



# THE HYOGO TIMES

The Monthly Publication for HyogoAJET Members

The Hyogoajet Official Website: <http://hyogoajet.org>

December/January 2002/2003 The Merry Xmas and Happy New Year Issue



## **The Merry Xmas and Happy New Year Issue**

**How to join HyogoAJET, useful info about 'Living in Hyogo'  
and the all-important Entertainment Schedule!**

# The Dec/Jan issue...

<b>Contents</b>	<b>Page</b>
<b>Editorial</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>PR Note</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>World News</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Hurricane Grannies</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Hyogo Times Travel Guides</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>What are you doing for Xmas?</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Life as a JET</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Inter Hyogo Football News</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>The New Year in Japan</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Reviews</b>	
<b>Film</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Book</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Music</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Restaurant</b>	<b>27</b>

## **Hyogo Times Staff**

**Editor** Steve Wilkinson  
**Design Editor** Fiona Cubie  
**PR Matters** Rachel Tenzythoff  
**Advert Editor** Julie Turbide  
**Features** Amanda Betts, Jo Tinhat  
**Life as a JET** Clairissa Myschowoda  
**Travel Reviews** Feral Hubbard  
**Book Reviews** Victoria Vaughan  
**Film / Movie Reviews** Ronan McCaughey  
**CD Reviews** Colin Erickson  
**Restaurant Reviews** Kenia Lopez-Mohedano  
**Jokes** Sophie James  
**Illustrations** Tonya Bamberger  
**Proofreaders** Leslie Kersey, Deirdre Byrne

## **Editorial**

Welcome to the bumper  
**December 2002 – January  
2003 Christmas Special!**



A very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our readers! Regardless of whether you celebrate Christmas or not, may we wish you Season's

Greetings; please find enclosed your free gift from the Hyogo Times.

First of all, I'd like to welcome the new members of staff who have joined us since the last issue and thank all our writers and contributors for their hard work over the past month. Please see opposite for a full list of credits.

Inside your mammoth issue this month you'll find Tales of a Female Nomad, the 'Road to Perdition', surviving the Japanese winter, Mexican restaurant El Charro, Inter Hyogo, Mt. Daimonji, DJ Jazzy Jeff and catchphrases for condoms. There are also features on what to do in the Kansai region at Christmas, learning Kansai-ben with the Beatles, the New Year in Japan and how to deal with those omnipresent 'hurricane grannies'. Now, this is the season of goodwill to all ...

This month also sees the expansion of the World News section with a feature on the seldom-discussed topic of racism in Japan, and the start of the new Opinion column, designed to provide the members of Hyogo AJET with a forum to discuss a matter in the World News. Please send submissions to this column, which should be 2-300 words long and on a topic of your choice, to me at [times@hyogoajet.org](mailto:times@hyogoajet.org) by the deadline at the bottom of the page.

My thanks again to everyone who contributed articles to this issue. The deadline for any articles for the **February** issue is **Wednesday, the 15th of January, 2003.**

See you in 2003!

**Steve Wilkinson**

Hyogo Times Editor  
[times@hyogoajet.org](mailto:times@hyogoajet.org)



# PR Note

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS & HAPPY NEW YEAR from HAJET

Hope all you guys and gals had an intriguing time at this year's **November mid year**

**conference in Kobe**, or at least made up for it at **SALLY'S Club** – I know I sure did! Kudos goes out to all of you who could attend the annual HAJET Charity shindig – it was a jam-packed night with a rocking and generous crowd of over 100+. Thanks to your support we raised over **¥113,000** in support of **GO.M.A.D** and **ANGEL** charities.

Special thanks goes out to **SALLY'S Club** in Kobe and our **Mistro M.C NICK RHODES** for his titillating, and crowd shocker tidings on stage. It made for one sweet party! Last but not least, 'Arigato' goes out to the HAJET committee and friends who dragged their booties out early to set up and prepare for the event, 'otsukaresama deshita ne!'

For those lucky beggars who got to experience a little more solitude at **Ruriji Temple on the 23rd**, I trust it was a memorable experience. We'd love to hear from you about the experience; send in a few words to **our editor Steve Wilkinson** at **times@hyogoajet.org** Thanks to our event coordinator **Joanne McKay** and friends for planning the adventure!

In this month's **Hyogo Times** you'll notice that a group of **new and enthusiastic writers** have joined the Hyogo Times team, gracing the Times with their innovative pieces, which I think you'll find engaging indeed. Sending out a **huge welcome to you all from the HAJET team** – thanks for getting involved and looking forward to what you've got!



Last but certainly not least the **HAJET committee** would like to send out a **great big THANK YOU & GOOD LUCK** to our **Kobe Representative TRACY SMITH** who will be moving on to bigger and better things in **December** - so before you embark on your adventure we'd like to say **thank you** for getting the ball rolling in helping to **involve our Kobe Jets** more and keep the lines of communication open this year. **Best of luck to you in your life adventures and you'll be missed!**

With **December** here and the **New Year** creeping its way around the corner, it's going to be one seriously exciting month. While you gallivant around tropical beaches and foreign isles, or huddle around the kotatsu or with family and friends at home, take a moment to take all your experiences in, think positively on what has come and gone and what will soon be in **2003!**

This month the Events team have a few things up their sleeves. Coming up on the **7th of December** we've got a trippin' **Shopaholic and tour event** taking place in **Kyoto**. Check out the ad inside and join us for an event that will suit all your needs: temple discovery, a creamy caffè latte, last minute holiday shopping at the massive Kyoto Handicrafts Center, feasting and frothing at a local izakaya and club hopping in the evening. Check out the **ad in this issue of the Hyogo Times and the updates** on our website, **http://hyogoajet.org**

Before you know it, the sounds and smells of the holiday will be over. I don't know about you, but I'll be shattered, so stay tuned for a warm and sizzling welcome back in **January** and hop into the famous **Kinnosaki Hot Springs** - an experience you don't want to miss! Bring your friends and let's sweat off all that insulation (otherwise known as 'podge') we'll all have packed on over the holidays! **I guarantee you'll feel refreshed and raring to go for the New Year.**

Now, before I get ahead of myself, for those that are just trying to make it through your last lessons and responsibilities this December, I came across some super holiday sites that might help shed a

little light of the holidays in your classrooms. Here's what to do:

### Websites for the HOLIDAYS

First, try [www.night.net/christmas/songs12.html-ssi/](http://www.night.net/christmas/songs12.html-ssi/) This site features both music and lyrics to well known religious and non-religious Christmas songs.

Try [www.christmas-holiday-ornaments.com/](http://www.christmas-holiday-ornaments.com/)

Here you will find beautiful, delicate ornaments.

Also try [www.rfstudio.com/](http://www.rfstudio.com/) for attractive hand-carved wooden Santa's. Finally, try [www.all-christmas-ornaments.com/](http://www.all-christmas-ornaments.com/) for totally unique,

strange and magical ornaments.

Try [www.algonet.se/bemadot/christmas/calendar.html/](http://www.algonet.se/bemadot/christmas/calendar.html/)

This site introduces Christian traditions from around the world. Most of the content is from children. Also try: [www.sermons.org/christmas.html](http://www.sermons.org/christmas.html) for a more serious look at Christmas.

Some sites feature a little bit of everything, for example, [www.holidays.net/christmas/](http://www.holidays.net/christmas/) is a beautiful site. It has recipes, songs, stories and games, while [www.merry-christmas.com/](http://www.merry-christmas.com/) has

much of the same, brought to you by little elves (take a look at the bottom of their page). See [www.north-pole.co.uk](http://www.north-pole.co.uk) for letters to Santa, cards, jokes and contests. Finally, [www.itschristmas.com/index.htm](http://www.itschristmas.com/index.htm) has lots of ideas, decorating tips, photos and more (thanks to the Tokyo Consultation Tank, in association with the Student Times).

Have a **seriously enjoyable and festive holiday season in December** and shake it until the cock crows on **New Year's Day 2003**. Stay tuned for lots of stuff coming up in 2003 - and don't forget to click on <http://hyogoajet.org> for weekly updates and information.

If you have any beefs, issues or drama to share, feel free to give me a shout. We're always looking for new ideas or suggestions to keep you all happy, so keep us informed.

