



THE HYOGO TIMES

The Monthly Publication for HyogoAJET Members

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

November 2002 Autumnal Issue

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Brrrrrr... The Autumnal Issue

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

The November issue...

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Welcome to the November issue of the Hyogo Times!

You'll notice we've been hard at work this past month, and have made a number of improvements and changes.

First of all, there's a great deal more material in the Hyogo Times now than in previous months. I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to

everybody who responded to the advert we placed last month, asking for writers. Please read this page for a full list of credits. To all our new staff, thank you for the effort you put into the Hyogo Times this month!

You'll notice, also, that we've introduced a new World News section, with the intention of reporting each month the main story from each of the six major countries represented on the JET Programme (the UK, the USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa) and, of course, Japan. From next month, this will be supplemented with a new 'Opinion' column, which will provide an open forum for Hyogo AJET members to discuss a prevalent World News issue. Submissions to this column, which should be 200-300 words long and on a topic of your choice, should be sent to me at times@hyogoajet.org by **Friday, November the 8th**.

Also within this issue: 'Coco Garden', Mino-o, Beck's latest CD, Mt. Hyonosen, the Terry Fox run, Arima Onsen, Memoirs of a Geisha, life as a JET, the Tokyo Ska Paradise Orchestra set Kobe alight and, at last, we find out why the chicken crossed the road. Looking ahead, later on this month we've got the mid-year Kobe conference and disco, and the highly recommended Ruriji temple stay in the heart of rural Hyogo. What's more, Hyogo AJET opens its doors to the previously unrepresented JETs of Kobe City. Welcome one and all!

My thanks again to everyone who contributed articles to this issue. If you, too, haven't yet and **would like to join the Hyogo Times staff**, please e-mail your application (including your name, the position you are interested in, and a daytime telephone number) to me at times@hyogoajet.org by **Friday, November the 8th**. The **deadline** for any general articles for the **December 'Christmas Special'** is **Wednesday, November the 13th**. Please note that this has been brought forward from usual to allow for effective proofreading.

Steve Wilkinson
Hyogo Times Editor
times@hyogoajet.org

PR Note



Welcome to November, everyone! I hope you all had an 'out of this world' October, 'stuffed to the gills' with turkey and cranberry sauce (for all you Canucks and friends) and a spooky Halloween. For those Jets who are celebrating Thanksgiving this month, or any other traditional or cultural event, I hope it's memorable and brings you that much closer to home, family and friends.

First, I'd like to send out a huge welcome to our new **Kobe Representative, Tracy Smith**, who is on board to help make sure all Jets in Hyogo are properly represented and involved. Good on you, Tracy!

This month the HAJET team has heaps of stuff going on, but before I tell you about that, a great big, 'you are stupendous', goes out to all the chefs and guests who participated in last month's '**Halloween Cook Off For Charity**' at the 'KRAC' in Kobe. It was 'one diggin' event' and very 'true to the spirit'. Thanks goes out again to the 'KRAC' and DJ Alan for one serious night of 'getting jiggy with it' fun and frolics. **All funds raised** will go towards supporting '**Habitat for Humanity International**'.

Just when you thought you had had enough, there's a bigger event creeping its way around the corner. It's the **HAJET Annual Mid-Year Conference Bash**, happening on **Thursday, November the 14th**, at the newly renovated '**Sally's Club**' in Kobe.

Be prepared to participate in 'one serious schmooze event' that is guaranteed to bring back 'that loving feeling' and, most importantly, raise heaps of cash for two hard-working organizations, '**Go Mad**' and '**Angel**' (see the advert inside for details). This event is always a huge success after one serious day of mid-year conference 'happenings'. After dinner with your buddies, head on over to '**Sally's Club**' for a **night of dancing, a raffle and prizes**,

a happy hour, billiards, darts, 'chilling', more 'schmoozing' and, of course, 'bringing in the bucks' for charity. It's always a 'smash hit'!

Then, when you've just about had it with 'shaking your booty' at the 'KRAC' & 'Sally's', join us on **November the 23rd to the 24th** for a relaxing and peaceful weekend at **Ruriji Temple**, in Nanko-cho, Hyogo. Take a gander at the website, **<http://hyogoajet.org>**, for full details and join us to relax in the midst of the autumn foliage, crisp air and friends. Take this opportunity to meet the Shingon temple-master, who will be our guest speaker, indulge in morning sutras, vegetarian dining, 'momiji' and monkey viewing.

November is one happening month packed with stuff. For those rookies in Hyogo planning on heading home or abroad during the Christmas holidays, make sure to **book your trip in advance** and apply for your **re-entry permit** (see the details in your living guide) before you set sail, or else you won't be coming back for 'Astro-Boy' any time soon!

