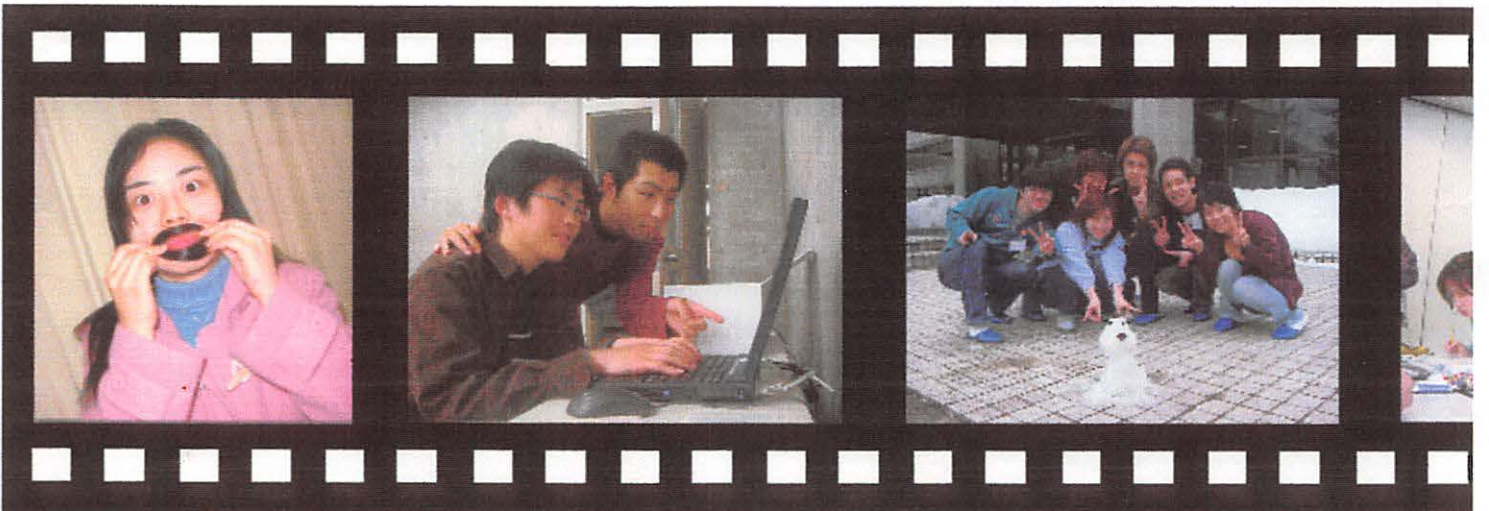




LAKE SIDE STORY



Meiji University Yamanaka Seminar House
Spring 2003

LAKE SIDE STORY

MEIJI UNIVERSITY YAMANAKA SEMINAR HOUSE SPRING 2003

~contents~

Information about Lake Yamanaka	2 - 5
Who is this?? (Drag Queens)	6 - 7
Travel Experiences	8 - 10
Souvenir Ratings of Lake Yamanaka	11 - 13
Extra curricular activities day (bowling & boat ride)	14 - 15
How are you spending your school life? (Advice from Takashi)	16
Self-Introductions	bonus section!

Published by the magazine class!

Photo & Art editor: Takaaki Komazaki

Article editor: Takashi Ito

**Staff: Tomomi Abe, Ayumi Ikemoto, Shintaro Isogami, Shinya Kajimoto, Yuki Katou,
Mariko Kyoo, Hiroko Niidome, Ato Nishiyama, Maiko Sato, Tomoko Shoji,
Noriko Tamura, Akira Yamazaki, Haruka Yoshida**



INFORMATION ABOUT LAKE YAMANAKA

We gathered information about Lake Yamanaka.

We interviewed people in three places.

First was the Tourist Information Center which offers information about sightseeing around Lake Yamanaka. The second place was the *Mountain Mama* store whose owner told us about Lake Yamanaka from an American point of view. Third was the store *Komeya* whose owner is a local woman.

We hope you'll get useful information about Lake Yamanaka when you read these articles.



Tourist Information

We asked a Tourist Information officer about Lake Yamanaka. She has lived in the Yamanakako Village all her life, and has been working in the Lake Yamanaka Tourist Information Center since it opened five years ago.

