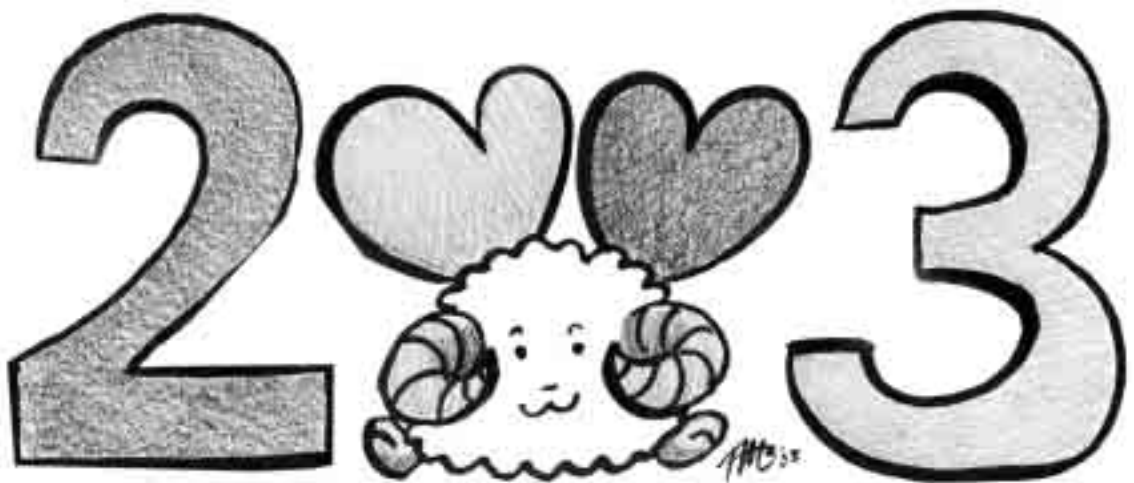


THE HYOGO TIMES

T h e M o n t h l y P u b l i c a t i o n f o r H y o g o A J E T M e m b e r s

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

February 2003 - The Love Issue



Feel the Lurvve....

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

The February issue...

Editorial

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Happy New Year! Welcome to our first issue of 2003, the February Valentine's Love Special!

First of all, I'd like to say a big thank you to all this month's writers and contributors. Please see opposite for a full staff list.

Three more positions have become available, one in **travel reviews** and one in proofreading, due to the early departures from the JET Programme of **Feral Hubbard** and **Deirdre Byrne**. The other vacancy is in the new position of '**JET Profiles**'. If you'd like to join the Hyogo Times team, or for more information, please e-mail your name, the position you are interested in and a daytime telephone number to me, at times@hyogoajet.org, by Monday, the 10th of February.

PR Rachel Tenzythoff has some important news regarding recontracting and the April turn-over of the Hyogo AJET committee opposite. **The World News Opinion this month was contributed by British second-year JET Huw Owen of Miki**. Submissions to the Opinion column, designed to provide **Hyogo AJET members with a forum** to discuss a matter in the world news, should be 2-300 words long and sent to me, at times@hyogoajet.org, by **Monday, the 10th of February**.

To help you get in the **mood for romance**, this month's issue includes 'Koi no Uta', classic Japanese love poetry and a feature on – you guessed it – love hotels. Also figuring in this issue: Thailand, tea ceremony, Jaga Jazzist, James Bond, The Poisonwood Bible, Baan thai, the ABC of life as a JET, Homer Simpson, the International Angel Association, the national AJET chair and what a caveman gives his wife on Valentine's Day.

My thanks again to everyone who contributed articles to this issue. The deadline for any articles for the **March issue is Wednesday, the 12th of February**.

Steve Wilkinson
 Hyogo Times Editor
times@hyogoajet.org

The leaves of the bamboo grass,
 In the empty mountains
 Rustle in the wind.
 I think of a girl
 Who is not here.

(Kakinomoto no Hitomaro, seventh-eighth centuries)

PR Note

'Akemashite omedetou gozaimasu!' Happy Year of the Sheep, everyone!



'Kotatsu' Hell!

Welcome back! I hope with all the zest I can muster for a nippy February, that all of you had one far-out New Year's celebration and break. Even if the only excitement you had was having your loose socks catch fire under the 'kotatsu', at least wrestling the peel off of that 'mikan' was something to write home about! I seriously hope that throughout this month you can 'share the love' with friends, partners and the like on Valentine's Day and make it last the rest of the year. Have a lovely February and enjoy the read.

Should I Stay or Should I Go?

By now, all of you should have received the form at school requesting you to make a final decision on whether to recontract and stay a second or third year or not. I'm sure all of you are waxing and waning over this decision like I was. Not surprisingly, I've signed my name 'in blood' twice and have lived to tell the tale of a third year JET. However, some of you may feel that you have 'sucked the marrow out of life' here in Japan and realize it's time to move on. Whatever your decision may be, remember it's an individual choice. Make the decision that's best for you! Whether it's your last few months here or a new beginning, enjoy the time

you have here to the fullest, get back in the saddle and stay tuned for what's coming up next!

Stalk your Sempais

If you are having trouble deciding whether to recontract or not, take this opportunity to contact your sempais for advice, as they are only a 'phone call away. Contact sempai coordinator Joanne McKay (e-mail jokirsty@mars.sannet.ne.jp) if you're hunting for a number. For more anonymous support, contact the national AJET peer support line by calling toll free, (0120)71-7761 (every night, 8pm to 8am).

Important Information: Hyogo AJET Committee Turn-Over

Are you recontracting this year? Do you want to get involved, pump up that resume and have fun? The Hyogo AJET committee needs new team members for 2003-2004. There will be a meeting and information session on **Saturday, February the 15th**, so please come to see what positions are available. We shall be meeting at 3pm, outside the Haagen Daas ice cream store in Sannomiya, Kobe (adjacent to the Hankyu station). After that, there will be a further chance to meet the outgoing committee and exchange information a month later, on Saturday, March the 15th. **The new committee, that for 2003-2004, will take over from April 2003.**

'Foxy'

To help you destress and refocus this month, the events team has planned some funky events for you to get groovy at. Get ready for a hot and steamy

Koi no Uta (Songs of Love)

'Koi no Uta' is a song cycle based on twenty-four tanka poems by twenty-three different Japanese authors. The poems were written between the seventh and thirteenth centuries.

Taken as a flowing text in twenty-four parts, these poems tell a love story that begins with wistful thoughts and hidden glances by the two lovers, and ultimately ends with the death of one.

Tanka, a form of traditional Japanese poetry, are short poems consisting of thirty-one syllables.