As always, check out **<http://hyogoajet.org>** for updated information, and if you have any comments or suggestions, please email us and fill us in. Don't forget, the Hyogo Times is always happy to accept submissions, so if you've got anything to share or show, send it in! For all you 'eager beavers' out there, the November riddle is, 'Why did Mickey Mouse go to outer space?' (Answer, backwards: otulp tisiv ot detnaw eh). Use these fun tidbits as a 'warm-up' for your classes, or for your own personal amusement.

Well, you put up with enough of my rambling last month so I'll keep it short and sweet. Stay tuned for more enthralling tidbits in the December Christmas Special. Have a 'wicked' month. Any details, gripes or words of love, you know who to call.

Rachel Tenzythoff

Prefectural Representative

Christmas Cards,

Get them early this year...

10 cards, 8 designs + envelopes

1 000 Yen!

Available at the Mid-Year conference in Kobe.

All cards made by Thai orphans, featuring original xmas drawings and Artist's picture on the back!

All of the money raised goes to Baan Unrak and Ananda Shama children's homes in Thailand!!!

www.go-mad.org



**** SPECIAL OFFER ****

KOBE REGATTA & ATHLETIC CLUB

The KRAC (Sannomiya) would like to offer a warm welcome to all new JET's with a special introductory offer.



Until November 15th we've dropped the standard join up fee making it FREE for all JET's to join up.

The KRAC offers a unique blend of sporting and social opportunities to foreigners and Japanese throughout Hyogo. Including:

- Sports teams
- Rugby
- Football (soccer)
- Tennis
- Field Hockey
- Badminton
- Cricket
- Darts
- Softball
- Bar and social area
- Well equipped fitness room
- Full Restaurant offering great food at members prices
- Indoor basketball, volleyball, soccer area
- Inner city 24 hour, 7 days a week parking.

So why not join up?

Enjoy all this, meet some great people and have some great times all for the same monthly price as a Gym.

Call 078 231 2271 now for more details.

email: krandac@krac.org Website: www.krac.org

**** SPECIAL OFFER ****

World NEWS

World News: Al-Qaeda blamed for Bali bombing (source: www.bbc.co.uk/news)

Indonesia's defence minister has accused Osama Bin Laden's al-Qaeda network of involvement in the massive bomb attack on the island of Bali which killed at least 188 people.

The American FBI and experts from Australia and Britain have joined the investigation, and Indonesian police say they have the names of several suspects. The attack, in the resort of Kuta, destroyed the Sari Club, a nightspot popular with foreign tourists, and many of the victims were burned beyond recognition.

UK News: Blair: Bali bomb pure wickedness (source: www.bbc.co.uk/news)

Prime Minister Tony Blair has condemned the Bali bomb attack, as British relatives continue to wait for news about missing loved ones.

Mr Blair, speaking in an emergency Commons statement, also said the government was "urgently" considering proscribing the Jemaah Islamiyah group under the Terrorism Act 2000.

The group is suspected of involvement in the Kuta nightclub attack last Saturday which has so far killed almost 200 people - including 33 Britons. Two Indonesian men are being questioned by police investigating the attack.

USA News: Bush Ties Bombing at Bali Nightclub to Al Qaeda Network

(source: www.nytimes.com)

President Bush said today that the bombing on the Indonesian island of Bali appeared to be the work of Al Qaeda and that the attack was part of a pattern that included recent attacks in Kuwait and Yemen.

Those incidents, he said, show that Al Qaeda is on the rise and will continue to be a threat to the United States.

"I'm concerned about our homeland," Mr. Bush told reporters on the South Lawn of the White House

before leaving for a political fundraising trip here. "Obviously, if I knew of a specific piece of intelligence that would indicate a moment or a place in which the enemy would attack, we'd do a lot about it."

Canada News: Queen says goodbye after 12-day visit (source: www.globeandmail.ca)

On a sunny, brisk Ottawa morning, the Queen left Canada bound for Britain, ending her Jubilee visit to Canada and leaving many young people with their first memories of seeing her.

Hundreds of schoolchildren lined the route at an Ottawa military airport to wave goodbye on Tuesday. Many were bundled up against the temperature, which was only 3 degrees with a wind chill index of minus one.

Deputy Prime Minister John Manley made headlines a little over a week ago for saying that he hoped the monarchy in Canada would end with the Queen.

Australia News: Downer calls on Jakarta for tough terrorism stance

(source: www.abc.net.au/news/)

The Foreign Minister, Alexander Downer, will call on the Indonesian Government to adopt a tough stand on terrorism during his visit to Jakarta today.

The Minister's visit is part of international efforts to ensure President Megawati Sukarnoputri takes the terrorist threat in the region more seriously.

