Besides being an amazing experience, the rooms and grounds are immaculate. I never imagined that staying in a temple could be so luxurious!

◎ Koya-san is on average five degrees colder than the Kobe/Osaka area. Make sure to bring layers.

Jess Grigg

Bag of tricks

There are quite a few games in my bag of tricks, but here are a few of the most successful...

Pictionary

(On the chalkboard) always works, for every age, for whatever words they know. **Charades**, same deal. Both of these also help them get over their shyness issues, so it's great. I often combine them, so if they're not so great at drawing, they can mime it, and vice versa. A lot of students also love the opportunity to show off their skills and comedic side. I've made a bag of vocab words for the students just in case I need a quick game, but you can also do it on the fly.

Fruit Bowl

Works for every age group. You can change it up to be easy or difficult, focus on vocab or grammar, or whatever you need for the day. You probably know this game, maybe by another name, but I think it's pretty popular... For 1st and 2nd grade elementary, I had them say "I like BANANA!" and if any student liked banana, they

had to stand up and run to another seat. One seat less than the number of students, and the one left standing in the middle says the next sentence. In middle school, I had them say something like "The girl who rides a bike to school," and that way they were focusing on grammar. Both were great.

Karuta

It usually takes some prep time, but Karuta works for every age as well. You probably heard about it, but if not, you just have sets of cards (vocab words, days of the week, animals, etc. these can be words on the card, or pictures of the things), and students sit in small groups, put their hands on their heads (I also use this part as a body part review, changing it up from head to elbow to shoulders, whatever), then you yell out a word, and the first to tap the card keeps it. Person with the most cards

at the end wins. It's best used for vocab in the elementary school, but it's good.

Simon Says

A good body parts review, which you don't need any preparation for.

Bingo

Bingo is awesome, and they especially love it when you let them draw little pictures in the spaces on their own. It also takes up a little more time, if you need. In my experience, they tend to calm down and focus when they draw.

Telephone Game

I've played this with students from 4th grade up to 9th and it is usually pretty good. From 6th to 9th grade, I like to just whisper letters, which always throws them off a bit (R instead of I!?). Then, I have the last person in the line write the letters on the chalkboard.

You can use just small vocab words or whole sentences. If you use just vocab, you can have the last person draw a picture of it on the chalkboard.

Circle Game

In Kindergarten, I play this game, where I have things in a circle (like colors). I stand in the middle, close my eyes and they all run to a random spot. I yell out a thing, color, whatever, and if they are on it, they have to come to the center and sit. The game goes on until one is left, and they win. I have the older student winners then take my place in the center, as it helps them try to memorize the vocab and speak independently of the others.

Color Search

Another easy fun one is Color Search, where I yell out a color and they go find it somewhere in the room. It gets them out

of their seat and moving around which is IMPORTANT for little ones. Good times, works like a charm.

Racing Game

When my little 1st and 2nd graders are learning vocab, I have them play a simple Racing Game with the flash cards. Everyone line up (two lines) and the first two in each line have to race to see who can say what's on the card the fastest. If they are first, they can stay in the lines, go to the back, and the loser sits down. Last one standing is the champ. They love it and I pretty much do nothing but hold up a card quickly. I made it more advanced once they got better at the vocab by holding up 2 cards and having them say **x** and **x** (ex: tiger AND pineapple). Somehow it never gets old for them...

I hope something in this list proves useful for you! You'll learn what does and doesn't work pretty quickly.

Stephanie Stoner

ALT
Yasuda-cho, Kochi-ken

Kooza!

For the last month,

Cirque du Soleil has been wowing the people of Kansai with an amazing performance. Kooza has something for everyone; the dance buff, the muso, and anyone who likes to admire human physique and ability.