Akemashite Omedetou gozaimasu!

Happy New Year!

**Rachel Tenzythoff**

Prefectural Representative

## Happy Christmas (War Is Over) – in Kansai-ben!

So this is Christmas  
And what have you done  
Another year over  
And a new one just begun  
And so this is Christmas  
I hope you have fun  
The near and the dear one  
The old and the young

A very Merry Christmas  
And a Happy New Year  
Let's hope it's a good one  
Without any fear

And so this is Christmas  
For weak and for strong  
For rich and the poor ones  
The world is so wrong  
And so Happy Christmas  
For black and for white  
For yellow and red ones  
Let's stop all the fight

Soya, kyou wa kurisumasu yaa  
Kore made, donna koto shiharimashita?  
Ichi nen ga owatte  
Atarashii toshi ga hajimarimasse  
Sou, kyou wa kurisumasu ya!  
Minna tanoshimetara ee yo naa  
Mijikana hito ya naka no ee yatsu  
Toshiyori to wakai mon

Homma merii kurisumasu!  
Sore ni shinnen omedetou san!  
Ee koto aru you inorou ya nai ka  
Otoroshii koto omahen you ni.

Sou, kyou wa kurisumasu ya  
Yowai mon ni tsuyoi mon  
Zeni mottoru mon to mottenai mon  
Homma yononaka machigattoru wai  
Soyakedo, happii kurisumasu  
Kokujin mo hakujin mo  
Oushoku jinshu ni sekishoku jinshu  
Minna arasoi wa yamenahare

### Chorus x 2

War is over, if you want it  
War is over now!  
Happy Christmas!

Sensou wa orun ya de, onore ga sore o nozomebana  
Sora, sensou wa owari ya!  
Happii kurisumasu!

©1971 Lenono Music / BMG Music Publishing Ltd. All Rights Reserved. International Copyright Secured.

# World NEWS

## **World News: Stricken oil tanker sinks**

(source: [www.bbc.co.uk/news](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news))

A stricken tanker which has been leaking oil off the north-west coast of Spain has sunk after breaking apart, taking thousands of tons of fuel with it.

The bow of the Prestige was the first to go under water, followed a few hours later by the rear of the vessel, which had been carrying at least 70,000 metric tons of heavy fuel oil.

There are fears of a massive ecological disaster if all the oil escapes from the Bahamas-registered tanker, which was about 250 kilometres (150 miles) from the Spanish coast when it started to break up.

## **Iraq Says It Will Meet Disclosure Deadline of Dec. 8**

(source: [www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com))

Iraq vowed Tuesday to meet a Dec. 8 deadline to produce a full account of its weapons program and said UN inspectors would be given free access to all sites across the country.

"Within 30 days, as the UN resolution says, a report from Iraq will be submitted on all the files – nuclear, chemical, biological and missile," President Saddam Hussein's adviser General Amir al-Saadi told reporters.

Under a UN Security Council resolution adopted Nov. 8, the first big test is a Dec. 8 deadline for Iraq to submit a full account of all banned weapons programs. The inspectors must give the Security Council their first report by Jan. 27.

## **UK News: Tight security for Hindley funeral**

(source: [www.bbc.co.uk/news](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news))

The funeral of the Moors Murderer Myra Hindley is to take place amid tight security, to ensure the proceedings remain dignified. The service will be small, with the crematorium closed to the public during the service.

On Monday it emerged that fresh murder charges were being considered against Hindley at the time of her death.

The child killer, who died in hospital last Friday, was jailed for life in 1966 with Ian Brady for the murders of 10-year-old Lesley Ann Downey and Edward Evans, 17. She later admitted killing 12-year-old Keith Bennett and Pauline Reade, 16, and helped police to unearth the latter's body on Saddleworth Moor. Keith's body has never been found.

## **USA News: Bush Arrives for NATO Summit Meeting**

(source: [www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com))

This week, President Bush is in Prague for his first NATO summit meeting, seeking to redefine the mission of the trans-Atlantic alliance and to win support from its members for a possible assault on Iraq, officials said.

White House officials say the purpose of the president's trip is formally to welcome seven eager former Communist nations, including Lithuania and Romania, into an alliance that will expand to 26 members. They say it is also to prod a creaky organization formed to contain the Soviet threat into a new, aggressive role in the fight against terrorism.

## **Canada News: Old Glory overshadows ex-PM's unveiling**

(source: [www.globeandmail.ca](http://www.globeandmail.ca))

Former Progressive Conservative Prime Minister Brian Mulroney returned to Parliament Hill Tuesday for the first time since he resigned from politics nine years ago for the unveiling of his official portrait.

Just after the painting by Russian-born artist Igor Babailov was unveiled, a protester ran onto the stage and waved a small American flag above Mr. Mulroney's head, before being whisked away by security.

Mr. Mulroney was often criticized during his time in office for being too cosy with the United States.

## **Australia News: Australia on alert after terror threat**

(source: [www.news.com.au](http://www.news.com.au))

Terrorists have targeted the Christmas and New Year holidays for a possible strike in Australia, the Government has warned. Australians were assured

of increased vigilance by security forces and urged to go about their business as usual.

Justice Minister Chris Ellison said credible but non-specific information linked to alerts in the United States and Britain pointed to a strike over the next few months. He also confirmed the Muslim extremists of al-Qaeda and related groups were responsible.

#### **New Zealand News: Union rules out emergency cover during strike** (source: [www.nzherald.co.nz](http://www.nzherald.co.nz))

The industrial row at four Auckland hospitals escalated today, with hospital authorities claiming union action would deliberately endanger patient lives. Hospital authorities said radiographers, who plan another strike next week, were deliberately risking patient lives by withdrawing all emergency cover during the two-day strike.

The radiographers and the Auckland District Health Board are fighting over pay claims but the board said today the latest union action of withdrawing all emergency cover was unethical, unprofessional and would put critically ill patients' lives into the high-risk category.

#### **South Africa News: SA presses ahead with anti-terror law** (source: [www.sundaytimes.co.za/news/](http://www.sundaytimes.co.za/news/))

Far-reaching draft anti-terrorism legislation now before Parliament is designed to prevent terrorist activity in South Africa, while at the same time acknowledging human rights provisions in the Constitution.

The government sought to allay fears that the measure would reintroduce detention without trial, reminiscent of the apartheid era, when Safety and Security Minister Charles Nqakula submitted the draft Anti-Terrorism Bill to Parliament.

Instead of detention without trial, the bill provides for "investigative hearings" to obtain information from a person suspected of being in possession of information on terrorist acts.

#### **Japan News: Cabinet OKs six-month extension of support for war on terror** (source: [www.japantimes.co.jp](http://www.japantimes.co.jp))

The Cabinet on Tuesday approved a six-month extension of Japan's logistic support for anti-terror operations led by the United States.

In line with the support, which involves several nations, the government will dispatch an amphibious vessel to transport Thai forces to Qatar. Equipment such as bulldozers will also be moved from Thailand, according to Chief Cabinet Secretary Yasuo Fukuda. This is to be a single operation carried out between Dec. 31 and March 31.

#### **Racist Japanese bathhouse fined**

(source: [www.bbc.co.uk/news/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/))

Splashing icy water shows virility but is taboo at baths. Operators of a bathhouse in northern Japan have been ordered to pay three million yen (\$25,000) in damages to three men barred from entry because they looked foreign. The company's behaviour amounts to racism – the Sapporo District Court ruled that refusing entry to the baths goes beyond socially acceptable limits.

The case against the Yunohana bathhouse in Otaru, on the northern island of Hokkaido, was brought by an American-born Japanese man and two foreigners – one German and one American. Correspondents say the court ruling was unusual and potentially important in a country where there is the perception of widespread racism but no penalties are specified for those violating the constitutional ban on such discrimination.

The case was brought by 37-year-old Debito Arudo, who changed his name from David Aldwinckle when he took on Japanese citizenship, Olaf Karthaus, 39, and Kenneth Lee Sutherland, 39, after they were refused entry to the baths two years ago. Mr Karthaus said, "this has made clear that discrimination against foreigners is illegal. It will discourage other businesses from doing the same, so discrimination should decrease." The men had also tried to sue the city of Otaru, 800 kilometres (500 miles) north of Tokyo, but the court ruled that the city could not be held responsible for failing to prevent racial discrimination in its jurisdiction.