Sources:

A. Miyamori, *An Anthology of Japanese Poems* (Tokyo, Maruzen Company Ltd., 1938)

K. Rexroth, *One Hundred Poems from the Japanese* (New York, New Directions Publishing, 1964)

S. Raskin, www.geocities.com/Tokyo/Towers/2589/koinouta.html

Someone passes,
And while I wonder
If it is he,
The midnight moon
Is covered with clouds.
(Lady Murasaki Shikibu, 974-1031)

Valentine love party at Sally's in Kobe on **Saturday, February the 15th**. To cool you off afterwards, there's a **skiing and onsen event** planned up in the winter wonderland of northern Hyogo, the weekend of **February the 22nd and 23rd**. Check out the ads inside and get more details from our website <http://hyogoajet.org>!

What a Steal of a Deal!

Just when you thought all the bargain sales were over, Hyogo AJET is offering a 50% discount on 2002-2003 Hyogo AJET membership, whether renewing, new or couple. If you have any friends who haven't signed up for Hyogo AJET yet, tell them to come to one of the events in February and

do so! It's time to save. Once you're a member you'll be able to partake in a **super new deal**, a **Thursday JET Night exclusive at Sally's Pub in Kobe**. See the ad on page 14!

The Hyogo AJET committee would also like to send out a great big welcome to Annie Kates, a first year JET who joined the team last month. Thanks, Annie!

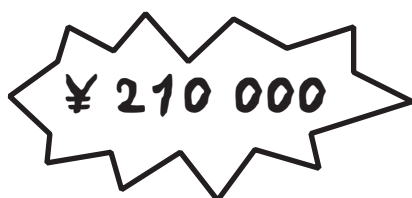
Happy Valentine's to all you love birds out there!

Rachel Tenzythoff

Prefectural Representative

CHRISTMAS CARD SALE SUCCESS!

HYOGO AJET would like to say a **HUGE THANKYOU** to everyone who bought any of the 160 packs of Christmas Cards sold and/or who came to the Mid Year's Conference Charity Event at Sally's Club. Thanks to your support we were able to raise:



For: **GO M.A.D.**
(GO MAKE A DIFFERENCE)

The money will go directly to help underprivileged children in homes throughout Thailand!

For more information check out the website: <http://www.go-mad.org/> or contact Sophie James: hajet_charity@hotmail.com.

World NEWS

World News: 'Time running out' for Iraq (source: www.bbc.co.uk/news)

US President George Bush has warned that "time is running out" for Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein to surrender the weapons of mass destruction which the US insists he owns.

"So far I haven't seen any evidence that he has disarmed," said Mr Bush. "I'm sick and tired of games and deception."

In stark contrast, the European Union warned on Tuesday against an early intervention in Iraq, saying the United Nations weapons inspectors needed more time on the ground.

UK News: Policeman killed during terror raid (source: www.bbc.co.uk/news)

A police officer has been stabbed to death and four others have been injured during a counter-terrorism operation in Manchester.

Police were trying to arrest a man in an operation linked to the discovery of the deadly poison ricin in London last week when they were attacked.

The 40-year-old plain-clothed special branch officer was stabbed in the chest and died soon afterwards in hospital.

USA News: Online Stock Trading Officials to Pay \$70 Million in Fines (source: www.nytimes.com)

Heartland Securities Corp. and a handful of former day-traders will pay more than \$70 million to settle allegations they manipulated trading on the Nasdaq Stock Market to generate millions of dollars in illegal profits.

The former traders agreed to settle the Securities and Exchange Commission lawsuit, filed Tuesday in federal court in Manhattan, without admitting or

denying the allegations.

Sheldon Maschler, 58, will pay \$29.2 million, and Jeffrey Citron, 32, will pay \$22.5 million, among the largest penalties ever obtained from individuals, the SEC said. The two also agreed to be permanently barred from the brokerage industry.

Canada News: Rock pulls out of leadership race (source: www.globeandmail.ca)

Industry Minister Allan Rock announced Tuesday he will not seek the leadership of the federal Liberals, saying he feels he does not have the "elements in place" to ensure a win against Paul Martin.

"I've wanted to run to compete to win, not to run to place second," Mr. Rock told a news conference in Ottawa. "This decision has frankly not been easy." He will, however, stay on as a cabinet minister and an MP and plans to run again in the next federal election. "I do know that I want to remain in Parliament," he told reporters. "I want to remain part of the process."

Australia News: Fires remain out of control in Victoria, NSW

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

Large bushfires continue to burn in the north-east and south-east of Victoria, New South Wales, spreading smoke and haze across many areas. In New South Wales, a major backburn is due to begin this afternoon, to link two big fires burning in the Kosciuszko National Park north-west of the town of Adaminaby.

In Victoria, fire crews were forced to step up efforts at Razorback Spur, near Omeo, when a blaze intensified late yesterday.

It is burning through 5,500 hectares and firefighters last night laid control lines to protect some communications equipment.

I wish I were close
To you as the wet skirt of
A salt girl to her body.
I think of you always.
(Yamabe no Akahito, eighth century)

New Zealand News: More cash for Maori TV (source: www.nzherald.co.nz/)

The Maori Television Service has been given nearly \$2.5 million more towards programming, says the funding agency Te Mangai Paho.

The money, from the latest funding round, would go towards 13 programmes for the new channel, said agency chief executive Trevor Moeke. The programmes included Maori cooking shows, a comedy/karaoke-style talent show, a documentary about prophet Tahupotiki Wiremu Ratana and a sports show.

South Africa News: Cosatu calls for stockpiling of fuel (source: www.sundaytimes.co.za/news/)

The Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) has called on the Western Cape government to set up regulations for the strategic stockpiling of fuel. This follows an announcement that the Caltex refinery in Milnerton, Cape Town – the only refinery in the province – is to undergo maintenance work which will result in production cuts for up to 20 days.

“In our country fuel is an absolutely essential input into the economy and shortages of fuel could lead to a further slowing down of an economy that already is sluggish,” Cosatu said.

Japan News: Moscow summit a ratings winner for Koizumi (source: www.japantimes.co.jp)

The public approval rating for Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi now stands at 54.6 percent, up 4.6 percentage points from December, according to the results of a Kyodo News survey released Monday. The prime minister's efforts to gain Moscow's cooperation to forge a breakthrough in the Tokyo-Pyongyang diplomatic stalemate may have contributed to the rise in his approval rating, the news agency said.

Some 88.4 percent of survey respondents said they viewed North Korea's nuclear arms program as a threat, with 53.9 percent describing this scenario as a “serious threat.” Pyongyang withdrew last week from the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty.

World News ‘Opinion’

Huw Owen

Iraq: What is the Answer?

The idea that the Bush administration ‘got its way’ (Opinion, December 2002) sounds a bit like wishful conspiracy thinking. It's my view that Bush and others in his administration were quite looking forward to toppling Saddam, but were persuaded by other countries to come back through the UN.

