

"We have the courage to make mistakes."



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CAMPUS LIFE PG. 2



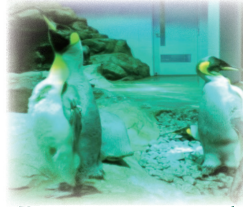
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University of Shimane Students Protect Hamada's Rice Fields

The students of the University of Shimane worked at a terrace field on October 18, 2008.

By Shota Ohara

STUDENTS belonging to Inoue Seminar and Hayashi Seminar of the University of Shimane study the agriculture of the Iwami Region.

In the Murodani Area of Misumi Town in Hamada City, there are famous terrace fields chosen as one of the best one hundred famous views of terrace fields in Japan.

The students' activity in the terrace field started about seven years ago, and graduates of the University of Shimane also work to protect the terrace fields. There are sophomores and seniors who are engaged in the preservation of the landscape. The total number of students is 60.

The sophomores of Inoue Seminar and Hayashi Seminar harvested rice and threshed on October 18. They used not only sickles but also a harvesting machine.

The students will make sake out of the rice they harvested by themselves. They plan to go to a brewing factory in Yamaguchi Prefecture next January.

This activity is published in following HP.

<http://www.u-shimane.ac.jp/t/a-inoue>



PHOTOGRAPHER: SHOHEI YAMADA

RESCUE TRAINING STARTS AGAIN AFTER 8 YEARS

A rescue training session was held at the University of Shimane for the first time in eight years on November 17, 2008.

By Miho Ikeda

RESCUE training is to practice how to run away to a safe place quickly at the same time in a large group of people when a natural disaster occurs suddenly; for example, an earthquake or fire.

The University of Shimane has not held the rescue training for 8 years, because of a lack of time to carry it out, although such training is mandatory.

That time, all students and teachers and office workers who were at school, were required to participate in the rescue training. That theme was "If an earthquake happened suddenly in Hamada during lecture time, what should you do?"

The campus broadcasting informed people who were in the buildings of an earthquake. Second, the campus broadcasting announced that everyone should get under their desk to

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LEARN TO KNOW YOURSELF

Cultural critic Jin Jung-Gwon, a professor in Chung-Ang University, delivered a lecture on November 28 at the University of Ulsan.

By Midam Moon

THERE was a large attendance at the lecture. Jin Jung-Gwon is famous for a spiteful tongue. He is a critical of the government, social and political issues. His word would always create sensations. Professor Jin also wrote many books and he is member of the New Progressive Party. This lecture was held under the auspices of the New Progressive Party.

His topic was "Know yourself!". He said that many young people don't know themselves these days and they never think about themselves seriously. They just follow others opinion including personal craving too. Most of the youth in Korea are looking for a good job, more money, getting high marks in the TOEIC test and in their majors, hoping to have a luxury apartment and expensive automobiles and so on. However, can such things really make you happy? Are these really what you want? The answer is maybe "No." Our standards are sad. We don't do a self-examination to judge whether

we have been behaving in a way that is agreeable to our own values. We should know what our aptitudes are, and what makes us happy. He added that it is difficult to know ourselves, but it is not impossible. First of all, we must cast away prejudice around us to know ourselves. Prejudice breeds ignorance. You have to practice to view the matter from another angle. In addition, we constantly have to question ourselves. In other words, young people should learn how to respect themselves whether they are a man of high social standing or not.

Today the youth fall into utter confusion because of higher unemployment rate due to the worldwide depression. Although we are in a difficult situation, we have to cherish a hope for the future. Thanks to his lecture, we could give a thought about ourselves truly. You had to judge you at present if you want to be happy.



PHOTOGRAPHER: MIDAM MOON

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CAMPUS LIFE

STUDENT DANCE TEAM PERFORMS

A students dance team called "Ouendan" performed in front of the audience on the Athletic Meeting that took place at the University of Shimane on October 18, 2008.

By Ryosuke Nakao

THE DANCE TEAM consisted of freshmen, sophomore, junior and senior students. The total was 50 students. All of them danced "Yosakoi," which is a traditional Japanese dance and they also danced to Japanese popular music.

The freshmen students were women and their dance was very cute. The sophomore students danced to the music of "Greeeen," who is a Japanese popular artist. The junior students danced to the music of "Arashi," who is a Japanese idol group. Finally, the senior students danced to a lot of Japanese popular music.

It was a success and all of the audience was excited.

And there were a lot of events and the participant enjoyed running, hopping, and so on. There were a lot of unique events, for example, "Help me Popeye!!" It is a tug of war. First, the women did a tug of war, then the men went to the rope to help their own team.

At the end of the Athletic Meet, the sophomore students got the first prize and they got a lot of instant cup-noodles. The other participant got gifts, too, so all of them were satisfied.

A PARTY AT THE ROTARY CLUB

A students dance team called "Ouendan" performed in front of the audience on the Athletic Meeting that took place at the University of Shimane on October 18, 2008.

By Kumiko Ninomiya

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Making mochi, a traditional Japanese chewy rice cake often used for making sweets.



Many international members of the Hamada community came to the party.

PHOTOGRAPHER: Wang Yang

CIRCLE ON CAMPUS WORKS HARD TO PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT

Shimaecco works hard to create a clean and beautiful environment for all.

Article and Photography By Kaori Ishikawa

IN the University of Shimane, there is an environmental circle named "Shimaecco." The name "Shimaecco" comes from combining Shimane with ecology. The circle's students act toward environmental protection and enlightenment about environmental problems in Hamada city.

