

THE HYOGO TIMES

The Monthly Publication for HyogoAJET Members

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

October 2002 Trick or Treat Issue



Your new HyogoAJET Membership card has been sent with this issue. Bring it to future HyogoAJET Events and receive membership discounts!

Trick or Treat... The Halloween Issue

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

The Halloween issue...

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Editorial

Well, that was September. Flew by, didn't it? Yes, now it's October and we're into autumn proper; soon the trees will be shedding their leaves like never before, and if it's autumnal beauty you're after, my tip is to go up to Arashiyama.

Meanwhile, what a busy month we've had here at Hyogo Times Towers, preparing this, the Halloween Special! You'll be pleased to see that your **new Hyogo AJET membership cards** have been included with this issue. You'll also be thrilled to hear that October brings with it occult goings-on a plenty (check out our **Japanese ghost stories**), the all-new **Okinawa travel guide** (it's not that far), and film / movie reviews of "**Ocean's 11**" (on video) and "**Hedwig and the Angry Inch**" (on video and general release). Not to mention, there's also the **Terry Fox Charity Run**, **haiku poetry** and the **Hallowe'en cook-off at the KRAC in Kobe**. Not to be missed!

Be sure also to **check out page 17**, which carries a very important advert we've placed for Hyogo Times writers. Offer your talents and be a part of the team that's going to win the award for 'Best Ajet Newsletter'! Contact me at times@hyogoajet.org to apply or for more information. The deadline for applications is **Friday, October the 11th**.

My thanks as always to everyone who contributed articles to this issue. The **deadline** for any general articles for the **November Hyogo Times** is **Friday, October the 18th**.



Steve Wilkinson
Hyogo Times Editor
times@hyogoajet.org

Welcome back everyone to the SPOOKY edition of the TIMES. Suzushi desu ne! It's so fabulously cool and comfortable outside I could SCREAM!



I hope you've all been packing in some serious 'genki-ness' this month at your host institutions and getting a kick out of your kids, whether rookie or veteran. I know it's tough, when copious amounts of sweat are seeping from every unmentionable part of your body - but get into the spirit. Luckily, the Fall season has CREPT UP on us; the WINDS are refreshing, the LEAVES are turning a bright yellow and rustic red, the turkeys are a roasting and soon the GOBLINS will be out. It's easy to tell when October arrives like a 'BAT out of ----', for families are eagerly preparing steaming pots of sticky white rice with chestnuts and feverishly gliding their chopsticks into the exulted 'Sama fish' or 'sliver knife' fish of Autumn. [It's not that GOBBLE-GOBBLE turkey smell we love - but it sure hits the spot for me!]

For those of you that love this season as much as I do, the HAJET team has BREWED UP one serious 'WITCHES EYE BALL BREW of events' for you this month. First off, I would like to send out a warm and appreciative THANK YOU to the KRAC (Kobe Regetta and Athletic Club) for sponsoring our last month during our Kobe Night Out event. Hyogo JETs itching to get into shape or get involved with a fun sports team - check out the KRAC ad inside for details on joining. Let's get in shape!

Coming up...**September 28-29th** will see fellow JETs FLYING on up to **Mount Hyonosen**, Hyogo's highest mountain (guaranteed to FREAK a few out), to indulge in an array of delights such as **hiking, camping, onsen and BBQ feast**. During the

beginning of **October** our Charity coordinator welcomes all JETs and friends to get involved in the **Terry Fox Run** run in **Kobe** and support much needed Cancer Research around the world. Check out the ad inside and keep your eyes GLUED to <http://hyogoajet.org>. Finally, be prepared to have a GHOST of a time at this year's HALLOWEEN '**Cook Off For Charity**' on **October 26th**. Join us at the KRAC and PUMPKIN OUT on some delectable food, cast a few votes, go for a dunk in the APPLE BARREL, get all decked out in your 'ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW' costumes and chip in for Charity. Check out the HAJET URL event page for more information.

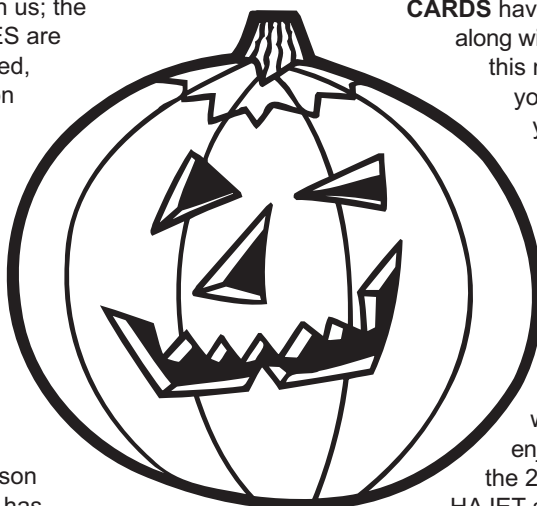
EXCITING NEWS JUST IN... the COOL & FANCY new HAJET membership cards are IN. Word has it that at this exact moment you are fondeling them in your wee hands. All new **MEMBERS ONLY**

CARDS have been mailed out along with the Hyogo Times this month. Make sure you **BRING** your **VIP pass** to all HAJET events to reap the rewards. Enjoy! Lastly, **KUDOS** goes out to the HAJET team and our Web Goddess for putting together a great new HAJET web site for your enjoyment. Previously, the 2001-2002 year HAJET site boasted **1,500 hits** for that entire year.