After witnessing the carnage in Bali first hand, Mr Downer will put the case for a dramatic escalation in the battle against terrorism today.

New Zealand News:

One-armed man guilty of hitchhiker's murder

(source: www.nzherald.co.nz/)

An "evil" one-armed man was today found guilty of strangling 17-year-old hitchhiker Jennifer Hargreaves in a South Auckland ditch.

Shane Hoko, a 32-year-old Black Power supporter from Papakura, was also found guilty of pointing a gun at motorist Brett Muirson and his two boys when he tried to help the young woman.

Justice Rhys Harrison remanded Hoko, represented by Barry Hart and Mike Levett, for sentencing next month.

South Africa News:

We will not overthrow Mugabe

(source: www.sundaytimes.co.za/news/)

South Africa will not dictate policy to Zimbabwe, neither will it be “dragooned” into overthrowing President Robert Mugabe’s government, President Thabo Mbeki said this week.

In an interview with the Sunday Times, Mbeki said the West’s suggestion that “the worst crisis in the world is Zimbabwe” was not helping to solve the nation’s problems.

“You can see that there is a particular agenda that drives that particular perception about Zimbabwe.

People must abandon the notion that South Africa can dictate policy to Zimbabwe. The notion that South Africa can walk across the Limpopo and remove that government, what [US] President Bush calls regime change, is not going to happen,” said Mbeki.

Japan News: Abductees Come Home

(source: www.japantimes.co.jp)

Five Japanese nationals abducted by North Korea in 1978 arrived at Tokyo’s Haneda airport Tuesday to be reunited with their families for the first time since they were kidnapped.

The five – Yasushi Chimura, Fukie Hamamoto, both 47, Kaoru Hasuike, 45, Yukiko Okudo, 46, and Hitomi Soga, 43 – smiled and burst into tears as they hugged and exchanged words with members of their immediate families on the tarmac.

Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi told reporters at his office that he hopes the return of the five will help resolve the larger problem of abductions of Japanese nationals by North Korea.

Saturday November 9th

Trivia **HABITAT FOR HUMANITY** *Charity* **PUB QUIZ**

@ **The Hub** (Kobe, Sannomiya) from 6pm - 9pm.

Entry Fee ¥500.

Quiz Participation ¥500 each with a max of four people per team.

All proceeds to be split between the Habitat for Humanity Christmas team to Thailand (lead by Andrea Garland) and the Spring Break team to Nepal (lead by Sabine Sengmueller).

Onsen: Stripped Bare

Stephen Wilkinson

Bewildering though your first trip to one of these may be, onsen represent one of the many hidden treasures of Japan, and the chance to visit one should certainly not be slighted. Onsen – hot spring baths – have their origins in the same ferocious tectonic activity that has erected mountains and volcanoes on 70% of Japan's surface area. The water – so hot that it is often mixed with water that has been set aside and allowed to cool – carries within it a wealth of minerals and nutrients, so good for the skin that it will feel noticeably smoother afterwards.

Though popular with many Japanese, many foreigners and visitors to Japan are less keen to try onsen because, of course, onsen rules hold that you bathe in the nude. I have heard the exception to this rule being where the onsen is mixed (co-ed), where swimsuits are preferable, though the vast majority of onsen still tend towards the segregation of the sexes.

Some of the more popular, well-known onsen can become very crowded, which makes the cleanliness of the water of utmost importance. The routine of onsen-bathing is to make sure you have had a good shower beforehand, so you are thoroughly clean before your foot touches the onsen in which you will soak. It is customary, even, to try to stay under the shower longer than than the person sitting next to you, particularly when they were there first. Be sure to take your own shampoo and soap as provisions here can be rather limited. Once showered, you are then ready to tackle the onsen (I find stays of no more than ten minutes in the water plenty for me), or take advantage of the sauna or other facilities provided at the spa. After your onsen, don't forget to take another shower to wash the hot onsen water off and cool down. Some onsen then offer massage chairs once you are dressed again, and, of course, the ubiquitous drink vending machines.

An onsen in Yumura



HyogoAJET EVENT!

Annual Mid-Year conference Charity Bash & DJ dance party

Thursday, November 14th

SALLY'S CLUB
K O B E • J A P A N

8:00 PM-3:00 AM (doors open at 7:30)

HAPPY HOUR 8:00-9:00pm drinks ¥400 House drinks ¥500 all night
Raffle & prizes galore Three DJ's for some serious dancing action

HyogoAJET Members ¥1000
(with membership card)

Non-Members ¥1500

All profit from the proceeds go to Charity

GO M.A.D. (GO Make A Difference)

This is an International Volunteer Organisation that current and former Jets are involved with, working on Children's projects throughout Thailand. (The Christmas Card funds will go directly to this charity) For more info <http://www.go-mad.org/>

The International Angel Association

This 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.



www.sallysbarkobe.com

Directions

Follow this map, read the directions online or meet at Hagen Daas at 7:30pm.

for more info contact Rachel pr@hyogoajet.org or phone **090-8194-0309**

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

Why did the chicken cross the road?