Every Thursday, they hold meetings in the cafeteria and think of some way to acquaint students or citizens of Hamada with environmental problems. Then, on other days, they pick up garbage around school or join environmental events.

Hamada city has littered streets, sidewalks, thickets and other places that are difficult to spot garbage. On the other hand, the University's garbage cans aren't categorized. So, garbage must be separated again later. Some members of Shimaecco think other students might not understand the correct classification system, or worse, others know the correct classification system but throw garbage away without thinking.

Therefore they set up a garbage station and explain how to separate trash during school festivals. This work was considered so important that it won the highest award in the class of circles. Now, maybe people will notice how to separate garbage correctly!

*ED'S NOTE: Garbage on campus is everyone's responsibility. Please do your part and help keep our campus beautiful.



There is a lot of garbage like this on campus.

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avoid something hitting their heads. However, in the classrooms, some students continued talking, and others continued studying as usual. After that they opened the windows or doors so that they made ways to run away outside of the buildings. Lastly, they were supposed to move quickly to the designated meeting place, but most of them didn't run away in a hurry.

The students and others gathered at the Community Plaza, which lies in the center of the University of Shimane. Mr. Endo, an administrative staff, was angry at their slow action. He said ironically, "If a real earthquake happens, the person who stays inside the building will be dead of fire."

In the future, the school staff of the University of Shimane are planning to carry out rescue training in case of fire.

A rescue professional from Hamada City's Rescue Squad spoke to the participants. He said there are 3 important rules. It is called "O-Ha-Shi", which means chopsticks in Japanese. It comes from head words of the three rules. First, "O" means "Osanaï" in Japanese. In English it means "don't push." Second, "Ha" means "Hashiranai" in Japanese. In English "don't run." Third, "Shi" means "Shaberanai" meaning "don't speak."

STUDENT PREPARE FOR A HAPPY WINTER

In one month, University of Shimane students will have winter vacation. One student talks about vacation plans.

By Yuri Sugiyama

THERE are a lot of things students usually do during the winter vacation for example they might spend Christmas with their families, friends, boyfriends or girlfriends. They might eat Christmas cake and a special dinner.

Every town is decorated with Christmas lights making them very beautiful. Many children believe that Santa Claus is coming and will give them presents. So, children are looking forward to Christmas.

After Christmas, New Year's Day will soon happen. University students will go back to their hometown and spend New Year's Day with their relatives.

On January 1st, it is a Japanese custom to send a special New Year's card to friends, relatives, teachers, etc. People also eat very good special Japanese food on New Year's Day, known as *Oshechiryori* and *Zouni*.

Children get some money in a small paper bag from their relatives. It is a Japanese custom, too.



SPORTS

SOFT TENNIS IS FUN!

Ms. Mizuho Yoshizawa belongs to the soft-ball tennis club, totaling 50 men and women all together.

By Mizuho Yoshizawa

THE SOFT-BALL tennis club is a very unique and interesting extra-curricular activity! The club plays tennis on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and practice to



PHOTOGRAPHER: Mizuho Yoshizawa

improve technique every day. The number of people is large compared to other extracurricular activities.

Ms. Mizuho Yoshizawa participates in a lot of rallies. There are rallies about eight times a year, but she does not participate in them all sometimes. They have not won the championship yet, but want to win the championship sooner or later. The mental aspect of playing appears to be easy. So, feelings should be kept high.

The soft-ball tennis club also includes a lot of doubles. It is impossible to play double without trusting each other. Therefore, to deepen friendships, they have parties! The parties are always happy. Therefore the soft-ball tennis club is full of friends.

THE EVIL KING, CHU SEONG-HOON, PLANS HIS NEXT MOVE

Enthusiasts of combative sport are focusing on Chu Seong-hun(33)'s next move, since his contract with K-1 Co. recently became invalide.

By Byung-sun Kim

EARLIER THIS YEAR, K-1 said that Chu Seong-hun will take part in the 'Dynamite Tournament' on December 31, but he was excluded. Since his exclusion, many people are speculating that he will choose another company.



Chu Seong-hun debuted in the tournament, called '2004:Dynamite'. He has been in 15 games for the past three years. After he had a game with Tonoka Masanori, the contract with K-1 expired.

Chu Seong-hun is expected to sign with 'Dream' or 'Sengoku', both in Japan, or join 'UFC' in America. Selecting 'Sengoku', the rival group of K-1, is very risky. Unlike 'Dream', 'Sengoku' doesn't broadcast its games on television, and the company is a bit short on sponsors.

If Chu Seong-hun moves to 'UFC' in America, he will be confronted with a number of difficulties. 'UFC' exercises its exclusive rights to a player. If Chu Seong-hun signs a contract with UFC, he will not be able to have any games in Korea and Japan nor appear in any of those country's amusement programs.

For the present, Chu Seong-hun is likely to change his position to 'Dream' but he isn't in a hurry. 'Dynamite' will be held on the 31st of December. Therefore, he will have to make his decision at the latest, in the beginning of December.

U OF SHIMANE TEAMS LOSE SOFT TENNIS TOURNAMENT

The 32nd Hamada Open Soft Tennis Tournament was held on November 2, 2008.

By Yoshihiro Fujiwara & Takashi Okamoto

THE TOURNAMENT is held once a year, and has continued for ten years. This tournament is divided into female and male divisions. The male and females are further sub-divided into adult and youth divisions to make four divisions total. 51 teams participated in this tournament.

The winner of the Boys 1st Division was "Kisankai A." Moreover, the second place was taken by "Kisankai B." All "Kisankai" members are composed of graduates of Hamada High School's tennis team. They are very strong and have been active in tournaments outside Shimane Prefecture as well.