Miraculously, the **2002-2003 UP-DATED site** as of JUNE 1st boasts over **3,500 hits** - a whole years worth in only a few months. Keep surfing!

Pondering what to do to keep the VAMPIRES at bay therest of the month? Take a peek at: <http://www.isabelperez.com/halloween.htm> for fun HALLOWEEN Lesson and Party ideas - it's SPOOKTACULAR! Here's a riddle to tempt the wondrous and wise: Why didn't the skeleton cross the road? [Answer in the November TIMES]

Get involved this month and have a JACK of at time with your lessons, plan a party, cook a turkey, learn a dance, carve some pumpkins or sing a song...



here's one for you care of 'Isabels ESL site' titled, 'HUMPHREY THE BLUE-NOSED PUMPKIN (to the tune of Rudolph the...) And away we go...

*Humphrey the blue-nosed pumpkin had a very obvious nose.
And if you ever saw it, you might even say it shows.*

*All of the other pumpkins, used to laugh and call him names.
They never let poor Humphrey play in any pumpkin games.*

*Then one foggy Halloween Eve, the Great Pumpkin did say,
"Humphrey, with your nose so blue, you'll make all the ghosts say BOO!"*

*Then all the pumpkins loved him, and they shouted out with glee,
Humphrey, the blue-nosed pumpkin, You'll go down in history!*

On that note Kudos goes out all of our new members - thanks for supporting the team. For those friends of yours that are still doing the 'MONSTER MASH' around joining HAJET, tell them to imagine a home without, buddy's to hang out with or events to SHMOOZE publications to TITTILATE, a kickin' web site to STIMULATE, a library full of fiction to bring any FAIRY TALE to life, and charitable support to REACH OUT.

Have a HOOT of a time this October, get involved, get jiggy and get a driver's license!!! [lil inside joke for y'all]

Have a PHANTOM-tabulous Autumn season and see you in November.
<Gobble-Gobble>

PR Ten-cents-off
Rachel Tenzythoff
pr@hyogoajet.org
<http://hyogoajet.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 ****

Okinawa

For those that haven't been, Okinawa – Japan's most southernmost prefecture – is well worth a visit. Not part of Japan until its annexation in 1879, Okinawa still proudly retains much of its history, culture and cuisine from its former life as the Kingdom of the Ryukyus. What's more, with the main island (Okinawa) geographically as close to Taiwan as it is to Kagoshima, the prefecture enjoys a virtually tropical climate all year round. As the temperature begins to drop across the Kansai region, it should not go below 20°C (68 F) in Okinawa until at least December.

With both JAL and ANA flying several times a day to Naha (the capital of Okinawa) from Itami and Kansai, start maximising your nenkyu and book yourself a weekend away. It needn't be so expensive – Academy Travel (06-6303-3538) offer a package for as little as ¥16,800, including flights and hotels, while IACE (06-6442-8877) have published one-way fares as low as ¥8,500.

History

For the history of the Ryukyu Islands, you can not do much better than visiting Shuri Castle, within easy reach of Naha. The castle, as the former palace of the King of the Ryukyus and the seat of the Ryukyuan government, saw tumultuous changes, through the establishment and consolidation of the Kingdom during the first and second Sho dynasties.

In 1609 the Kingdom fell under the control of the Satsumas (based in present-day Kyushu), under whom they struggled until the 1853 arrival of US Commodore

Perry and their eventual absorption into Japan.

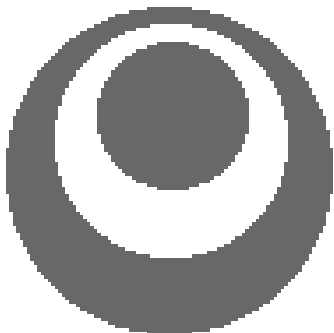
Economically, the small and dispersed Ryukyu Kingdom lived off its trade with the nations around it, most notably China, Korea and Japan. In fact, for a long time the Ryukyu Kingdom was the only country permitted to trade with China, which made their trade with Korea and Japan even more profitable and, as an unfortunate concomitant, even more risky. Ryukyuan merchants were often the victims of piracy, encouraging the development of karate to protect their cargoes.



As for its architecture, Shuri Castle borrows more from China and Korea in terms of design than it does from Japan, as can be seen from the illustration on the reverse of the new ¥2000 note, of the castle's Shureimon Gate.

People

Separate though its history may be, Okinawa is Japanese, and nowhere does this seem more true than in downtown Naha. Nevertheless, there are important differences too. Okinawans, in the most part, like to maintain a distinct sense of identity from the rest of Japan, and they do seem to be more laid-back (probably due to the climate) than their mainland cousins too. A note of caution, however: the continued and heavy presence of the US military



in Okinawa has produced some animosity from the locals towards anyone who could be American.

Take a wander down Kokusai-dori, Naha's main shopping drag, and you may find yourself hypnotised by some of the traditional music of the Ryukyus, which is still sung in its native dialect and seems closer in origin to that of Thailand or India than a traditional Japanese enka. Be sure to avail yourself of the local cuisine too; not to be missed are the goya champuru (bitter melon stir-fry) and the local drink, awamori, which is Okinawa's rival to sake.