Sophie James

Pat Buchanan

To steal a job from a decent, hardworking American.

Jerry Falwell

Because the chicken was gay! Isn't it obvious? Can't you people see the plain truth in front of your face? The chicken was going to the other side. That's what they call it, the other side. Yes, my friends, that chicken was gay and if you eat that chicken, you will become gay too. I say we boycott all chickens until we sort out this abomination that the liberal media whitewashes with seemingly harmless phrase like the other side. That chicken should not be free to cross the road. It's as plain and simple as that.

Dr. Seuss

Did the chicken cross the road?
Did he cross it with a toad?
Yes! The chicken crossed the road,
But why it crossed, I've not been told!

Ernest Hemingway

To die. In the rain. Alone.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

I envisage a world where all chickens will be free to cross roads without having their motives called into question.

Grandpa

In my day, we didn't ask why the chicken crossed the road. Someone told us that the chicken crossed the road, and that was good enough for us.

Aristotle

It is the nature of chickens to cross the road.

Karl Marx

It was a historical inevitability.

Saddam Hussein

This was an unprovoked act of rebellion and we were quite justified in dropping 50 tons of nerve gas on it.

Ronald Reagan What chicken?

Captain James T Kirk

To boldly go where no chicken has gone before.

Fox Mulder You saw it cross the road with your own eyes. How many more chickens have to cross before you believe it?

Sigmund Freud

The fact that you are at all concerned that the chicken crossed the road reveals your underlying sexual insecurity.

Bill Gates I have just released eChicken 2000, which will not only cross roads, but will lay eggs, file your important documents, balance your chequebook and Internet Explorer is an inextricable part of eChicken.



Einstein

Did the chicken really cross the road or did the road move beneath the chicken?

Bill Clinton

I did not cross the road with THAT chicken. What do you mean by 'chicken'? Could you define 'chicken', please?

George W Bush

I don't think I should have to answer that question.

Louis Farrakhan

The road, you will see, represents the black man. The chicken crossed the black man in order to trample him and keep him down.

The Bible

And God came down from the heavens, and He said unto the chicken, "thou shalt cross the road." And the chicken crossed the road, and there was much rejoicing.

Colonel Sanders

I missed one?

Marathon of Heat and Hope

Story and Photography by Deirdre Byrne



I awoke at 6:15 a.m. on the morning of October the fifth, far earlier than my usual wake-up time. I drove 'slightly' above the speed limit in a frantic effort to catch the 7:35 ferry from Awajishima to Akashi. If I missed it, there was no chance of being even remotely on time for meeting the other JETs heading to the Terry Fox Run. So my 'Marathon of Hope' started a little early, when I saw the ferry docked as I was driving to the parking lot. I scrambled out of my van, and awkwardly ran for the ferry (I was wearing sandals, not my runners yet). I turned a corner and saw the ferry, but alas I heard a sound behind me, and looked back to find that my running shoes had fallen out of my knapsack. I waved to the ferry attendants, grabbed my shoes, and very luckily made the ferry.

So I made it to Sumiyoshi station in time to meet the others and transfer to the Rokko Island Liner.

When we got to the Canadian Academy, there was a definite buzz in the air. After registering and putting on our Terry Fox Run shirts, we gathered in the schoolyard for a communal warm-up, to some pumping western tunes. Short speeches in English and Japanese reminded us of Terry's story and his dream.

At 18, Terry lost most of his right leg to cancer. The despair of other cancer patients he saw while undergoing treatment inspired him to run across Canada to raise money for cancer research.

After 5,373 km of his Marathon of Hope, cancer appeared in his lungs and he was forced to stop. He passed away at age 22, and the nation mourned, but it did not forget. We were then introduced

to cancer survivors taking part in the event. Few people in this world are unaffected by cancer, and from reading the dedication hearts displayed inside, I knew this to be particularly true of run participants.

Finally, we heard the starting gun, and ran out of the schoolyard to the 'Rocky' theme song. We even scaled a few steps in order to reach the Rokko Island Green Belt. Though laughably 'green' by Canadian standards, it helped to have some plants around us, supplying fresh oxygen on the hottest and most humid October day I have ever experienced. After 5 km, I stopped for water and a rest. My attempt

at the second half was foiled by the lactic build-up in my muscles, but Sophie James, tough cookie that she is, ran the whole 10 km, while Andrea Sparrow represented by being the fastest female for the 5 km. Rebecca Dean, Ferale Hubbard, Rachel Tenzythoff, Yoon-Sensei, and myself were just exhausted and exhilarated.

