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hyogo times

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.....inside.....

Osaka's Koreatown

Big in Japan: Bodybuilding



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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 [hyogotimespublications@gmail.com](mailto:hyogotimespublications@gmail.com)

## Message from the Editor: hello!

I don't know about you, but the end of summer and the beginning of fall have been a perfect combination of work and play for me. As for the play, this term is filled with so many national holidays the time not spent lesson planning is spent planning my three day weekends. First Hong Kong, a family barbecue, and then Tokyo later this month, and we still have two more in November to get ready for. Make sure you are all set when the time comes! HAJET's been doing its part to keep the weekends fun with its **Hanshin Tigers event** (they won 7-2) and last month's **book club**. If you missed out join us in November for our **next meeting**.

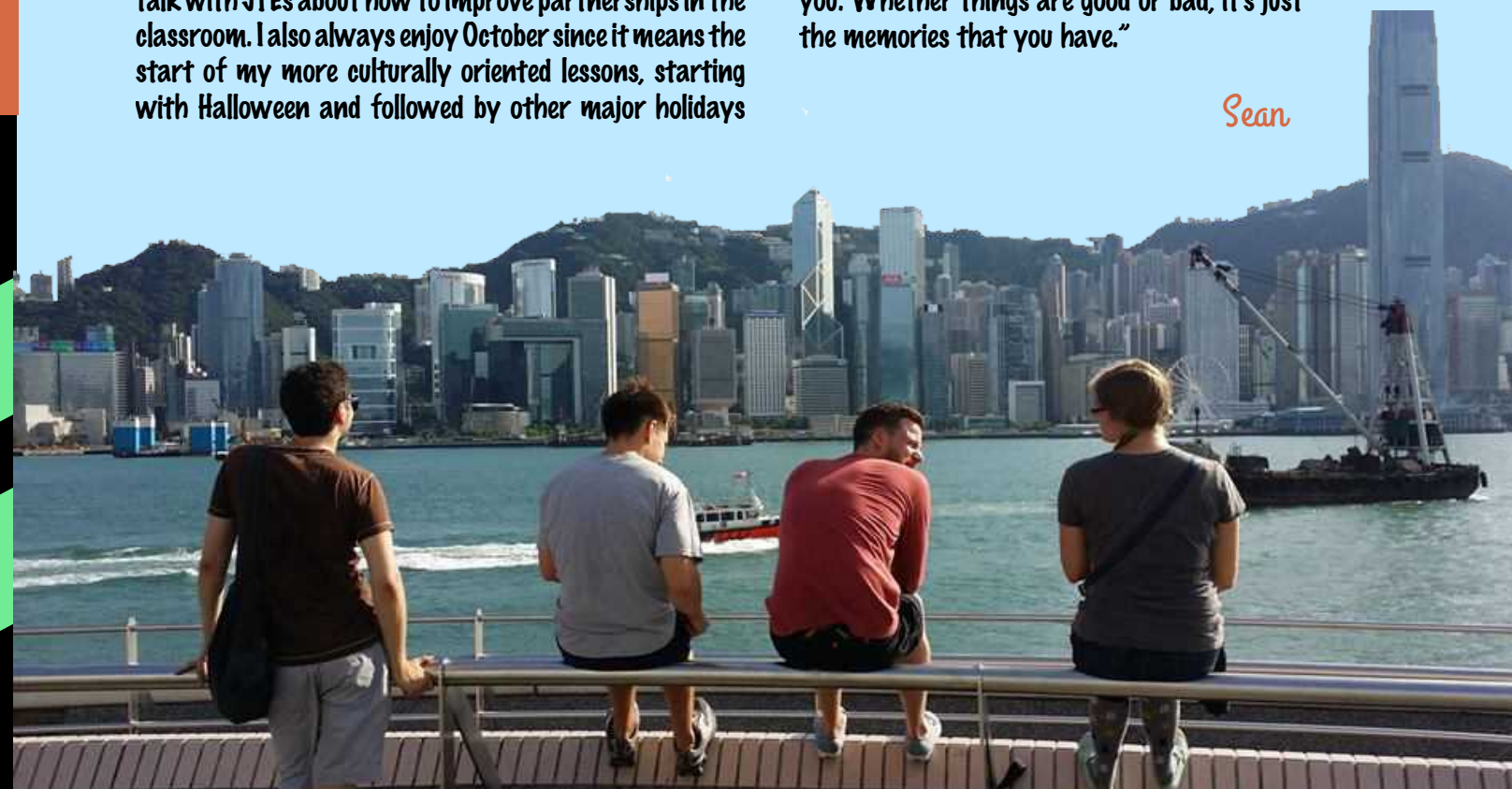
The time off is also perfect for enjoying the weather and scenery before it gets too cold. That means heading to the parks, shrines, and temples and catching the maple leaves before they fall away (Kyoto is highly recommended). If your school is like mine that means it's also preparing for Sports Day (or Culture Day if they do Sports Day in the spring), literally a day of play. No classes just cool dance routines and wild competitions, of course you have to wait until the monotonous marching ends.

However, I said this time of year includes work as well. Besides preparing for midterms and helping the 3-nensei get ready for their entrance exams, this month we all will have the Skills Development Conference on Awaji where we get a change to share best practices and talk with JTEs about how to improve partnerships in the classroom. I also always enjoy October since it means the start of my more culturally oriented lessons, starting with Halloween and followed by other major holidays

over the next few months. Speaking of Halloween, do your best to think of a creative costume or get a small group together and do something themed. You never know, you might just terrify all the passengers on the train to Osaka making little children cry as they tightly grab on to their mothers. If you're looking for for an actual Halloween party somewhere other than Osaka, join other Hyogo, Kyoto, and Shiga JETs at Club Flamingo on **October 25**. Trust me, it'll be perfect for decompressing after the SDC.

My last piece of advice for October is to look farther down the road past these three-day weekends and start thinking about what you want to do during winter vacation. The October paycheck is great for buying airline tickets back home or to another tourist destination and reserving accommodations. Like always reach out to fellow JETs to get a group together or simply for advice. You don't want to put it off past October or you literally might be left out in the cold. In this month's issue, you'll find our usual sections along with two new contributors, Bender and Rackle, respectively sharing their expertise on **Koreatown** and **music**. If you're not following our **fictional section** brought to you by Brittany, make sure you **start** and **catch up** as necessary. It's superbly written and quickly becoming a real nail-biter. Enjoy fall, or as our **PR** this month points out autumn, while it lasts. It's one of the best, yet shortest seasons Japan has. As a friend once said "Memories don't live like people do, they always 'member you. Whether things are good or bad, it's just the memories that you have."

Sean





hello!