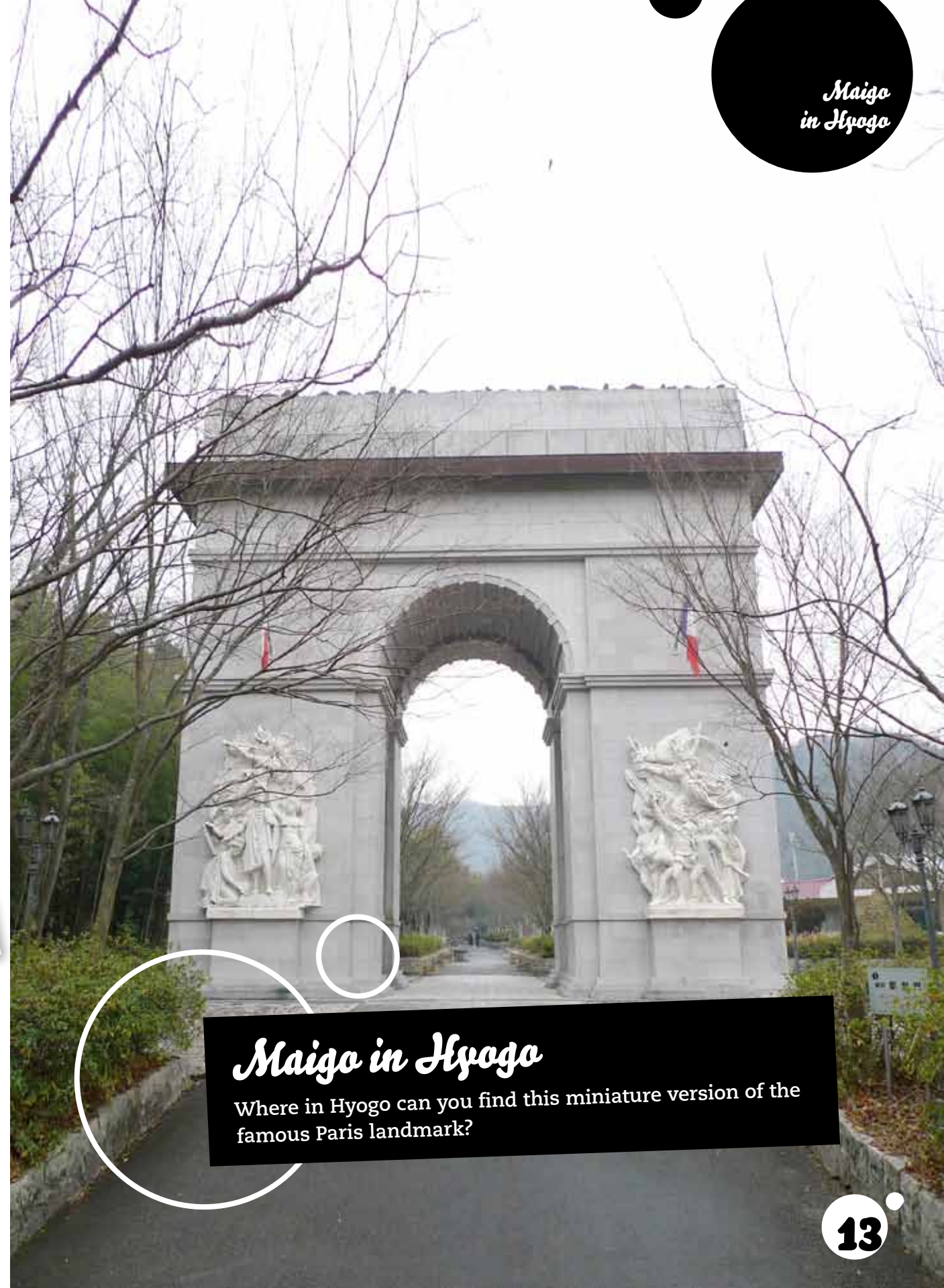
Walk into the Big Top and you'll find yourself in a rather intimate space. The cleverly designed 270 degree stage means that the audience has a great view of the whole show. As the performers tell the story of an innocent trying to find his place in the world, the live band and singers set the mood. Every element of the show has been meticulously designed for maximum amazement and enjoyment.

Performances in the show include unicycles, hoops, tightropes, contortion, acrobatics, trapeze and

the ever impressive 'wheel of death'. Kooza brings a very modern interpretation to the traditional circus (void of any animal cruelty), that had me on the edge of my seat, and my heart in my mouth. Everything about Kooza, inspires and thrills the audience.

I urge that if you haven't already been, you do so before the Osaka season is over (November 6th is the last show)! Tickets start from ¥6,000 for a B seat on a week day, to ¥13,000 for a S seat on the weekend. Although this may seem a little expensive, it is an amazing experience, and well worth the money. You can pre-book tickets through www.eplus.jp. The big top is a 6 minute walk south of Fukushima station on the Osaka loop line.