Japan's public bathhouses have a strict etiquette that expects bathers to wash thoroughly before stepping into a communal hot tub for a soak. Alcohol is taboo as well as unruly behaviour such as splashing.

No one at Yunohana was available to comment on the verdict, but a spokesman had previously said the ban on foreigners was introduced after visiting Russian sailors angered local customers by stealing their belongings and failing to obey the rules. Japan's Jiji news agency said Yunohana began admitting foreigners again in January 2001.

# World News 'Opinion'

Stephen Wilkinson - 19th November 2002

## **Iraq: A Question of Sovereignty**

After months of wrangling over the correct UN resolution, the Bush administration has got its way and weapons inspectors have at last been allowed to re-enter Baghdad. Armed with a much meatier mandate to inspect any site within Iraq (including Hussein's eight presidential palaces, which had been conspicuously missing from earlier drafts of the resolution), Hans Blix expects to be able to resume inspections on the 23rd of November. Should he be prevented from carrying out his work satisfactorily, Bush has promised the Hussein regime the severest of consequences.

Quite apart from what Blix and his team may or may not discover, the crucial issue is a question of sovereignty. That the UN, at the intrigue of the US, has sent weapons inspectors back in shows the contempt that Bush has for Hussein's sovereignty. The Iraqi Parliament saw that, voting unanimously last week to reject the UN resolution allowing the inspectors to return, precisely because it was seen as a violation of Iraqi sovereignty. As a matter of course, the final decision was left to President Hussein, who is not and has never been bound by any contract by which he surrendered any of that sovereignty. Iraq are not even in the UN, so practically the UN can not justify entering Iraq, under any guise. Rather, that the UN has maintained a trade embargo and no-fly-zones over Iraq since the end of the Gulf War eleven years ago is violation enough.



**JOIN the  
HAJET  
Events Team**

**January 2003:**

**Enjoyed the HAJET events this year?  
Think you can do better or add to our ever  
growing events calendar?**


**Grab a friend or two and get involved  
starting January 8th 2003.**

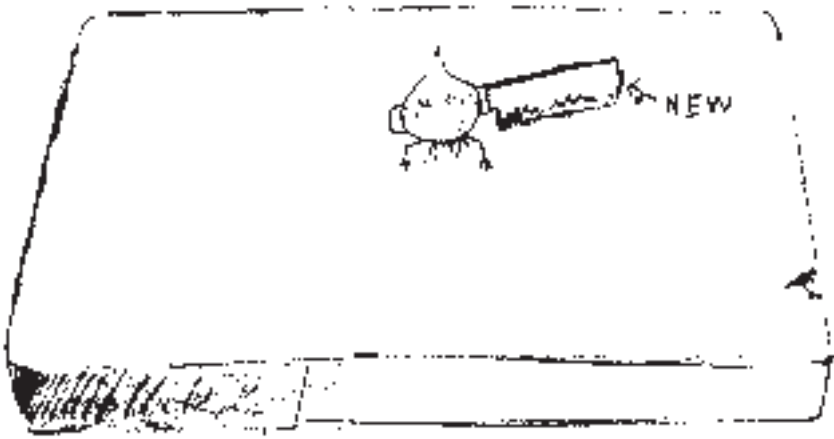
Plan monthly events, adventures, get togethers and social outings for your friends in Hyogo. .... We guarantee you'll meet lots of new people, learn more about your surroundings and have fun! Not a whole lot of committment - you'll still have time to do all that your heart desires during your stay in Japan!

**HAJET would love to have you on board!  
For more information contact  
PR Ten-cents-off: [pr@hyogoajet.org](mailto:pr@hyogoajet.org)**


# Scary Halloween Monsters

courtesy of Huw Owen's Class!

This is Mr. Tomonegi Awo jinatokusan.  
 He's very very dangerous.  
 He has  a kitchen knife. Be careful!



Two children are drawing. One is holding a pencil and the other is looking at the drawing.



Two children are drawing. One is holding a pencil and the other is looking at the drawing.





# Kyoto Shopping Day

**Saturday, December 7th**

Worried about your Christmas shopping list?  
Looking for that perfect ‘Japanesy’ gift to send home? Meet with us for shopping, temples, good food, and a night of dancing in Kyoto!

**Hajets Members FREE**  
**Non-members, ¥400**

## Schedule



10:15- Meet at Hankyu Kawaramachi stn. in Kyoto

11:30-1:30 Yasaka and Kiyomizudera temple  
We'll look at Japanese traditional goods stores on the way.

1:30-2:30 Free time for lunch

2:30-6:00 More shopping!  
The Kyoto Handicraft Center, and Kawaramachi downtown shopping.

6:00-9:00 Hajet Holiday Izakaya

9:00- Clubbing anyone?

Contact and RSVP **Rachel** for this event.

Phone: 090-8194-0309 or email:

[pr@hyogoajet.org](mailto:pr@hyogoajet.org)

And don't forget to check <http://hyogoajet.org> for updates!

# Hurricane Grannies: The Public Transportation Menace

Joshua Meade

I have lived in Japan for a little over a year now and still nothing could have prepared me for the inevitable run-ins with the many 'granny bulldozers' walking the streets of Japan. We have all seen them and some may have gone head on with the bust-through-the-line grannies.

They are fiercely competitive and will stop at nothing to secure their placement on trains, buses, taxis, and even airplanes. I have only noticed the old women that bust through the crowded lines, though I am sure there are some men who do it as well.

I have to say that the first time I experienced it I was baffled. I had never seen any old lady or man move that quickly and rudely and with such agility in my lifetime. It was as if she had combined all the known martial arts in the world and then added a bit of American football, rugby, and soccer to the mix to make it through the wretched public transportation lines.

I had just stepped off the plane at Osaka Kansai International Airport and was about to board a tram to claim my baggage, when suddenly 'Bruiser Grandma' made a fast break with her right arm angled out to a point like a dagger, going in for the kill, and struck me right in my side. I span around to see who the hell it was who was about to get a good verbal if not physical response (thinking for every action there is an opposite and equal reaction), but I was abashed as I realized the culprit was a little old lady nearly 70 if not 80, with a ratty old shopping bag and flower-and-pastel-colored clothing, walking at the proverbial 45-degree back-bent angle. By the time I had turned, she was already on the tram heading for the front. I didn't know what to do. I thought about screaming at the old broad and telling her to knock it off, but then I just managed to mangle out a barely audible, "Excuse me."

I know for a fact that I am not the only JET to have experienced the "daredevil granny" phenomenon. I have seen fellow JET members shunned out of seats by some of these bulldozing geezers. I remember one instance in Nishiwaki particularly well. We were returning from a Noh Theatre exhibition at a country club when one of these one-armed hammer-throwing trollops suddenly bombarded one of my female JET compatriots. The old bag nailed her in the back and then rapidly headed for the nearest seat, totally ignoring the five or six gaijin in front of her in the line. She seemed desperate to secure her position on the bus.

I wonder why these old-timers



**Be afraid.... very afraid!**

are so rude when it comes to line breaking, ramming, and colliding with fellow passengers, stopping just short of physical assault. I have some theories that I would like to share. First, I think they are tired and withered due to their ages and really would benefit from sitting down and relaxing while their younger fellow passengers stand. Second, I think they might be a little wacky and perhaps have some psychological disorder that makes them want to open up a can of whoop-\*\*s on the person in front of them. Third, I think they might have some physical disorder, like bunions or corns on the toes. It could very well be that they are just plain sore from movement, but I think perhaps there is a pleasure motive. Which leads me to my last theory. Perhaps they are just into public S&M or maybe they like the feeling of domination. They want to dish it out and they love it when they see you get all discomforted but take it anyway. Now I know that seems a little far-fetched, but bear with me on this one. I have some evidence. For example, I have seen on several occasions a slight smirk of evil-joy glaring over their withered lips. It seems almost like a look of gentle ecstasy of getting over on a younger and generally much larger person. Consider as further evidence their sheer violence when they come at you; they almost seem to put every ounce of bone and flesh into their quasi-assault. Fetishes abound, and the older generation seems to fit this ticket.