After taking some finish line pictures, we walked and limped back to the station, but the pain in our limbs was numbed by an overwhelming feeling of accomplishment. We had helped to ensure that even in Japan, Terry's dream stays alive.



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**

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** Holiday party & Festive Caroling, Kobe
- January** Kinnosaki Onsen Weekend, Kinnosaki Hyogo
- February** Kannabe Ski Trip Weekend, Kanabe Hyogo
- 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>

Up-coming tentative events not yet listed are: Hanshin Tigers Baseball game, Festivals,
Piggy-back events with Wakayama & Nara, Boat cruise etc. JOIN US!

Mt. Hyonoson Camping Trip

Helen Green

Photography: Deirdre Byrne and Andrew Jolly

Check out the all the other photos on the Social Snaps pages online



Taking our lesson from all the great explorers, Ulysses, Michael Palin and Rupert the Bear, the HAJET trip to Mt Hyonoson started off with packing our essential provisions. Only once the Awaji limo was filled with beer, food and stereo did we feel ready to start.

The drive across Hyogo prefecture was truly amazing with incredible views and waterfalls just off the roadside. It was breathtaking to think that people actually live here all their lives in this beautiful, yet remote, wilderness. As we climbed higher and higher the frenzy of phone calls increased, as we all doubted that we really were meant to be driving up the side of a mountain just to find the campsite.

On our arrival we were greeted by heavy rain and mist but nothing could spoil our little oasis in the mountains, it all added to the atmosphere. The area has much on offer, with the ominous mount itself and the famous Tottori sand dunes not far off either. The accommodation itself consisted of quaint wooden shacks that wouldn't have been out of place on the set of 'Little House on the Prairie'. We had all mod cons, such as a light and for some of us, a water feature. After stocking up on blankets the place looked very cosy.

After a night of BBQing, drinking and swapping funky dance manoeuvres it was time to face the beast. The sun came out to cheer us on and it seemed as though we'd woken up in a different land. The first thing to strike us all about the climb was the size of the steps. For those of us in the group under 6ft tall these were more like climbing walls and none of us could fathom who on earth built them seeing as Japan isn't exactly famed for its giants.



As we climbed higher the mist got thicker and to the untrained eye it may have looked as though some of us were struggling; it was just the air getting thinner, honest. After a long struggle and several of our crew falling by the wayside we reached the top and the ground finally leveled off. By the time we were back down the bottom there was very little of me that didn't ache but it was an amazing journey and well worth a second visit.

I must say a big thanks to Sophie for taking on this organizational headache; it was definitely worth it. Cheers!



Ruriji Temple Stay

Nanko-cho Hyogo (inaka west Japan)

November 23 and 24th

Meeting at 12pm -3pm at the site.
ending on Sunday at 1pm, but people can stay around til whenever!

HyogoAJET Members ¥1000

(with membership card)

Non-Members ¥1500

Highlights

Momiji viewing, meet the famous monkeys! Guided tour of the main site, guest speaker, shingon temple master, Bokkusho Inoue from a local temple..in English! Veggie meal for all! Japanese style bath and overnight in the main temple.. Hondo. (Of course, people should bring their own snacks, lunch for both days and maybe extra stuff for breakfast).

Sunday morning, early morning call for morning Sutras, Breakfast, visit to Monkey Park! and a walk to the mountain top and Tengu-do! Pop off for an onsen nearby and relax...

Limited to 40 places.

Please contact Jo (090-5972-9761) for more info
RSVP @ **events@hyogoajet.org**

Directions

Read the directions for getting there by **car** or by **public transport**
online @ our website <http://hyogoajet.org>

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

Life as a JET

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ (You Yaa Saa!)

Clairissa Myschwoda

Keeping with my Canadian roots, I have to first give my apologies! While my experiences in the last few months have not necessarily been those of all JETs, I can only talk about my own reactions to this strange new world around me.

For me, October has brought with it cool autumn evenings, cheaper food prices and the forced recovery of my liver from the abuses of September's beer gardens (plenty of cause to celebrate)! Still, the sombre warnings of past JET friends have begun to realize themselves. November is apparently a notoriously rough month for all us greenhorns and I am sure we've all been experiencing some degree of culture fatigue and adjustment. In my case it has been an issue of cultural re-adjustment, as I have had to resolve my pre-conceptions of Japan with the daily realities I find now that I'm living here. I have done my best to look like I am well adjusted by adopting various Japanese mannerisms: the constant bowing, the spirited shuffle-walk around the office, my copious use of the Japanese equivalent of eh (ne) in every sentence I attempt. I have struggled in vain to hide the fact that Japan is making me irritable!