The winner of the Boys 2nd Division was DAC. DAC is abbreviation of Deuce Again Club. The team is a club of Hamada City and is composed of people who play soft tennis in Hamada City.

"Nadeshiko" and the Hamada First Junior High School team won the championship. The members of "Nadeshiko" are graduates of Gotsu High School's tennis team. Also, students of Shimane Rehabilitation College participated as team R.S.C. and won 2nd place. In high-ranking teams, there are many experienced people and graduates of high school tennis teams. Although the tournament is not so large, teams from distant places also participated.

Three teams participated from the University of Shimane, but they fought against veteran teams and were defeated. The University of Shimane team was not well prepared for the match, because the team decided to join the tournament only 3 weeks before the tournament.

The team captain of the male University of Shimane team said that, "We ended in a painful result as a team. Both male and female University of Shimane teams are determined to work harder in the future."



PHOTOGRAPHER: Mizuho Yoshizawa

ASIA'S TWO ANGELS ON ICE

Yu-na Kim of South Korea and Mao Asada of Japan are the top figure skaters in the ladies single. They are getting excellent results in various matches because of their superior abilities.

By Won-kyung Lee

THE FIGURE SKATERS Yu-na Kim and Mao Asada are both eighteen-year-olds who represent Asia. So people consider them rivals, but they are, in fact, intimate friends. They both have won not only their junior match but also their senior match, and they have similar spin ability and can both do 'triples' (a three-spin jump). Besides this, they compete with each other for the rank of first to third.

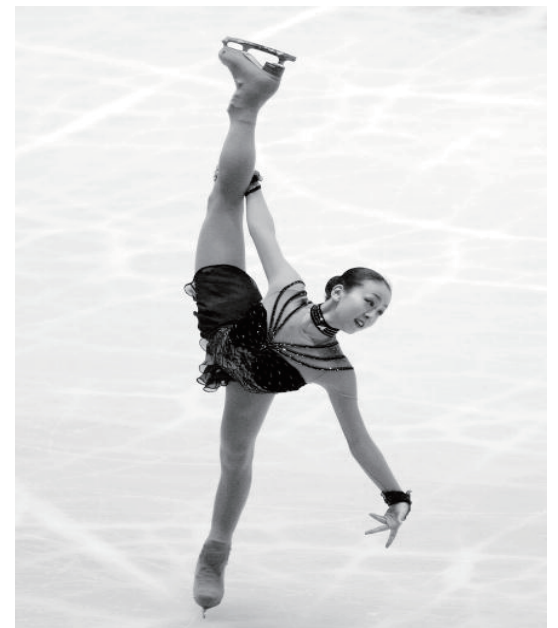
Figure skaters perform with music using the edges of skates on the cold ice in front of thousands of people. Some skaters are poor at recovering from mistakes. Therefore, if they have a problem, they may not perform to the best of their ability. Yu-na Kim keeps her composure even when she makes a mistake in a jump or if the composition of program is suddenly modified before a competition.

Though Mao Asada can sometimes be afraid of an unexpected situation, she is a superb player considering the technical side of skating. She is able to do the most difficult triple jump, the "Triple Axel" which even male figure skaters think is hard. Moreover, Mao Asada is flexible and her actions are powerful. She analyzes her weak points and learns programs through steady efforts, so she is famous for repeated practice.

Yu-na Kim understands the features of music well. Her look matches the style of the music, and the movements of her body are elegant. Her jumps and the speed of her spirals are admirable even if she doesn't attempt a Triple Axel.

Yu-na Kim and Mao Asada are capable of solving their individual defects. They are the important friends and study a good point each other now. We continually look forward to their attractive performances.

Figure skating consists of two parts. artistic expression as well as the technical part. In other words, it is a sport that is expressed by an artistic performance set to music and score is calculated on the basis of gracefulness and skating skill.



Mao Asada of Japan.



Yu-na Kim of Korea

(Images from Getty Images ©)

ARTS



VISITORS ENJOY ARTISTIC AUTUMN

An art festival was held at Hamada Sekiou Cultural Hall in Shimane Prefecture on October 25, 2008.

Article and Photography By Yasuhisa Fujii

ACCORDING to Sightseeing Department of Hamada City, this art festival's purpose is promoting Hamada's community. There are many elderly people living in Hamada, so Hamada City offers elderly people an opportunity whereby they can express themselves through art. Elderly people enjoy making artistic works or practicing dramas after their retirement. In addition, they also enjoy exchanges with other people by appreciating the works and dramas of others.

Of course young people can also enjoy exchanges with elderly people by visiting this art festival. This art festival not only promotes Hamada's community, but also interrelationships between the young and elderly.

One old man who came to the art festival said, "I belong to a bonsai club, so my bonsai is being exhibited now. I raise my bonsai throughout the year, and I am looking forward to seeing my bonsai at this art festival. After all this art festival is kind of my religion."

The exhibition division classifies each work into 7 categories – bonsai, photography, painting, calligraphy, flower arrangement, traditional Japanese dolls, and poetry. 13 citizens' groups took part in the exhibition this time.

The dramatic division classifies each performing art into 10 categories – Japanese drum, folk dance, the Hula (Hawaiian dance), *koto* (Japanese guitar), traditional Japanese dance, children's songs, *No* song (traditional Japanese song), *Kagura* (the traditional Hamadan dance), sword dance and the drama of poetry. 18 citizens' groups took part in the dramatic division. That is why visitors who visited the art festival enjoyed an especially artistic autumn.



Beautiful traditional Japanese dolls made by a citizen of Hamada City.