Jess Grigg



Maigo in Hyogo

Where in Hyogo can you find this miniature version of the famous Paris landmark?

We are single... that's all....

**All the single ladies,
put your cocktails down
and listen...**

Recently, in addition to being bombarded by Japanese Jehovah's witnesses, huge insects, emails from *www.viagra.com*, an enormous tax bill, and lots of hot sexy Middle Eastern guys, I have been also swamped by co-workers and associates politely informing me of their recent nuptials and their change of addresses from Unhappy Avenue to Blissful Ever-After Boulevard. So, here I am having lunch with my little rug rats, and a male teacher was so anxious to tell me that he got married in July (2011) and he is NOW happy (I guess now he gets regular blow jobs without paying... LOL). Being me, I gave him the English Teacher fake smile (God bless him). Apparently that wasn't enough, he proceeded to educate me on the recent developments in his life – he lost 4kg, started eating vegetables, eats fish every day, stopped smoking, and is now happier than before – since he tied the chain around his neck – I mean, knot. He went on to encourage me, a single 28 years old, to find a girlfriend [I almost choked

on my sautéed pork and pumpkin rice (Jamaican food)] as soon as possible [because time is running out and I have to cash in on this happiness before the Government starts taxing it] because he wants me to be happy. Again, I smiled, nodded and whispered a prayer for him. Poor guy... So OLD, so naive.

Well, silly me I thought that was it. Couple days later, my school had a festival and I graced it with my presence (of course, I did...). There I was in the midst of Nihonjin (Japanese), and like clock-work, the details of my personal life were the elements of discussion. In this case, I was being counseled by a local police officer who noted that I have been living in Japan for three (3) years [I thought, this guy must be immigration, how does he know that?], and I am SINGLE, and 28. Yes, the emphasis was on MARITAL STATUS and AGE. He pointed out that he is 29 years old, and though not married [and I have one guess why not... hmm], he is currently dating a beautiful girl [at that point, I had to bite my lips]. The police officer went on to encourage me to "FIGHT" [a statement

frequently used in Japan which means to persevere] and FIND A GIRLFRIEND soon, so that I can get married and... wait for it... be HAPPY. Well, I thought that encouraging talk was a part of his community outreach program towards me, orrrr a ploy to keep me as a taxpayer in Japan. Whichever case, though I enjoyed his company [he was cute], he is preaching to the wrong audience.

As I sat in the school's pavilion and waved to my little rug rats and their parents (who looked like strangers between themselves), I wondered, it is just me or do people really think that single people are depressed and unhappy? Or, is it another random Japanese thing that I have not figured out yet, like why they drink so much green tea when they know it causes erectile dysfunction; why straight guys wear make-up: why the girls wear the shoes two sizes too big; why my teachers stay at work until 10 p.m.; why the hot springs are filled with old geezers; why most of the candy/treats are made of rice; and why the cost of rice is so expensive even though everybody is a rice famer? Hmmm mmm. As I sit here and sip this killer cocktail,

I wonder, are relationships in Japan like driver's licenses? You really want one before you are 18, but then when you get it, you just have it in your purse and never think about it again? And do people really think that married people are happy while single people are not?

My 3 years in Japan coupled (pun intended) with my anthropological instinct [me being nosey], have led me to observe married couples. One should not judge a Hermes sweater on a mannequin, a Kenneth Cole loafer via the internet, nor a book by its cover, but why would a happily married man be found at work at 10pm and on weekend; would rather have dinner and drinks with his friends than to go home to his wife; would be seen 'playing' with their phones while having dinner with their spouses? You be the judge!

The notion that married couples are happier than singles seem to be the driving force behind the Japanese girls making it their point of duty to land themselves a 'catch' before they 'expire'. And it would seem that they are not too particular what the 'catch' is – dead, alive, gay, straight, loser, tall, short – just

a 'catch'. This was reinforced while I was out and about, and I was "approached" by two girls who were out 'hunting.' OMG! OK! So, if you know me, by international convention, I am the gayest thing around: HANDS DOWN! As I stood there being interviewed by these two girls (obviously one was helping the other to land the 'catch' of the day), I was just amazed how clueless these girls were, or maybe just didn't care, because the mission is 'NOT TO BE SINGLE'. Again, I will whisper a prayer for them. Poor souls!