I've come to a fork in the road. It has become all too obvious that there are really just two choices here; I could waste away trying to rationalize the intricate mechanics of Japanese society, vainly attempting to separate logic and tradition in a culture that is foreign to me, or, I could just take a deep breath and suck it all up! Understandably, it is difficult to feel particularly accepting or tolerant when you have been sleeping on the floor, peeing in a hole and taking tepid showers for the past few months but, really, let's evaluate the options: go running back to the comfort of Taco Bell and the Simpson's every Sunday night, or suck it up and get on with my new life in Japan!

I have had a few sharp realizations. First, adjustment seems to require a form of partial amnesia. There is no point dwelling on what was, because it is radically different from what is! OK, so 'McDonald's' and 'Starbuck's' are eerily the same, but that's about it. The temptation to compare my life at home and my life here must be avoided, as it is absolutely fruitless.

Secondly, the same innocent curiosity that causes Japanese people to ask us the most ridiculous questions about people and life outside Japan has also led them to welcome many of us into their homes and personal lives and endowed us with a veil of western mystique and celebrity. I can't speak for everyone, but I am pretty average back home. Only in Japan has my presence invoked standing ovations when I join my students for lunch or earned me an infinite number of guided festival tours or dinner invitations.

I have had so many opportunities that I never would've had back home! Sure, I may be playing the gaijin card a little much but the novelty of being novel has not yet worn off and, although the bewildered stares are a little annoying at times, I am generally enjoying my instant popularity and status!

Thirdly, since I arrived I have been content to exercise tolerance but now I see that cultural adjustment requires much more. Our Japanese hosts have abandoned the comfort of cultural isolation to let all us rogues in. If tolerance is the best I can do then I have already failed myself, my students and every Japanese person I encounter. My life here has become like the Kenka Matsuri (fighting festival); two worlds colliding, a fair amount of pain and discomfort, the possibility of casualties and, in the end, there can only be one winner. I am fighting to retain my individuality, my sanity and to grow from this experience.

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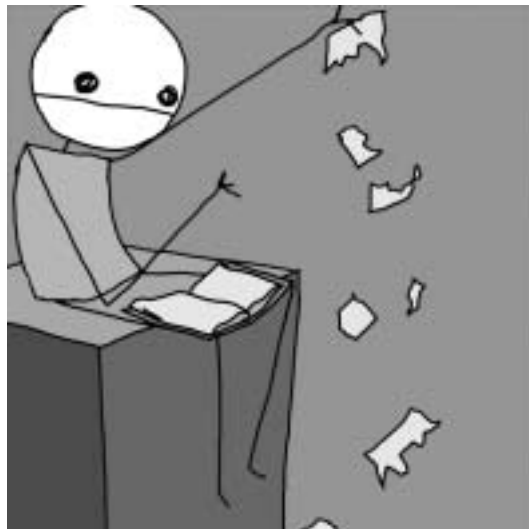
You yaa saa! Be strong and fight!

The road to understanding and acceptance is epic, but worth the hike.

Just a side-note of things that have left me bewildered this month:

1. Does the kanji for big and small on the flush button refer to the size of the flush, or to the size of the object being flushed?
2. Why is there teriyaki sauce on my dessert?
3. Are Japanese people being nice or playing a cruel joke on us when they feed us chicken innards?
4. Why are people that are so culturally refined and technologically advanced still peeing in a hole?
5. What is shouting "irashaimase!" at customers in a high-pitched shriek, as they enter your store, supposed to do?

PREDECESSOR'S BOOKS CLUTTERING UP YOUR APARTMENT?



Bring them to the mid-year conference on November 14th & 15th and put them to good use in the library--just look for the box at the HAJET table.

PEOPLE ARE READING

Kitchen
- by Banana Yoshimoto

Silent Spring
- by Rachel Carson

A Brief History of Time
- by Stephen W. Hawking

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. The books will appear at your door with the return postage already paid. Alternately, if you are interested in donating books, please contact Katie at the above address.

Bizarre Website of the Month

<http://www.menwholooklikekennyrogers.com>

If you know of any other weird and wonderful websites send us the url so we can feature them in future issues!



CD Review:

Beck, 'Sea Change' (Universal, 2002)

Simon Taylor

"Music writers aren't interested in giving a good review for their readers, they only write reviews for fellow writers so they can impress one another and look good." So said a friend last year. So having never written a music review I decided to try and look good!

This review is about Beck, a guy admired by many in the music industry. The CD is called 'Sea Change', which is a fairly good hint as to how the CD differs from previous releases. Beck parted company with his band members after the last album, and this album is different from previous ones, some may say a sea change!