So I offer this advice. Watch your back when you're boarding a train, bus, plane, or taxi. They are known to wait to the last second to slam you and then zip right by. I have found that standing with your arms slightly outstretched (folding your arms tends to create more width) seems to help in prevention of the bombardments. Further, trying to block the entrance, any way you can, seems to stifle them a bit. Another helper in fending off the wolverine geezers is to run in packs; try not to be alone when traveling. It often helps to be assertive but not overly so.

Lastly, and this might be the most important of all, don't bow down to 'Granny Bulldozer'. A friendly little game of bump-and-run is in order, for as the saying goes, "when in Rome ..."

## NEW STUFF AT THE LIBRARY



### IT'S BETTER THAN THE BACK OF YOUR CEREAL BOX

**A BOOK OF MEMORIES:** PETER NADAS

"The monumental event of recent Hungarian history, the fated uprising of 1956, is accounted for in the most affecting manner imaginable in these haunting pages" *-Daily Telegraph*

**LOVE IS A RACKET:** JOHN RIDLEY "Smart and edgy and moving...Ridley has us hooked" *-New York Times Book Review*

**THE TENTH INSIGHT:** JAMES REDFIELD "James Redfield has achieved what the greatest storytellers across time and culture aspire to. He has woven a parable accessible to all...an extraordinary map for the evolutionary journey begun in *The Celestine Prophecy*." *-Michael Murphy, Chairman, Esalen Institute*

**MAN AND HIS SYMBOLS:** ed. CARL S. JUNG "This book, which was the last piece of work undertaken by Jung before his death in 1961, provides a unique opportunity to assess his contribution to the life and thought of our time, for it was also his first attempt to present his life-work in psychology to a non-technical public..." *-Guardian*

**CAT'S CRADLE:** KURT VONNEGUT "Vonnegut is George Orwell, Dr. Caligari and Flash Gordon compounded into one writer...a zany but moral mad scientist." *-Time*

**JAPAN: IT'S NOT ALL RAW FISH:** DON MALONEY A collection from "Never the Twain...?", a weekly Japan Times column. "Japan has no more terrible sight than the foreigner who furiously denies that Japanese have the right sometimes to be different from Westerners. But there is hope... He can... as he laughs, learn that foreigners and Japanese can be equally odd, and equally deserving of the other's understanding." *-Mark Frankland, Far East Correspondent, The Observer, London*

Members of HAJET can borrow books for FREE.

Choose From over 1000 titles at <http://hyogoajet.org> then, simply E-mail the librarian at [librarian@hyogoajet.org](mailto:librarian@hyogoajet.org)

## Need some time away? Take a hike!

Last weekend some fellow JETs and I planned to get an early start to hike the famous Mt. Daimonji in Kyoto. Being the procrastinators that we are, our early start turned out to be around 4pm, some of us a bit more hungover than we would have liked. Since we got a late start, dusk was almost upon us as we began our ascent, but we found that, though the hike to the top of the mountain takes about 2 hours, we made it to the summit in just 35 minutes!

The summit was absolutely amazing. We surfaced from the lush, green foliage that made it seem as if we were actually hiking at night, just in time to see a beautiful ray of sunlight peaking through the clouds and reflecting off of the top of the buildings on the city of Kyoto below us. The city almost looked like it was made of silver, a truly breathtaking sight. We didn't stay for the sunset because we didn't have a torch to get back down. Still, for any of you who do have the chance, I am sure it would be a sight to remember.

The trail for this hike has some steep stairs, but other than that it is easy going and there is lots of beautiful greenery. This is a hike for just about any weather and if you are like us, about any time of day. However, if you do want to make it to the top of the mountain, I would suggest getting started a bit before 4pm. Happy hiking!

---

## VOLUNTEER NEEDED **Sunday December 15th!**



### The International Angel Association

- Free Sunday afternoon - December 15th?
- Want to talk about Christmas and raise money for charity?
- **Then contact me TODAY – I need your help!!**

Get into the true spirit of Christmas, by talking about the holiday season (in English!) whilst raising money for those in need: I will be talking about Christmas in England and I am looking for a volunteer to also present how Christmas is celebrated in another country/culture. So if you are a Santa-on-a-surfboard type person, or could do a Hogmanay special or any another Christmas-based talk, come and join in the festivities and do your bit for charity at the same time. (There will even be real mince pies and Christmas crackers!)

The International Angel Association is a Japan-based NGO which supports the underprivileged in Bangladesh and other developing nations through orphanage programmes, educational support, training centres and other welfare-related projects. One of their main methods of fundraising, is to hold public talks in English, often presented by JETs.

For details of the Christmas Talk or for more info. on the charity, please contact me:

Sophie James Hyogo Ajet Charity Coordinator: [hajet\\_charity@hotmail.com](mailto:hajet_charity@hotmail.com)  
Work Tel: 0799-42-4433 Home Tel: 0799-42-5823

---

# What are you doing for Christmas?

Amanda Betts

I just sent off a holiday package to the family at home in Ontario, Canada. I want pieces of Japan for them, souvenirs that conjure images of the land of the rising sun, the demure geisha, the majesty of Mount Fuji. However, Japan is no longer an exotic image; it's wading through Hello Kitty merchandise at Jusco and sifting through thousands of pairs of socks to the tune of (can it be The Beach Boys?) Jingle Bell Rock. It's wandering through the Buddhist Centre in Himeji, examining golden ornaments and beautifully embroidered pouches, sniffing at smokey shrines and feeling conspicuously foreign. Japan is not a Christian country, and its celebration of Christmas has been likened to Western celebrations of Valentines Day (gift-giving, dinner out, romantic interludes...)



What are you doing for Christmas? It'll become the most popular question among expats over the next month, many of whom are heading to Thailand, Singapore or going home to the family. I am staying in Japan (this statement is often met with a sort of perplexed silence: Why? What does one do at Christmas time in Japan?) It's cold, and Christmas cake and KFC don't quite measure up to turkey and stuffing (or pad thai) and there are so many other places to go.



My best friend Lucianna has bravely purchased a plane ticket (from Canada) to Japan for the Christmas season. She'll be arriving at Narita on the 23rd of December, the Emperor's Birthday. I will collect her at the airport, and we will make our way back to the Kansai area to explore, shop, bathe at the Arima onsen, eat crab in Kinosaki, observe the Luminarie in Kobe (I've been assured that it is spectacular, and that the streets are almost unbearably crowded; the best time to go is after 9:00 p.m.). Maybe we'll have one last night of intoxication and general debauchery before visiting Chion Temple (near Gion) on New Year's Eve to

renounce all our worldly desires.

Members of my adult conversation class offer their own holiday plans: there will be potluck dinners, bon-enkai, one woman will reunite with her husband on New Year's Day after a lengthy business trip, one mother will watch the sun rise with her son's boy scout troop on a mountaintop in Kakogawa. In my city of Kasai, community members will pack mochi and climb Mount Kame to watch the sun rise on New Year's morning.

Luch and I will probably see the sun rise from the streets of Kyoto, as ryokans are virtually impossible to book for New Year's Eve. I imagine we'll be cold and exhausted after a night of temple-viewing and sin-renouncing, probably lost, and probably exhilarated to be a part of the celebration, not just buying a postcard of it.



# Got Your Card Yet?

## - Join HyogoAJET!!!



### Events

Receive **substantially discounted entrance** to parties, cultural outings, outdoor events, and charity fundraisers monthly.

### Library

Get **free access** to and delivery of more than **1000 books listed online**.

### Hyogo Times

Receive a **monthly newsletter** containing essential information for JETs: features, event information, classified ads, humour, news and more.

**Find out more** and **apply** for **HyogoAJET** at the completely revamped HyogoAJET website **<http://hyogoajet.org>** or email **[pr@hyogoajet.org](mailto:pr@hyogoajet.org)**

### Charity Involvement

**Support charity events** in Japan and abroad including the International Angel Association, Homeless Charities in Osaka, and Habitat for Humanity International.

### Support

Receive and give support via the **Sempai Support System**, the invaluable **Hyogo Living Guide**, and the new **City Guide** and **Tajima Guide**.

