

## BATTLE OF THE SEXES



"Billie Jean King is one of the all-time tennis greats ... but she doesn't stand a chance against me. Women's tennis is so far beneath

men's tennis; that's what makes the contest with a 55-year-old man the greatest contest of all time".

The words of Bobby Riggs, former world No.1 tennis player before his match with Billie Jean King of America in September, 1973, a match which is considered significant in developing greater recognition and respect for women's tennis.

King, at first, declined the chance to play Riggs. The Australian, Margaret Court - the top-ranked woman player at the time accepted but suffered a humiliating defeat, losing 6-2, 6-1. Upset at this blow to the women's game King changed her mind and accepted a lucrative financial offer to play this self-proclaimed male chauvinist.

The match began in light-hearted style. King entered the stadium born aloft in a chair by four heavily muscled, bare-chested 'slaves'. Riggs followed in a rickshaw drawn by a team of half-naked young women. Riggs presented King with a lollipop; to Riggs, King gave a piglet. King, however, was deadly serious. She said, "I thought it would set us back 50 years if I didn't win that match. It would ruin the women's [tennis] tour and affect all women's selfesteem." Riggs: "You may want to ask me if I have a game plan for Billie Jean. I don't need a game plan ... I have such a vast assortment of tennis weapons in my arsenal that I can handle anything she can throw at me".

King had learned from Court's humiliation. Nervous to begin with, the Australian was put off balance by Riggs' drop shots and lobs, a tactic he tried again against King. Playing from the baseline, instead of her usual serve and volley game, King drew Riggs towards the net, where he never intended to be. In front of 30,492 spectators and a worldwide television audience estimated at 50 million people in 37 countries, King beat Riggs 6–4, 6-3, 6-3.

King: "Any time you're satisfied with mediocrity, any time you take away incentive from human beings, you've blown it. I'm a perfectionist.... Any woman who

wants to achieve anything has to be aggressive and tough, but the press never sees us as multidimensional."

Article by Jonathan



Billie Jean and Bobby Riggs

## lgt Ngws

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<u>NET SITE OF THE MONTH:</u> Here's a good site to learn more about BJK: http://www.wtt.com/page.aspx?article\_id=1252





Joshua Says: This month you will notice some more refurbishing in the "open house" area. We have finally got around to finishing the shelving for our small library and set the TV in its permanent place. Also, a new, small table will be added near the front window. This space is slowly becoming more popular as increasing numbers of you are enjoying free time there. It is my hope that many more of you will take advantage of this free service.

Junko Says: When you travel oversees, would you rather just be a sightseer or would you like to experience real life abroad? For those who prefer the latter, we have quite an extensive variety of oversees programs for you to enjoy – long or short term study programs, working holidays, internships, junior or senior school programs, and more! Please came and see me in our office if you'd like to check them out.





Jonathan Says: Walking by the river I saw a team of men clearing away the fallen leaves and cherry blossoms with powered 'blow guns'. In the light of the devastation wrought by the recent tsunami I pondered the pathetic attempts of human beings to control the forces of nature.

**<u>Greg Says</u>**: May always has me reminiscing about many of my first time experiences in Japan. I arrived in the Land o f the Rising Sun on the 10<sup>th</sup> of May many years ago and that day in Sendai is so vivid it feels as if it happened yesterday. The few "firsts" that stand out include experiencing total culture shock; seeing and touching snow; making a snowman; drinking Japanese sake; eating cow tongue and, lastly, the feeling of being totally illiterate.





Arno Dit: Mai, le mois prefere de nombreux francais et japonais, puisqu'en Mai nous avons de nombreuses vacances. En France des jours feries, et le Golden Week au Japon. Profitez tous de ces courtes vacances ! Moi, je feterais mon anniversaire !



## ERI FROM SCAJ3 GOES ON A CRUISE!

Have you heard of the Ship for World Youth? This programme is run by the Japanese government and I joined for six weeks earlier this year along with about 130 Japanese young people and the same number from other countries.



On the ship we did many things. We were divided into groups and in ours we wrote our names in Kanji on our T-shirts (see picture). The Japanese members decided which Kanji to use for the non-Japanese members' names. In addition, we all belonged to two clubs - I belonged to the Tea Ceremony and Chilean Dance clubs – and took part in discussions. I learned the importance

of giving my own opinion when I communicate

We visited the Solomon Islands, Fiji, Australia liked Fiji where the people, though they had like to share my experiences with other school children.



with others.

and Vanuatu. I especially little, were happy. I would Japanese people, especially

**Miho and Akane's Adventures Overseas** – a serial by S(A)3 students - Episode 3 **M**iho talked more about her boyfriend, Tom. "I met him last year when I climbed Mount Fuji with my

co-worker, Masako. Tom was climbing alone. We wanted to see the sunrise. As the sky darkened he spoke to us: he asked if there was a lodge nearby. As we were planning to spend the night in one, and would be there in 20 minutes, I suggested he come with us. We began to climb together.

"After reaching the lodge he thanked us very much and gave us a can of beer. Masako's face lit up because she really loved beer. We drank together through the night. As he couldn't speak Japanese well, we talked in English. I sometimes interpreted for Masako. Our conversation heated up when I heard he was from Sydney; I'm sure you can understand why. He said he had been teaching English at Shizuoka University for the last two years and I told him I was working with Masako at the same company in Tokyo. We talked a lot about ourselves that night.

"Next day, before dawn, we climbed to the top of the mountain together. We could see a beautiful sunrise from the summit. When I saw his smile at that moment I felt he would play a part in my life in some way. We exchanged email addresses and said goodbye. I mailed him two weeks later and heard he had gone back to Sydney because his visa had expired.

"I couldn't forget him... so I quit my job and came here.".....to be continued