SANTA CLAUSE IS COMING TO JAPAN

Ms. Aoshima thinks about the meaning of Christmas in Japan.

Article and Photography By Nozomi Aoshima

Christmas is getting near. Essentially, there is no single custom to celebrate Christmas in Japan. However, it is becoming very popular to have a Christmas party with family or friends. On Christmas Day, the most popular trend is to eat fried chicken and Christmas cake. Many department stores, super markets and even convenience stores sell them, so it is easy to buy.

BIG POT FESTIVAL MAKES CITIZENS HAPPY

People gathered round a big pot at Hamada's Fishery Port on November 3, 2008.

By Yuka Ogawa & Yui Ma

THIS FESTIVAL called BB (Big Pot) Festival was held on Culture Day, which is a Japanese holiday dedicated to love, freedom, peace and the promotion of culture. Culture Day is on November 3rd every year. "BB" means "fish" in the dialect of Shimane. Many people visited there this year and 5,000 servings of soup from the big pot were distributed to citizens.

On the cold winter day, the soup warmed people's bodies and made them happy. The soup included 150 kilograms of ground fish, 40 kilograms of pork, vegetable, 30 kilograms of *nodoguro* a high-class fish, and so on. The guests could eat the soup for free, so it disappeared very quickly.

In this festival, lots of students from the University



PHOTOGRAPHER: Yuka Ogawa

of Shimane also participated as volunteers. In addition, various events such as dances by kindergartners, flea markets and *Iwami-Kagura* (folk performing arts in Shimane) were held at the festival.

At the area where many citizens had stalls, guests could eat peculiar foods of the region like *bobe* (small shellfish) rice, and *akaten* (deep fried fish sausage with red pepper). The Fishery Port of Hamada is a little far from downtown, but on this day people could use free shuttle buses.

PUPPET THEATER PERFORMED IN SHIMANE

A very unique puppet show was performed at the University of Shimane on November 2nd, 2008.

By Ryuichi Nishimoto

THIS PUPPET show was an unusual puppet show because the puppets had no voices. The theatrical company's name is "Deaf Puppet Theater Hitomi."

The theater's members include deaf people. They are a touring theatrical group, based in Kanagawa and they tour around Japan and the world.

Their motto is, "If a deaf person enjoys this theater, a person who is not deaf can enjoy us too." The actors and actresses move with exaggeration. This show had no spoken parts, so when people see the show, they must depend on their sight.

They performed a show called Boxes: Grandfather's Music Box. The theme is the importance of the family bond. People enjoy themselves when they live together rather than living alone.

The program used many boxes: Big, small, long, short, thick, and flat boxes. The boxes expressed many things: Drums, telephones, tanks, etc.

BOYS AND GIRLS DRESS-UP FOR COMING OF AGE DAY

The second Monday in January is "coming of age day" in Japan.

By Harumi Shimokawa

ON the second Monday in January, People celebrate young men and women who have turned 20. In Japan, the people who have reached the age of 20 are considered to be adults. So, they can vote and can drink alcohol. Coming of age day is an important turning point in a young person's life.

Ceremonies of celebration are held for them in every city, town and village around Japan. Youth declare that they have become adults at the ceremony. Most sophomores will participate next year.

On that day, many women wear long-sleeved kimono, called "Furisode". It is the most gorgeous form of kimono. Long-sleeved kimono are only for unmarried women.

On the other hand, men wear long pleated culotte-like Japanese trousers, called "Hakama". However, in recent years, they prefer wearing suits to wearing *hakama*.

Some people have pictures taken wearing kimono, *hakama*, or suits before the ceremony.



After the party, parents give a Christmas present to their children. Ms. Nozomi Aoshima suggests thinking about a Christmas present for your child, if you have a little child. She also recommends, if you have a little child who believes Santa Claus will come and give presents, to think about how to give your child a present secretly.

Romantic couples also give presents to each other and eat dinner together. Another popular way to spend Christmas holidays is among young people. Some girls make woolen scarves as presents for their boyfriend. Often, girls stay up late trying to make it perfect before Christmas Day arrives.

Anyway, Japanese people are now enjoying the Christmas holiday like Americans and other people around the world.

POLITICS

RUSSIAN ECONOMY IN CRISIS

Russia's dependence on oil is not good for the future of the country.

By Sofronov Timofey

LIKE any other crisis, the recent financial crunch exposed two weaknesses of the Russian and world economy. Oil prices have slumped and the disposable income of many Russians seems to be disappearing. Our government is fighting the crisis by the Stabilization Fund and the Fund of Next Generation. The situation now is better than in 1998, but the crisis has not finished yet.

There are many old economic problems in Russia. First of all our agricultural sector is an indicator of our economic weakness. Many years ago Russia exported wheat, but today Russia imports it. The second problem is a lack of contemporary vehicles from high technology industries.

Another problem is oil dependence. Oil and gas are two main bases of our economy. Our government, in fact, is one of the most important promoters of oil and gas. Despite many industries suffering heavy losses, the government takes care of the oil industry because the income of oil is a windfall.

The next major problem in Russia is the corruption. All countries have this problem, but our corruption is the worst in the developed world. The scale of money laundering in the country is an important indicator of the black market. It is worth legalizing certain types of corruption so that black market profiteers will have to pay taxes.

Overcoming these problems will minimize our dependence on oil. If we stop the dependence on natural resources today we will have a better tomorrow. By the way, the extra oil money could be a basis for this development, but corruption and financial crisis seem to "eat" Russia's oil money surplus.