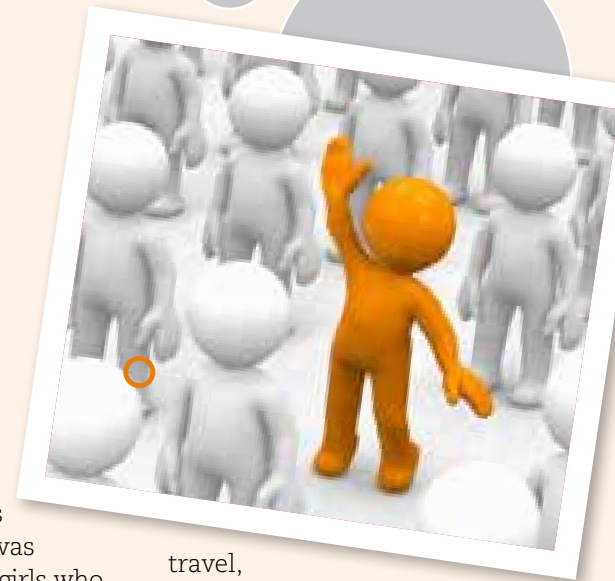
Coming from Jamaican culture, it's shocking to see the pressure/emphasis being placed on tying the knot as soon as possible, and how Japanese society views single people as charity chases needed to be helped and encouraged to "FIGHT" for your 'HAPPY'. In Jamaica, one isn't pressured to get married, or viewed as unhappy if single. On the contrary, married men seek out single girls in order to find some 'happy', but I digress. I am from a culture that values individualism and other successes over marriage. As a Jamaican, a co-worker or a parent would encourage you to pursue advance degrees, purchase a house, purchase a nice car,

travel, find yourself, and then get married. Sorry, but the Vera Wang dress has to wait a little longer to be worn.

Being single is precious! Our single years are when we find ourselves, figure out what we really want, test the 'waters', learn what personalities are compatible with ours and just build on ourselves, independently. These years shouldn't be viewed as sad and depressing; but should be happy, interesting, eye-opening and adventurous; because once they are gone, they are indeed gone. One should embrace these years and cherish them and whenever marriage walks up to your door, you should be able to say good bye to 'single' with a smile on your face and memories in your heart.

This one goes out to all the single persons out there who are enjoying their single lives and are not concerned about societal expectations and norms, but endeavor to live their lives to the fullest, single first, then knotted later.

Dwayne Copourne



Hiyashi Chuka: 冷やし中華

Though the weather is just beginning to cool down, you may still be in the mood for some cool noodle dishes. This is one of my favourites – it has a delicious sesame sauce and lots of fresh ingredients, which is perfect for a summer night.

Ingredients

(serves 3–4)

- ◎ 4 packets of Chinese noodles (chuka men or any other fresh thin yellow noodles)
- ◎ 2 eggs
- ◎ 1 cucumber
- ◎ 1 tomato
- ◎ 8 whole unpeeled prawns (shrimp)
- ◎ 2 packets of ham
- ◎ white sesame seeds
- ◎ other toppings such as thinly sliced shiso or soft seaweed can also be added.

Seasoning:

- ◎ 6 tablespoons vinegar (su)
- ◎ ½ consommé cube, crushed
- ◎ 4 tablespoons soy sauce
- ◎ 2 tablespoons sugar
- ◎ 2 tablespoons sesame oil (goma abura)
- ◎ 1 tablespoon sesame paste (nerigoma)
- ◎ dash of lemon juice

Step One

Slice the cucumber thinly, cut tomato into thin wedges and thinly slice the ham.

Step Two

Boil the prawns, peel them and cut in half.

Step Three

Mix the eggs in a bowl with a little salt, sugar, and thin soy sauce (utsukuchi shoyu).

Step Four

Make an omelette with the egg and then slice it.

Step Five

Fry the sliced ham with a little soy sauce, mirin (sweet cooking sake) and sugar.

Step Six

Put all the seasoning ingredients in a bowl and use a whisk to mix them.