On the issue of sovereignty, Iraq has been a full member of the UN, uninterrupted, since 1945. It is also a member of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), whose members form the core of the UNSCOM weapons inspectorate.

Yet I disagree that the main issue is Iraqi sovereignty. Whilst this is important, it is nuclear weapons that is driving the policy-making over Iraq. What matters is that Saddam has some know-how and a great deal of intent, so he is a threat if the inspectors don't disarm him of what remains of his nuclear weapons programme. After all, what could insulate him from international interference better than a nuclear warhead?

It has shown to be impossible to get Saddam to agree to have weapons inspectors back in Iraq without the threat of force. Now that that threat is staring him in the face, I hope he comes clean.

We Can Do It!



What do I do with all this free time?

Are you **re-contracting this year**? Do you want to get involved, pump up that resume and have fun? **The Hyogo AJET committee wants you!** Why: We're looking for **new team members** for **2003-2004** What positions are available? **Come to the meeting and find out.**

RSVP to PR Ten-cents-off @ pr@hyogoajet.org

When: **Saturday February 15th 3:00 p.m. KOBE**
Meeting place: Meet outside Hagan Daas ice cream store, across from Hankyu Sannomiya station.

2003-2004 HAJET Committee turn-over Important Information

Saturday February 15th: HAJET information session

Saturday March 15th Kobe: Meet & greet
Meet out-going committee & exchange information

April 2003: Welcome 2003-2004 team

Amanda Cornaglia for National AJET Chair

This is Amanda Cornaglia, second year ALT from Toyooka, way up in the depths of Tajima, writing to ask for your support! National AJET elections are coming up, from February the 10th to the 28th, and I am running for the position of chairperson. I am currently the database administrator, i.e. the person who gets to deal with all those membership forms and sends you the Tatami Timeshare. This year's council has made many improvements and I would like to continue this next year as your chairperson. Not only will it allow me to follow through on national AJET's current plans, but also begin working on many other ideas.

Besides typing, I made several presentations at this year's Tokyo Orientation – 'Life as a Rural JET' and 'Teaching at a Non-Academic School' – and was a SHS helper at Yashiro. In November, I presented a report on the misuse of JETs' hankos and co-presented a report on substandard housing to CLAIR and MEXT representatives. All of this has given me the experience and insight on how to improve AJET and the JET Programme as a whole.

Please look for the National e-announcement for my full platform. Make sure your opinion is heard and vote! You will need your JET number for verification, so make sure you have it handy (you can find it on your CLAIR Japanese language course materials).

Amanda Cornaglia
mpanda19@yahoo.com

When the sun arises shining,
I will think of thee;
When thou seest the moon declining,
Oh, forget not me!
(Fujiwara no Michitoshi, 1047-1099)

The Wonders of The Love Hotel

Ruth Kent



Japan is a country where discretion is the name of the game. It's a country where the two faces – public and private – are distinctly different. This was exemplified in my first experience of a love hotel, a place where, as the name suggests, you go to express your 'love' for someone. The rooms are charged out by the hour or, if you are feeling particularly romantic, you can choose to spend the whole night together. Don't worry, your privacy is guaranteed.

In my case there were three people; two guys and myself. Now, before you leap to conclusions, we are all just friends. It was a spur of the moment decision. We meant to go camping with a whole bunch of people in the mountains but, when we got there, it was so cold that we decided we'd rather the comfort of a hotel. As luck would have it, the first one we came across just happened to be a love hotel. Curiously enough, they are also one of the cheapest forms of accommodation.

The provision of privacy is apparent from the beginning. Just parking the car was a cloak-and-dagger routine. You drive in from the back and park your car in one of garages provided. You then pull a curtain across so that the car is completely hidden from view. Thus, no-one can recognize your car. You then pass through a couple of narrow passages that lead to the main lobby where, again, no-one is waiting to greet you. In fact, it was completely empty. There was a just monitor with a whole lot of photos of rooms to select from, depending on the theme that you fancied, for example, eighteenth-century French boudoir, space age, African tribal, and a telephone. We selected the room and the phone rang. I answered. Without any hint of impropriety, the lady on the other end asked, "san-nin desu ka?" Obviously, they could see us! We looked up and, sure enough, there was a video camera. We were not sure if they'd allow three people. To our relief they did, however, as we were informed, it would cost 50% more.

We went up the elevator with a sense of wonder. When we exited, a large, orange arrow flashed to show the direction to our room. Our room number also flashed. I guess this was to ensure that we got into our room as quickly as possible, without seeing any other guests in the hallway. Once inside the room, we discovered, we couldn't leave. The door locked behind us and it was only once we'd paid the room charge into a machine in the entrance that the door unlocked again. Slightly unnerving!

Looking around the room we saw that all the furniture was vinyl and a lovely shade of hot pink. One of my companions commented rather tastelessly that the reason for the vinyl was to facilitate cleaning. Other features included a porn channel, a dildo and condom mini-bar, mood lighting and music and a huge bath. We shared the one huge bed, which was moderately comfortable.

We also discovered another discretionary measure quite by chance. As we were trying to work out how to use the machine that would take our room charge, a maid appeared seemingly out of nowhere. She was mortified that she'd entered the room before we'd left and with deep bows and a multitude of 'sumimasens', disappeared out a previously unseen back door to what must have been a series of secret passageways! Wickedly funny, we thought.

One can only wonder what the 'reception' staff were thinking when they saw three foreigners turn up,



but then I'm sure they've seen all kinds of individuals of various ages and inclinations pass through their doors! The biggest selling points of love hotels are that they are cheaper and have much bigger rooms than most other hotels. Also, they can be quite a unique and fun experience.

Enjoy, young lovers! Not to mention those who are curious, or just plain kinky.



Although I hide it
My love shows in my face
So plainly that he asks me,
"Are you thinking of something?"
(*Taira no Kanemori*, tenth century)

A Road Trip through Okayama-ken



Our adventure started in the country near Nishiwaki, as nine JETs piled into two cars and headed off into the unknown. Our destination: Okayama-ken.

Our first stop was Korakuen – a majestic, landscaped park with a beautiful black castle in the background.

The park was definitely nice to see, even during the winter, but I imagine it will be marvelous in the spring. After the park, it was getting a bit late, but no one really had a clue where we were going to stay for the night. We tried to hit up some tatami-timeshare people for a place to stay (nothing like last minute) – but to no avail.



We finally ended up cramming into a wide twin room at the Dai-ichi Hotel in Okayama City. We had dinner not far from the hotel at an all-you-can-eat Indian-food place which was a bit spendy (¥3,200 per person), but the food was great. Following dinner was a fun night of telling ghost stories and laughing at the fact that we had fit nine people into a small room, quite comfortably (let's just say we were creative with the bed situation). The following day, it was three-minute showers for all; we had forgotten that the bright idea to cram nine people into a twin room, left us with one bathroom to share among us.