Russia's internal policy also must be changed. Today our government is protecting big companies and corporations not taking into account other smaller companies. Today the activity of the government results in monopoly capitalism. Furthermore, such corporations bring about corruption. In the opinion of many experts, state corporations became the source of corruption in Russia.

Possibly tomorrow the extra money coming from old will finish. Maybe tomorrow scientists will devise a new source of energy. Does it mean that Russia will turn into a state like Nigeria or Ethiopia? I'm disposed to think that it is high time to change our economy. But what modifications will we make?

There are different ways of economic development in the world. For instance, the Chinese way is very successful. We must find our way to prosperity. Recently, the best way to develop the economy is to invest in new technologies.

Already weakened Russian economy receives serious blow from current international market crisis.

By Soboleva Alena

THE PRESENT economic crisis is a burden for the world economy. It has not bypassed Russia and even before the current international economic problems, the Russian economy was already in crisis. Economic growth is continuing but instability in the market and random market fluctuations are increasing day by day. As world financial market plunge, the situation in Russia will be more difficult.

The reasons for the Russian crisis are, above all, the weakness of the national financial system, profound dependence on foreign markets, and the growth of corruption. Additionally, low workforce qualification, growing taxes are decreasing the profits of many Russian companies.

The first hints of Russian economic instability emerged last year, but today due to growing worldwide financial problems the signs are now obvious to everyone. The fight against inflation by the means of money compression decreases the liquidity of the bank system to a low level. This is a reason for the severity of the Russian economic crisis.

Dependence of Russian companies upon western lenders and the weakness of the Russian bank system are the result of Finance Ministry and Central Bank policy.

KOREAN PRESIDENTIAL BRIBERY SCANDAL

Mr. Roh Gun Pyeong, elder brother of the former Korean president, was placed under arrest on Dec 4th.

By Young Kwang Kim

Mr. Roh Gun Pyeong, elder brother of the former Korean president, was placed under arrest on Dec 4th because of his illicit lobbying for the sale of Sejong Securities Co. to the National Agricultural Cooperative Federation, in 2005. This corruption scandal is raising questions about the former government's corruption. Roh Gun Pyeong (66), is considered to have received unsuitable political favor because of his economic dealings. He phoned the former NACF chairman to accelerate the deal by the request of the former president's schoolmate, Jeong Hwa-sam, who was the CEO of Jeju-based Zephyros Golf Club and another dealer Hong Gi-ok, CEO of the loan company Sejong Capital. Hong Gi-ok requested his help and was the prime troublemaker of this incident.

Whenever a bribery scandal occurs, political and business ethics are called into question. President Roh's elder brother and other close associates are all alike as well. The "Sejong Disposal Corruption Scandal" can be summarized into the fact that former President Roh's elder brother, Roh Gun Pyeong and other close associates; Jeong Hwa-sam, President Roh's long-time political sponsor Park Yeon-cha, the CEO of Tae Kwang IND. Co, Chung Dae-Kun, the former NACF chairman, have all had a serious impact on the process of stock trading by offering lobbying activities, by laundering the alleged stocks or even by abusing former President Rohs' family ties.

Authorities are investigating whether Roh Gun Pyeong accepted some benefits or not, which other associates played a role, and why the

Agricultural Cooperative decided to takeover Sejong Securities Co; a company that was an unprofitable partnership. Prosecutors suspect that it is a common illicit lobbying scandal and that those with power promoted their common interests.

Hong Gi-ok, CEO of the loan company Sejong Capital, is on charges that he asked Jung's brother, to help with its stock sales. Jeong Hwa-sam, the former president's longtime alumnus, is now placed under arrest under charges that he contacted Roh before the takeover. Through Jeong Hwa-sam, the elder Roh introduced Hong, allegedly offered the Jung's brothers 3 billion won in bribery money. Here is what prosecutors claim. Chung Dae-Kun, the former agricultural cooperation chairman, currently serving his prison term, received 10 billion and 40 billion of won from on December 2005 to on February 2006 from Hong respectively. Park Yeon-cha, CEO of Tae Kwang IND. Co, is also under suspicion of tax evasion and illegal trading profits. Park told reporters that he bought the stocks, but denied receiving insider stock tips.

The former President Roh told reporters that "My brother was a innocent country farmer. If he did wrong, he will meet with punishment. The authorities will reveal the truth.", however, the accused elder Roh said to reporters sadly that "I maybe be guilty of some points. I really sorry to have caused this lobbying scandal, but it is not the right time to confess all my guilt."

About 60 billion is estimated to have been used for lobbying, according to investigators. Under present circumstances, the prosecution discovered that Roh Gun Pyeong received about 30 billion won, after the takeover deal was clinched in Feb 2006, and they reported that the accused Roh is a final determinist of the corruption money. Authorities are now making close inquiry into the routes of money near Roh's associates, Park Yeon-cha,, CEO of Tae Kwang IND. Co. Sooner or later, his pocketbook, written evidence about an illegal trading profits will bring about a "Big Storm."

JAPAN - CHINA JOINT SYMPOSIUM HELD

A joint symposium between Fudan University, China and the University of Shimane, Japan was held on November 3 and 4, 2008.

By Shuhei Fujimoto

THE THEME of the joint symposium was about the possibility of Northeast Asia's cooperation in the age of globalization. The symposium had four sessions. Two persons reported their views at each session.

The first session was about the ideal way to cooperate on policy initiatives in Northeast Asia, the second session was about the problem of resources and energy, the third session was about the ideal way of the monetary policy and the fourth session was about the relationship between Northeast Asia, the world and the United State of America.