**New Members**  
3000 Yen

**Renewing**  
2500 Yen

*Special Discount  
For Couples!*

**New Shared\***  
4500 Yen

**Renewing Shared\***  
3500 Yen

*\*In order to qualify, you and your partner must officially reside at the same address.*

**Join HyogoAJET at any of our Events or online at <http://hyogoajet.org>**

# Hyogo AJET Presents...

## The Annual Calendar of Events 2002 - 2003

- August** ~~Himeji Beer Garden, Himeji~~  
~~Kobe Night Out, Kobe~~
- September** ~~Kobe Back to School Beer Garden, Kobe~~  
~~Camping & Hiking, Mt Hyounosen (northern Hyogo near Tottori Pref)~~
- October** ~~Terry Fox Charity Run (Kobe)~~  
~~Halloween Party & Charity Event~~
- November** ~~Mid-year conference after hours bash & Charity Event, Kobe~~  
~~Ruriji Temple Stay, Nanko-cho Hyogo~~
- December** Shopping trip in Kyoto
- January** Onsen Weekend, Northern Hyogo
- February** Kannabe Ski Trip Weekend, Kanabe Hyogo  
Valentine 'Love' Party, Kobe
- March** Mount Rokko climb & Arima Onsen, Mt. Rokko Hyogo
- April** Hanami Cherry Blossom viewing PARTY at HIMEJI Castle Himeji
- May** THE Hootinanie at Theatre Pochette, Kitano Kobe
- June** Hamasaka BEACH party in HAMASAKA, Northern Hyogo  
Climb Mount FUJI Adventure, Mount Fuji TBA
- July** All Hyogo JETS & FRIENDS 'Sayonara' PARTY, Kobe



*FYI: The exact dates have not been listed as they are subject to change.*

**For up-dated information on UP-COMING events please check out:**

**<http://hyogoajet.org>**



# Life as a JET

Clairissa Myschwoda

## Meccha samui, ne?



The two things on my mind this month: the cold and my cold. As I sit here at my desk – nose slowly running, fingers losing dexterity, toes already numb – I have to regrettably admit that most of my waking moments have been spent obsessing about the weather. I'm sure that we're all in agreement on this one: Japan is bloody cold this time of year.

I affectionately recall my earlier state of blissful ignorance on the day I requested to be placed in Hyogo Prefecture (a temperate 5 degrees Celsius in winter compared with -25 degrees back home). Sadly, I was led horribly astray by weather statistics. Like anything, you can't really understand something until you've experienced it first-hand, and the stats I read couldn't have possibly accounted for the many climactic nuances of the Japanese winter we are beginning to experience.

The cold weather and its implications have rendered me useless. While I have lost all lucidity and spent the last week floating around my school in an antihistamine-induced parallel universe, the placid stares from behind thin, white masks and the stuffy voices of fellow JET friends tell me I am not alone. Consequently, I have made it my personal crusade to prepare for the wintry months ahead.

### All the comforts of home in one convenient appliance

The real problem here seems to be getting my extremities up to a temperature capable of sustaining life. Unlike most other cool climates where it is easy to get warm but difficult to stay warm, I am convinced that I could stay warm if only I could get warm. No matter how many chemical heat packs I strap-on, (ladies: seen those panties with the rear pockets for hot packs yet?) or how many layers I can sport without looking like a sumo in training, I can't seem to shake this omnipotent chill! I can only huddle under a kotatsu for so long and the heated blankets, carpets and toilet seats seem to only be dealing with the symptoms of the problem. I have to admit there is something quite nice about having slippers that plug into an electrical outlet and a kettle that keeps water boiling hot all day but, really, can't we do something about the lack of heating? Although I can find a seemingly infinite array of heated everyday items I can't seem to find one appliance that can address all my heating needs. There is a definite demand for some innovation here and I'm open to any suggestions!

### Filed Research

If you are like the many unfortunate foreigners who've been unable to prevent the inevitable, here are the findings of my extensive experiments with Japanese cold medications. Overall, the most economical cure seems to be the natural one (not my course of action): a giant bowl of hot tempura udon, a lengthy soak in the onsen and goose-down everything!



As for myself, I have managed to seek out a hot lemon drink that contains all the goodies necessary for cold relief (decongestant, pain killer, cough suppressant and vitamin C). Vicks eucalyptus vapor rub and cough lozenges are also available here. Cough syrup is a little more difficult to find. In search of cold-relief tablets I again found myself relying on the strange cartoon illustrations that seem to define the contents of all packaging in Japan (hmm, this guy with the big red nose, watery eyes and lighting bolts by his throat looks like he might have my symptoms!)

To add a wise note of caution: It's far better to look like an idiot and ask one of your JTEs to help you translate the ingredients and dosage limitations of your medication than to send yourself into a near coma with a overzealous cocktail of foreign cold medications. Speaking from experience, cold medication here is expensive and difficult to find but well worth the hunt.

#### Prevention is the best medicine

Having accepted that there must be some truth to this propaganda, I recommend the following measures: swap those brisk morning showers for a before-bed bath, take advantage of the heated coffee cans from the vending machines (slap a couple of those in your undies and you're good to go!), change while you're still in bed, invest in a heating pad and layer (check out your nearest UniQlo: 'Everybody in Fleece'). If all else fails never underestimate the therapeutic benefits of complaining to friends and family back home! (Note: this only works if it's not colder back home).

#### The Japanese Way

Like with everything there is also the ever-popular Japanese method for dealing with the problem: wear your coat all the time, drink lots of miso soup and comment on the weather at least every hour. Ganbatte, only three months left to go!



## KOBE REPRESENTATIVE

January 2003:

**Are you a Kobe JET?**

**Or are you a friend of a Kobe JET?**

**Do you want to 'get to know' a Kobe JET?**

*The HAJET team needs YOUR help so that we can continue to keep all JETs in HYOGO informed and aware of what is going on in their surroundings. You'll meet lots of people, get involved, stay away from the PACHINKO parlors and join the team!*

## WE WANT YOU!

*Don't worry - time commitment depends on you - you'll still have heaps of time to do all the things you've set yourself out to accomplish in Japan!*

HAJET would love to have you on board!  
For more information contact  
PR Ten-cents-off: [pr@hyogoajet.org](mailto:pr@hyogoajet.org)

# Inter Hyogo Football: Royal Blue News

Stuart Cruickshank

For those who missed it, or can't remember it, in early October Inter Hyogo made its third long journey to the National JET football tournament in Nagano. Last year, Inter's two trips to the cold and foggy roof of Japan were not extremely fruitful, but with our band of new recruits, morale levels were high. Was this third time to be lucky?

Maybe not when getting to Nagano is an odyssey in itself. Especially when you have 16 people and only 4 cars. Combine this with a 6-hour drive on a Friday night, and it doesn't exactly add up to the best start to the weekend. The long drive was of course interspersed with kick arounds in the car park of expressway rest stops and, upon reaching our destination, the obligatory practice session in front of the hotel at 2.30am.

Fears remained, however, for Dinsky and Gregory who had gone missing somewhere along the way. Finally they stumbled in just after 4am. It seems that Dinsky had managed to turn a 6-hour drive to Nagano into a 9-hour expedition through the suburbs of Shizuoka and back again.

With only a few hours sleep under our collective belts, the competition began on Saturday morning...

## Game 1 - Yamanashi

Hopes were high for our first game against Yamanashi as we had beaten them 5-0 in the same tournament last year. However, a combination of their off-season recruiting and our general disarray, given that it was our first game together, meant that the game wouldn't be quite as easy as we had initially thought.



Our first injury of the tournament came early in the second half. Dan 'Danimal' Hagan came off his goal line and slid towards the ball, only to be met by a Yamanashi forward sliding towards him. A clash of knees later, Dan left the field for the last time in the tournament.

In what proved to be a lacklustre performance by Inter, the only goal of the match came from a Yamanashi shot from just outside the 18 yard box. The ball looped over the head of Thom (our replacement keeper) and into the back of the net. It was one of those annoying, lucky goals that the keeper could do nothing about and was always going to go in.

