



Mar. 3, 2007

## ***NO SHEEP!***

I have been in New Zealand for more than a week and I still haven't seen a sheep! I look for and see many birds, but there don't seem to be many sheep in the city of Christchurch. I'm sure that I'll see some if I go outside the city. So far, I've only gone out to the beach, and sheep probably don't like the beach. I'd be very surprised if I saw a sheep lying on the sand wearing sunglasses!



やはりいったん街から離れると羊が沢山いました。驚いたのはクライストチャーチの畑でした。風から守るための3メートルほどの高い生け垣が次から次へと道の両端に現れます。





Mar. 28, 2007

## **ICE SKATING**

Last weekend was great for skating lovers and for Japanese skaters. The World Figure Skating Championships 2007 were held in Tokyo and broadcast throughout the country. Takahashi Daisuke got the first silver medal ever won by a Japanese man. Among many impressive female skaters, Ando Miki got the gold and Asada Mao the silver. It seems that Japan is quickly becoming the center of the ice-skating world.



一昔前アイススケートと言えばロシアが強かったですが、今はやはり日本ですね。特に日本の女子選手は強いですね。





May 19, 2007

## ***A DIFFICULT TRANSLATION***

I have just come back from the countryside where I went for a 3-day seminar. I woke up early one morning and went for a walk in the hills. I was excited to see a “tanuki,” but when it saw me, it ran away. When I went back and told my students, one asked me what we call them in English. Dictionaries say “badger” or “raccoon dog.” Actually, you can’t translate something that you can’t find in other countries.



「早起きは三文の得」自然観察のため、早起きする  
といろいろな動物を見ることができます。





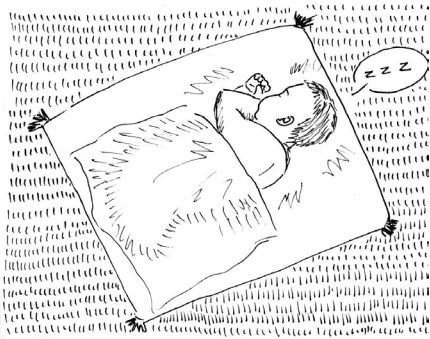
June 30, 2007

## ***KEEPING YOUR STOMACH WARM***

The other day was hot, but my daughter put a towel over her sleeping baby's stomach to keep it from getting cold. I told her that she was really becoming Japanese. In the U.S., we don't think about keeping our stomachs warm. We certainly don't have "haramaki." I wonder why there is this difference.



アメリカでは、身体全体を暖かくします。腹のような身体の一部だけを大事にする考え方はありません。







Sept. 6, 2007

## **ICHIRO AT IT AGAIN**

There goes Ichiro again. He has hit more than 200 for the seventh year in a row. There are only two other players who have done this in the history of the major leagues, and only one player has done it eight years in a row. That must be Ichiro's next goal. There's no doubt in my mind that Ichiro is the best Japanese player in the major leagues now, better than either Matsui or Matsuzaka.



イチローのバッティングは何度見ても飽きません。打ちやすい球を待たないで、打ちにくい球を打ち、誰よりも速い足で一塁に出るのは彼の魅力です。





Sept. 10, 2007

## **SHAVED ICE**

My family went out for shaved ice last Saturday. It was the perfect day for something cold because of the heat. The place we went is within walking distance. I like it because the prices are very reasonable, and you can sit outside and eat. I decided to bring my dog this time, but when we got there she looked hungry and thirsty. I tried giving her some of mine, and she loved it!



日本のかき氷はとても食べやすいです。アメリカのは事前に氷を荒く削って作られているので、つぶつぶが解けて、固まりやすいのです。





Oct. 29, 2007

## ***HALLOWEEN PARTY***

The day after tomorrow is Halloween, but we had the university party last Saturday during the day. We started out by making paper decorations out of construction paper. We cut the paper into shapes of ghosts, witches and pumpkins and hung them up. Then we used winter melons to make jack-o'-lanterns. Jack-o'-lanterns are usually scary, but the one I made with my student partner was cute.



「pumpkin」を「カボチャ」として訳すことが多いけれども、カボチャは固くてとてもハロウィーンには使えません。冬瓜（トウガン）の方が柔らかいから代用品に最適です。





Nov. 30, 2007

## **101 DALMATIANS**

“101 Dalmatians” is my favorite Disney animated movie. I think it’s because the main characters are dogs and I’m a dog owner. At the beginning of the movie, the two Dalmatians and their owners meet in a park and fall in love. Actually, I didn’t meet my wife while walking a dog (she doesn’t really like dogs), but walking a dog is a great way to meet people. If you have a dog, it’s easy to start a conversation with another dog owner.



日曜日に近くの大学敷地内で散歩している犬はモモの友達になったし、その飼い主は僕の話し相手になってくれています。