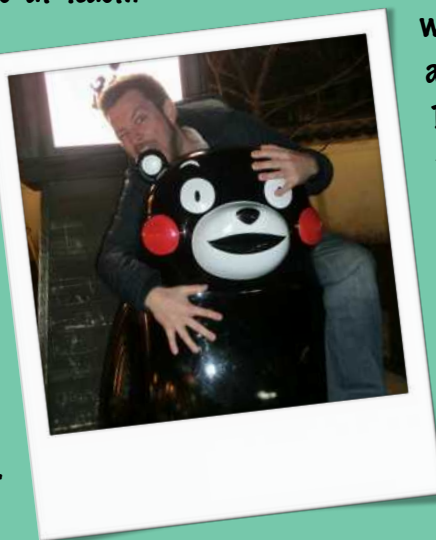
## message from the Prefectural Representative

Hey there good people of Hyogo, Chris Goodman here, your friendly Hyogo AJET helper guy, type, thingy... to help you welcome October with open arms and big smiles!!!

Now, if you ask your students "What's special about October?" many of them may start looking around at each other, freaking out thinking that you have just asked them where to find the "Holy grail." Usually when you do get a response, it will be HALLOWEEN. But did you know that on the second Monday of October Japan has a national holiday called Health and Sports Day (taiiku no hi), which is to commemorate the opening day of the 1964 Olympic games held in Tokyo and further exists to promote sports and an active lifestyle. HAHA!!! Surprise your co-workers with that tidbit of knowledge! Another great thing to realize about October is it is smack bang in the middle of AUTUMN (technically), which is also known as FALL in other countries. This means that the leaves are changing color and creating breathtaking scenes at both famous man-made cultural and natural land marks (where they have trees at least).

Although thanks to Japan's climate, the north gets its red on a little sooner than the middle and southern part of Japan.

So now would be as good as time as any to consider that trip towards the northeastern part of Japan. Those of you who live in more rural areas might also notice that the rice fields (tanbo) are looking rather full.



Chris Goodman

You can expect them to be harvested in the coming weeks. If you are lucky, your school might have a rice field or two and ask you to help them hand-harvest some of the rice. Watch out for spiders.

While many of you may well be asked about planning a Halloween event for your students, or just doing Halloween themed lesson plans, don't forget to see the real Japan this time of year. Reach out to your local community and find out events or going-ons that you can be a part of. Maybe take yourself to a festival like "Hachiman-sai" in Gifu (also known as Takayama matsuri, October 9 and 10).

Hyogo also has a little ditty called **Nada no Kenka Matsuri** or 'Fighting Festival' in which mikoshi (portable shrines) are jolted against one another as they are carried on the shoulders of men in the parade. It is held at Matsubara Hachiman Shrine on October 14 and 15 (about a 3 minute walk from Shirahama-no-miya Station).

Whatever you may do, feel free to share your knowledge of events and experiences with your friendly JET community, after all "sharing is caring." Have a Terror-rific October!!!! (Yes, I know that was terror-ible, but I couldn't help myself!!) Catch you later!

## Grilled Sanma (Pacific Saury)

kicchiri  
kitchen



### Ingredients

- >> 1 sanma (I prefer the pieces with the head and tail already cut off)
- >> A few pinches of salt
- >> A dash of rice wine (optional)
- >> Grated daikon and soy sauce, sudachi or lemon (optional)

A slightly overdue self-introduction My name is Helen and I am a third year Osaka (apparently honorary Hyogo) JET from Australia. I come from a Taiwanese background and so perhaps it was inevitable that I was brought up with a great love for food, be it eating or making it.

I enjoy experimenting with local ingredients, but I know it can be a bit daunting too. I hope the recipes I share here encourage you to incorporate more Japanese ingredients and techniques into your cooking and make the most of the fresh seasonal produce available here.

Helen Yuan

The humidity of summer is finally disappearing, replaced by a slight chill in the air at times and announcing the arrival of what the Japanese call shokuyoku no aki (食欲の秋). This roughly translates to "the season for eating," an apt description for the renewed appetite that the cooler temperatures bring. Grilled with a light sprinkling of salt, the fatty, tender flesh of this fish is symbolic of autumn for many Japanese. It's super simple and makes a tasty meal when eaten with a steaming bowl of rice. I'll admit this isn't for everyone but I encourage you to at least try it once!

**Step One** - If using, drizzle a bit of rice wine (1-2 teaspoons) on both sides of the fish. Season the fish by sprinkling a pinch of salt on each side of the fish. To season evenly, sprinkle from 20cm above - don't rub it!

**Step Two** - Leave for 5-10 minutes. (You can skip this if you don't have time but it adds to the flavour).

**Step Three** - Grill for 4 minutes on med-high or until the skin is golden. Turn it over and grill for a further 1-2 minutes or until the skin is crispy and brown.

**Step Four** - Serve as is, with a squeeze of sudachi or with some grated daikon (white radish) and soy sauce.

>> Sudachi is a small, hard, green Japanese citrus fruit but you can substitute it with lemon. It can usually be found in the fruit and vegetable section, but also near the fish section during autumn.

>> There are many fine bones which can be a bit tricky to pick out. I'm not brave enough to try this, but an ALT friend of mine says she eats the fine bones now after being chided by a student for being wasteful when she carefully picked them all out.

>> The small fish grill found under Japanese gas stoves makes grilling fish super easy. Place foil under the rack if you're lazy like me and want to save on washing up.



# K-Town: Osaka's Koreatown

The dark, pungent, and crowded area immediately outside Tsuruhashi Train Station serves as forced introduction to Osaka's Koreatown. As you exit Tsuruhashi Station, the narrow alleys are filled with people and smells greet visitors. The alleys can fit two people comfortably or three people uncomfortably, and as I made my way past little shops and stalls, my backpack felt more and more like a nuisance to all of us trying to navigate the narrow streets.

Three kinds of shops dominate the alleys beneath the train station: food stores, clothing stores, and restaurants.

The food shops are the most frequent and foul smelling of the three. The stores that sell food to be taken home are generally small and they share a similar setup. The shop will only be a couple meters. In the back, Korean condiments like gochuchang, Korean brand ramen, and some sweets or snacks from the old country will line the two or three shelves. The shop will have an open cooler or refrigerator located on the outer edge of the store so customers can sort through and sample the different items sold. Usually the coolers are filled with plastic containers or bags bearing the delicious accompaniment of most Korean meals: kimchi.

One of the best ways to learn more about a culture is to take a closer look at the native cuisine. As far as what is native to Korea and its surrounding waters, Korea was dealt a rough draw. 70% of Korea is covered with mountains, and the flat lands are filled with either rice fields or cities making the varieties of agricultural products quite limited. In addition, the sea that surrounds Korea yields only a few low tide types of fish that aren't exactly sought out for their delicious flavor. As a result, the main staple of Korean cuisine after rice is kimchi: vegetables

fermented with a variety of spices and seasonings. The most common form of kimchi is cabbage, but varieties of cucumber and raddish kimchi are pretty popular as well.