Step Seven

Boil the noodles for about two minutes, drain them and then put into a bowl of cold water; when cool, drain them well.

Step Eight

Put noodles on the plate and add toppings, pour seasoning over the whole dish, and top with a sprinkle of sesame seeds!

Lauren McRae



Satin Doll

Satin Doll is a big space.

Unlike the closed, darkened corners and hushed ambiance of Sone, Satin Doll is open and almost echoes with the legends who have played at the bar in the past. Their autographs hang on massive canvases on the walls. The lights are moderate, the piano and drum set at the front of the room illuminated, but somehow askance. I never got the feeling I was seeing a main event at Satin Doll. I also never found the place crowded.

Looking at their schedule for the month, there are no really big names, no stars outside the standard rotation of Kobe's middleweights. There are a few good newcomers who play here regularly, especially aspiring young pianists like Asami Yato, whom I saw play a confident set one Sunday evening. For the most part, though, it seems Satin Doll's focus is not on the

jazz, but on the food and drink they serve.

The drinks are mostly whiskeys, with a solid cocktail menu. Prices are actually cheaper than many other jazz bars. The French cuisine is a little pricey, but worth the expense. I've been drawing a lot of comparisons to Sone here, and in truth you could call Satin Doll a "poor man's Sone," but you'd be doing it an injustice. Satin Doll has a different charm.

Perhaps Satin Doll's glory has faded, but it remains a stable reminder of Kobe's jazz history, and a reputable, cheap spot for a quiet night of relaxing jazz entertainment. Try it a couple of times to see if you like it. More than Sone, Satin Doll strikes me as a good first date spot, but please, make your own decisions.

Music: \$

usually ¥500 – 1,000,
check schedule for specifics.

Food: French, \$\$

Drinks: \$ – \$\$

Je ne sais quois: 4/5.

It's old, tired, and quirky! I like it!

Overall: 3.5 out of 5.

*A good spot for the curious
and first-time jazz listeners.*

Website: www.satindollkobe.jp
(Japanese)

Calendar: www.c-a-s-net.co.jp/kobe/cgi/schedule2.cgi?action=9999

Map: Satin Doll is in the Bacchus building, on the second floor, over the crepe shop.
(www.satindollkobe.jp/map/map)

Engrish corner



Got Engrish that deserves to be shared? Send it to Hyogo Times and it might be featured in the next issue!

'Anyone for a Hallowiener Dog?'

Participate!

Hyogo Times is currently looking for writers to contribute to the following sections:

- ◎ Hyogo Restaurant Critic
- ◎ Web Design Manager
- ◎ English Sensei Spirit (column writer)
- ◎ Illustrator
- ◎ Current Events (column writer)

- ◎ Media Reviewer (Movies/Books/Music/anything else)
- ◎ Settsu regional correspondent
- ◎ Harima regional correspondent

- ◎ Tajima regional correspondent
- ◎ Awaji regional correspondent
- ◎ Culture (column writer)

Contact us today at
publications@hyogo.ajet.net

So you want a Japanese boyfriend...

Two issues back, a comic

in this publication compared the chance of a foreign female getting a Japanese boyfriend to one's chance of winning the lottery. Winning the lottery's definitely more difficult! Whatever you've heard, there's a shot for those of us raised in the West too.

I don't have any fancy percentages for you, but Western woman-Japanese male couples do happen. The beautiful, smart and talented single foreign women around me often dismiss the idea of Japanese men, or say they have no idea where to find them. There are far more Japanese males than non-Japanese males on this island, so if you limit yourself to foreigners you have a very small dating pool.

Here are some places to dive in and find the man for you:

1. mixi

www.mixi.jp

Facebook is gaining traction in Japan now but for many years the only real social network in Japan was **mixi**. Most people don't post their own pictures, so if you post a foreign face you could be deluged with date-seekers. More indirectly, many interest based groups on mixi have meetings in real life where you could find both friends and dates.

Japanese level required: intermediate to advanced

2. OK Cupid

www.okcupid.com

The majority of users on dating site **OK Cupid** are foreigners, but there are a few English speaking Japanese men hanging around.

Japanese level required: none

3. Japan Cupid

www.japancupid.com

Dating site **Japan Cupid** seems aimed at Western men seeking Japanese girlfriends – but Western females are allowed, and so are Japanese men. The paid level of the service offers access to more profiles, but I know a Western woman who had success at the free level.