After breakfast at the Sunday Sun Family restaurant (not too bad), we headed off for Kurashiki, a very picturesque town which reminded me of the older parts of Kyoto City. There, one finds a river with over-laying stone bridges and old Japanese style buildings. There is also the Ivy Square, a European-style courtyard housing many restaurants and souvenir shops. You can also enjoy lots of shopping in quaint little stores along the river.

All in all, it was a very pleasant and fun-filled trip. On a scale of 1 to 10, I give this trip a 9, but it was more for the people than the atmosphere. If you choose to make a trip to Okayama-ken, I definitely recommend Kurashiki. You could live without seeing Okayama City, although the park is very nice.



The first ever *HyogoAJET*

Love Party

Saturday, February 15th 2003

Come and share the LOVE @ the HyogoAJET Love Party!
Fun, Prizes, & DJs that will make you dance.
Sally's doors open at 7:00pm



All for Charity

Half of the proceeds will be donated to the **Habitat for Humanity Nepal trip**, and the other half to the **Japanese Association for the Protection of Children with Heart Disease**.

¥1000 Hajet members

(Bring your Membership card)

¥1500 Non-members

(Join HyogoAJET for half price at this EVENT - all the details on page 14!)

SALLY'S CLUB
K O B E • J A P A N

Drink specials:

Draft Beer & House Drinks

7:00pm-8:00pm **¥400!!!**

8:00pm-9:00pm **¥450!!**

9:00pm-10:00pm **¥500!**

And

Special Shots only **¥300!**

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

Thailand in Two Weeks

Time: JST-2

Currency: Baht (1 Bt. is approximately 13)



With December evening temperatures of 30C (86 F), it's easy to see why Thailand, 'the land of smiles', is such a popular destination for JETs at Christmas.

The only country in South-East Asia to have escaped European colonization, Thailand is a nation proud of its independence, its Royal Family and its religion, Theravada Buddhism. Not to mention its delicious food, beautiful scenery, gorgeous architecture and friendly atmosphere. Interested? See some of the best Thailand has to offer in two short weeks with this handy Hyogo Times travel guide.

Destination 1: Bangkok

Bangkok is an immense and overwhelming city of over 7 million. After the relief of the change in climate, the next thing you'll notice upon arrival in Bangkok will probably be the traffic. The absence of any public underground or subway system, apart from a Bangkok Sky Train still quite in its fledgling stages, means you'll be sharing the roads with the rest of the capital's vast population, which could prolong a half-hour bus ride across the city centre at rush hour for an hour or more. A speedier option may be to hire one of the many tuk-tuks (three wheel motorcycle taxis) driven with a kamikaze determination to get you to your destination at break-neck speed, but don't forget to bargain and settle the price before the ride as this can be quite arbitrary.

What to See in Bangkok

Once you've got over getting off on the wrong foot with Bangkok, you'll be spoilt for choice for things to keep you busy in the city. The National Museum, situated on the banks of the Chao Phraya River and near the Bangkok Tourist Bureau, the National Theatre and the National Gallery, offers a good introduction to the history of Thailand. From here, follow the river down to see the Emerald Buddha and magnificent golden stupa at Wat Phra Kaeo, which is said to contain relics from the Buddha. This is next to the Grand Palace, which is still used as a royal residence. Take a tuk-tuk as Bangkok is a little too large and overpowering to explore on foot.

A little further down the river will lead you to the giant reclining Buddha at Wat Pho, from where a bargain 2 Bt. barge will shuttle you across the river to Wat Arun, the Temple of Dawn, with its landmark 74m prang towering over the river.

Also recommended for sightseeing in Bangkok is the Jim Thompson Museum on Rama I Road, the old house of the American silk entrepreneur.

For shopping and restaurants, the area around the Erawan Shrine in central Bangkok is always lively, as is Silom Road further south, particularly the large Silom Village complex. For dining, order Thai at every opportunity as the food is quite inexpensive and of a consistently high quality.

Destination 2: Koh Chang

If Bangkok leaves you gasping for quiet and fresh air, a five-hour bus ride (189 Bt.) from Bangkok's Eastern Ekkamai bus terminal goes to the small town of Trat. This will put you within range of the beautiful, tropical and, as yet, largely unexploited island of Koh Chang, or Elephant Island as it is known in Thai. Accommodation is by bungalow, set just off the beaches on the west of the island. The most popular resorts seem to be towards the north end of the coast, along the self-styled White Sands Beach. For a little more privacy, head further south to the Chai-Chet Bungalows off Klong Prao beach (01-862-3430).

Once there, the beach is breathtakingly superb; very clean and, surprisingly one might think at Christmas, quite deserted. Rent a kayak to get a wonderful view of the palm trees that line the coast or there are daily snorkelling tours for those wanting to explore beneath the waves (which, coincidentally, are the most gentle I've ever seen). The interior of the island is just as picturesque, with two stunning waterfalls and, of course, elephants. A one-hour elephant trek around the jungle costs 500 Bt.

Destination 3: Ayutthaya

Ayutthaya, the ancient capital of Siam, is an easy two-hour train ride from Bangkok's Hualamphong Railway Station. In fact, the train seems to be the cheapest way to get around Thailand; this journey, in third class, cost just 15 Bt. Ayutthaya was sacked and raided by the Burmese in 1767, so many of the temples around the city are in quite a state of ruin and, disgracefully, many of the Buddha images were decapitated. Nevertheless, what remains has been well preserved. As with any other city in

Thailand, Ayutthaya is a lot smaller and quieter than Bangkok and very easy to get around on foot.

Head for the lake at Phraram Park, in the centre of the city, taking in the temples of Wat Ratchaburana, Wat Mahathat and Wat Phraram to reach the three massive stone chedis of Wat Phra Si Sanphet, the centre point of Ayutthaya.

Destination 4: Chiang Mai

Despite being Thailand's second largest city, Chiang Mai (pop. 200,000), the ancient capital of the Lan Na kingdom of the north and still the centre of northern Thailand, is easily navigable on foot. Founded by King Mengrai in 1296, the old city was enclosed by a square moat and a wall. Although most of the wall is gone now, the moat remains and gives an idea of how small the city was when it was originally laid out. Temples of note within the city centre include Wat Chiang Man, Wat Phra Sing and Wat Chedi Luang, with its line of elephant sculptures around its perimeter. Though quite far north from the city centre, the Chiang Mai Museum has interesting displays and an excellent collection of artefacts from periods in the city's history.