In the first session, it was reported that the Northeast Asian region would become an organization characterized not by the pattern of tight organization like EU, but looser cooperation. In the second session, it was reported that the cooperative relationship of energy resources in the Northeast Asia region could not be formed yet. Also, it was reported that to build a cooperative relationship, it is important to grapple with common problems mutually, and to build a trusting relationship with each other.

In the third session, there was talk that if there were a grouped economy of Northeast Asia, America's economic influence would be larger. The fourth was about the relationships of China, America and Japan. In particular, people talked about the importance of China in the Northeast Asian region.

FOOD

CHRISTMAS CAKE RESERVATIONS START

Christmas cake's reservations have started at grocery stores in Hamada during November.

Article and Photography By Manami Kawada

IN JAPAN next month, December 25 is Christmas Day, so many people eat Christmas cakes and celebrate Christmas.

The menu of Christmas cakes at grocery stores includes many kinds of Christmas cakes and customers can choose one from a variety of cakes. They are colorful and appetizing. A strawberry layer cake, chocolate cake and cheese cake are

very popular with many people.

There are not only standard cakes but also original cakes. For example, a raspberry cake with strawberry cream and mousse of condensed milk, and a chocolate cake with chestnut cream. They are artistic and beautiful.

Also, there are some Christmas cakes for children. For example, cakes shaped like characters which children like, Santa Claus and so on. The character cakes are very pretty and popular among children. There are also vegetables cakes, ice cream cakes and soybean milk cakes. Vegetables cakes are made from pumpkin, sweet potato, tomato, burdock and spinach.

Also, customers can buy not only Christmas cakes but also other foods for Christmas. There are some pizzas, roast chickens, fried chickens and so on. Japanese like to eat these foods on Christmas Day.

Customers can make a reservation by December 20, 2008 at any grocery store.



DELICIOUS FISH FOR SALE AT HIGH SCHOOL FESTIVAL

Some of fisheries high school students sold dried saurel, which they made at their high school on November 2, 2008.

Article and Photography By Masayuki Kubota

SUIKOU Festival was held on November 1 and 2, 2008. The high school students sold dried saurels at a low price. After the sale started at 10 o'clock in the gymnasium of Hamada Fisheries High School, many visitors came there. It was very crowded. All of them were sold out one hour later.

The fisheries high school students study fishery science at Hamada Fisheries High School in Hamada City, Shimane Prefecture. Those who made dried saurels belong to the department of food distribution. The time to make these productions is a part of the classes of fishery science.

The saurels, which the fishery high school students made, are a brand-name product in Hamada named "Donchicchi Aji." They have a good taste and are rich in fat. In particular, they are at their best between April and August when they have the most fat on them. It is said that fish in season are more delicious than the highly thought of oily bluefin tuna.

This time, the high school students brought in a new system which was called "traceability." It is the system that the purchaser can know their

products production and distribution records. For them, this system can prove the safety of food.



PHOTOGRAPHER: Sayaka Kusuhara

Nabe fan #1 - Sayaka Kusuhara

During winter in Japan, people often eat hot pot dishes, called *nabe*, for dinner. This hot pot dish is a typical dinner when people gather together. It is usually made by boiling a variety of food for example, soy curds, hackberries, Chinese cabbages, meat balls, pork and chicken using a small stove at the dining table. It is usually shared by several people, so it is also good to serve at parties.

The most popular of hot pot dish, called *mizutaki*, is a simple-tasting soup made of dried kelp soup stock. After the soup is ready, the contents are put into small bowls and eaten or dipped in vinegar mixed with juice pressed from bitter oranges.

Japanese can also use seasoned soup stock, called *nabe-no-moto*. It's very useful when making hot pot dishes because you only need to put it in the pan and simmered it with desired ingredient. This way, people don't need special seasonings.

This hot pot dish is a healthy dish, because it includes a lot of vegetables at once and is easy to make. There are no rules for what goes into the pot. Ms. Sayaka Kusuhara asked, "Why don't you make a hot pot dish for today's dinner?"

Nabe fan #2 - Akinori Nishikawa

On November 14, 2008, Mr. Akinori Nishikawa made "nabe," a kind of Japanese soup, with three friends. It was curry flavored. It was simple to make. First, curry stock and water were put in a pot. Afterwards, it was allowed to stew. Then, Chinese cabbage, carrot, pork, shiitake mushrooms, and fish-balls were added to the pot. Ten minutes later, it was complete.

Mr. Akinori Nishikawa and his friends ate it all. They thought it was very delicious. They thought cheese would match the curry flavor so they added cheese to the pot. The soup became Western-style soup. He ate it with friends noisily. They drank



PHOTOGRAPHER: Masashi Hashiba

We Love NABE!

3 Students talk about their love for this tasty dish.

Nabe fan #3 - Kimiko Fukui

Winter is right around the corner. In winter, it snows and the temperature falls in Japan. Japanese people warm themselves by using heaters and eating warm food.

During winter in Japan, people usually eat a dish cooked in a pot at the table, called *Nabe*. The pot of food makes people feel warm. The main ingredients are bean curd, meat, Welsh onion, *Napa* cabbage and hackberry. There are a many varieties of this dish in Japan.

Ms. Ayane Kowa said, "I like *kimchi nabe* the best. *Kimchi* is so spicy. So *kimchi nabe* makes my body hot!!" *Kimchi* is a type of spicy traditional Korean

liquor. It was a deliciously pleasant party.

Mr. Akinori Nishikawa is a Japanese student at the University of Shimane, from Ehime in Japan. Ehime is warmer than Shimane. Therefore, he felt cold during winter in Shimane.