Around Okinawa

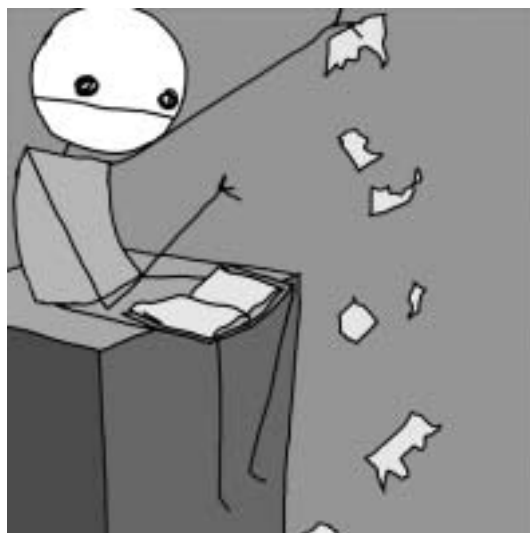
Be sure when you book your weekend in Okinawa to ask your travel agent about travel on from Naha, as the capital is quite polluted and the most thoroughly Japanese of all of Okinawa. The best way to get around is to hire a car (Okinawa has no railway system and the buses can be painfully slow) if you stay on the main island. The August edition of the Kansai Time Out thoroughly recommended heading to the beaches at Yanbaru in northern Okinawa. Even better perhaps, Naha is also Okinawa Island's gateway to many of the other islands that make up the staggering 1,000km chain.

The further south you go, the warmer it gets and there are good opportunities to scuba-dive on the more secluded and exotic islands of Miyako, Ishigaki and Iriomote. Ask your travel agent as, although flights to these islands can be bought directly upon arrival in Naha, they're likely to cost in the region of ¥10,000 for a one-way ticket.

Naha is 1.5 hrs flight by 747 from Itami or Kansai.



TIRED OF TEXTBOOKS?



The **cost of joining HYOGOAJET** is less than the cost of **two books in English**. So, why not join and borrow as **many books as you want** from the **HAJET library** for **FREE**?

TOP 3 BOOKS IN HYOGO

1. **1984** - By George Orwell
2. **The Fellowship of the Ring** - By J.R.R. Tolkien
3. **The Tale of Genji** - By Lady Murasaki

Dan Hagan recommends

A Tale of Two Cities - By Charles Dickens

"The Dickens was fantastic, though I've never previously been a fan. He writes with more humour and keenness of insight than I used to think, enough even to compensate for his irrepressible sentimentality. It is a far, far better book than I have ever read before. It makes me want to be a roguish 18th century grave robber, or at least to learn to knit."

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.

Halloween Charity Cookoff!!

HyogoAJET EVENT!

Where: **KRAC** (Kobe)



When: **October 26, 2002** (Saturday)

Chefs (Entry Free) arrive at **5:30pm** to prepare,

Taste testers come at **6:00pm!**

Why: This is a **Charity COOKOFF** and **COSTUME Party!**

Cost: ¥700 for HyogoAJET Members
¥1000 for Non Members

This gives you **a plate of food**, 2 votes for best plate and best costume, and 50% of the proceeds go towards charity!

For all you chefs:

- Please bring a dish that serves about 5-10 people
- Bring the recipe (for entry into a cookbook) and the name of the dish!
- Please let us know what you are bringing - register @ events@hyogoajet.org

**Prizes go to the top 3 dishes
(and costumes)!!*

Arrive EARLY!

**Join us for
Charity,
Food, and
Halloween
Fun &
Games!
Buy Booze
at the Bar!**



Contact Andrea 090-429-78045 or Izzie 0795-32-4085 for info!

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

The Story of a Living Ghost, Who killed Her Rival

(From "Konjaku Monogatari" vol 27, chapter 20)

Once upon a time there was a man who left his home in Kyoto late one night to make a journey to Nagoya. On the outskirts of Kyoto he came to a crossroads and there he saw a very well dressed and beautiful woman standing all alone. It was very late at night. It seemed strange to find a woman there by herself at such an hour, but he assumed she must have people looking after her safety, and he continued on his way. The woman stopped him. "Where are you going?" she asked.

"I'm going to Nagoya."

"You must be in a hurry," she said "to be traveling so late at night. Please. Stop for a while. I have something important I need to ask you."

Although he was in a hurry to leave, he was a gentleman. "All right then, what can I do for you?"

"Where is the house of Minbu no Taihu? I want to visit him, but I'm completely lost. Do you know where he lives?"

In fact, he did. "His house is over there," he said, pointing off into the distance. "I'd like to help you, really, but I'm in such a hurry. I can't take you there now. I'm very sorry."

"It's very important to me!" she pleaded. "You must take me there. Please!"

What could he do? He couldn't abandon her on the road in the middle of the night. Resentfully, he gave in and she followed after him, silently. He was very uncomfortable around her, though he couldn't figure out why.

There was just something about her, some indefinable thing, that seemed not only wrong, but possibly even dangerous. Poor woman, he thought, maybe that's just the way she comes across to other people..

He walked her to a closed gate in front of a house. "This is the house of Minbu no Taihu."

She thanked him over and over. "Listen," she said, "I'm the daughter of so-and-so, living in the town of Shiga. When you pass by my house, you must stop by and visit. Please."

"I don't know," he said turning towards the road, "maybe if...?" he turned to her, but she had vanished like a bubble.

The astonished man stood by the gate, looking around wildly. He looked at the house, and thought about going in, when suddenly there came a loud crying and wailing from inside. As he listened, it became clear that someone had just died.