There are many tour operators working out of Chiang Mai, offering reasonable half day or one day tours to places further afield, such as the mountain top temple of Doi Inthanon, Wat Phra Doi Suthep and to see the local hill tribes. Longer three and five day tours are also available to places even further away, such as the Golden Triangle of Chiang Rai or to see the long-necked Karen hill tribe in idyllic Mae Hong Son. When in Chiang Mai, be sure also to check out the colourful night bazaar to the east of the city centre, which is a good place to practice your by now finely-tuned bargaining skills, and can get very busy.

Accommodation is not hard to find in Chiang Mai.

One of the most elegant and friendly hotels is the Baantai Hotel (05-327-5938), built entirely of the richest teak to the south of the city.

Chiang Mai is easily accessible by air, bus and train from Bangkok, with the plane being by far the quickest option at just one hour.

You do not come, and I wait
On Matsuo beach,
In the calm of evening.
And like the blazing
Water, I too am burning.
(Fujiwara no Sadaie, 1162-1242)

Got Your Card Yet?

Join HyogoAJET for **HALF PRICE!!!**

Tell your friends that we've got **six months** of HAJET Services, Events, The Hyogo Times and even more discounts **to go**.



Join HyogoAJET **NOW** for half the price of a full year's membership and save even more!!.

Need more information?

Email PR Ten-cents-off @ pr@hyogoajet.org

New Members 3000 Yen Now ¥1500	Renewing 2500 Yen Now ¥1250
Special Discount For Couples!	
New Shared* 4500 Yen Now ¥2250	Renewing Shared* 3500 Yen Now ¥1750
<i>*In order to qualify, you and your partner must officially reside at the same address.</i>	

New HyogoAJET Membership Discount **JET Thursdays (5pm-10pm)**

SALLY'S CLUB
K O B E • J A P A N

¥150 off any drink for HyogoAJET Members
(Show your Membership Card)

¥100 yen off any drink for all JETS with ID

You can also now play your own CDs through Sally's sound system!! (at Manager's discretion)

Join HyogoAJET at any of our Events for this special deal!

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~~
- February** Valentine 'Love' Party, Kobe
Hachikogen Ski Trip Weekend, Sekinomiya-cho, Tajima
- 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>

Jokes

Sophie James

The New Watch

A rather confident young man walks into a bar and takes a seat next to a very attractive woman.

He gives her a quick glance, then casually looks at his watch for a moment. The woman notices this and asks, "is your date running late?" "No," he replies, "I just bought this state-of-the-art watch and I was just testing it." The intrigued woman says, "a state-of-the-art watch? What's so special about it?" "It uses alpha waves to telepathically talk to me," he explains.

"Oh really? What's it telling you now?" she inquires. "Well, it says you're not wearing any panties..." The woman giggles and replies, "well it must be broken then, because I am wearing panties!" and the man starts tapping on the watch face and says, "damn thing must be an hour fast."

The Student of Psychology

A very shy guy goes into a pub on Valentine's Day night and sees a beautiful woman sitting alone at the bar. After an hour of gathering up his courage he finally goes over to her and asks tentatively, "umm, would you mind if I bought you a drink?" She responds by yelling, at the top of her lungs, "no, I won't sleep with you tonight!"

Everyone in the pub is now staring at them. Naturally, the guy is hopelessly and completely embarrassed and he slinks back to his table totally red-faced.

After a few minutes, the woman walks over to him and apologizes. She smiles at him and says, "I'm really sorry if I embarrassed you just then. You see, I'm a graduate student in psychology and I'm studying how people respond to embarrassing situations."

To which he responds, at the top of his lungs, "What do you mean, \$200?!"

Life as a JET

Clairissa Myschwoda

Learning my ABC



Twenty-six hours after my departure (four hours waiting, twelve hours in and fourteen hours ahead) I watch the trajectory of my plane on the movie screen as it crosses the Arctic north and impatiently await my arrival back home. Having just consumed a sad meal of wilted eggs and petroleum-based sausages, pacified by a barrage of Hollywood's worst failures, my suitcase reduced to a 32kg mangled canvas box, handle having broken en-route and my zipper during the pre-departure security ransacking, I can truly say I am happy to be going home.

The obnoxious girl beside me, a fellow foreigner in Japan (she insists on negotiating her yakisoba breakfast with chopsticks and asking for o-cha instead of green tea) is a rude awakening to the

reality I hope I will never have to face. I take another swig of wine to drown my stale croissant and to drown-out her incessantly annoying attempts to fraternize with the obviously uninterested Japanese women on her other side. More than death, I fear becoming like her, a Japanicized foreigner who will never be Japanese and who will just be looked upon as a wannabe freak by people from her own country. As for myself, I have decided to sign on for another year, throwing caution to the wind and praying to god I never become like one of these strange creatures that exist between worlds in their desperate search for identity. I know who I am. I know why I came. I am happy to be home and home, for now, is Japan.

I can't count how many seminars I have attended to learn how to eat, drink, speak, sit, blow my nose, bow, introduce myself, engage in small talk and f**k Japanese. No wonder there are so many of these strange wannabe creatures hanging around Japan.

Still, I am not angry. I am just a little disappointed that a program that was first offered as a solution to cultural differences and internationalization has put so much emphasis on our behaving Japanese rather than just doing what we really are put here to do, teach people about our language and culture while learning about theirs (note: the E in JET stands for 'exchange'). I have accepted that I must do whatever I need to do to survive and thrive in my new environment. I have forgotten most of the dribble I learned about always doing as the Romans do and am subscribing to a new mantra. This is what my time in Japan, so far, has taught me:

Acceptance: Accept the things you can not change.

Boldness: Assertiveness and confidence are key to our survival here.

Challenge: Nothing good ever came easy.

Determination: Identify your purpose here (not your friend's or your family's) and actively pursue it.

Empathy: (for my students) I am an illiterate, ignorant slob. It's very humbling.

Flexibility: It's very Lao Tzu. While the sturdy oak breaks, the flexible willow weathers the storm.

Gratitude: Always be grateful for the many unique experiences life has to offer, as they may only come once.

Humor: Don't allow yourself to become jaded or cynical, as it's not worth the wrinkles. Try to see the humor in even the most difficult situations.

Individuality: It's what we've grown to appreciate about living in our home countries.

Justice: Act fairly and realize people can not be judged without fair trial.

Knowledge: Learn as much as you can.

Luxury: Treat yourself to the occasional luxury if it makes you feel better.

Motivation: Motivate yourself! Everybody, including you, needs a little push.

Nurture: Nurture yourself and those around you.

Observation: Open your eyes and truly see your surroundings.

Passion: Live your life with the passion of your convictions.

Questioning: Don't just passively accept the status quo. Question it.

Realism: Stop living in the land of rainbows and leprechauns. Be realistic.

Strength: Be strong. This is not a job for the faint of heart.

Time: Use it well, it is the only thing we really possess.