The officer recommended two hot springs named *Benifujinoyu* and *Ishiwarinoyu* near Lake Yamanaka. Local people often go there, including her. She told us that 5,600,000 tourists visit Lake Yamanaka every year. However, because of the recession and traveling abroad, the number of tourists has gradually been decreasing in recent years. So the Yamanaka Sightseeing Association is working to organize hiking events, a festival of illumination in winter, and other events. (Ato Nishiyama)

Recommendation in four seasons

- Spring: *Hananomiyako Park*
Cycling around the Lake
Boat trips
- Summer: Marine sports (yachting, windsurfing, body boarding)
- Autumn: Hiking
Scenery
- Winter: Taking photographs of Mt. Fuji
Fishing for smelt

Mountain Mama



On Saturday we went to the Mountain Mama store. It is a recycle shop. It takes only 5 minutes from Yamanaka Seminar House. There are many kinds of goods, for example, a funny rainbow-colored wig, a mortar board (a cap that university students wear when they graduate), many clothes and a few funny costumes. They are very interesting.

The owner is "Mountain Mama" (MM). She is a friendly middle-aged woman from White Plains, New York. MM came to Japan in 1975 to study at Sophia University. She is married to a Japanese music producer and they have a pretty daughter, Jessie, who is nineteen years old and works in Tokyo. Jessie is bilingual; she speaks Japanese and English perfectly.



Mountain Mama lives in Doshi Village. MM drives to and from the shop everyday. It takes about 30 minutes from her home to her shop by car. She orders most of her goods from the U.S.A. Every Wednesday is her day off. Most of her customers are young people. Others are fishers and tourists. The busiest season is during summer vacation. The shop opened 7 years ago, but 4 years ago this shop moved here. She will open a new store in Hirano in April



The name "Mountain Mama" is from a classic American country music song. Do you know it, and who the original singer was?

Mountain Mama used to be a high school English teacher, an editor of Asahi newspaper, and wrote books for people who study English. The titles are *English for a Million People* and *New Step Eiken*. She gave us one piece of valuable advice for studying English. "Don't worry about making mistakes when you speak."

(Tomoko Shoji)

Interview with the owner of Komeya



The owner of this store's name is Mrs. Matsuda. She is a middle-aged woman who told us about the history of her store and the area around Lake Yamanaka.

The store is frequented by tourists in summer and has been used by university students and visitors. Her impression of Meiji University students is that they are very serious.

Many famous people have used this store. After World War II, the store provided rice to the people of Yamanaka. Taikan Yokoyama (a very famous artist in Japan) lived upstairs in those days. He came up with the name "Komeya".

Sohou Tokutomi, the journalist, also used this store. He had a villa in Lake Yamanaka. Sohou Tokutomi gave the house the name of *Banseisoudou*.

Before Yamanaka village was developed, the people who lived there ate carp. Inhabitants of the village were very poor. From the beginning, the village was not suitable for agriculture, because it is very cold, especially in the winter.

When Fuji Kyuukou (Fuji Express Company) began to sell villas here, Yamanakako Village became developed. After that, many events were planned. Every August fireworks are set off at the lake. This event is called *Houkosai*. Sohou Tokutomi named the festival. The meaning is that Lake Yamanaka is a treasure for people, so they must give thanks for Lake Yamanaka.

(Akira Yamazaki)

WHO IS THIS??



TAKAKO



STEFANY



PERU



AKI

Can you guess??

Introducing the Drag Queens.....

TAKAKO ♪

Hi, Who am I? My style was very popular about four or five years ago in Shibuya. People called me "Yamanba" (mountain witch). That's right!! I came down from Mt.Fuji. My boyfriend always says to me "You look like Ayumi Hamasaki". I think so, too. I live in 109 building, but I'll go to Shinjuku with Meiji University students. If you love me, please call me ↔090-xxxx-7798

STEFANY ♪

I'm a newly-married woman. As you may know, Mike is my husband☆ I'm waiting for him to come home. I love cooking! I've made a nice dinner with all my love. I hope he will be back soon. Miss you, Mike ! Hold me tight ! !

AKI ♪

Hi, I'm an innocent little girl. I often ask my doll, Rika, "Where is my prince?" "When will he appear?" ...I'm thinking of asking my father to buy another doll, Ken. Hey boys, can you be my prince??