To add insult to injury (or should that be the other way around?), the stretcher was again called on the field for stand-in keeper Thom when he took a goal kick that snapped his thigh muscle. Although managing to hobble around the penalty box for the remainder of the match, that was the end of his on-field performance for the tournament. Rack that up as injury number 2, bringing our squad down to 11 players.

Lacking in fitness and knowledge of how each other played, our traditional 4-4-2 formation fell apart. One notable performance was by Ben who came on as centre back but decided to play right midfield, left wing and then striker without telling anyone.

Overall, a reasonable effort considering that it was our first match together, but with only one shot during the entire match it was highly unlikely that we were going to win.

**Result: Inter Hyogo 0, Yamanashi 1.**

## **Game 2 - Aomori**

We came straight out of the blocks and within 10 minutes we'd had at least 3 good shots. It was in the 12th minute that a silky smooth move from our Jamaican star resulted in a goal. Yan, our replacement, replacement keeper (who was rumoured to be a long lost relative of Fabien Barthez), himself on loan from Yamanashi, lofted the ball down the field, at which point Gregory took the ball perfectly on his toe. He then made a spectacular turn around a defender, sprinted towards goal with his head down, placed his foot in the direction of the goal and unleashed a left-footed shot that gave the keeper no chance. Surely Inter's goal of the tournament ... or was it? Four minutes later, Duncan put a ball through which was promptly dispatched into the back of the net by Dinsky. As we went into half time we were up 2-0.

The second half of the match was a fairly dour struggle. Notable events included Gregory being injured and consequently forcing (and I mean forcing) Elliott to make an appearance on the pitch and Yan saving far too many shots. With no scoring in the second half, we brought up our first win of the 2002-03 season.

**Result: Inter Hyogo 2, Aomori 0.**

At the end of the day we anxiously waited to see if we would make it into the top half of the draw for Sunday's knockout competition. As the results finally came through, we managed to scrape into the top by the smallest of margins (bettering the next team's goal difference by only one goal).

## **Game 3 - Gunma**

After another evening of not enough sleep and too much alcohol, our game against Gunma was a somewhat mediocre performance that may forever be remembered for one single event, a stunning strike that will go down in Inter Hyogo folklore.

Picture it. It was the fifth minute and Marcello was on the right wing menacing a Gunma defender. After some fancy footwork he played the ball back to Steve who crossed it into the penalty box. Despite Gregory's effort at a diving header the ball made its way to the boot of a Gunma defender who hoofed the ball back out of the box, high in the air, straight down the pitch. From out of nowhere, Huw Owen ran from the halfway line towards the ball. He met the ball around 30-35 yards from goal, volleying the ball back towards goal (that's right, volleying!) It was one of those slow motion moments in one's life ... everything seemed to stop as the crowd watched the ball hurtle back towards goal. Initially, it seemed that the ball may be heading over the bar, but the oncoming wind helped the ball dip and suddenly it snuck between the crossbar and a diving goalkeeper into the back of the net! The celebrations began with Duncan lifting Huw into the air and continued with our entire bench (i.e. Ben) running onto the field.

A volley from perhaps 35 yards out – completely stunning. You can't tell me that football isn't a beautiful game. Lesser people would have cried at the sight of that goal. Words really don't do it justice.

Following this, the exhaustion of the previous two days kicked in, as did goalkeeping errors. The first, a cross from the left that went straight through the hands of the keeper and after a desperate scramble was



scuffed across the goal line. The second goal then resulted from the keeper coming out to slide and pick up the ball, but instead the ball passed straight through his hands to the feet of a waiting Gunma forward who easily found the back of the net.

Despite these indiscretions, the keeper redeemed himself with a couple of great one-on-one saves. We also managed to survive three (or was it four?) shots that hit the crossbar or post. Also notable during this match was Thom's off-field performance coming to the fore. Not only was he a linesman but he was also able to dish out metaphors and advice as if he was channelling Ron Atkinson himself.

The final 10 minutes had "all the desperation of a cup-tie" (thanks very much, Thom). With 5 minutes left to play, Ben went down in the penalty box and although Gregory had managed to slot the ball home in the meanwhile, the play was brought back for a dubious penalty. Dinsky bravely stepped up, calmly taking the spot kick only for the keeper to get a hand on it and push it over the bar. At the back Stuart was taking it upon himself to perform more outrageous tackles, and if it wasn't for the game being in its last few minutes, he would surely have been sent off for a tackle from behind that even had Inter players questioning its legitimacy.

By the last few minutes we had pushed the entire team forward, but it was to no avail. Alas, the luck that had been our saviour on the previous day had deserted us. We were out of the tournament.

**Result: Inter Hyogo 1, Gunma 2.**

Before we headed home we, of course, took part in the time-honoured Inter Hyogo tradition of voting for the most and least notable performances of the tournament (either on or off the pitch). The results were as follows:

- \* **Men of the Tournament: Gregory and Huw for amongst other things, a couple of the best goals of the tournament.**
- \* **D\*\*k of the Tournament: Ben, for certain off-field indiscretions on Saturday night (although a special mention goes out to Dinsky and his marathon drive to Nagano. Please, Dinsky, next time don't rely on your map of Hyogo to get you as far afield as Nagano!)**



**Imagine if all major retailers started producing condoms - and used their existing advertising catchphrases ...**

**Nike Condoms** - Just Do It.

**Coca Cola Condoms** - The Real Thing.

**Ever Ready Condoms** - Keep Going and Going.

**Macintosh Condoms** - It does more. It costs less. It's that simple.

**Peugot Condoms** - The Ride of Your Life.

**Renault Condoms** - Size really does matter.

**Goodyear Condoms** - For a longer ride, go wide.

**Halfords Condoms** - We go the extra mile.

**KFC Condoms** - Finger Licking Good!

**Burger King Condoms** - Home of the Whopper!

**Pringles Condoms** - Once you pop - you can't stop!

**Galaxy Condoms** - Why have rubber when you can have silk?

**Minstrels Condoms** - Melt in your mouth, not in your hand.

**Tesco Condoms** - Every little helps.

**Sainsbury's Condoms** - Making Life Taste Better.

**Safeway Condoms** - Lightening the Load.

**Andrex Condoms** - Soft, Strong and very, very Long.

**Flash Condoms** - Just sit back, relax and let Flash do all the hard work.

**Royal Mail Condoms** - I saw this and thought of you.

**On Digital Condoms** - Plug and Play!

**Abbey National Condoms** - Because life is complicated enough.

Thanks to Sophie James for sending this in!

# The New Year in Japan

Students of Kenia Lopez-Mohedano, Itami-Nishi SHS

## Shogatsu (by Tabuchi and Masukawa)

- On New Year's Eve, we eat soba, or buckwheat noodles, and listen to the temple bells called joya-no-kane.
- On New Year's Day, we eat special dishes called o-sechi.
- We get money as a New Year's Present from our parents.



## Otoshidama (by Iida and Takahiro)

- Otoshidama is a New Year's tradition in Japan. It is the New Year's gift money.
- Elderly people give it to their children, and to the children of their friends and relatives.
- Children look forward to getting it, because they can get a great amount of money. Maybe they can use it to buy something they want, for example, toys, clothes and so on.

## The Japanese Calendar 2003

Rachel Tenzythoff

January 1 (Shogatsu)	New Year's Day	
January 15 (Seijin-no-hi)	Coming of Age Day	
February 3/4 (Setsubun)	Bean-throwing Ceremony	
February 11 (Kenkoku-kinembi)	National Foundation Day	
March 3 (Hina-matsuri)	Doll Festival	
March 21 (Shumbun-no-hi)	Vernal Equinox Day	
April 8 (Hana-matsuri)	Buddha's Birthday Festival	
April 29 (Midori-no-hi)	Greenery Day	
May 3	Constitution Day	
May 5 (Kempo-kinembi)	Children's Day Festival	
July 7 (Tanabata)	Star Festival	
August 13 - 15 (Obon)	Welcome the spirits of ancestors past who are returning home	
Mid September (Tsukimi)	Moon Viewing Festival	
September 15 (Keiro-no-hi)	Respect for the Aged Day	
September 22 (Shubun-no-hi)	Autumnal Equinox Day	
October 2 (Taiiku-no-hi)	Health and Sports Day	
November 3	Culture Day	
November 15 (Shichi-go-san)	Festival Day for children of 3, 5 and 7 years of age	
November 23 (Kinro-kansha-no-hi)	Labor Thanksgiving Day	
December 23 (Tenno-tanjobi)	The Emperor's Birthday	
December 31 (O-misoka)	New Year's Eve	

## **January HyogoAJET Onsen Weekend**

**What:** Playing in a winter wonderland – skinny dipping in famous onsen, skating, and lots of snow-bound fun (maybe even a pot of Crab Nabe or two)

**Where:** Northern Hyogo  
(but will be updated/confirmed in the New Year)

**Who:** HyogoJETs of course!

**Other details:** still being worked out by the Tajima crew. For a weekend this good, there SHOULD be a few surprises anyhow :-)

**Look to <http://hyogoajet.org>**

## **Onigiri For the Homeless**

As we're all feeling the chill of the harsh wintry temperatures in Japan, it may seem an apt time to spare a thought for those whom, for whatever reason, find themselves without a home and living on the streets in Japan. Yes – homelessness is a big issue here, with an estimated 10,000 homeless people in Osaka alone.

