

CrossWalk

September CROSSROADS Language Studio's Newsletter 2007

Is it a horse? ... Is it a zebra? ... No, it's a ZORSE?!



Meet Eclypse! No, she is not a zebra who has had a **tussle** with a can of white paint. There are no artificial colors used to give her her unique appearance; though "tussle" might be close to describing what happened to create her. Her mother,

Eclipse, is a **mare** and lives at a safari park in Germany. Her father is a zebra named Ulysses. They met when Eclipse went to Italy for a short vacation. While there, she checked-in at a ranch where the owner had some horses and a few zebras **roaming** freely together in one of the ranch's **paddocks**. Eclipse, being a somewhat friendly, **uninhibited** girl, decided to join them. What happened next is a simple "boy meets girl" story. Eclipse and Ulysses took a fancy to each other. Although the romance was short, back home in Germany,... well, meet Eclypse! Eclypse is half horse, half zebra, half German, half Italian, and even her name is a combination of her parents' names! And I've heard that she speaks both languages fluently too! Horse and Zebra, that is.

Story suggestion from Mits. "B" class

Sometimes, even love has its limits...



Eclipse and Ulysses may have done much to further inter-species relations, but *this* "star crossed" couple has a much greater challenge ahead of them. "Chin", a 12-week-old Chinese Macaque, was near death after his mother **abandoned** him. He was **revived** at an animal **sanctuary**, but remained "spiritless" until he met "Bo" a white pigeon. Once **acquainted** with Bo, Chin's spirits improved greatly and now they are **inseparable**. It has been reported that Bo **reciprocates** Chin's feelings, but the question on everyone's lips is, "what now?"

"Not so", says this black swan...!



Swans know a thing or two about love, and when they fall in love, it's for life; nothing short of death will deter them from their **devotion** to their mate. And Petra, the Australian Black Swan, is no exception. Trouble is, Petra fell in love with a plastic **pedal** boat designed to look like a swan. And her loyalty is so great that when winter came and her "mate" didn't fly south, Petra stayed behind also, almost dying from the cold. A kindly zoo official took pity on her, and her "boyfriend", and gave them a place to stay out the winter. The last we heard, they are living "happily ever after".

Extreme Indeed! - The Latest Danger Sport

Recently, there are a number of new sports with the word "extreme", such as Extreme Parachuting" and "Extreme Fishing", which are supposed to be extremely dangerous and exciting forms of the sport. Now, a group of Europeans have developed a new sport called "extreme ironing". In extreme ironing, athletes take an iron and board to extreme places to iron their clothes. That can happen on **rapidly** moving cars, a mountain top, while bungee jumping, in a forest, in lakes and rivers, under water in the ocean, etc. In fact, there is no limit. The object of extreme ironing, which was **apparently** invented in Britain, is "to take ironing to the edge by demonstrating a spectacular or creative ironing style, whilst taking the **creases** out of your clothes".



Extreme Ironing in Europe

Extreme Ironing is considered a serious sport in Japan also, where athletes have taken iron and board to the top of Mt. Fuji, underwater, and while riding a bike. "Under water?" you may query! What's the point? How do you get the **wrinkles** out of whatever it is you are ironing while you and the item of clothing are under water?



Extreme Ironing on Mt. Fuji

Under water aside, the "point", in my opinion, is that *housework* is "exciting and dangerous". And to prove the point the practitioners of this sport held a world Championship event in Germany this year. Do you think it will be **admitted** into the Olympic movement some day?

Story from Adrienne



Extreme Ironing under water

Colored words are in the glossary on page 2

Net News

NET LESSONS: Are you too busy to come to CROSSROADS?... Try our *lessons on the Internet!* It's CROSSROADS in your home or office! You get CROSSROADS' great teachers, teaching programs, even classmates, *on-line!* Call for details: **89 9217595**

NET SITE OF THE MONTH:

For info on Extreme Ironing in Japan go to:

<http://search.japantimes.co.jp/cgi-bin/f120061119x1.html>

NET NOTEBOOK: Don't forget to take a look at the Internet activity notebook in our open-house. You'll find games, news and English learning sites.

Some Thoughts for the Month



Joshua Says: You might notice some changes in the format of our newsletter this month. We are adjusting the layout to make more room for your suggestions and input. The idea is for our students to contribute more stories for the front page. So, please help to make our newsletter more interesting with your own ideas. I will be looking forward to seeing what you come up with each month!

Junko Says: We are all very sad to see Alice leave us this month. I know she is determined to follow a career in singing and acting, and I wish her all the best in her efforts to achieve her goals. She is also a great teacher, so her decision is a loss not only to Crossroads, but to the teaching profession as a whole. Nevertheless, it is true that the best decisions in life are made when we follow our hearts. Good luck Alice, we'll be looking for your name up in lights, soon!



Alice Says: I would like to say "thank you" to everyone at Crossroads. You have all helped to make the past year a fantastic one for me. I wish everyone success and happiness in the future. I'm going to take some very special memories with me from Japan. And as you all know, I never say "goodbye", so... "see you again" ...!

Iain Says: It has been a pretty hot summer hasn't it? At my house I have to keep the fan and air conditioner off most of the time because my wife thinks it is bad for the baby. So we all sat and sweat in the sauna like heat. I gained weight because I was just too hot and lazy to exercise. But now that it has cooled down a little, I finally have no excuses to avoid exercise. I'm back on the bicycle up in the mountains. The air up there smells of ripening fruit and of the monkeys that eat them. We noticed that the monkeys aren't around to be seen much in the summer. Where do they go? Does anyone know?



Adrienne Says: I'm going to write about cats again! I took my kitten with the broken leg to the doctor yesterday. Actually, I took her to two doctors. One doctor said that the leg should be cut off, but I should take her to another doctor because he was too busy to cut off her leg. So, I took her to another doctor who said that her leg should not be cut off. It's always best to get a second opinion.

Greg Says: Well it's that time of year again when I begin making preparations to fly back to Australia for Christmas and catch up with family and friends. The year seems to fly by from January to October, however as soon as I begin these preparations the rest of the year seems to drag on. My father has already made a list of the things he needs fixed around the home...so even he is busy preparing as well.



Dean Says: So, summer is finally drawing to a close. There have been so many long weekends. What did you do? I went to the Japanese highlands to visit Karuizawa and Tsumago in Gunma Prefecture. I witnessed the most beautiful sunrise I have ever seen in Japan from an altitude of 2000m. Breathtaking! The sea of clouds below reflected every color of the rising sun with many mountain peaks appearing as islands in the sea of clouds. I hope to visit again in winter.

Glossary

(These words are in **color** in the story on page 1)

tussle	mare	paddocks	roaming	uninhibited
abandoned		revived	sanctuary ()	acquainted
inseparable		reciprocates	devotion	pedal
rapidly	apparently	creases	v wrinkles	admitted