PERU ♪

I'm Queen of Atlantis. Many men died for my love. I'm a very sinful woman, so I lost my country, but I want it back! I'm planning to build a new country. Who wants to follow me?? I'm looking for someone who has guts. By the way, my measurements are: bust-85cm, waist-58cm, hip-87cm ☆

By, Ayumi Ikemoto, Yuki Kato,
Haruka Yoshida, Maiko Sato (^-^)

Students' Travel Experiences

This travel information we have is a present for you. This section has many interesting, funny things, and you can learn a lot from this article. This article also includes some differences between Japan and other countries to provide information which might help you make plans to travel abroad. Enjoy your trip! Take care!

Travel to Taiwan by *Michiko Iwasa*

When *Michiko* went to a night market, she saw *Shudofu* (food that looks like Tofu). It had a very unpleasant smell, so she couldn't eat it. There were many pet shops at the night market with many cute kittens in cages.

Many historical TV dramas and cartoons were broadcast with Chinese subtitles.

People in Japan want to travel during the Bon Festival, but people in Taiwan don't want to travel. Taiwanese people don't like to travel or get married during the Bon Festival. It is said that Taiwanese don't like big changes during the Bon Festival.

(From Peru)

Travel to Malaysia by *Chihiro Hukiage*

Many university students from Japan visit Malaysia for sightseeing. If a Malaysian wants to come to Japan, they have to work hard. Do you know why? It is because it is expensive to stay in Japan. They can't get a high salary even if they work hard. I think you can understand the value of the world money markets from this article.

Do you know any differences between Asians and Western Europeans? There are some interesting points. On a plane, almost all Asians take off their shoes, while most Western Europeans don't.

(From Peru)

Travel to Macao by *Shinichiro Sugihara*

Shin had such an amazing travel experience in Macao. The purpose of his trip was to encounter some unfamiliar people and culture for him. He was very tired just after his arrival. He said to himself, "I need to relax and refresh myself". He happened to meet a person who was living in Macao. They became friends. The man was very kind before *Shin* noticed he was a little strange. They had some beer, and then his new friend happened to touch his underpants and moved closer to him. *Shin* was worried and thought that the man must be gay. Although *Shin* had one of his strangest experiences, Macao is so mysterious and there is something new to find for everyone.

(From Takashi)

Travel to Bali, Indonesia, by *Haruka Sakoda*

Haruka learned a lot of things when she traveled to Bali. There are differences between Japan and Indonesia with their culture and customs. In Bali, there are more tourists from all over the country on vacation, in particular, Japanese tourists. In urban areas, there are so many gorgeous places to spend much time for tourists. Food and accommodation in this area are also good. This is where most of the leisure industry is based.

Compared with urban areas in Bali, there are traditional customs to remain for the living people. But Japanese tourists should be careful because you might be deceived after someone asks you to buy something or go somewhere. Don't say "Yes" too quickly even if you are very interested in what you really want to do. However, *Haruka* thinks Bali is such a beautiful place. Enjoy your trip.

(From Takashi)

Travel to Germany by *Shujiro Matsuo*

Shujiro lived in Germany for 10 years when he was at elementary school and high school. He wanted to buy pornography, but he couldn't because even though he was 18, he looked only 13 years old to Germans.

At stores, clerks don't fold clothes, which is very different from Japan. There are bicycle only lanes and people are allowed to take bicycles on the trains to reduce the number of cars for the environment. All shops close at 16:30 on Sundays, and all day on national holidays, which is not convenient.

(From Noriko)

Travel to Chintao, China by *Ayaka Onishi*

Ayaka remembers that infants' clothing was very strange.

There were no cloth coverings over the crotch area. Infants could excrete anywhere.

People seem to respect function over design. At restaurants, chopsticks are reused, and Chinese kill dogs to eat before your eyes! Many houses in China are made of brick.

(From Noriko)

Souvenir Ratings of Lake Yamanaka

Top 3 Sweets



1. Singenmochi

This *singenmochi's* texture is very soft. The soybean flour and black honey match very well. Please try this wonderful snack!!

2. Inaka Kusamochi

This *kusamochi* is so delicious. There is *yomogi* in it. It was made with red beans and glutinous rice. You can enjoy the taste of *anko* and *kusamochi* in harmony. It received the prime minister's prize. There are eight in a box. It costs 400 yen.



3. Fujisan Sabure

Sabure (Japanese shortbread) is the most famous souvenir in Japan. This *sabure* is shaped like Mt. Fuji. Once you eat one, you can never stop!!

Top 3 Foods



1. Houtou

Houtou is one of Lake Yamanaka's well-known products. It is made by *Hiraiya*. *Hiraiya* is a special food manufacturer. *Houtou* tastes very good. There are two varieties: regular and pumpkin flavour. Try it !!