**Feel inspired to help? Here's how:** Every last Sunday of the month, a small group meets at ZOE's Bar in Osaka's America Mura. The International Outreach Organisation (IOR) is non-profit making. Volunteers meet up to make as many onigiri as possible in a couple of hours, then go out together to hand the food out to those in need. Apparently a very enlightening, humbling and rewarding experience.\*

*\*DISCLAIMER – I have been told of this organisation and their onigiri project by a now former JET who joined the IOR volunteers on several occasions, but I have not yet had the opportunity to take part myself so cannot speak from personal experience. But homelessness is such a huge, largely neglected social problem in Japan and I know that many of you are eager to lend a helping hand, so wanted to inform you of this opportunity so you can try it out for yourselves. Especially for those staying around at Christmas.*

**If you would like more information on homelessness in Japan or a list of other organisations that support the needs of the homeless, please contact me:**

**Sophie James** Hyogo Ajet Charity Coordinator: [hajet\\_charity@hotmail.com](mailto:hajet_charity@hotmail.com)  
Work Tel: 0799-42-4433 Home Tel: 0799-42-5823

# Film Review: 'Road to Perdition'

(Dreamworks, 2002)

Ronan McCaughey

'Road to Perdition' has everything I like in a movie. It has style with substance. The film can boast three of the best actors from their respective generations, an award-winning director, and classic cinematography. Yet the reason I rate it so highly is the story. Its simplicity is powerful, dark, and compelling.

'Road to Perdition' is set in 1931 America, when the country was in the grip of the Great Depression, prohibition was still the law, and gangsters like Al Capone were at the height of their power. It features two fathers: Michael Sullivan (Tom Hanks), a hit man for the Irish mob, and John Rooney (Paul Newman), Sullivan's boss and the man who raised him as a son. Their two sons, Michael Sullivan Jr., and Connor Rooney are desperate to earn their father's favour. However, the fathers engage in a mutual bloodbath as they fight to save the souls of their sons. Nothing is spared by the two men, not even their friends or family, as they bid to achieve redemption for their own bad lives through their sons. Michael Sullivan Jr. and his father start the movie far apart from each other but the terrible gunshed brings them very much together. The crux of the movie is this emotional journey that explores the relationship between a father and son, a journey instigated by tragedy and revenge.

The acting is technically superb. Hanks portrays a man who kills for a living, but we are never sure of his character. The fact that he cares so much for his spiritual father (Newman) and for his son that he will die for them may even make him seem better than he ought. Newman turns in a classic performance as the charming godfather of the clan. Being Irish myself, I can attest that his accent is perfect! Finally, Jude Law cuts a menacing figure as the freaky photographer hired by Newman to take pictures of dead bodies. He trails Michael Sullivan and his son to the town of Perdition. There, the movie ends as Michael Sullivan dies to save his son from the evil photographer.

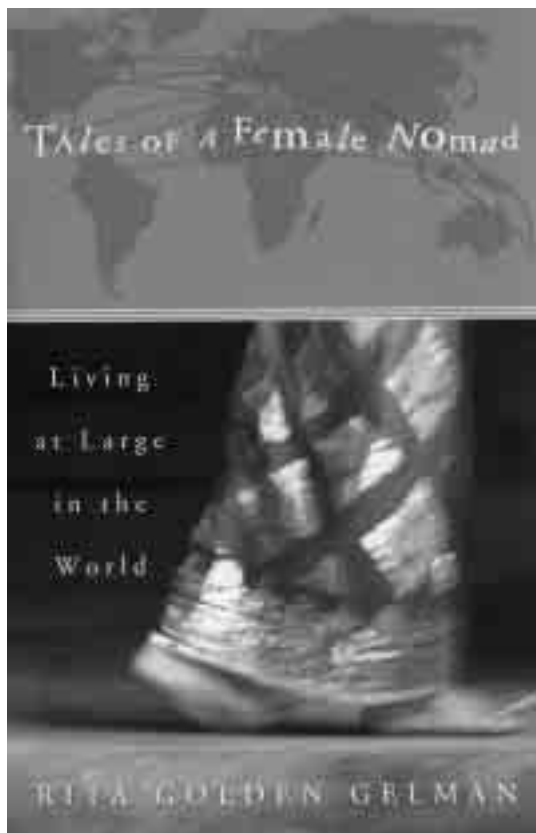
'Road to Perdition' is a title with a dual meaning. Literally, Perdition is the town to which Michael Sullivan and his only surviving son Michael Jr. are headed. Perdition is also a euphemism for hell, and in that regard, the road is one Michael Sullivan prays he can keep his son from travelling. Watch it on a wet, miserable day, like we have in Ireland to fully appreciate!





# Book Review: Rita Golden Gelman, *Tales of a Female Nomad: Living at Large in the World* (Three Rivers Press)

Victoria Vaughan



*Tales of a Female Nomad: Living at Large in the World* is a travelogue written by Rita Golden Gelman.

Its bite-size chapters, vivid in description, are a perfect supplement to a between-lesson coffee break.

This won't be the best book you've ever read – it may not even make it into a list of favourites – but if you have ever wanted to grab a backpack and go ... and just keep on going, then this book will wrap you with intrigue and fill you with inspiration.

Written in an intimate style, you become involved with Rita's story as she builds her communities in Mexico, Indonesia, Thailand, Seattle and Vancouver to name a few. Rita is more than a traveller, she is a new-age nomad, owning only what she can carry and settling in communities long enough to know the people, share their secrets and despair in their grief.

At age 48, on the verge of divorce, Rita abandons her rich LA life, sprinkled with celebrities and parties, for Mexico – to begin a so-far ceaseless journey. Despite illness and rejection, Rita discovers her long-since dormant passion for foreign culture; "my life is endlessly fascinating, filled with learning, adventure,

interesting people, new and enlightening experience. I laugh, sing, and dance more than I ever have. I am becoming the person inside me."

Each of the nine tales describes a freedom that can only be found through travel. Spirits, superstitions, and 'shrooms all help Rita shed the trappings of a conventional life and discover that the only rules are her own. Foreign culture is not limited to remote mountain villages and jungle tribes – it is also explored in English-speaking countries where the life of a nomad is only marginally easier. Rita eloquently shares her revelations, fears, and efforts to restrain Western prejudice (an apt topic!) Immersing herself in a pursuit typically reserved for the twenty-somethings, Rita's *Tales* inspires courage to live a full life free from the suppression of desire through convention.

p.s. At the end of the book Rita gives her website address, which details her latest exploits – a sweet little interactive touch! There is also an e-mail address, and she does reply.

# CD Review: DJ Jazzy Jeff, 'The Magnificent \*\*\*\*' (BBE, 2002)

Colin Erickson

A DJ Jazzy Jeff Album? Will Smith's old DJ?

Actually, it would be more accurate to call Will Smith Jeff's old MC. The talent was most definitely behind the turntables in that group. Of course the tables were turned when they were both on TV together, but that doesn't really matter. Luckily being a profoundly bad actor didn't hinder DJ Jazzy Jeff from being one of the best DJs in the world. He is an innovator on the turntables, and most of today's DJ scratches are based off the techniques that he pioneered almost 15 years ago.