He wasn't in a hurry any more. He waited anxiously by the gate until dawn. In the morning he went to the house and inquired of a servant inside what had happened. "My master had a wife once in Shiga," said



his friend, "but he deserted her for another woman and moved here. The Ikiryō spirit of the former wife came in this area looking for her, and suddenly the new wife became seriously ill." The servant shivered, and looked all around. His voice dropped to a careful whisper. "Last night, around dawn, the new wife suddenly cried out "I can see her!" and then just collapsed and died, just like that!" He snapped his fingers. "An Ikiryō can kill people that way." Then the traveller understood. After Minbu no Taihu had deserted her for a new wife, the first wife had left her body and gone hunting for this new wife in her spiritual body, and innocently he had brought the hunter right to her unfortunate prey. He felt frightened and remorseful over what he had done. He turned around and went straight back to Kyoto.

A few days later, when he had recovered himself, he began his trip again. When he came to Shiga, his curiosity overcame him and he sought out the house of so-and-so as described by the ghost woman. When he found this house, he entered it and found her there hidden behind a misu screen. She thanked him again, and said gleefully "I'll never forget the joy of that night till the day I die, and even beyond into my next lifetime!" She presented him with gifts of fine delicacies, and bundles of rich silk cloth. He accepted the gifts, too terrified to refuse.

The Biwa named "Genjo"

(From "Konjaku Monogatari" vol 24, chapter 24)

Once upon a time, during the era of Murakami Tennō, the Emperor Tennō's famous biwa named "Genjo" disappeared. This Genjo was an heirloom of the Tennō family and a priceless treasure with a rich history.

Tennō was very unhappy about its loss. If a thief had stolen it, he might break it since it would be too dangerous to try to sell it. Rumours circulated among the people that an enemy of Tennō had stolen the biwa only to destroy his peace of mind and upset him.

Minamoto no Hiromasa was a nobleman and an excellent musician. He was very sorry to hear that Genjo had been stolen. Late one night, while everyone was sleeping, he heard the distinct sound of this biwa being played by someone. At first he couldn't believe his ears. He listened carefully, and yes, it was certainly the famous Genjo. He summoned his boy-servant, and together they slipped quietly out of the court to investigate. He followed the sound to the south of the city, but mysteriously, the closer he came the more the sound seemed to move away. Someone with supernatural power was secretly playing Genjo, and only Hiromasa could hear the sound. He followed the sound to the southern most corner of Kyoto, to the infamous Rashomon Gate.

Hiromasa and the servant boy stood under the gate building listening. Someone was playing up there. "I don't think this is a human being," he said to his servant, "I think this is a demon." At the sound of his whisper, the music suddenly stopped. They stood still, holding their breath and waiting. The music of the biwa began again.

He stepped out and shouted up at the gate, "who's that playing Genjo? The Emperor Tennō has been searching for Genjo ever since it disappeared. I can hear you! I know you're up there! I followed the sound to this very gate!"

The music stopped and suddenly something dropped down and hung from the gate. They backed away, thinking it might be the demon, or a hanged man. In fact it was Genjo, hanging by a rope tied to the neck. Hiromasa and the servant cut Genjo down and quickly brought it back to the court. When they told Emperor Tennoh of their adventure he was very impressed, and said, "certainly it was a demon who stole Genjo away." Everyone admired Hiromasa's guts for visiting that dangerous place at night, and his fortune was granted.

Genjo is still in the Imperial Court today. More than a beautiful lute, it is a living thing with a spirit of its own. If it is played by a poorly skilled musician it turns petulant and will not produce a sound. One day there was a fire at the court. Everyone ran to save themselves and no one thought to save Genjo from the flames. Mysteriously it was found safely outside, where apparently it had taken itself!

Abe no Seimei: The Great Taoist Sorcerer

(From "Konjaku Monogatari" vol 24, chapter 16)

Once upon a time there was a very famous astrologer and powerful Onmyo-ji named Abe no Seimei. His master was the Onmyo-ji Kamo no Tadayuki, with whom he studied long and hard, day and night since his youth.

Master Kamo no Tadayuki realised his student Abe no Seimei was special because of an incident that had occurred to them while traveling together to the southern part of Kyoto. Master Tadayuki had been sleeping in an ox cart, while his acolyte Seimei walked at some distance behind. While his teacher was sleeping, Seimei saw with his clairvoyance, a group of dreadful demons coming the other way on the road. Astonished, he ran up to the ox cart and quickly alerted Master Tadayuki. The master quickly used his sorcery to hide them from the demons, and just in time! The demons passed by without seeing them. Tadayuki's servants saw nothing at all, but they felt a strange chill wind as the demons passed by.

Master Tadayuki was very impressed by Seimei's spiritual sensitivity. From that time on he valued Seimei very much, and like pouring water from one pot to another, he poured all of his knowledge out into his student.

After his Master's death, Abe no Seimei lived to the northeast of the court. One day an old monk came to visit him. He was accompanied with two boy servants about 10 years old. Seimei addressed him, asking "who are you, friend, and from what temple do you come?" The monk answered, "I am from Hyogo. I want to study Onmyo-do (the way of Taoist magic), and I have heard of your reputation as the most skilled in Onmyo-do in Japan. I have come to learn from you." Seimei studied him with his spiritual senses, and spent a moment in contemplation. "This man is a powerful Onmyo-ji himself," thought Seimei, "he has come here to challenge me. If I fail his challenge it'll bring shame on me, so I'll have to try to challenge him instead. Even these servants of his are probably not what they seem. It is most likely they are his Shikijin." He prayed inwardly, "if these boys are really Shikijin, let them become invisible to him." He hid his hands inside his large loose sleeves and secretly made magic gestures while chanting a magic mantra.