Universality: When it comes to people, there is always a common denominator.

Venturesome: Don't be afraid to take on challenging ventures or to take risks.

Wander: You don't learn about life sitting in your apartment.

Xenophobia: Work hard not to succumb to it and dispel it from the beliefs of others.

You: Don't lose sight of who you are.

Zealousness: At our age, being a keener is no longer geeky.

Will he always love me?
I cannot read his heart.
This morning my thoughts
Are as disordered
As my black hair.
(Lady Horikawa, twelfth century)

My First Tea Ceremony of the New Year

Amanda Betts



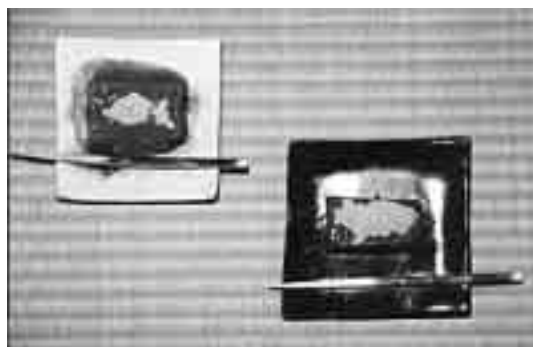
I am one of eight women in kimono kneeling together and waiting for four others to finish preparing the food. The woman beside me is wearing intricately embroidered orange and gold. She's nervous, she says, it's her first cha-ji. We share broken conversation, smiles (open and closed), sidelong stares. My awkward movements are quickly forgiven. Someone tells me I look like Kimono Barbie. I smile continuously. I've met Noko before at tea ceremony, she tells me when to bow, where to look, how to eat and what to clean. I'm grateful for her presence.

I know someone who bled under her borrowed kimono on New Year's Eve. All over the white linen undergarments. As she explains it (we're laughing uncontrollably, drinking wine and wearing pajamas), I can imagine the horror of being unraveled, the seconds ticking silence, the reassurances ('we're all girls here' or maybe 'these things happen'), then the efficient bundling and removal of the offensive materials. The moment alone in the bathroom, feeling twelve again, disbelief and vague hysteria, wondering what women are murmuring to each other in the next room with their legs folded neatly underneath them.

Now she's back in Waterloo and I'm thinking about her blood-stained kimono before my first tea ceremony of the new year. It's 9:30 am and Okamura-Sensei wraps me in her daughter's white linens, blue kimono, red obi and sandals too small for my feet. We drive to Dr. Nishimura's house. It's immaculate, three cold tatami rooms and a garden with stepping stones.

I'm sliding to the side, unable to continue upright, knees locked, ankles stretched, expanding, shifting, filling up, the obi is becoming a band of solid metal.

Everyone else is unflinching, immobile. We've been like this for six hours, chewing, sipping, watching, walking (hobbling, in my case) around the garden, taking pictures, dipping a wooden ladle into an outdoor basin of cool water and pouring it over our hands. There are no men, except for Dr. Nishimura, who makes a cameo appearance to take a group photo. He looks almost ridiculously



Like Michinoku
Cloth, printed with tangled ferns,
My mind is disordered
Because of you,
But my love is not.
(Minamoto no Tooru, tenth century)

unremarkable in the garden, a grey sweater and slacks surrounded by our vibrant, meticulously arranged colour, tightly wound hair, embroidered birds, butterflies and insects. The shutter clicks and twelve women bow deeply, "arigato gozaimashita" (I'll be a too-tall green-eyed rupture in this picture). He leaves without having spoken.

I can't believe it's been six and a half hours, the sun's setting and Okamura-Sensei is removing the layers. I feel a mild sense of dread even though I have no reason to, but she (the pajamas and wine friend) was only in her kimono for two hours on New Year's Eve. Underneath is nothing but clean white linen and I'm surprised. I can't stop thanking Okamura-Sensei. She is maybe the same age as my grandmother, and though she's been cooking and moving around all day, she asks me worriedly and repeatedly if I'm tired. I think yes and forget to say no. Her apology is like the cool basin water, all over my hands.



Oh, 'capital-bird,' if your lovely name
Signifies really from whence you came -
Still in the Capital does my dear
Live or not?
Pray, let me hear!
(Ariwara no Narihira, 825-880)



GEE !!
I WISH I WERE
A MAN

Join the

HyogoAJET Team

for the 2003/2004 Year!

Are you **re-contracting this year**? Do you want to get involved, pump up that resume and have fun? **The Hyogo AJET committee wants you!**
Why: We're looking for **new team members** for **2003-2004** What positions are available?
Come to the meeting and find out.

RSVP to PR Ten-cents-off @ pr@hyogoajet.org
When: **Saturday February 15th 3:00 p.m. KOBE**
Meeting place: Meet outside Hagan Daas ice cream store, across from Hankyu Sannomiya station.

**2003-2004 HAJET Committee turn-over
Important Information**
Saturday February 15th: HAJET information session

Saturday March 15th Kobe: Meet & greet
Meet out-going committee & exchange information

April 2003: Welcome 2003-2004 team

HyogoAJET EVENT!



Ski Trip!

Sat. 22nd, Sun. 23rd February 2003

¥500 Rebate for HyogoAJET Members!!!!

Jets & friends, don't miss out on this great deal! Experience the snow & nature of Northern Hyogo, and ski to your heart's content. **Saturday night's accomodations included...**

Kodama Ryokan Tatami mat inn (4-5 people per room) offers Nabe dinner, traditional breakfast and japanese bath, all perfect for long days out in the snow and sun:

¥6500 only!

Hachikogen Ski Field Gorgeous slopes, natural, powdery snow... You've got to see it to believe it:

Ski pass: **¥8000 \2 day deal!**
(¥4500\day pass, ¥3500\half day)

Ski Rental: **¥3000 \day**

Ski Wear: **¥3000 \day**

How to get there By car, by train, and even by bus, right from Sannomiya! Check these details, and anything else on the net!

Contact **Julie** (909-9868-7461) for information and,
You MUST RSVP to events@hyogoajet.org

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

An Angel For An Afternoon

Before the Christmas vacation, Tracy Smith, from Kobe, and myself, from Awaji, agreed to give up one Sunday to do a talk for the International Angel Association. As the time drew nearer, we both realised how many other tasks were before us leading up to the vacation, and began to regret ever volunteering to give this talk! Nonetheless we still found ourselves travelling to Itami, laden down with Christmas decorations, mince pies, advent calendars, photos and cheesy Christmas tunes...

We were led through the very plush Itami hall to be greeted by a sea of very smiley faces that was the ten women who regularly give up their free time in aid of the Angel Association. We had been asked to turn up early in order to decorate the room, but we soon realised that preparations were already well underway and that we had been invited to come in time for lunch instead! We were plied with lots of lovely food whilst getting to know the other Angel volunteers. They were genuinely eager to know us, and this was true of every person that we met that day.