After getting off the train, I wandered around the covered area for a while until I had worked up enough of an appetite to sit down and enjoy a snack. The second most common under the station establishment is the food stall. Many of these food stalls sell two or three Korean snack foods, and I managed to find at least a dozen selling jun: Korean savory pancakes.

There are many different types of jun, but I ended up ordering one that was spicy and filled with scallions. The stall had about 8 chairs and half as many patrons. The pancake was delicious with a little crunch on the outside to contrast the chewiness on the inside. The pancake was also paired with a spicy sauce that added an extra kick to the peppers in the pancake.

After eating my savory pancake, I decided to indulge in the sweet counterpart to jun: hotteok, or a pancake with a gooey delicious cinnamon filling. A couple of stalls over, a lady was dropping balls of dough onto a flat top griddle. I handed her my 200 yen and was on my way with another filled pancake in hand. The outside was again crispy, and the cinnamon filling was hot enough to burn mouths and sticky enough to rot teeth. As opposed to sitting and eating, I took this one to go and headed for the main portion of Koreatown.

After getting out of the covered area of the station, the Korean influence was still on display with frequent restaurants or shops that cater to Korean taste. The actual Koreatown is about a ten minute walk from Tsuruhashi Station complete with a Koreatown gate. Instead of the dark and covered area around the station,

Koreatown proper has a main street that can cater to two vehicles. The shops here are much of the same as the shops around the station, but they happen to be much bigger. Restaurants in Koreatown are more proper as well, and many of them have bigger menus and bigger seating areas. The food is also a bit more diverse with one restaurant even advertising a kimchi sandwich. The sun was a welcome addition, and I enjoyed walking around and seeing all of the Korean butchers and lines of people trying to snag some kimchi or meat for a later meal.

I also decided to grab a bag of kimchi to take home, so I stopped by one of the little shops on the side. Two ladies greeted me in Japanese, and I began to ponder which kind and how much kimchi I wanted. I ended up going with the classic cabbage, and purchased a kilo of kimchi for about 1000 yen. I walked around for a little longer and decided to stop into one of the shops for a proper meal.

I found a little place around the station and strolled on in. The little shop had various Korean groceries and photos of classic dishes on the wall. I decided to get some samgyupsal and kimchi jjigae. Samgyupsal is the most popular form of Korean BBQ: pork belly cut into little strips that are ready to be grilled by the customer to his or her liking. Samgyupsal is always served with leaves to wrap the finished meat in along with some red chili paste, gochujeong, and sesame oil. When the meat is finished, it is dipped into the sesame oil and then wrapped in a piece of lettuce to form a perfect bite of crunch, meat, and spice. As with all Korean meals, the meat is accompanied by tons of little side dishes.

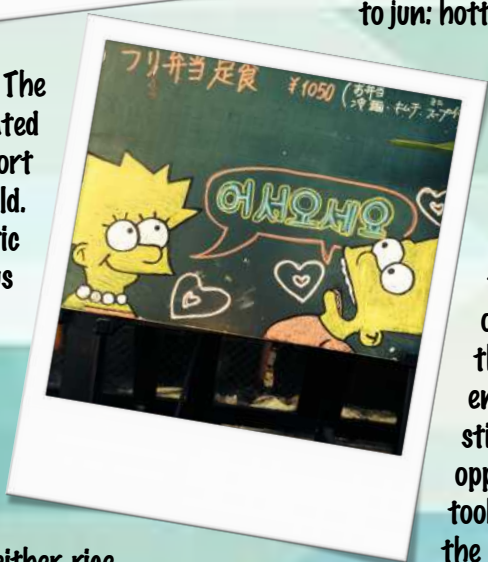
After a couple of minutes, my boiling bowl of kimchi jjigae was brought out. Kimchi jjigae is a stew that is kimchi based and normally has bits of pork and tofu that add a little protein. The soup is always accompanied by a bowl of rice that gives some much needed carbohydrates. The soup was a little spicy, and I was pleased to get a much needed kick that was not wasabi.

"Koreatowns" or "Little Seouls" pop up in many big cities around the world offering native Koreans and curious locals the opportunity to eat Korean food and drink. Korean food is not as popular worldwide as many other Asian cuisines, although it could (should) be, so Koreatowns are bastions of Korean BBQ, soju, and kimchi based dishes. A native Korean walking around one of little neighborhoods must feel the same

comfort that westerners feel letting loose in a western owned bar or restaurant in Asia. The ability to talk to anyone in your native tongue slipping in slang without worrying about if all parties involved catch your cultural references is comforting. Shooting soju and flipping pork belly on a hot grill must be the equivalent to whenever I am able to order cider that isn't brewed in Japan or devour a hamburger that does not feel too tainted by my current geographic location. The Koreatown in Osaka is a nice little reminder of the Osaka's diversity, and a visit to Koreatown for some strolling and a delicious meal make for an excellent afternoon or evening endeavor any day of the week.

*Bender*

Bender is a first year ALT who recently relocated from the home of country music to the countryside of Japan. On weekdays, you can find him roaming the rice fields of Inagawa thinking of ways to tinker his teaching. When he isn't working, he enjoys watching hockey and baseball, playing fantasy football, and trying different kinds of Japanese foods.





# Big in Japan: 2014 Hyogo & Kansai Bodybuilding Competition

Extremely tanned skin, bright white smiles, and a flawless choreographed routine; it's not a child's beauty pageant straight out of Little Miss Sunshine that I'm describing, although you would be forgiven for the confusion. In fact, I'm talking about something that resides on the other end of the physical appearance contest-spectrum, something that shares the same extreme, bordering fanatic, dedication as other beauty competitions, and something I never expected to see here in Japan: the 2014 Mr. Hyogo and Mr./Ms. Kansai Bodybuilding Competition. That's right, in the country whose serving sizes are suitable only for the childrens' menu back home and where rice (a carbohydrate!) is an integral part of the diet, bodybuilding is alive and well.

Alive and well, but also discreet. Often only those



who compete or who know someone that competes know when and where competitions are held. Unlike the fanfare that surrounds these events in other nations, this Hyogo-Kansai event was quite different. If you are familiar with American competitions like Olympia and the Arnold Classic, you know that exhibitions are a major part of the event. Prior to the actual performances there is a buzz of excitement throughout an expo where average Joes walk through rows and rows of booths talking to toned models in bikinis along with jacked, often shirtless men who

promote their organization's supplements or equipment, telling you that the secret to looking like them is in this bottle or using that accessory. Then you are seated in an arena or stadium packed with your typical gym enthusiasts and others looking for a spectacle where you watch as scantily-clad, steroid-infused men and women pose and pop their muscles for judges who somehow rate tiny nuances in muscle size and definition and declare a winner.