When it is cold, Mr. Akinori Nishikawa eats "nabe". There are many kinds. Salt, curry, *kimchi*, sumo wrestler's stew etc... He is often at a loss which kind to make because there is a lot of variety.

pickles.

Mr. Naoki Miwa said, "I like meat *nabe* best. I like meat very much."

Japanese people usually eat barbecued beef, but in winter people also boil it in a pot.

People in Japan warm themselves in various ways. These traditional ways, like using table with heater and eating a big hot pot of food, will never die.



PHOTOGRAPHER: Satomi Watanabe

LIFESTYLE

NEW PENGUIN HOUSE AT AQUAS

Lovely penguins of Aquas greeted visitors on Nov.13th, 2008.

By Yuta Yamamoto & Shohie Saita

VARIOUS kinds of penguins were brought to Aquas from aquariums and zoos around Japan.

There are 39 penguins in the penguin house now. There are four kinds, King penguins, Gentoo penguins, Rock Hopper penguins, and Humbolt penguins. Visitors can: watch the penguins, watch the feeding of the penguins in the water by a diver, feed the penguins by themselves and take pictures with the penguins. A march of penguins is being planned now. If you are lucky, you might be able to see a march of the penguins.

There were about two thousand visitors in Aquas on the opening day of the Penguin House. Visitors watched the penguins and took pictures with the penguins. One of Aquas's staff said "A good point of this house is that you can watch penguins from many directions, and the theme of this house is contact between the penguins and the visitors."

They make an effort so that the penguins can become familiar with Aquas's environment.

The exhibition pool in this penguin house is a reverse-L character type, and the bottom of the pool approaches near the heads of visitors. This sight of penguins swimming freely above the heads of visitors is the best view.

Aquas is the biggest aquarium in western Japan, and there are many kinds of exhibits including fish, whales and sea lions. There are fish collected from all over Japan. Aquas is a very big aquarium so visitors can see many kinds of fish all at once.

Aquas has not only fish, but also sea lions and whales. The sea lions and whales are very popular because they have a performance.

The most popular of the two are the white belugas. They are very cute, and they can make bubble rings. Almost everyone comes to Aquas to see their bubble rings. People who see these rings are said to become happy.

Aquas holds many kinds of lectures, for example on how to find fish in the sea, how to fish and so on. It is worth participating.



Image From Wikipedia CC License



PHOTOGRAPHER: Yuta Yamamoto

PETS ARE GOOD FOR HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Pets can bring happiness to your home and warm your heart.

Article and Photography By Hisano Sugiura

PETS are popular worldwide. There are many kinds of animals that are considered as pets. Ms. Hisano Sugiura said, "I think pets are very important in life because pets mend me." Ms. Mari Nakanishi, a University of Shimane student, said, "Pet makes mend and makes me happy." Ms. Natsuki Kagawa, a University of Shimane student and Ms. Mari Nakanishi's friend, stated, "I want cat because I feel lonely." She likes cats very much.

Ms. Hisano Sugiura has one Golden Retriever, one Poodle and mongrel cat in her hometown. The Golden Retriever's name is Bach, the Poodle's name is Lady and the mongrel cat's name is Miya. Most of the time, the dog and the cat dislike each other, but they can also be very friendly. They are all kept in her house. Ms. Hisano Sugiura's mother said, "They are like my children, so I can't put them out of the house." Ms. Hisano Sugiura, her family and her pets are very happy together.

Pets are kept by people, but humans often are mended by pets. Humans and pets help each other. So people mustn't get rid of pets. People and pets can be best friends!



LONELY WOLVES HOWL IN DECEMBER

Christmas time is a hard time to be single.

By Jeong-hoon Baek

MANY single men are struggling with deep loneliness. To make matter worse, it is coming on them that December including 'Christmas' and 'the end of year'. The weather is getting colder and colder, but they have no girlfriends to warm their frozen hearts. During this season, I have conducted numerous surveys asking people what they want to do most this December. The results of this poll indicate that the majority of people said they might go drinking with friends.

In the case of people in their twenties, they generally feel less isolated. But people in their thirties, such as many couples like to have a romantic date. For that reason, there is no space left for any singles and for them there is a loneliness that is so huge it is hard to bear.

'Who might be with me at this Christmas or the year-end?' is a matter of common interest to every single. People generally think they will be busy in December, but they will soon find the reality quite different from what they had imagined.

Kim ji ho(23) and Kang tae hoon(23), said that they will spend their holiday just watching specially edited TV programs. Lee sang koo(23), said, "I love Kevin more than any women" (Kevin is the main character of 'Home Alone', a famous Christmas movie.). Three men, including Lee dong ha(25), want to meet their soul-mate

THE HAPPY LIFE OF RANGE THE CAT

Yuki Morikawa envies her cat, Range, because Range is always sleeping, does not have to study, work and lives even if there is no money.

Article and Photography By Yuki Morikawa

RANGE lives in Yuki's house in Hamada City, Shimane. The cat's name is Range because Range's hair is Orange color.

Range always pleads for food when the Yuki's family is eating a meal. Yuki's father supplies food to Range every time, So Range just grows fat.

Range also grows fat in moments with family's love. Range is happy.

Range likes to stroll in the vicinity. Range fears only one person. This is Mrs. Tamura who lives in Yuki's neighborhood. Two years ago, Mrs. Tamura's front door was open. A very good smell drifted out. Range entered Mrs. Tamura's house and Range picked up some food. So Mrs. Tamura was angry. Then, Yuki also received attention. It was permitted by Yuki by mistake. However, when Range sees Mrs. Tamura, Range fears her. He seems to take his time to become happy.