Japanese level required: none

4. Kansai Flea Market

www.kfm.to

<http://classifieds.kansaiscene.com>
www.kansaifreeads.com

The first two above don't explicitly mention dating, but it's obvious from the word usage ("playful personals", "Friendship & More") that dating-related personals are allowed. Placing a personal ad online on all three sites is free, but you'll have to pay to be in the print version of **Kansai Flea Market**.

5. Gokons

A **gokon** is a more relaxed version of speed dating. A single male and female friend team bring together all the single people they know, and everyone talks over a few beers in the hope of getting an attractive person's phone number. You need to know someone who's setting one up to be invited, so having young Japanese female friends is ideal.

Japanese level required: intermediate to advanced

6. Do something that you're interested in

Pick up the taiko sticks like you've always wanted to, join a video gaming group, play ultimate frisbee. We tend to stay in groups of other ALTs and other foreigners because it's easy, but taking the more difficult route may give the biggest reward. At the very least you'll have fun.

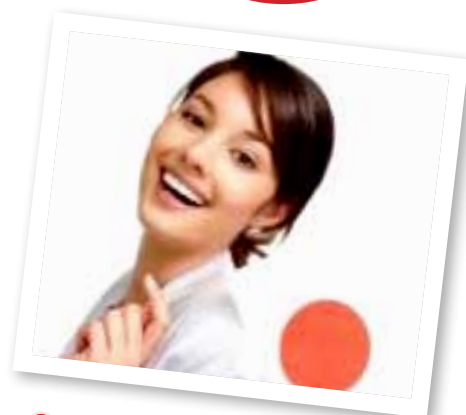
Japanese level required: depends

Some points to remember on the dating hunt:

- ◎ Japanese people and men are foremost humans with unique personalities. This sounds obvious but there's a lot of "Japanese people this" and "Japanese people that" among the foreign community and out of the mouths of Japanese themselves. A culture does inform part of the way someone acts, but there's always going to be some exception to every stereotype.
- ◎ Japan may be safer than where you are from, but nowhere is 100% safe. Meet men from the internet in public places away from your apartment and stay in cafes and restaurants. A karaoke date sounds innocent but be aware you will be in a private room with a lot of noise around you. If you choose to have sex, make that safe too.
- ◎ Don't be afraid to make a move. If you're interested in someone, send them a message or a text about going out for coffee or dinner. If you've been going out for a while and feel he's into you but too shy to bump the heat up, do it yourself. Recently young Japanese men have been derided for not being aggressive enough, but even beyond that many are shy because they think they have no chance with foreign women.
- ◎ Like any real dating advice will tell you, be yourself.

Amanda Hahn

Amanda has been dating her Japanese boyfriend for almost a year, although sometimes she suspects they're both amnesiac aliens from the rarity of it all. If you've had success with a method she's missed, let her know at hahnamanda@gmail.com.



Hyogo Times October Event Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
30	31	27	28	29	30 Rant & Rave at the Lock Up 19:00 – 22:00 www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=147311632028019	01 Art Event Fukuchiyama abandoned train tunnel, Takarazuka Kobe Biennale (begins)
02 Awaji Hanasajiki Flower Gallery Through early October	03	04	05	06	07	08 India Mela Kobe, until 10th October. www1.odn.ne.jp/indiamela
09 Shikoku Rafting Trip 9th – 10th October www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=261395407218512	10	11	12	13	14 Nada Matsuri Fighting Festival, Himeji www.hyogo-tourism.jp/english/whatsnew/index.php?id=233	15 Nishinomiya Sweets Fest www.hyogo-tourism.jp/english/whatsnew/index.php?id=234 Ako Kotto-ichi
16 Festival of the Mountain: Tajima Beef Festival Iwa Shrine Fall Festival Shiso	17	18	19	20	21	22 Kobe Winery New Wine Festival www.kobewinery.or.jp/event/index.html
23 Kobe Winery New Wine Festival www.kobewinery.or.jp/event/index.html	24	25	26	27	28	29

More events for 15th and 16th are viewable on the website!!

For more indepth details about all the events, please visit our website: www.hyogoajet.net/hyogotimes