Jeff has been out of the public eye for a while now, but he has remained busy. Besides doing regular live DJ shows, he has produced songs for Michael Jackson and Musiq, as well as producing Jill Scott's excellent debut album, *Who is Jill Scott?*



Jazzy Jeff is a DJ of the highest caliber, and it shows on this album. He only produced 5 of the 18 tracks here, although his scratching appears on more than that. His production company is called Touch of Jazz, and one listen to this album will let you know that it is a very descriptive name. All of the songs are very musical, samples and 2 bar loops are hardly used at all. A few tracks stray away from the hip hop genre altogether and into good old soul music. There are a group of artists doing the vocals on the songs, including one with Shawn Stockman from Boyz 2 Men. Although the rest are all relatively unknown, they are definitely talented.

The standout songs are 'Shake it Off', a dance party song if there ever was one. Its snaky guitar and chunky bass line move your feet, while MC Chef Word's playful vocals keep the atmosphere positive.

On the opposite end of the hip hop spectrum is Last Emperor's 'Mystery Man'. One of my favorite tracks on the album, it has the stripped down, bare bones type of production that great MCs can use. There is just the Beat, the MC, and the DJ. Last Emperor is from Philadelphia, he has been relatively unknown until now, but hopefully he will be able to put an album out in the near future. He stays on top of the beat in this song, keeping things moving. It may be a little out of tone with the rest of the album's jazz-infused tracks, but it is solid nonetheless. 'Mystery Man' is a song that will definitely find its way onto one of my mixtapes in the near future.

Last Emperor is one of the few superstar MCs on the album, along with Freddie Foxxx and J-Live. Unfortunately they are under-represented in favor of the more unknown and less skilled Baby Blak and Pauly Yamz. These guys are good, but I just wanted to hear more from my old favorites.

The album falls short of being a classic for several reasons. 'The Magnificent' suffers from a lack of continuity precisely because there are so many different artists on it, 15 in all. It is more together than a really well done mix tape, but the same variety that makes it an interesting album to listen to takes away from its flow. MCs Baby Blak and Pauly Yamz are on more cuts than anyone else, but they don't have the charisma to pull off an album on their own. A truly great album will move you and make you feel like you've been on a journey, and this one doesn't quite do it. That said, this is an excellent hip hop and soul album that is limited from greatness by its very form.

R.I.P. Jam Master Jay (1965-2002). The world has lost a truly great artist.

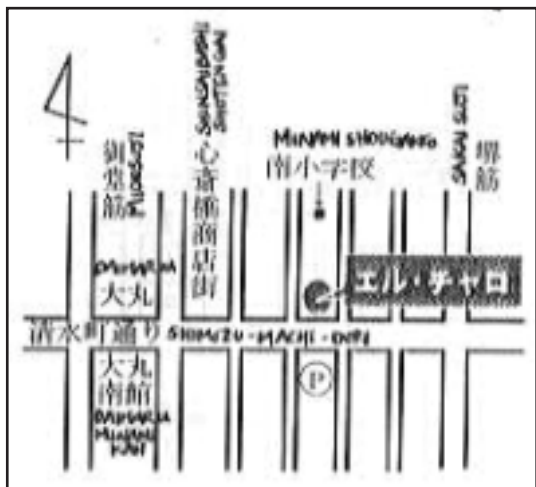
# Restaurant Review: El Charro (Shinsaibashi, Osaka) Tel. 06-6251-5217

Kenia Lopez-Mohedano

Finding a Mexican restaurant in Japan might not be so easy, let alone an authentic one. So, if you are looking for a good place to dine on delicious Mexican food and practise your Spanish, go to El Charro. Take it from this Mexican-American; they make some of the best tacos I have tasted so far in Japan. They also make excellent margaritas. The owner is a very friendly Japanese man who speaks perfect Spanish. On the odd night he enjoys playing the guitar for his guests. The atmosphere is quite mellow, with traditional Mexican music playing.

El Charro is open from 6:00 p.m. until 1:00 a.m., and closed on Mondays.

To get to El Charro from Umeda, take the subway (Midosuji line) to Shinsaibashi. Take exit #6 and follow the map. Enjoy!



## Habitat for Humanity - Nepal T-Shirts and JapanEasy Cookbooks!

Did you plan on buying a T-shirt or Cookbook at the mid-year, only to find yourself pushed along with the crowd, past our stand, down the stairs, and out the door????

Are you scratching your head and wondering what to get your friends or family for Christmas/ Hannukah/ insert appropriate holiday here: \_\_\_\_\_?

Do you find yourself staring at the fridge wondering what to cook, or staring at your closet and wondering what to wear?

Have no fear - you have NOT missed the boat!

We still have T-shirts and Cookbooks left!

The funds go to a great cause, and the things we're selling are actually useful!

Here are the prices, in case you forgot:

**T-shirts: ¥2000, Cookbooks: ¥1200,  
BOTH: ¥3000**

Contact me if you want me to get any of these to you!!!!Thanks for all your support!!!

Sabine sengmueller  
randomgirl01@hotmail.com

# HAJET Committee 2002-2003

Position	Name	Contact Number(s)	Group & Personal Email
Prefectural Representative	Rachel Tenzythoff	hp: 06-6491-1447 cell: 090-8194-0309 wk: 06-6421-0132	pr@hyogoajet.org tencentsoff@hotmail.com
Hyogo Times Editor	Steve Wilkinson	hp: 06-6433-1124	times@hyogoajet.org smbwilkinson@hotmail.com
Web Mistress & Hyogo Times Design Editor	Fiona Cubie (Fi)	hp: 0787-91-0548 cell: 090-2068-1035	admin@hyogoajet.org fionacubie@hotmail.com
Treasurer	Andrea Sparrow	hp: 078-802-8207 cell: 090-4297-8045	hajet_treasurer@hotmail.com sparrow143@hotmail.com
Librarian	Katie Rosecrans	hp: 078-597-2566 cell: 080 3035 2717	librarian@hyogoajet.org ktwthwings@aol.com
Charity Coordinator	Sophie James	hp: 0799-42-5823 cell: 090-6901-3209	hajet_charity@hotmail.com sophiejames22@hotmail.com
Living Guide Co-editor	Isabel Lim	hp: 0795-32-4085 wk:0795-32-2385	events@hyogoajet.org isabel_lim@onebox.com
Sempai Coordinator	Joanne McKay	hp: 0790-72-2500 cell: 090-5972-9761	events@hyogoajet.org jokirsty@mars.sannet.ne.jp
Tajima Representative	Sabine Sengmueller	hp: 0796-79-4408 cell: 090-5672-7069	randomgirl01@hotmail.com TajimaJETs@communities.msn.ca
Kobe Representative	Julie Turbide	hp: 0798-54-8434 cell: 090-9868-7461	events@hyogoajet.org julieturbide@yahoo.ca
Kobe Representative	Tracy Smith	hp: 078-795-0805	kobeHAJETrep@hotmail.com
Committee Member	Wendy Jones	hp: 0795-72-5111 cell: 090-5668-2001	events@hyogoajet.org batofinku@yahoo.co.uk
Event Coordinator(s)	All Committee	Dependant on event.	Check <a href="http://hyogoajet.org">http://hyogoajet.org</a>

## Other Important Contacts

National AJET chair:	Anthony Hall	ajetnchair@yahoo.com
Vice Chair:	Amelia Barkley	ajetvc@yahoo.com
Treasurer:	Donna Kim	ajettreasurer@yahoo.com
Database coordinator:	Amanda Cornaglia	ajetdba@yahoo.com
Block 7 Representative	Hyogo: Connie Kong	ajetblock7@yahoo.com
CIR Prefectural Advisor	Jack Hankins	hyogo_PA@yahoo.com

**For more updated information check out: <http://hyogoajet.org>**

The Hyogo Times, contains original essays written by Hyogo JETs, teaching ideas, travel pieces and advertisements for events happening in and around Hyogo.

Check the back issues archived on our website.

## Hyogo Times Submissions

**The closing date for submissions is the 3rd Wednesday of each month. Submissions can be e-mailed in plain text format to [times@hyogoajet.org](mailto:times@hyogoajet.org)**