Tracy and I gave a joint presentation, about how Christmas is celebrated in England and America, explained the story of Christmas and some of the traditions our own families follow. The audience of forty was a real mixture of ages and their English ability was varied, but everything was being translated into Japanese by one of the regular Angels so that everyone could understand. I personally loved the fact that all the attendees – from little kids through to university students and even little old ladies – became excited when we played present-exchanging games, coloured in Christmas decorations and sang 'Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer'!

Presentation, activities and games over, it was then tea-time! I had spent the previous day making a hundred mince pies to add to the festive atmosphere,

the hard work suddenly seeming worthwhile as I could see the taste of an English Christmas being enjoyed all round! Although the room was quite small and the feeling of the talk very intimate from the start, it was nice to have this opportunity to mingle and talk to everyone individually.

We were then presented with hand-embroidered gifts from Bangladesh, the main country that the Angel Association is working in. I proudly handed over the Hyogo AJET donation of 50,000 yen, from the Sally's Club Mid-Year Conference Charity Event.

It was a lovely moment! This Christmas presentation also raised over 17,000 yen. In fact, the whole day felt like one of giving and receiving all around, quite in the true spirit of Christmas. I can honestly say that I left there glowing from within!

It was such a good feeling to have given some time to people that truly appreciated us being there whilst supporting a very worthwhile cause

Tracy has now unfortunately had to leave Japan and the Jet programme but she did say that this experience was one of the highlights of her short time here. She said it had restored her faith in everything here as this was a day of intercultural relations at their very best, not to mention that it had all been so relaxed and informal and, simply, a lot of fun! I would definitely recommend this experience to anyone. Become an Angel for the afternoon and see, for yourself, if the halo fits...



I am unhappy.
I do not care what happens.
I must see you, even
If it means I shall
Be lost in Naniwa Bay.
(Prince Motoyoshi, ninth century)



The International Angel Association



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Why not actually **KEEP** one of your New Year's Resolutions this year and do a little bit of voluntary work...?

The International Angel Association is a Japan-based Non-profit making organisation 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.

If you could spare a couple of hours on a Sunday afternoon to do a presentation on your country or culture, religion or any other aspect of cross-cultural relations, please let me know.

They have already had presentations about Mexico, New Zealand, South Africa, the UK and the USA, so they would prefer volunteers from other countries, or to present aspects of the above countries from an alternative perspective, for future talks.

For more information about doing a presentation or about the charity itself, please contact **Sophie James** – Hyogo Ajet Charity Coordinator:

Work Tel: 0799-42-4433 Home Tel: 0799-42-5823

hajet_charity@hotmail.com

There are times when only a quote from Homer J. Simpson himself will suffice in an argument.

- You couldn't fool me on the foolingest day of the year with an electrified fooling machine.
- With \$10,000, we can be millionaires!
- Oh, yeah, what are you gonna do? Release the dogs? Or the bees? Or the dogs with bees in their mouths and when they bark, they shoot bees at you?
- I know I'm not usually a praying man, but if you're up there, please Superman, help me!
- Beer. Now there's a temporary solution.
- Facts are meaningless. You could use facts to prove anything that's even remotely true.
- Vampires are make believe, just like elves and gremlins and eskimos.
- Without TV, it is hard to know when one day ends and another begins.
- I don't have to be careful. I've got a gun!
- Being eaten by a crocodile is just like falling asleep, in a blender.
- Weaseling out of things is important to learn. It's what separates us from the animals. Except the weasel.
- There's that purple stuff inside. Purple is a fruit!
- Note to self. Stop doing anything.
- I'm just trying to get into heaven. I'm not running for Jesus.
- Speed limits are just a suggestion, like pants.



"The Simpsons" and all its associated characters are trademarks and copyrighted by 20th Century Fox...so there.



I must leave you, but
If I hear the sound
Of the pine that grows
On Mount Inaba,
I shall come back at once.
(Ariwara no Yukihiro, 810-893)

Film Review: 'Die Another Day'

(Twentieth Century Fox, 2002)

Ronan McCaughey

James Bond's newest mission begins with a spectacular high-speed hovercraft chase through a minefield in the demilitarized zone separating North and South Korea, and the action doesn't let up until the credits roll. From Hong Kong to Cuba to London, Bond circles the world in his quest to unmask a traitor and prevent a war of catastrophic proportions. On his way he crosses paths with Jinx (Halle Berry) and Miranda Frost (Rosamund Pike) who will play vital roles in his latest adventure.

Hot on the trail of the deadly megalomaniac Gustav Graves (Toby Stephens) and his ruthless right-hand man Zao (Rick Yune), Bond travels to Iceland into the villain's lair, a palace built entirely of ice. There he experiences firsthand the power of a new high-tech weapon. Ultimately, it all leads to an explosive confrontation – and an unforgettable conclusion – back in North Korea where it all started.

Having completed his fourth 007 adventure, Pierce Brosnan has definitely stamped his authority on the role of the secret agent Bond. The script is based on a strong narrative. The opening scenes see Bond captured, tortured and stripped of his credentials as a double 0 agent with Chinese water torture and scorpion venom the order of the day. For the first time he becomes a renegade, forced to get himself back in the game. Halle Berry is also quite magnificent as the new Bond girl. In one scene, with a

reference to the first Bond Dr. No, she comes out of the water with her bikini to reveal a glorious sight of beauty and femininity. Another spectacular scene involves a thrilling man to man sword fight between Gustav Graves and Bond.



Many years ago, before I joined this esteemed newspaper, I myself considered a career in MI5 (the British secret service). I was a young, thrusting bounder then, with a disregard for rules and an appetite for danger. Sipping my vodka martini, shaken not stirred of course at the student union bar, I imagined the chaos and destruction a young gentleman like me would cause. The name's McCaughey. Ronan McCaughey... yet alas, I can't ski, I scream on baby rollercoasters and I'm afraid of cockroaches. I do however love James Bond movies, and this is a cracker. I went with my Dad in Ireland and he agrees. You can't argue with that.