I first listened to the CD whilst travelling home from a busy weekend in Osaka, and my first impressions were that it was a very chilled and relaxing album. Combined with my tiredness, the gentle rolls and turns of the car, and the imminent nightfall, the album was enough to send me to sleep. However, a second listen made me realize that whilst it is certainly a slow and melodic CD, it is not aimed at being relaxing. Rather, it is rather sad and mournful for the first few songs. The background music is a mix of instruments that give a slightly orchestral – and thus powerful – feel at times, but they never overpower Beck's voice.

Beck sings in a very powerful manner, though he never fully lets go and sings as hard or loud as he can, he seems always to be keeping something in reserve. This aids the whole feel of the album as one of wanting, but not getting; being sad yet wanting to be happy; being alone but wanting to be with someone; getting by but wanting to succeed. The lyrics are good, and the album sleeve provides all the lyrics if you so desire, so you can brush up before you go off and emulate Beck at karaoke!



The album does perk up a little towards the middle and end, but song titles such as 'Lonesome Tears', 'Guess I'm Doing Fine', 'Lost Cause', 'Round The Bend' and 'Already Dead' give the best indication of the feel of the album. However, sad and mournful doesn't mean bad. It isn't whiny or angry, and it is often very beautiful, powerful and moving. Not something to put on if you are off out on a Saturday night, but definitely something you could put on on a Sunday morning.

I thought it was a very good album and would have no qualms about recommending that you go and buy it, or at least abuse Tsutaya and copy it when it comes in to the shop.

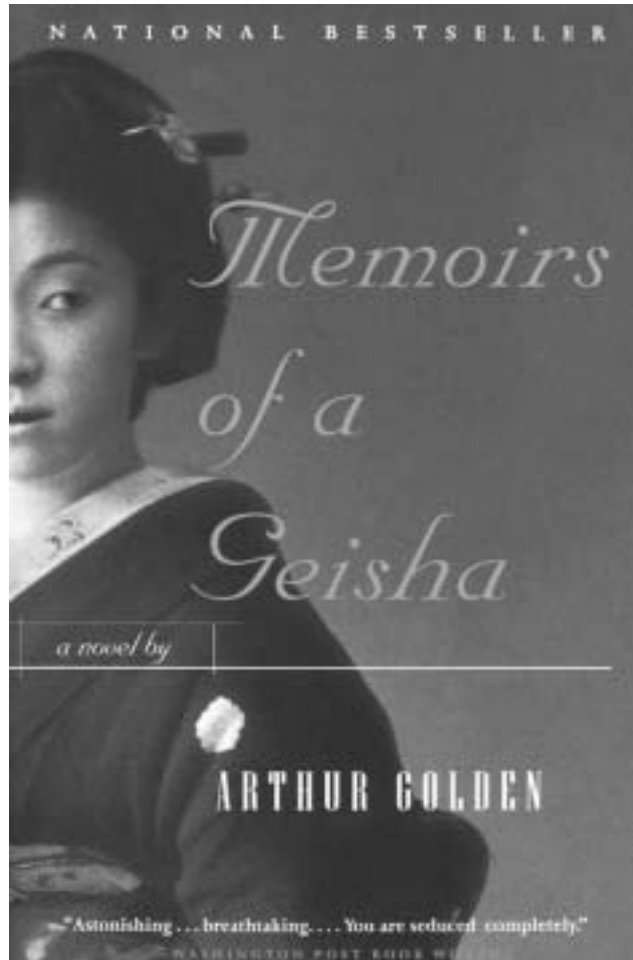
Book Review: Arthur Golden, *Memoirs of a Geisha* (Vintage, 1999)

Victoria Vaughan

I failed to jump aboard when the Geisha mania hit, something so popular read by all the grey faces on the Tube couldn't be that great. However, as I was packing to come to Japan, a country I knew little about, I thought it wouldn't hurt to supplement my cultural immersion with Arthur Golden's book *Memoirs of a Geisha*. As it was this book gave a depth to that first month that could not otherwise have been attained. Golden, a western male writing as a Japanese female, details a world of characters, politics and ritual with a reality that is acutely felt when living within the Japanese culture, only hours away from the scene of the tale, Kyoto.

The story opens in a small fishing village on the coast of the Sea of Japan. Our heroine, Chio, is nine years old when her simple life undergoes a dramatic change that will set her upon the road to becoming Sayuri, one of the most renowned geisha in Kyoto. Through the loss of her family and the bitterness of her Kyoto rival, Sayuri grows to learn that the outward beauty of the geisha life is not a reflection of the inner workings of this often squalid world; "we don't become geishas because our lives are satisfying; we become geishas because we have no choice." Devotion is sold to the highest bidder and love is never a consideration. Despite the reality of her situation, Sayuri refuses to submit to the laws governing her kind and strives to fulfil her imagined destiny. Such passion ensures that this is a book you will finish within days of picking it up.