Yuki thinks that there is recovering power for people who have a pet. The pet comforts without a remark when you might be sad, regrettable, lonely or sick. A person's feelings can become calm by keeping a pet. In fact, a project wherein convicts raise a guide dog in prison is already advanced. Pets are also family members.

Yuki will encourage everyone to get a pet if they don't have one yet. Learn to always be responsible by keeping a pet.



through a blind date and unfortunately, Song kyu ha(29) and Ha seok tae(28) have to do overtime at Christmas, owing to unavoidable circumstances.

One of my friends who requested anonymity said pretty seriously, 'I will do my best to break couples around me. I never want to be lonely alone.' To the contrary, there are some warm-hearted people who want to help our poor neighbors. Some others who want to be anonymous said, 'The poor need our love and attention, we have to do something to make their Christmas a little brighter.' Ko jae hyun(22), who is now serving in the army said, "Most soldiers have to shiver with cold to defend our country regardless of our will".

It is the season to plan for the future afresh. We will make New Year's resolutions and we should keep them. Are you single? What are you doing this Christmas and at the end of year? Who will you clink glasses with? Good luck to you. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



TRAVEL

MATSUE CASTLE SHINES

Kazuki Itogawa talks about the timeless appeal of Matsue Castle.

Article and Photography By Kazuki Itogawa

PICTURE yourself on a garden in a Matsue castle, the sun is up, the sky is blue, with a cherry trees are in full bloom and bird singing under a fine sky. Take a walk. Lay beneath a shady tree. Feel good...

Kazuki Itogawa, a University of Shimane student from Matsue, says, "I like Matsue. It makes me happy because Matsue is beautiful and interesting. Matsue turns me on. Matsue's breeze blows in my mind. Matsue is in my ears and in my eyes."

Matsue Castle was built in 1611. Matsue castle still stands using its original wooden form, not a modern reconstruction in concrete. Matsue Castle is a symbolic structure of Matsue city. If you climb the top of the Matsue Castle, you can look out over the city for a priceless view.

Also, the Japanese garden around the castle is great. You can see beautiful white buildings as well as another historical monument "Kouunkaku". Kouunkaku is a European style building built in 1903 as the State Guest House and Exhibiton. Today, Kouunkaku is a folk museum. The museum collects historical materials from Matsue, for example old pictures and tools.

In Matsue City, there are a lot of sightseeing spots because Matsue is a historical city. Matsue City is the biggest city in Shimane prefecture and about 200,000 people live in Matsue.



TIVOLI PARK SAYS GOODBYE



TIVOLI Park is a Denmark-themed park in Okayama Prefecture. There are many cute attractions and shops, but the park will be closed down within the year.

Article and Photography By Chika Ishihara

ON DECEMBER 16TH, Ms. Chika Ishihara went to TIVOLI park with her family. They arrived there at noon and walked in the park. She said that the streets in the park were very beautiful because there were many trees with yellow leaves growing on the side of the streets. She also said that the buildings were very cute. The buildings were European style, so she felt refreshed.

The scenery around the park is another of its charms. The park is located in Kurashiki city. Kurashiki is a historical city with traditional Japanese buildings and European buildings. She said, "The scenery is wonderful. In this city, Japanese culture and European culture mix. That's very rare. So I like the atmosphere in Kurashiki."

At night she saw illumination in the park. She said, "It was very beautiful. I feel that it is a pity that TIVOLI PARK must say goodbye. I want to tell many people about the park. I hope more many people can go to the park before it closes down."

TSUWANO ON FIRE

On November 24th, Mr. Koji Tsutsumi and his friend went to Tsuwano, a town in southwest Shimane with a population of about 9,000.

By Koji Tsutsumi

MR. KOJI Tsutsumi and his friend were surprised when they arrived at Tsuwano because the leaves of the mountains in the town seemed to burn!

The phenomenon, known as "colored leaves" in Japan, occurs when the color of the leaves turns during autumn.

However, it rained the day when they went. Therefore they were not able to completely enjoy colored leaves as much as they hoped to. They promised to visit Tsuwano again next year.

Tsuwano is attractive due to its historical houses along the city's streets, so many tourists visit there. Mr. Koji Tsutsumi states that it was full of many tourists when they were there.

"Colored leaves" begin in Hokkaido around September and continue south slowly. It takes about 1 month to completely finish.



PHOTOGRAPHER: KOJI TSUTSUMI

TOKYO'S FANTASY WORLD

A University of Shimane student and his friend traveled to Tokyo this summer vacation, in September.

Article and Photography By Ryuki Shiomi

THERE IS something different about Tokyo's atmosphere. They were hesitant to get off the train, but the moment they entered the city, the feeling that they didn't fit in vanished suddenly to be replaced by a sense of unity. They didn't understand it. Everyone was enjoying the moment. Akihabara overflowed with high spirits!

One student asked his friend, who lives in Akihabara, "Why do we feel happy?" The friend said, "Generally speaking, a person has the hope that they obtain their true dream. Here people feel they can do it! Everyone looks so happy."

First, they were surprised by all the billboards for animation movies as they got off the train. Most other station's billboards are ordinary, but Akihabara is unique.

Next, they were surprised by the number of people. In most locations, there are many people in Tokyo.

Tokyo is made up of interesting areas, but Akihabara left the strongest impression on them. According to TV, magazines and the Internet, Akihabara is known as the "City of Otaku". So, some people are prejudiced against Akihabara at first, but it is a mistake. It is a very mysterious place. The atmosphere is cheerful! Akihabara is a fantastic fantasy world!



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