

# Okayama Insider

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FREE

# JUN

The sixth month of the 18th year of the Heisei period.

2006

水無月 (Minazuki) 平成 18 年

Despite the abundance of rainfall, this month is known as the "waterless month".

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## Biyôshitsu (美容室) or Riyôshitsu (理容室)

### Which is which?

### Beauty salons and Barber Shops in Okayama

by Masaharu Kurozumi



Use of both trademarks courtesy of Okayama prefecture's barbers and beauticians trade associations.

Japanese laws regulate the professions of barbers and beauticians. By definition, a barber is a professional who cuts and shaves hair, while a beautician enriches appearance by styling, applying perms and/or makeup. Both professions are subjected to state examination and licenses.

So basically, shaving is prohibited at beauty salons (biyôshitsu) and perms are banned at barbershops (riyôshitsu.) Consequently you may run into a female customer having a shave at a barber shop or encounter a male client getting an Afro hairdo at a beauty salon.

Nowadays though, every corner of our life seems to be borderless, and I don't mean simple globalization. You can purchase alcohol not only at any supermarket but also at convenience stores, even if they are just next door to a specialized liquor store, owing to the lifting of restrictions on the distance between liquor stores. Soon you will be able to get certain over-the-counter drugs at not only pharmacies or discount drug shops, but also from certain convenience stores. In the world of barbers and beauty salons, each is trying to cut into opposition territory and the boundary is, so to speak, quite a close shave. In the Tokyo metropolitan area, so-called "uni-sex hair salons" have already appeared and a shaving salon exclusively for women recently popped up in Kurashiki City!

The outstanding aspects of Japanese barber shops are that you can have your ears picked, nostril-hair and eyebrows

trimmed, usually at no extra charge what-so-ever. (If you don't want them touched, say so in advance!)

Beauty salons in Japan also have the unique feature of supplying not only manicure and pedicure treatments, but some shops will also help you put on your Kimono correctly if you have a special occasion (such as a wedding, graduation or coming of age ceremony) or if your kids' have a special occasion such as Tango-no-sekku (boys day) or the Shichi-go-san (7-5-3) festival. Both usually offer head, face and shoulder massages free of charge.

And don't be afraid if you don't speak Japanese. Most professional hairdressers will be happy if you take in a photograph or two for them to work from. Good Luck!

#### Looking for an English-speaking hairdresser?

The following recommendation was submitted by a JET program participant:

HAIR SALON NAME: Bob Grazie Hair & Make

ADDRESS: 2-5-1 Uchisange, Okayama City

OPEN: Tues~Sun, reception from 10:30 to 19:30  
(Closed the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of every month.)

COST: Women 4200yen (60-90 minutes)

[Shampoo/conditioner and head massage included.]

Men's haircut 3670yen (45-60 minutes)

PHONE: 086-221-0575. Ask for Nao-san