Unfortunately, Kobe, its government and its citizens, does not seem interested in hosting a large promotional event like Olympia, at least not yet. This is apparent by the location of this year's competition held on Sunday, September 7 on the ninth floor of Hyogo Kenmin Kaikan Hall, a building some may recognize as an occasional meeting place between JETs and the Hyogo Board of Education. Getting off the elevator one couldn't help but notice an absence of glamour as men in sweats and sweatshirts stretched in the stairwells doing their best to lose those last ounces of water weight and others sat in a suitcase-filled room listening to music or sharing best practices with one another demonstrating by curling invisible dumbbells through the air. Upon entering the auditorium – not a stadium, not an arena, but something more suitable for a speech contest – you're blasted with



electronic dance versions of Kesha and Katie Perry (although Rage Against the Machine's "Killing in the Name of" also eventually played). Inside the crowd was unique and varied. Larger men wistfully looked up at the stage hoping to one day compete, or perhaps remembering their own glory days, friends and middle-aged wives smartly dressed and shouting words of encouragement to their partners on stage, and then the few photographers and writers scribbling notes on the happenings of this exclusive group.



That day there were actually a number of competitions held. The two biggest were for the title of Mr. Hyogo and Mr. Kansai, but within each, as with most events that deal with body size, men were separated by age and weight class. Most surprising were the four men from the 70 and older age group who gave me hope for a future without a walker and loose skin. Four women also competed for a chance to be crowned Ms. Kansai. The event was long and sometimes tedious with the novelty running off rather quickly. Competitors lined up on stage, everyone limited to shallow breathes as they tried to keep their bodies flexed, waiting for the judges to call them to the front. When called three to four participants were asked to pose in different ways to accentuate certain muscle groups. The



order often went chest, biceps, triceps with shoulders, abdominals together with thighs, and back with hamstrings and calves. After the group stage some were eliminated, those who remained performed one-minute solo poses set to a song. Songs ranged from opera ballads to the Hanshin Tigers theme song. This solo round was followed by another group comparison before the winners were announced. Certificates were given to everyone who advanced and medals to those who came in first, second and third. I don't claim to be an expert, but this competition also differed from those in other countries in that it appeared to be steroid free. No one was particularly enormous like competitors in the States who fill their audience with a sense of awe and nausea. Rather, it appears many got in incredible shape by simply directing their Japanese work-ethic to dieting and training.

Although still far from having the same popularity as Sumo wrestling, the current bodybuilding community appears to be committed to competing for years and years to come. It may never share the spotlight with Sumo, but it should still come as no surprise that some Japanese are taking a different (and better looking) route to become big in Japan.

Sean Mulvihill



# "Excuse Me Ma'am-Sir:" The Philippines

The Philippines has had a tumultuous history, rarely having its own sovereignty. It has been ruled by Spain, Japan, and America. Spanish and American influences are prevalent. Many Spanish phrases are used alongside Tagalog, the indigenous language, and English education begins in the first grade. The predominant religion is Catholicism, first brought over by the Spanish. Growth has been stunted due in large part to these factors, but a trip is still worthwhile—so long as you visit during the dry season or are prepared to miss some opportunities because of the rain.



## Getting There and Around

Our group of seven took a JetStar flight to and from Manila. Seats are cramped and weight restrictions are stringent, but I felt this was tolerable given the low price we paid. We then took Air Asia Zest flights between Manila and Puerto Princesa. There was more leg room on these planes, which was much appreciated.

During our short stay in Manila, we used a large van (a necessity given our large numbers and accompanying baggage) to and from the airport and a shady van/taxi (which we'd said we'd never take) to the Mall of Asia. The fare was extremely affordable there and merely affordable returning to our hostel.

We took a private, air-conditioned van between Puerto Princesa and El Nido. It is a much better way to travel than the bus according to our friends we made in El Nido.

For shorter distances in town, we took tricycles cabs. These are basically motorcycles with a metal sitting cage

attached. Although small to begin with, the backwards seat is rather uncomfortable for people taller than 5'3"/160 cm. Also beware of scams. There was an incident where our driver "waited" for 2 hours and charged us an exorbitant fee.

## Where to Stay

In Manila, we stayed at the Manila International Youth Hostel. We were greeted by a friendly procession of two cockroaches, which were squashed upon sight beneath a shoe. The beds were not especially comfortable and the bathrooms were questionable, but for the price, proximity, and duration of our stay, it was acceptable.

Hakuna Matata, our hostel in El Nido, was run by a friendly man named Ace. He was helpful and booked tours for us. We also met interesting fellow travelers. The location was relatively convenient. On the downside, mornings found us with mysterious bites, presumably from small ants in our mattresses, the second floor lounge was directly over the bathrooms, lending an unpleasant odor to our conversations, and the rooms had open spaces at the top of the outer wall, admitting a host of mosquitoes and other insects. The final destination, Sheebang, was by far the cleanest and most aesthetically pleasing of our accommodations. The entire property was gated off, but there were no keys for rooms, and lockers didn't come with locks. The location was out of the way, with little to see in walking distance. There was also a new restaurant with decent food, but with too many choices and poor management. It took an absurdly long amount of time for dishes to reach diners and cooks refused to work without Judy, the owner, present.



## What to Do

We only had time for Mall of Asia in Manila. It was exciting to see so many familiar brands (especially for those of us needing a dose of home) and to people watch. There was also a small marching ensemble, decked out with lights, performing pop music on the first floor. This was especially thrilling for me as marching band was a huge part of my teenage years.



There are many island hopping tours in El Nido, with Tour C being universally recognized as the best one. Unfortunately for us, the rain allowed us few experiences. But at least we had Tour A. We went to four of the five possible locations and snorkeled, seeing many awesome fish and a lot of (dead) coral. A small recommendation: Don't play soccer/football with the coral, especially not when it begins to storm. Your foot will not appreciate it. To fill our remaining days, we got massages, went to Las Cabanas (the mud on our route from the tricycle drop off point to the beach was pretty gross, but the beauty of the shore was worth it), and hung out with each other and our fellow hostel dwellers. The food was largely unimpressive, but there were three places with delicious fare. These were Trattoria Altrové, a Mexican restaurant, and V and V Bagels.

The Underground River outside of Puerto Princesa is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, as well as one of the New Seven Wonders of the World. The tour was fun and included an opportunity to eat wood worm (a worm-shaped mollusk that we all declined), but I wish we could have seen more of the caves. If there had been more time, I'd have liked to boat down its entire length. Later on the same day, we went on a firefly watching tour with a seafood buffet. The food was



good, but the fireflies just looked like Christmas lights strung up in random trees.