2. Wakasagi's Takedani (smelt)

I live in Lake Yamanaka. I am always swimming with my friend, Elise the swan. The swimming is good exercise, so I am healthy. Please eat me for your health!! Eat me with rice!!



3. Wine

Additive-free wine sells well. It is made from grapes from Yamanashi prefecture. The standard wines are *Lumiere* and *Sadoka*. Red wine is healthy, but you should be careful not to drink too much.

3 Rare Goods

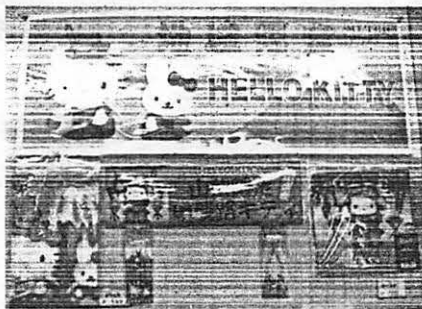
1. Akafuji (Youkan)

Akafuji-youkan is an original souvenir of Yamanakako Garden. The taste is very good and very sweet, but the price is cheap: only 200 yen.



2. Marimo's Magic

These *marimos* are very small so they are called *Himemarimo* (princess marimo). They are very cute. It is said that if a couple that are in love with each other pray to Marimo, they will definitely be happy. Tony and Maria should have prayed to Marimo. So if you have a darling or if you are still looking, you should try it!



3. Hello Kitty Goods

There are two kinds of Kitty. One is Kitty is at the summit of Mt. Fuji and the other looks like a Samurai (Shingen Takeda). These are original Kittys that are only in Yamanashi. There are many kinds of Kitty goods.

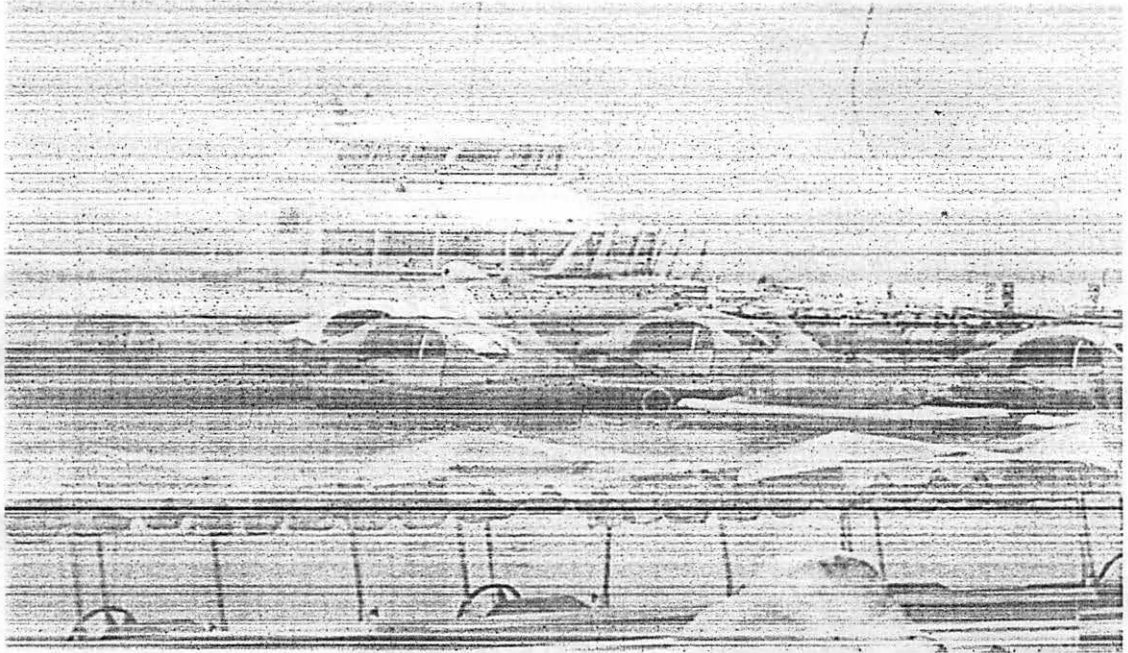
Thanks to the souvenir store of Lake Yamanaka Garden for their cooperation!!