Seimei told the mysterious monk, "I'll teach you when I have time, but today I am really very busy. Choose a day and return and I will teach you whatever you want to know."

The monk was satisfied, bowed deeply and departed. A moment later he returned to the gate and began looking around as though he had lost something. The monk approached Seimei and said, "my two servants have disappeared. Please return them to me." Seimei looked innocent and said, "are you blaming me for the fact that you can't find your servants? Why would I take them?"

Sheepishly the monk apologized, and said, "What you say is true. Please forgive me and give them back to me." "Well it was very rude of you to come here with Shikijin to challenge me. If you want to play tricks like this, try some other Onmyo-ji, but not me!" Seimei hid his hands in his sleeves and chanted a mantra. An instant later the two boys came running from the gate.

The monk was deeply impressed. "To use Shikijin is rather easy," he said "but to hide another's Shikijin is impossible! You are truly powerful. Please accept me as your student, in spite of my rudeness." Seimei accepted him, and he was registered officially as his student.

One day Seimei visited the Priest Kancho at a temple in Hirosawa. There were visiting young noble men among the monks and they were intrigued at the opportunity to meet this famous sorcerer. They asked him, "can you actually kill a person with your Shikijin?"

Seimei, who was a peaceful man, was always disturbed by this kind of question. Reluctantly, he answered, "what idle questions you ask about the nature of magic and the way of Onmyo-ji. To kill someone! It's not easy, but with a little effort, yes, I could kill a person, but why would I want to? That is not the purpose of power. I can kill bugs easily with Shikijin, but I cannot bring the poor creature back to life, and it would be bad karma to take life, even a bug's life, without a good reason. Don't you think so?"

Just then several toads were jumping around the pond in the garden. The nobles said "Prove it for us! Kill one of those toads. They're only toads." Seimei was disheartened. "These young men," he thought, "they're not interested in wisdom. All they wish is to see some demonstration of a miracle. They only want to challenge me."

He sighed and pulled a leaf from a peach tree. Chanting something under his breath, he tossed the leaf so that it fell upon the back of a toad. Instantly the poor toad was pressed flat and dead as though it had been struck with a huge rock. The young men marvelled and felt afraid at the sight, but Seimei alone grieved over the innocent toad.

There are many stories about Seimei, such as how at his house the windows opened and closed and the gate locked by itself even when he was far away. People said it was his Shikijin servants watching over the house for him.

His grandson now serves at the court and his house stands in the same place as Seimei's. They say he is a clairvoyant and hears the Shikijin too.



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** Halloween Party & Charity Event.
- November** Ruriji Temple Stay, Nanko-cho Hyogo
Mid-year conference after hours bash /
Charity Event, Kobe
- 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!

New Jet Haiku.

(Note: not all of these are based on real experiences. But you can bet a lot of them are.)

Gordon Au

Higashikanki-cho, Kakogawa-shi.

On Hyogo

welcome to Hyogo
you thought it would be cooler?
it's cooler in Hell

what is what? oh that
maybe it is poisonous
don't worry at all

here is Hyogo-ken
can't you take this hot weather?
maybe you will die

On getting by

stores are a challenge
I don't know what I just bought
maybe a surprise

using no English
it was a speedy haircut
is it cold in here?

English, in Retrospect

twenty-six letters
and ten numbers. maybe we
need eight thousand more

On Teaching

welcome to our school
today I have shucchou
please teach by yourself

my name is gordon
and you? my name...is...gordon
let's try that again

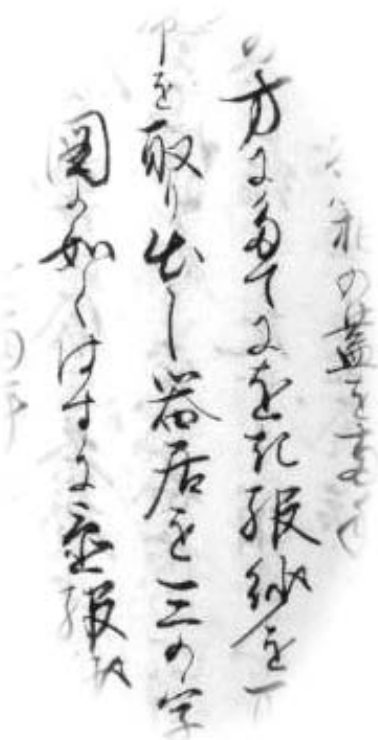
my name is gordon
and you? I am...monkey man!
uh, nice to meet you

anything at all
any question is all right
okay i was wrong

do you have girlfriend?
no, I don't have a girlfriend
do you have boyfriend?

please call them by name
uh, wait, you said six hundred?
no, seven hundred

what was that again?
not in my dictionary
so it's not a word



The saga continues...

info forwarded by Sara Russell



The New Driving Laws

Concerning 2nd and 3rd year JETs who wish to drive in Japan

The law governing drivers with International Driving Permits has just recently changed. The change will affect all foreign nationals who have been resident in Japan for one full year. From now on anyone resident for more than one full year must apply for a Japanese driver's licence once their first year is completed.

This law does not apply to people who leave Japan for three months or more and then return. A new year is begun from your date of return. Realistically this will not apply to anyone on the JET Programme.