Our last day was largely taken up by the Honda Bay island hopping tour, which was beautiful.

## Last Minute Points

>> Mosquitoes carry malaria, dengue fever, and all sorts of nasty diseases. Make sure you bring strong insect repellent, such as DEET.

>> Bathrooms aren't usually equipped with toilet paper or soap. Bring your own. You'll go through a lot of soap.

>> The conversion rate in Puerto Princesa was much better than at KIX.

>> Most places can't (or won't) break 500 or 1000 peso bills.

>> English education is very good, so you shouldn't have any problems communicating.

>> You will be addressed as "ma'am" or "sir."

>> Tipping is not expected.

>> Keep enough money for departure taxes.

Were I to go on this trip again, I would wait for the dry season. We still made many fun memories and friends, however, so the benefits definitely outweighed the costs.

Brittany Teodorski



Photos courtesy of Jenny Lam



# Music Mountain

## Mocha Kilimanjaro -

### The New Face of an Old Sound

Some say funk is dead, but honey, I beg to differ. Starting back in 2003 Mountain Mocha Kilimanjaro, a six man Japanese whirlwind of classic funk and ska, has been taking the world by storm.

To give you the gist of their sound, you've got Naohito "Temjin" Yomoda on trumpet, Takeshi Kurihara with the tenor sax, Naokazu "Bobsan" Kobayashi playing guitar, Yuki "MZ0" Mizoguchi slamming it on the funky organ, Jun Nihongi on bass and Satoshi "Tiger" Okano bringing it all together on drums.



I first stumbled upon these fantastic lads from the land of the rising sun and their unique sound in a rather unlikely place - Woodford Folk Festival 2012/13, in a field, two hours' drive from Brisbane, Australia while surrounded by hippies at midnight on the cusp of the New Year.

Now let me tell you, this band was so upbeat they had us dancing in the aisles and on our seats and smiling all the while. I've never really encountered

their particular brand of funk. It's got a little something extra that only that Japanese humor can give.

Their enthusiasm is infectious and their joyous nature tangible, with a stage presence that just draws you in. Never will you find a soul touched by boredom at a Mountain Mocha Kilimanjaro concert.

For all their antics and calamity these guys have real talent with five albums to back their claim to fame. These include the self-titled Mountain Mocha Kilimanjaro which contains the iconic track "Baggy Pants," 温故知新 (a cover album), Uhuru Peak, their fourth and my personal favorite album Perfect Times and their brand new album 壱式参四伍録. All of which can be downloaded from iTunes or Amazon.

So if you want to find out more about these Japanese funky cool cats check out their website <<<http://kilimanjaro.jp/>>> and get ready for a reinvigoration of a classic genre. I promise you won't be disappointed.

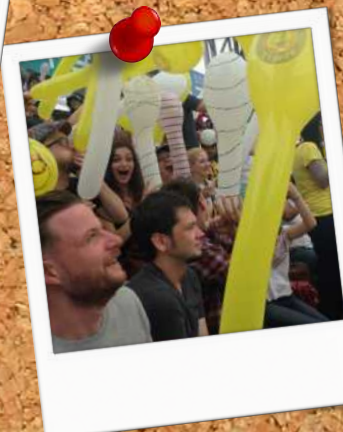
Rackle Beaman

Rackle is a first year ALT that can be found wandering the streets of Akashi in Hyogo Prefecture like the directionless vagabond she is. When not hunting for new and exciting adventures she can be found hiding at her desk trying to cram in a few extra pages of her book before her next class starts. She has yet to master Twitter, but she does have a moderate addiction to Facebook so that's where you'll be most likely to find her lurking under her professional name Rachel Beaman.

Photo courtesy of David Burke

## HJET + Tigers

>> Saturday, September 20th - HAJET helped cheer the Hanshin Tigers on to a victory against the Chunichi Dragons. Join us next time!





# Clap Your Hands Say Yeah + Her Name in Blood

If you live in or near Kobe you recognize that there are many amenities the city provides that are harder to find in other parts of Hyogo. Simply put, we have a Costco! ALTs know just how lucky they are to be in such a great location, this is especially true for those who are avid concertgoers. Although to be fair, Kobe is lucky in part due to its neighbor Osaka, a primary stop for many bands touring in Japan. This September two amazing bands with drastically different styles made their way through the Kansai area and graced fans with outstanding performances.

**Clap Your Hands Say Yeah**, led by front man Alec Ounsworth, played Monday, September 8 at **Club Quattro Umeda**, a ten minute walk from Osaka JR. Club Quattro Umeda is a small venue that tends to change its floor set-up depending on the band playing. During CYHSY, tall tables for drinks were scattered around the floor for those standing while others decided to watch the show in one of the few rows of stadium seats provided. There is a bar outside the viewing area as well, though the drinks tend to be overpriced for their size.



Ounsworth, who is just as comfortable touring with a band as he is playing solo, sings with a nasally voice (although I'm sure there's some throat technique going on there) that is almost impossible to sing along with. A fact he even joked about after playing "Satan Said Dance," one of the very few songs with a hook that involves the audience, saying afterward, "Well that's pretty much it for that." His voice for many is an acquired taste, but the last few albums are a little easier to digest since they have a lower, slightly darker and moodier tone both vocally and instrumentally than what frequently appears on their

first self-titled album. Though not always the case, this night Ounsworth was supported by a bassist, drummer, and additional guitarist and synthesizer for the majority of the songs. He did perform solo for one song during the set and for half of the encore.



As for the set-list, Ounsworth with his infamous hat performed songs from all of CYHSY's albums, many from their self-titled and a surprising amount from the upcoming fourth album *Only Run*. The experience at Club Quattro was very intimate; something Ounsworth has admitted he likes (currently while on tour he is doing additional living room performances). He frequently engaged the audience with lighthearted conversation noting the Japanese preference for quiet during song transitions. This can be awkward for many westerners used to constant chit-chat or shouting, but he thought it was polite. He also stayed afterward to talk with the fans and sign their merchandise. Starting a little after 6:00p.m. and ending at around 8:45p.m., most fans were happy to have seen a strong performance and still get home for their normal weekday bedtime.



If you read last month's **preview** for **Her Name in Blood**, you know that they don't sound anything like CYHSY. This hardcore Japanese band whose lead singer, Ikepy, uses a low guttural scream performed at **Club DROP** in Shinsaibashi on Saturday, September 20. A benefit of seeing Japanese bands as opposed to foreign ones is found in the ticket price. Clap Your Hands Say Yeah was a hesitant 6000円, whereas HNIB was a thoughtless 2500円. However, both venues snuck in a 500円 - 600円 drink charge and although usually an alcohol buyer at shows, there is something annoying about having one forced on you. Club DROP was your average music venue with standing-only floor space and a bar outside the viewing area.