By Hiroko Niidome, Tomomi Abe,
Shinitirou Isogami, Mariko Kyoo

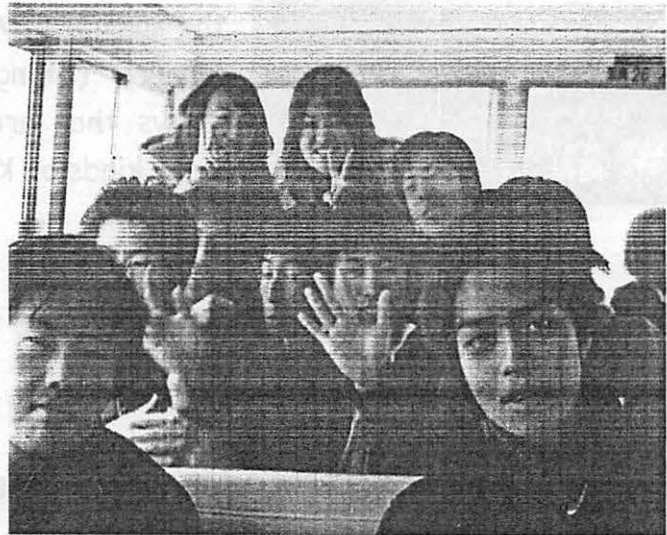
Today is extracurricular activities day.

Let's go outside!!



This is our ship. Our long lake voyage will start.

Today is very cold and cloudy weather, so we cannot see the biggest



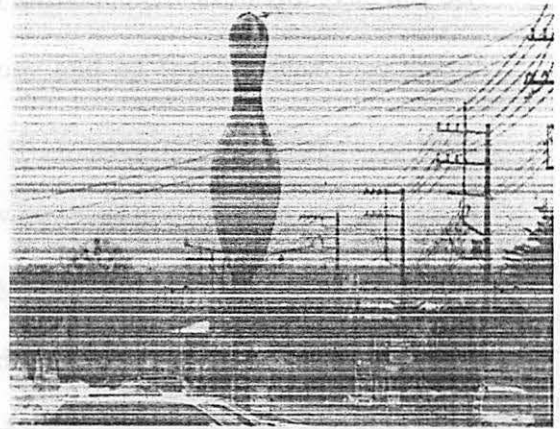
mountain in Japan, Mt.Fuji. The cool breeze feels good.

We reached the bowling alley.

We enjoyed bowling very much.

But the bowling alley is quite

old.



How was your score?

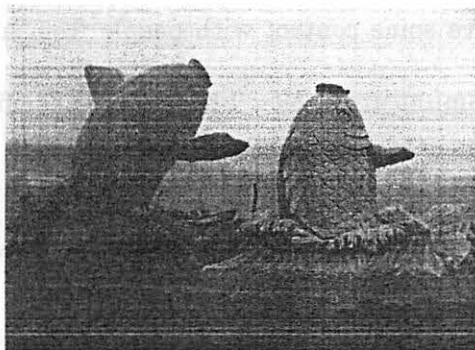
I got



It's time to leave. We

have to go back to the

seminar house.



Goodbye!

See you again!!!!

by Sintarou Isogami, Mariko Kyoo

HOW ARE YOU SPENDING YOUR SCHOOL LIFE?

Do you have any difficulty spending your school life? How do you think you will change during your school days? I'd like you to read about my school experiences and think about what kind of experiences YOU want to have, and what you really want to do in the future. I'm not sure whether you will be satisfied or not, so be careful.

When I was freshman, I had a few problems at first. I sometimes felt my registered classes were so boring and annoying because the students were too noisy in class. Some of the students were talking to their friends on their cell phones. That's why I felt angry and confused in those classes.

In the summer, I participated in Meiji's Intensive English Language Program. Although I was one of the members of the elementary class, I enjoyed talking to a lot of friends and English teachers. The intensive program was established to improve students' English ability. In my case, I felt that it was most interesting to do group work - to have a shared group purpose as well as my own. Through this positive experience, I changed my attitude in two ways. Firstly, I found that studying English gave me more purpose at school. Secondly, I became more assertive and positive, and started to enjoy facing new challenges. I used to hate studying English before I took Meiji's summer course.

As a result of my school experiences, I now have clear short and long-term plans. I'd like to be an international businessman and have some contact with people from all over the world, using English as the means of communication. Now I have more specific ambitions than when I was a freshman and sophomore. Gradually I've learned what I want to be, and what I want to do in the future. How about you? Please ask yourself what you want to be. If you think about it seriously, your life will surely change.

(From Takashi, *Lakeside Story*)