The novel caused controversy when it was first published as Mineko Iwasaki, the 'world's most famous Geisha' upon whom the book was based, claimed that Golden's depiction of geishas had damaged her honour. It has been reported that Mineko intends to write a novel detailing the truth about her life that will be titled *The Real Memoirs of a Geisha*. Meanwhile, Liza Dalby, a western woman who became a Geisha, has already written a book in reply, simply entitled *Geisha*, which is available now. What's more, as with the majority of great novels, there are plans for a film directed by Spielberg. My advice: read the book first!



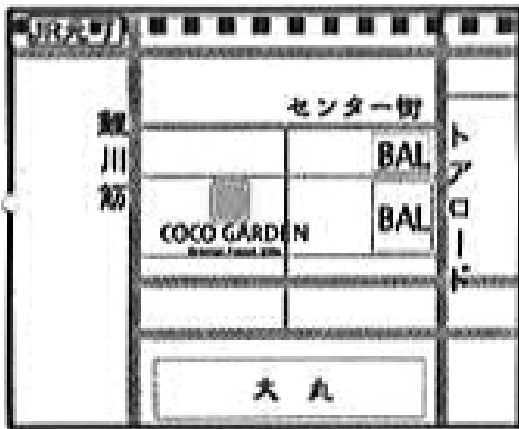
Restaurant Review: Coco Garden (Motomachi, Kobe)

Kenia Lopez-Mohedano

If you are planning a special evening, or just feel like treating yourself, visit Coco Garden. Coco Garden offers an exceptional fusion of European and Asian cuisines. The decoration of white walls and mahogany furniture is reminiscent of the film Indochine, starring Catherine Deneuve. The atmosphere is perfect for conversation.

The prices are not easy on the wallet, but the Dinner Menu offers good value, starting at ¥3,500. With this menu you will get an entrée, a salad, a fish or chicken dish, a meat dish, soup or rice, dessert and coffee or tea. The cocktails are reasonably priced at ¥500 and are highly recommended. There is also a lunch menu starting at ¥1,500.

Coco Garden is open for lunch from 11:30 to 14:30 and for dinner from 17:30 to 22:30. It is located off Tor Road. Walk south of JR Motomachi on Tor Road until you come to the BAL department store. Take the first small street, and Coco Garden will be on the right.



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Building a newspaper ... for today's HAJET community



As part of its ongoing reorganisation, a good opportunity has come up for a number of dedicated writers to join the Hyogo Times. We are looking to take on a permanent staff of writers, who will each have responsibility for a short article or column each month, or otherwise help to maintain the Times.

The positions available are as follows:

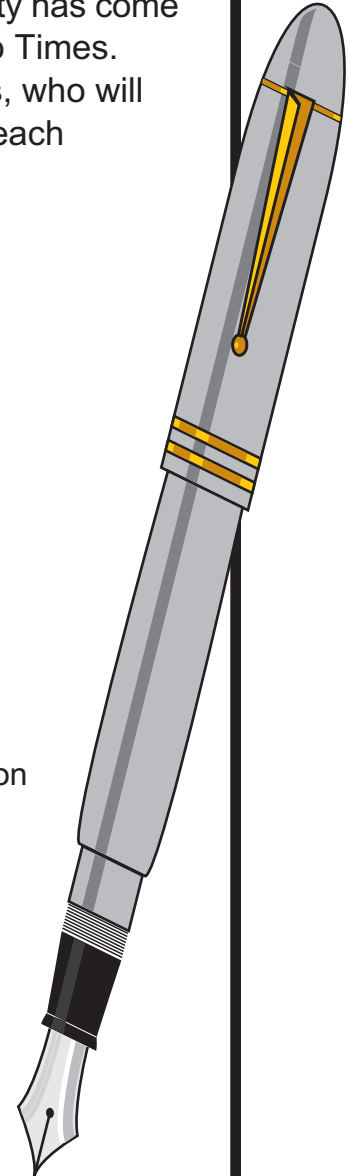
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|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Life as a JET | Distribution |
| World news | Travel reviews |
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Have you got what it takes?

For more information or to apply, please e-mail the editor at times@hyogojet.org, including your name, the position you are interested in, and a daytime telephone number.

Be quick!
The deadline for applications is
FRIDAY 8th November 2002.

Stephen Wilkinson
Hyogo Times Editor



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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 Friday of each month.
Submissions can be e-mailed in plain text format to times@hyogoajet.org**