Unlike CYHSY, I can't speak to HNIB's set-list since songs defined by screaming are nearly unrecognizable in any language, but the atmosphere was a refreshing blast from the past. HNIB is the first show I've seen in Japan with an actual pit and the first time I've seen people actually using said pit. Perhaps as a result of the B.Y.O.B. Hanshin Tigers game and the forced drink on arrival, most, if not all, remnants of a respectable ALT quickly succumbed to angst typical of a 16 year old, as I joined other fans in their intense back-and-forth head-banging. HNIB played their usual fast-paced rhythms broken up with numerous breakdowns. Those who are unfamiliar with the breakdown should know that it creates performance opportunities as good as the one occurring on stage. When individuals stopped circling the pit during the breakdowns, they left the opportunity open for the few fans wanting to showcase their favorite hardcore "dance." Many went with your standard **two-step** while



others chose the **windmill** or **gorilla** (sometimes called pick-up change). One person even decided to show off his break dancing skills by spinning on his head at different times before the songs' pace picked up again. The energy was contagious with a mood opposite from the one experienced with CYHSY, but both provided an intimate affair and rewarding experience.

Another great thing about both shows was the chance to hear about upcoming concerts in the area. Osaka is flooded with venues, large and small, that have bands playing weekly. Granted I don't know many of them, but like most activities in Japan, it's an opportunity to try something new. If you go looking for the music you like, you'll surely find it. Meanwhile keep an eye out on more previews and reviews here in the Hyogo Times.

Sean Mulvihill





listen  
to this

# When It Hits: 5 Albums You Should Listen to This Month

Although the Hyogo Times may have satiated your intellectual and visual cravings with literary and film recommendations, we haven't forgotten about your auditory needs. In his song "Trenchtown Rock," Bob Marley sings, "One good thing about music, when it hits you, you feel no pain." However, to suggest that listening to music is merely painless would deny a mental and emotional elation that also accompanies the experience. Music reaches us at a personal level, expressing what is not easily conveyed through normal dialogue. This month we give you 5 albums from a variety of genres for you to fill both the tiny holes on the side of your head and your heart with.

*1989 by Taylor Swift* (album release October 27)



2014 seems to be a year of matured album releases. The musicians listed here whose 4th, 5th, and even 9th studio albums are being released do not show the amateur or nervous tendencies that you find in many debut albums. These albums reflect an artist's or band's confidence, a mastery of their style, and a willingness to try something new. Taylor Swift's 1989 does just that. Swift announced early this year that she would take a step away from her country roots for this album and with her single "Shake It Off" it appears she is doing so boldly. However, fans eager to hear what else is in store will have to wait until the end of the month for the CD's release. Even if you are not the biggest pop or country fan, T. Swift's enormous popularity here in Japan provides a great opportunity to connect with your students while further introducing them to foreign culture.

*Everything Will Be Alright in the End by Weezer* (album release October 7)



While listening to the podcast All Songs Considered on NPR in August, which I highly recommend to any music enthusiast, producer and host Robin Hilton offered an interesting and eye-opening opinion about early Weezer fans. Hilton said that something often happens to fans of artists who have been around for 10 or more years, where the early ones fall away, become nostalgic and to accept that anything after the first few records is worth listening to. Even "Back to the Shack," a single from the new album, shares some of the band's own desires to get back to a more familiar time. Feeling ashamed that I was indeed one of those fans who like Hilton said, "Put[is] The Blue Album on a pedestal," I've spent the last month listening to all those albums I deemed unworthy and in the process rediscovered why I became a Weezer fan in the first place. Yes, I still hold their first albums in high regard, but something great can be found in all their works and I am genuinely excited for this new album. It also helps that Ric Ocasek, guitarist for The Cars and producer of both The Blue Album and The Green Album is once again lending his production skills for the project. So put your wariness aside and rest assure that even after 20 years Weezer can still deliver to old and new fans alike.

*Listen by The Kooks*

Although Listen, The Kooks 4th studio album, was released in early September, you should make it a priority to listen to the album since they will be touring Japan later this month. For fans



of Britpop rock looking for something in between the Arctic Monkeys and The 1975, The Kooks' newest album is for you. The album contains moments of slow gospel choir in "See Me Now," latin-like rhythms in "Dream" and "Sunrise," and British-invasion influence found in "It Was London." Similar to their previous albums, The Kooks are not afraid to slow it down (this is especially apparent from their tendency to play acoustic and the last four songs on the CD's deluxe edition), and yet, those looking for a faster pace found in previous singles like "Naïve" will also be pleased.

*Rhapsody in Beauty by The Novembers* (album release October 15)

If you are interested in expanding your musical taste to include more Japanese artists look no further than The Novembers. They list a number of their influences on their website, which include The Smiths, Joy Division, and Arcade Fire, lending to an often soft sometimes dark yearning tone that often slowly builds to a static instrumental bombardment throughout their tracks. Although absent from the list I couldn't help, but be reminded of My Bloody Valentine and Smashing Pumpkins at certain moments throughout their songs as well. Releasing their 5th album Rhapsody in Beauty later this month, this four piece band will also start their Romance tour two days after the album release in Nagoya. You can catch them in Osaka at the Music Club Janus on Sunday, October 19.

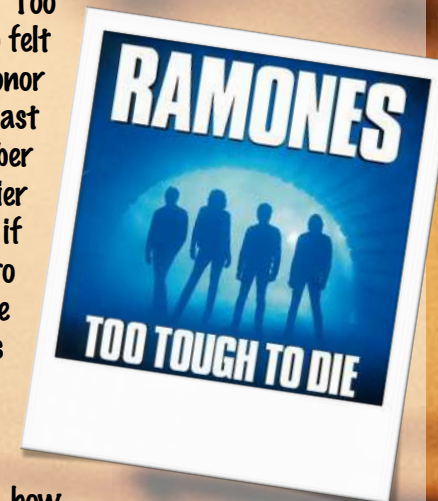


*Too Tough to Die by the Ramones* (album release October 1, 1984)

It's impossible to do an album recommendation list without sneaking in at least one that is celebrating an anniversary. This month marks the

20th anniversary of Too Tough to Die, and it also felt appropriate to honor Tommy Ramone, the last original Ramones member who passed away earlier this year in July. Even if you've never listened to the Ramones, their name and influence has permeated throughout popular culture. Punk rock enthusiasts know just how

instrumental they were in advancing the popularity of the genre. The album itself, their 8th studio production, which Tommy helped produce, is often celebrated as a return to their roots whereas previous albums had strayed more into pop. Songs like their instrumental "Durango 95" that leads straight into "Wart Hog" and followed by "Vanger Zone" are a punk's dream of fast head-banging with the latter two being lyrically repetitive, but in a way that adds rhythmically to the beats. One could also argue that The Ramones' "Vanger Zone" is much more suitable for a movie like Top Gun than the version Kenny Loggins released two years later. With 1984 being the year of Big Brother a number of songs tend to address societal concerns, but a number of tracks also shine a positive light on living even when things aren't so bright, like "Chasing the Night" and "I'm Not Afraid to Die." So although we similarly face a number of pressing issues around the globe, live your life as you choose, you paid the price, paid your dues it's what this album recommends and how the original members of The Ramones surely lived.