Ronan McCaughey will return as 007 soon, in 'From Ireland With Love'

Book Review: Barbara Kingsolver, *The Poisonwood Bible* (Harper Perennial)

Victoria Vaughan

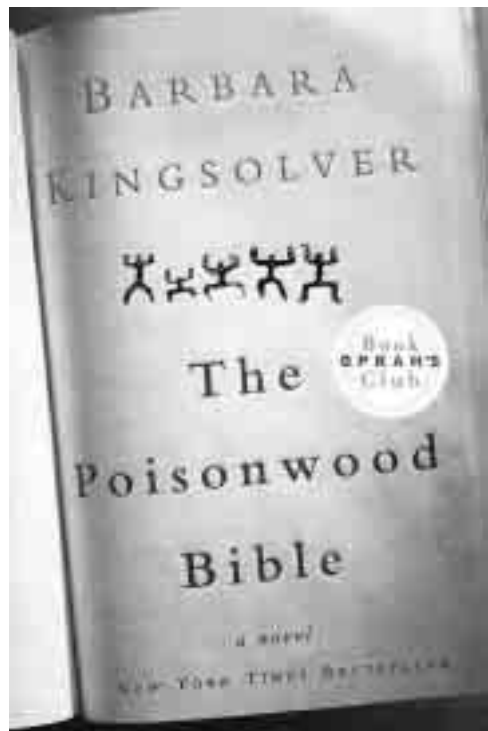
As you may have guessed from the title, this book is far from being an easy read. Racism, capitalism, colonialism, feminism and other isms too numerous to list, weave through the text creating a world that goes beyond the words.

Set in the Congo in the late 1950's the Price family begin their year as Baptist missionaries. Their history is recounted to us from the perspectives of the five female members of the family who are lorded over by their father, the Reverend Nathan, an arrogant, ignorant man intent on converting all of Africa to make amends for a less than heroic performance in the Vietnam War. Unfortunately his poor mastery of the language and failure to partake in any mutual understanding results in disaster, and the continual and shocking reference to Jesus as a maggot! He only notices his family to abuse them or to preach one of his many misinterpreted parables. Despite there being no need or desire for the Prices in rural Congo he forces them to stay through independence, war, eviction, famine, drought and voodoo curses. The wounds received do not heal with time but torture and warp the way each individual evolves.

Rachel, the oldest child, informs the reader in a typical late-teen style about how rubbish everything and everyone is. Continuously mistaking one long word for another she succeeds in being entertaining despite also being nauseatingly selfish. Leah, on the other hand, the slightly older and more tomboyish of the twins, oscillates between climbing trees and falling in love. A serious child, trailing her father and seeking an impossible approval, rebounds in a drastic way. Changing entirely from being a young, naive girl using bible quotes as her defense to an activist possessed by Africa.

Adah, the younger twin, suffering from brain damage due to her subordinated status in the womb, reads and writes backwards. Lame down one side of her body and condemned for it she limps her way after the family foreseeing disaster and narrowly avoiding it. The youngest daughter, Ruth May, speaks plainly and brazenly about all that she sees. Through the eyes of a five year old, the Congo paints itself in rainbow colors and opportunities for exotic pets. Their mother Orleanna mediates between her children and her husband, fighting to keep everyone alive whilst Nathan drives himself into a predictable madness.

The multiple narrative styles and vivid description ensure you'll be lost for weeks in the depths of the Congo.



We were together
Only a little while,
Though a thousand years,
We believed our love would last.
(Ootomo no Yakamochi, 718-785)

CD Review: Jaga Jazzist, 'A Living Room Hush' (Beat Records, 2002)

Colin Erickson



Jaga Jazzist are more or less a Jazz band from Norway. Scandinavia has a proud tradition of making interesting jazz music, and Jaga Jazzist are no exception. They are a ten-piece band, although they sound even bigger because many of the members play more than one instrument. 'A Living Room Hush' is their first major label album, and it has been out in Norway since 2001. Beat Records in Japan (and Ninja Tune in the rest of the world) distribute it. There are three bonus tracks at the end of the CD on Japan release.

I would say that the music that Jaga Jazzist play is jazz, but it is the most unconventional form I have ever heard. It is all original, with live instruments, but there is quite a lot of studio wizardry going on that alters the sound, sometimes almost beyond recognition. Some of the songs have an electronica feel to them, with some dub and post-

rock flavors mixed in as well. Tower Records, interestingly enough, has the CD filed under club music, but you couldn't dance to it. Their sound is difficult to compare to other bands, but Tortoise, Charles Mingus and Miles Davis all come close to the mark of what they do.

The first track, 'Animal Chin' has a drumbeat that could be straight out of a jungle song. In spite of this, Jazzist maintains a more organic sound than that of other jazz/electronica bands. Unlike many forms of jazz, Jaga Jazzist's sound relies less on soloing and more on texture. The combination of horns, keyboards, drums, guitar, bass, and on some tracks, strings, creates a lush and layered sound. It is gorgeous, emotionally stirring stuff, even though there are no vocals.

My favorite song on the album is 'Lithuania'. Its slow-burning melody keeps building in intensity and complexity for eight and a half minutes before an abrupt and very loud ending. Make sure you don't have the volume turned up too loud on your stereo, though it is very moving if your speakers and eardrums can handle it.

The best thing about Jaga Jazzist's music is their use of dynamics, or changing the volume and intensity of their songs. The band seems mostly to have passed under the radar of the music-listening public. Still, this is my hands-down favorite album of 2002. I have had it for almost five months now, and it has been in constant rotation on my stereo. The songs are so multifaceted, you can always hear something new. With up to twelve people playing at once, there are a lot of things to be listening to.

What is in your stereo?

Write to me and let me know what is currently your favorite song or album. I would like to compile a Top 10 music chart of what the Hyogo AJET's favorite music. Old or new, let me know what you're grooving on. Contact me at colin_erickson@hotmail.com.

Restaurant Review: Baanthai

(Sannomiya, Kobe) Phone (078)391-0545

Kenia Lopez-Mohedano

Tired of the cold weather? Need to escape to a warm sunny place? Why not go to Thailand – Kobe-style, that is. If you haven't already bumped into this tiny and cosy bit of Thailand In Japan known as Baanthai, it is high time you did. This Thai restaurant offers an outstanding selection of Thai dishes in a warm and friendly atmosphere. You can try traditional Thai cuisine such as chicken and coconut milk soup, a variety of curries, and of course, pad thai.

Due to its popularity, I recommend making reservations for weekend trips. Baanthai is located across the road from the Hankyu Sannomiya station. If you come to Kobe by Hankyu train, take the west exit and turn right. Take the narrow street between Aoyama coffee and Kotobuki and you'll see it on your right. Prepare to tickle your tastebuds!



Others may forget you,
But not I.
I am haunted
By your beautiful ghost.
(the Empress Yamato-hime, seventh century)

Other Valentine's Day Jokes

What did the paper clip say to the magnet?

"I find you very attractive."

What did the chocolate syrup say to the ice cream?

"I'm sweet on you!"

Why did the cannibal break up with his girlfriend?

She didn't suit his tastes!

What do farmers give their wives on Valentine's Day?

Hogs and kisses!

What did one light bulb say to the other on Valentine's Day?

"I love you a whole watt!"

What did the caveman give his wife on Valentine's Day?

Ughs and kisses!

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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**