All recontracting JETs are subject to this law. Exceptions to this are French, Swiss, and German nationals, whose governments have made individual arrangements with the Japanese government. However, after their first full year they will still require a translation from JAF, or the Licensing Issuing Authority in their home country or from the appropriate section of their Embassy to drive legally in Japan. After their first year foreigners from the aforementioned three countries will still need to take a test.

Please check the JAF website (listed below) for information in your own language.

However, as a holder of a current IDP (issued before June 1, 2002) you are entitled to drive using this licence until it runs out if your entry into Japan was before June 1st, 2002, then you must apply for a Japanese driver's licence. For example, if your IDP expiry date is November 15, 2002 you may legally drive with only your IDP until this date, but only if your last date of re-entry was before June 1st 2002. It is a good idea to apply for a Japanese driver's licence in advance of such a date. Instructions on how to apply follow.

All countries

1) Apply for an official translation of your home driver's licence (not IDP) from a JAF counter that has the abilities to execute the translation, or the Licensing Issuing Authority in your home country or from the appropriate section of their Embassy. Your local JAF counter's address can be found at the JAF website:

www.jaf.or.jp/e/index_e.htm

This translation from JAF costs 3000 yen, plus 290 yen for postage.

Translations from other companies will not be accepted unless they are one of the other two options listed above and are approved by the police/licensing bureau directly. Post a copy of your home licence together with the money in a genkin-kakitome futou (cash registered envelope) to the JAF counter or other body. These are available for 20 yen from any post office.

2) Once you have the translation you should contact your local licensing centre (menkyo shikenjo) and make an appointment (JETs don't need one for the initial visit, but JETs should check the hours as they change per office). You should ask a supervisor or a Japanese friend to do this, as it is unlikely that there will be an English speaker there. Be aware

that menkyo shikenjos are only open during work hours, Monday through Friday.

This might mean having to take nenkyu. Please talk to your supervisor and explain why it is essential that you do this, and that you need their help. It is unlikely that a CO will allow a JET to take shucho (business trip) as that involves paying for transport and providing a daily allowance.

You will need to take along:

A driver license history from the issuing country if the license holder resided for less than 3 months in the issuing country after obtaining the license before coming to Japan. This also applies to licenses that are re-issued/ renewed and do not show the original date of issue.

As well as Passport, Alien Registration card, Original licence from home country, Translated copy of licence, A photo (3cm x 2.4cm)

You will be charged 4150 yen for the application (depending on the class of license being applied for this price may change).

You will be asked questions in Japanese (this is why you need your supervisor or a Japanese friend to accompany you) or required to prove by documentation (see above) about your driving history and the rules of the road. A brochure, "The Rules of the Road" is also available from JAF for 1000 yen, excluding postage.

You will also have to undergo an eye examination as well as a written examination depending on which country your license was issued in.

Furthermore, you may be required to undergo a road test as well.

After you have finished this, you should be able to claim your Japanese driver's licence. It is at the discretion of the interviewing officer as to whether your experience driving here and at home has been sufficient. You may require further training / examinations here.

The test fee is non-refundable. If you fail the test, you must pay to take another one.

Fines for driving without a proper licence are extremely high. In addition, JETs will forfeit all insurance if they do not hold a legally valid licence.



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:

Life as a JET

World news

CD reviews

Book reviews

Nightclub reviews

Sports

Jokes

Illustrations

Printing & Distribution

Travel reviews

Film / Movie reviews

Restaurant reviews

Features / Stories

Games and puzzles

Music charts

2 Proofreaders

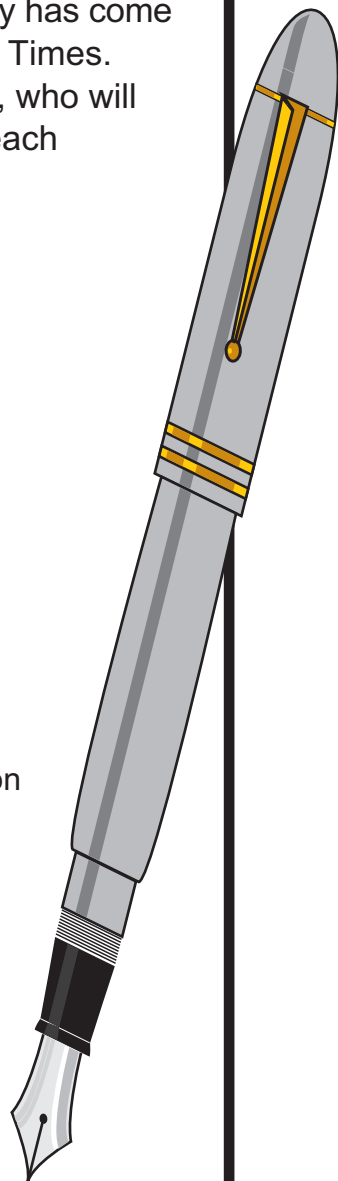
Have you got what it takes?

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

Be quick!

The deadline for applications is
FRIDAY 11TH OCTOBER 2002.

Stephen Wilkinson
Hyogo Times Editor





Film Reviews: “Ocean’s Eleven (US, 2001)

Steve Wilkinson

Length: 117 minutes

Starring: George Clooney, Brad Pitt, Matt Damon, Andy Garcia, Julia Roberts,
AND Lennox Lewis

Rating: HHHHH 5/5

Call me outdated, but I’d never been that big a George Clooney fan since ER. When was the last time you heard a saxophone in the hospital? Happily, this film trades on more than its cast of big names.