Sean Mulvihill



# Cloudy with a Chance of Violence: Protests in Hong Kong

This month we're branching out from the usual coverage of Japanese current events and taking a look at our neighbors in China (expect to see more updates about regional news in future issues).



As many of you are well aware, Hong Kong's commercial district has been flooded with protestors, the majority being students, since the **September 26** weekend in what's being dubbed the Umbrella Revolution. However, the reasons for the protests and Hong Kong's overall status might still be unclear or confusing to some. A quick history lesson: Hong Kong, also known as the Hong Kong Special Administrative District, was once a British colony, but returned to Chinese sovereignty in 1997. In 1988, a committee of both Hong Kong and Mainland residents drafted the **Basic Law**, which was adopted formally in 1990. The Basic Law can be viewed as a constitution of sorts, guaranteeing certain rights and freedoms – equality

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before the law, speech and press, privacy, etc. – to permanent residents of Hong Kong. This document is meant to remain in place 50 years after the end of colonial rule, until 2047.

However, the policy of “one country, two systems” has had its contentious points. One of the biggest and the one suggested as cause behind the current protest is how **Hong Kong's chief executive is chosen**. Currently, the decision is made by an election committee of 1,200 individuals from a number of backgrounds, but largely Beijing loyalists. The chief executive is chosen by winning a simple majority from the committee. Yet, the National People's Congress (the national, not Hong Kong, legislature) **decided** at the end of 2007 – a year marking the 10th anniversary of Hong Kong's return and a year filled with its own **protests** – to allow the chief executive to be chosen by a popular vote... in 2017.



Then earlier this year came the news that China's national legislature was going to release specifics for the

chief executive elections. Rallies, held by many of the same people protesting now, urged the national legislature to allow universal suffrage for Hong Kong residents. Pleas were only partially met when the Chinese government released its decision on **August 31**. Yes, Hong Kong residents could vote for a chief executive, but only once candidates for chief executive were decided by a nominating committee. Essentially the current election committee, changed to a nominating committee, would vet possible candidates and only those candidates who received approval from the majority of the committee could appear on the ballot. Thus, protests have erupted these past few weeks because Hong Kong residents view this an attempt by the National government to keep the chief executive as someone who maintains mainland interests over Hong Kong's.

Whether or not the protests will be successful is far from certain. Many have criticized the movement as being **leaderless** while others speak of the apparent generational divide. Protests continued as ceremonies were held on **October 1**, China's National Day, a celebration of China's revolution 65 years ago. Many who are pushing for greater democracy faced those who continue to want closer ties to Mainland China, both sides accosting one another for their beliefs and actions. Even support from other democratic nations beyond soft verbal responses is uncertain. It doesn't seem like many countries



are ready to throw their weight behind the protestors like they did in Ukraine, perhaps due to the potentially crippling economic costs involved. China's foreign minister Wang Yi has also explicitly **said** that this is an internal affair and other countries must not interfere. At the time of this article, protestors are also **threatening** to take over government buildings if the current chief executive, Leung Chun-ying, does not resign. If that happens one can only assume an increase in tension and hostilities will occur, with violence resulting. With Tiananmen in the back of everyone's mind, most would rather see a peaceful solution to this situation.

Sean Mulvihill

Images courtesy of Flickr commons

<< iafos >> << Pasu Au Yeung >> << Leung Ching Yau Alex >>



# All the Light We Cannot See - Anthony Doerr



For the first book club of the new JET year, fourteen ALTs found themselves gathering at Tits Park fooled by the weather, wearing

layers meant for the previous day's chill. While waiting for everyone to arrive we made our introductions, some for the second and third time, and were also graced with the presence of an Awaji ALT, not actually going to the meeting but simply recovering from the night before and three Japanese males freestylin'. Once gathered the group made its way toward what many would consider a hipster part of town between Sannomiya and Motomachi. It is a prime location for any meeting with pedestrian streets surrounded by unique clothing stores, cafés, and restaurants.

Arriving at Bambino Kobe Coffee on a third floor, we entered into a



cabin themed café decorated with wood tables, counters and images reminiscent of Bambi. It's a cozy atmosphere where guests have the option of sitting at tables or on comfortable couches. Our host, Mr. Shinohara Tomoyuki, already had water waiting at our tables and after looking over the menu many of us ordered food and drinks before diving into the conversation. The lunch menu included salad and a number of pastas, including your usual spaghetti with tomato sauce, but with an option to put a cheese omelet on top. Others opted for the breakfast-dessert fusion choosing French toast or waffles topped with a healthy serving of cream.

As the food was being prepared and trickled out, conversation about the book started. Most had a positive opinion about All

the Light We Cannot See, a historical fiction following the lives of a blind French girl, Marie-Laure, and a young German boy named Werner



during World War II, and praised the short chapters that allowed them to read at a quick pace. Though a compelling story, some did suggest author Anthony Doerr created an unnecessary amount of sadness that added nothing to the plot.

However, the reality of war and World War II specifically is tremendously sad and horrific something even this novel cannot fully express and is only known by those who experienced the brutality firsthand. Participants also discussed radio's role in the Nazi's rise to power, noting similarities and differences between today's technological advances and their societal effects.

Similar to past book clubs, as the conversation wrapped up JETs took the time to share how their time on the program was going. It's always refreshing to see and talk with people that rarely get the chance to spend time together. Lastly, we voted on our new book and date for the next meeting. Join us next time as we discuss South



African author Lauren Beukes's The Shining Girls. A time-traveling thriller similar to Looper, in which Harper Curtis finds a house that allows him to travel through time, but only if he continues to kill "the shining girls." Hunting down these girls mercilessly, he believes he is unstoppable,



that is until one of his victims survives. If you are interested please RSVP to the event on the Facebook page [here](#). One last incentive (as if you need another) is the possibility to catch a movie after the meeting, something I'm sure the six individuals who watched Guardians of the Galaxy after the first discussion are hoping to make a post-book club tradition.