The story is a simple one. Danny Ocean, played by George Clooney, begins to plan the grandest heist of Las Vegas’ plush Bellagio casino, the very second he is released from jail for theft. Using his contacts in the underworld (it seems that anyone who’s ever broken the law knows everyone else) he finds the eleven – starting with Brad Pitt and ending with Matt Damon – who will help him pull the job. Plane tickets are distributed and they fly into Vegas, where we learn that Clooney is after more than the \$150,000,000 the safes contain on a good day. In steps Tess (Julia Roberts), Clooney’s estranged wife, who is now dating the casino’s owner, Terry Benedict (Andy Garcia).

Clooney is excellent as the suave mastermind of the operations, with Pitt also impressing as a sidekick with a mind of his own. Refreshment is provided by British actor Don Cheadle as Basher.

The film is slick and well-organised, with nobody missing a beat; the soundtrack, incidentally, fits well – maybe the Beastie Boys on one of their quieter days. Though perhaps not edge-of-the-seat stuff (I think everyone knows what’s going to happen), the film is paced well and the actual break-in features some very clever acting.

“I have a question. Say we get into the cage, and through the security doors there, and down the elevator we can’t move, and pass the guards with the guns, and into the vault we can’t open, we’re just supposed to walk out of there with \$150 million in cash on us, without getting stopped? ... (long pause) ... Yeah”

Did you know? “Ocean’s Eleven” is the remake of an earlier 1960 film, of the same name, starring Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Sammy Davis Jr.

“Ocean’s Eleven” is available to rent from Tsutaya and all good video stockists.

Seen any good (or unbelievably terrible) Films, Videos or DVDs lately????

Tell us about it! Send us your review to be published in the next issue of The Hyogo Times.

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**

Hedwig and The Angry Inch Some Theatres, Video & DVD

2001 New Line Cinema

Fiona Cubie



Adapted from the critically acclaimed off-Broadway rock theatre hit, **Hedwig and The Angry Inch** - tells the story of an "internationally ignored" rock singer, Hedwig, and her search for stardom and love. Think you have already had your fill of transvestite glam, goth, punk, rock musicals? Think again!

Born a boy in East Berlin in the 60's, Hansel (Hedwig) grows up listening to American Air Force Rock Music Radio and dreams of finding love. Eventually Hedwig falls in love with an American G.I. and reluctantly submits to a sex change operation in order to marry him and gain her freedom. The operation failed and left her with the above-mentioned "angry inch". Finding herself abandoned and divorced in a US trailer park, she forms a rock band and encounters a new lover/protégé in the form of young 'Christian' Tommy Gnosis. He eventually leaves her, steals her songs and worst of all, becomes a huge rock star. That's enough to send anyone over the edge! Which of course it does.

Bitter, yet wittily twisted, Hedwig and her faux-Slavic band, The Angry Inch (get it), follow (i.e. stalk) Tommy's stadium tour. They perform in near-empty restaurants for bewildered diners and a couple of die-hard fans. Hedwig spends her free time, crashing local media events trying to capitalize (and cash in) on her tabloid celebrity as the supposed ex-lover of famed rock star, Tommy Gnosis.

And of course you will have to see the rest of the film to see what happens next!

Key Moment: Any movie in which the central character can theoretically link Anne Murray and David Bowie in rock history is automatically a work of genius!

Recommended: This is an entertaining and extremely clever film, which deservedly won the Director and Audience prize in the recent Sundance Film Festival 2001.

Length: Approximately 2 hours

Starring: John Cameron Mitchell, Miriam Shor, Michael Pitt and Stephen Trask

Rating: HHHHH 5/5



Terry Fox Run Information

The Terry Fox run will be held in Kobe again this year – so please join with your family and friends. Have fun together, running or walking along the Rokko Island Green Belt. Last year more than 1000 people joined and over 3,500,000 yen was raised. All the money was donated to support three cancer research institutes in the Kansai area.



Date: **Saturday October 5th**

Registration times: **8:30-9:30am Run starts at 10am**



Registration Venue: **Canadian Academy, Rokko Island**

Course: **Rokko Island Green Belt (5 – 10km walk or run)**

Donations: **Adults 1,000 yen Students/ children 500 yen Family 2,000 yen**

All proceeds go towards cancer research in the Kansai area.

Additional donations gratefully accepted.

You will be given a ticket to a prize draw, for every 500 yen you bring.

Pre-registration forms and contact details of how to pre-order your Terry Fox Run t-shirt available from Sophie James, Hyogo Ajet Charity Coordinator: hajet_charity@hotmail.com

Further information available from the official website: <http://www.terryfoxrun.org>



About Terry Fox

Terry Fox was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba, and raised in Port Coquitlam, British Columbia, a community near Vancouver on Canada's west coast. An active teenager involved in many sports, Terry was only 18 years old when he was diagnosed with osteogenic sarcoma (bone cancer) and forced to have his right leg amputated six inches above the knee in 1977.

While in hospital, Terry was so overcome by the suffering of other cancer patients, many of them young children, that he decided to run across Canada to raise money for cancer research. He would call his journey the Marathon of Hope.

After 18 months and running over 5,000 kilometres (3,107 miles) to prepare, Terry started his run in St. John's, Newfoundland on April 12, 1980 with little fanfare. Although it was difficult to garner attention in the beginning, enthusiasm soon grew, and the money collected along his route began to mount. He ran 42 kilometres (26 miles) a day through Canada's Atlantic provinces, Quebec and Ontario.

Canadians never forgot.

However, on September 1st, after 143 days and 5,373 kilometres (3,339 miles), Terry was forced to stop running outside of Thunder Bay, Ontario because cancer had appeared in his lungs. An entire nation was stunned and saddened. Terry passed away on June 28, 1981 at age 22.

The heroic Canadian was gone, but his legacy was just beginning. To date, almost \$300 million has been raised for cancer research in Terry's name through the annual Terry Fox Run, held across Canada and around the world.

The Terry Fox Run

Before Terry died, he knew that an annual event would be held to commemorate his Marathon of Hope. It would be called, appropriately, The Terry Fox Run.

The first Terry Fox Run in 1981 attracted 300,000 participants across Canada and raised \$3.5 million. To date, close to \$300 million has been raised for cancer research in Terry's name.

Each year, thousands of volunteers organize Terry Fox Run events in Canada and around the world. The Run has been credited as the largest, single-day fundraising event for cancer research in the world.

In Canada, the annual Terry Fox Run is held every September, usually on the second Sunday following Labour Day. In countries outside Canada, the Run is organized at a time that is convenient for organizers.

The Run is a non-competitive event where people get together as individuals, families and groups to raise money in Terry's name. It is a day of celebrating Terry's legacy and helping to keep his dream of a cure for cancer alive.

There is no entry fee and no prizes are awarded, although a certificate of appreciation is given when participants complete their journey. Run locations are organized in large urban areas attracting thousands of people and in small, rural communities where just about everybody knows each other. School events tend to be incorporated into the daily curriculum.

The emphasis of the event isn't on how much you raise, but that you participate in Terry's memory and help him finish his Marathon of Hope.

The Terry Fox Run Around The World

It is truly moving that the heroic, unselfish mission of one young man serves as such an inspiration to all of us no matter where we live in the world. The Terry Fox Run, named in honour of Canadian amputee runner Terry Fox who at 21, attempted to run across Canada to raise money for cancer research, is no longer just a Canadian tradition. Countries around the world stage annual events in support of Terry's dream of finding a cure for cancer. Nearly all the money raised is remitted to institutions accredited by the International Union Against Cancer in Geneva.

As the world becomes more homogenized, so too does the Terry Fox Run. The Foundation is proud to be involved in a growing worldwide family dedicated to eradicating a disease that knows no political or geographic boundaries.

International Run locations are organized by Canadian Embassies/Consulates, Canadian Forces Bases, Four Seasons/Regent Hotels and Resorts staff, Anti-Cancer Councils and Societies as well as other dedicated organizations and individuals. The reports that we receive suggest that the Terry Fox Run provides an important opportunity for solidifying the good name that Canada has always had with people around the world.

In 2001, more than 50 countries and an estimated 242,000 participants did their part for cancer research.

Terry's Letter Requesting Support For His Run

The night before my amputation, my former basketball coach brought me a magazine with an article on an amputee who ran in the New York Marathon. It was then I decided to meet this new challenge head on and not only overcome my disability, but conquer it in such a way that I could never look back and say it disabled me.

But I soon realized that that would only be half my quest, for as I went through the 16 months of the physically and emotionally draining ordeal of chemotherapy, I was rudely awakened by the feelings that surrounded and coursed through the cancer clinic. There were faces with the brave smiles, and the ones who had given up smiling. There were feelings of hopeful denial, and the feelings of despair. My quest would not be a selfish one. I could not leave knowing these faces and feelings would still exist, even though I would be set free from mine. Somewhere the hurting must stop... and I was determined to take myself to the limit for this cause.

From the beginning the going was extremely difficult, and I was facing chronic ailments foreign to runners with two legs in addition to the common physical strains felt by all dedicated athletes.

But these problems are now behind me, as I have either out-persisted or learned to deal with them. I feel strong not only physically, but more important, emotionally. Soon I will be adding one full mile a week, and coupled with weight training I have been doing, by next April I will be ready to achieve something that for me was once only a distant dream reserved for the world of miracles – to run across Canada to raise money for the fight against cancer.

The running I can do, even if I have to crawl every last mile.

We need your help. The people in cancer clinics all over the world need people who believe in miracles.

I am not a dreamer, and I am not saying that this will initiate any kind of definitive answer or cure to cancer. But I believe in miracles. I have to.

Terry Fox, October 1979

Be in - On all the Local JET News & Events

Subscribe to the 'Hyogo Jet's email list'.

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All 4 Charity...

- *Want to do your bit for charity?*
- *Have an idea for a charity event?*
- *Do you want local events to support a cause important to you?*
- *Interested in volunteer work in Japan or overseas?*
- *Then Hyogo AJET can help!*

Whether you are interested in: nominating a good cause for Hyogo Ajet charity events to support, making oni-giri for the homeless, doing a presentation on your home country for the 'Angel' charity, taking part in a Habitat for Humanity International project or spending time in Vietnam with the Children's Foundation, get in touch with the Hyogo Ajet Charity Co-Ordinator for more information:

Contact: Sophie James

Email: hajet_charity@hotmail.com

Tel: 0799-42-5823

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| Sponsorship Representative | Vacant | Want to get involved? | Email pr@hyogoajet.org |
| Event Coordinator(s) | All Committee | Dependant on event. | Check http://hyogoajet.org |

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