Sean Mulvihill



# The Durants

This is a continuation of "The Durants" from Hyogo Times August 2014 issue

III. With a huff, Dr. Carlton dragged his last piece of equipment into the Durants' home, the aroma of burnt lizard wafting through. He looked sadly from Gaia, rocking herself, to Brion, trying desperately to reach her, to their child, still struggling to remain alive. Its body temperature was not high enough, so the doctor had ordered Brion, with his perpetually blazing skin, to hold the newborn at all times. This proved increasingly more difficult as Dr. Carlton stuffed tubes down its trachea to facilitate breathing and started an IV for nutrients. Along with all of his supplies, the doctor was moving in with the family. Though he felt guilty, he welcomed the respite from the volcano's victims.

Over the next several weeks, word spread quietly through Hyra that Gaia's child had been born when the Great Inner Basin Eruption began. This earned the baby the title of Harbinger. Dr. Carlton was hesitant to inform the couple of this development. He could feel the judging stares of the other residents whenever he went into town to treat his patients. Thankfully, no one had yet told Officer Zoran about the Durants' whereabouts, despite the superstition-fueled hostility toward their child.

Returning home from his rounds was exhausting. The townsfolk besieged him with laundry lists of symptoms while Gaia continued to withdraw inward. Dr. Carlton could hear her crying through the walls when she thought she was alone. She never looked at the baby and rarely finished her meals. The doctor confided his concerns in Brion, who nodded knowingly.

One night, Brion couldn't take it anymore. He turned to his wife and hugged his kid into his core. "Gaia, you need to eat and keep your strength up. Our child can't survive

on medicine alone."

The girl looked up from her plate slowly, dark circles under her blood-shot eyes. She continued to draw spirals in her dinner. Brion felt as if he was looking at a ghost, a mere shadow of his beloved wife. He felt his temper start to boil as the silence stretched on. "Gaia, please, we need your help. I can't do this without you." Brion clenched his teeth, close to bursting as she continued to stare at him detachedly. "What can I do to get through to you?!" He screamed, squishing the child.

"Brion, the baby...." Dr. Carlton warned.

Immediately, the red faded from Brion's face as he looked to his squirming newborn.

"I'm sorry, little one. Daddy's not trying to hurt you. I'm sorry," he cooed gently.

"If you're done fawning over that thing, I'll be heading to bed now," Gaia hissed, her husband's tenderness setting her on edge. She forced herself to her feet, and ran to the bedroom before either of them could respond, slamming the door behind her.

Brion gave the doctor a side-glance while Dr. Carlton sighed and pinched his brow.

"Maybe visitors would help her recover," the young father suggested hopefully. "We could see if the Sullivans are interested in having dinner sometime."

"I'll go call Drake..." the doctor trailed off as they heard sobs coming from the bedroom.

Many weeks later, Brion opened their door to admit Drake and little Oscar. "Hey there Brion. How's the missus?"

"Not too great. We're hoping you guys will lift her

spirits." Brion replied as he closed the door softly behind them, all the while holding his baby. As of a week ago, Dr. Carlton had decided the extra medicine was no longer necessary.

"Still no cryin'?"

"Nah. Getting stronger every day, but haven't seen or heard any tears yet."

"Well, you're worried now, but you'll be dreamin' of this time soon enough. My man Oscar here cried every night until he was two!" Drake ruffled his son's hair affectionately. "I can't believe he's already four!"

"Time sure does fly, doesn't it? I can't believe it's already been six months since my little one was born. We never thought...Well, anyway, I'm glad things have mostly worked themselves out. The skin's less transparent now, look!" Brion shoved his smiling, flailing child into Drake's arms.

"Daddy, where's Guy?" Oscar tugged at his father's sleeve. Drake peered questioningly toward Brion.

"Here, let's go see what's she's doing." Brion took Oscar's hand and led them to Gaia.

Her bistr hair was ratted and tangled, her eyes sunken. She sat staring into oblivion.

Oscar ran to her and patted her on the shoulder "Guy! Come play with me!" he shouted excitedly.

Gaia's only response was to shrug his tiny hand off and turn away. Tears started to fill the boy's eyes. "Oscar, my man, com'ere," Drake soothed, offering a hug to his spurned son as he handed the six-month-old back to its father. He embraced him tightly as wailing filled the room.

It was the Durants' child, lifting its voice for the first

time. Everyone in the room, even Gaia, stared in shock as the infant cried fiercely against Brion.

Moments later, an explosion boomed throughout the small home. Cackling joined the baby's wailing. "You thought you could hide from me? Brion, I'm disappointed. Your father would never let you leave home for long." Zoran's gravelly voice wafted through the smoke. "You and the girl come out slowly and the doctor here won't have to lose his head." Dr. Carlton's form appeared as the air cleared.

Wild-eyed, Brion pushed their infant into Gaia's hands, pushed a finger to his lips and snatched the sword from their mantle. Drake and Oscar backed into a corner as the golden haired boy walked out of their home, concealing his weapon behind him.

Gaia, hyperventilating, stole into the bedroom. This was the first time she'd held her infant. Tears began streaming down her face, panic, shame, guilt, and disgrace weighing her down. A scream and the smell of blood pierced the air. She hugged her child to her. "Hush now, Bionca. Momma's here now. Momma's here...." Her grip tightened as their cries mixed with the sounds of battle.

Brittany Teodorski



calendar

october

Outside Hyogo	Awaji	Hanshin	Kobe
AJET Events	Tajima	Tamba	Harima

monday		tuesday		wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday	sunday
all month	● Setouchi Shimanowa (Hiroshima-ken+Ehime-ken)		1	2	3	4	5	
	THE COLLECTION	Hop On, Hop Off Bus	Himeji-jo Boat Tour					
	Kinoshita Circus	Otomate x Osamu Tezuka Exhibition						
	Trout Fishing in Arima Hot Springs							
6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
					Tamba Sasayama Food Festival			
					India Mela 2014			
					HA-JET Shikoku Rafting (Yoshino River, Shikoku)			
Trout Fishing in Arima Hot Springs								
13 休み: Health & Sports Day	14	15	16	17	18	19		
India Mela 2014		Ako Antique Market				Akenobe 1-yen Railway Ride		
Tamba Sasayama Food Festival	Nada Fighting Festival (Kenka Maturi)			Kiyomizu-yaki Danchi Pottery Festival in Yamashina (Kyoto)				
Trout Fishing in Arima Hot Springs		Art collection: II Visual Deception II Into the Future						
20	21	22	23	24	25	26		
		Jidai Matsuri (Kyoto)		HA-JET SDC Enkai	Minatogawa Craft Market			
		Kurama no Hi Matsuri (Kyoto)	JET Skills & Development Conference (Awaji)		Block 6 Halloween (Kyoto)			
Art collection: II Visual Deception II Into the Future								
27	28	29	30	31 Halloween				
Art collection: II Visual Deception II Into the Future								





Sea you next month...