



OTAKU

*A publication of the UND Anime Society
Volume 1, Number 5*

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The UND Anime Society was founded in the Fall of 1999. The purpose of the Anime Society is to promote an interest in Japanese animation (anime) at the University of North Dakota and the surrounding communities. This purpose is achieved primarily through a weekly anime showing and discussion.

**First Fall Meeting:
August 29, 2001
Location:
TBA, UND Campus**



Results of Elections for Upcoming Year:

President: Mike Howland
Vice President: Jay Johnson
Secretary: David VanGilst
Treasurer: Rae Goodman
Archivist: Joe Kerian

New logo design, courtesy Mike Howland and Jay Johnson.

Reflections from the Editor...

Another school year has come to an end and here I am, preparing the last issue of the newsletter. But don't despair, we'll be back next September with more exciting issues of *Otaku* for our rapt readers. In place of my usual brief editor's notes, I thought I would indulge in some nostalgia and reflect upon the accomplishments of this past year. It certainly has been eventful for the Society and we have a great deal of which to be proud. This past year we have greatly increased our membership. We also succeeded in hosting two anime marathons, producing a club t-shirt, and developing international ties with our anime friends just North O' the Border.

For myself, the past year certainly has been educational! Still a relative newcomer to anime, I have learned the following:

- I will never have enough time or credit to satiate my love of shoujo anime.
- ebay.com is my friend. (See previous statement).
- Even if I yell "Rekka Shinen!" at the top of my lungs, I cannot make fire spew from the tip of my fan, fabulous and useful as that would be.
- Posters can be hung on the ceiling when all the wall space is gone. Wallscrolls, well, not so much.
- One can never have too many pairs of shoes, or too many codecs for viewing VCD's.
- Real heroes have wings or special tattoos that glow.
- Whenever I think I've just stumbled upon a "brand new" anime or manga series, Joe and/or Rae already own copies of it.
- "Dance Dance Revolution" is not for the faint of heart (or foot).
- Sushi tastes good.
- Visa really is "everywhere you want to be." (Again, see first statement).

There are quite a few of us remaining in the area for the summer, but for those of you off to bigger and better...well, have a great summer and we hope to see you back next fall, just in time for Anime Iowa!

Until then, keep your face to the screen, your dictionaries handy, and for the love of Tenchi, write down your ebay.com password in a safe location!

Lyn Willoughby

My TV Can't Hear Me Anymore: The Sad Story

by Mike Howland

It's a lesson we must all learn eventually; a lesson that will change our lives forever. We will live on, prosper, and propagate merrily once we accept the one simple and vital fact of our existence...

Once you learn this, you will be unfettered by the constraints of your communication with the characters. Your very being will assert its newfound freedom, and you will soar like...a...soaring thing of some kind. (I don't know, think of something that soars.)

I know what I'm talking about.

Hi, my name is Mike, and I talk to my TV. Last week, it stopped listening.

TV and I are old friends...we go way back. Ever since my days as a Sesame Street junkie, I've been hooked on da tube. I always found a comfort in having another voice to listen to when I was alone.

But our relationship started to change a few years ago. Instead of enjoying the ample quality programming of my local basic cable service, I began a strict regimen of anime on videocassette. I had become a different man, and TV didn't know how to adjust. It became sullen and depressive, even trying to sabotage its own vertical hold.

Why was my TV depressed? After a year of joint therapy, I finally found out why. TV had thought that our relationship had declined, and was concerned that I was yelling at him far more than I used to.

"TV, I still love you," I told him, "and when I yell at you, it's because the characters get me so worked up. You know you're my one and only."

Thankfully, we used our therapy experience to grow stronger as a couple. But another year went by...video gave way to DVD, and my TV began to act strangely. Sometimes it would blink or static at me during an episode of *Bebop*, and I was not a good sport about it. I'm ashamed to admit it, but I hit my TV. Many times. He never told anyone, but he began to resent me. He spent more and more of his time exchanging impulses with the DVD player. Then, last week, TV stopped listening to me. It shouldn't surprise you to hear what happened next...

They eloped. The TV and DVD player eloped together last night. They had been living in sin for about five months. When I found out, I was an emotional teapot. He had been cheating on me...with another appliance, no less! Not even a goodbye letter, just a bunch of muddy boot-prints, a broken window, and van tracks in the loose dirt outside. I'm still crying. *sniffle*

Let this be a lesson to all of you out there...don't mistreat your TV. Don't yell at him or curse him or hit him, because you'll miss him when he's gone. Treat him with dignity and love, and he'll be a friend for life.

If you see my TV, wish him well for me. Tell him: no hard feelings.



Sailor Pluto vs. Xellos

By Jeff Brothers

Jeff was scoping out the stands of the Kislev Battling Arena with binoculars from their observation box when his brother, Patrick walked in.

"What'cha lookin' at?" he asked.

Jeff looked up for a moment. "I was just checking out our audience before the fight starts."

"We have an audience this time?"

"Yeah. I figured, since there's less chance of collateral damage this time, it couldn't hurt," explained Jeff as he went back to observing the crowd. "Look," he pointed, "Xellos has his own fan section."

Patrick looked and saw a large collection of Slayers characters bearing signs like 'Xellos is #1' and 'Xellos 3:16'.

"Why are Jinnai, Kagato, and Vegeta over there?" Patrick inquired.

"Well, since Sailor Pluto, a defender of justice, is facing Xellos, a promoter of evil, a lot of people are seeing this as a 'Good vs. Evil' fight."

Patrick nodded in understanding as turned to look at the Sailor Pluto fan section. It was obvious that most of the section was occupied by various Sailor Senshi. One sign in the front row, however, managed to grab his attention.

"What's that?" he asked as he pointed it out to Jeff.

While most of the signs were the usual praise for Pluto, there was one toward the front that read, 'Squash That Piece of Mazoku Garbage.' Jeff turned his binoculars over there.

"It looks like Filia joined the Senshi as an anti-Xellos fan. Anyway, let's get down to the arena to interview the competitors."

As Jeff turned from the window he spotted Patrick about to leave through the door leading to the stands.

"Where do you think you're going?" he inquired.

"Um, to get Filia's autograph?"

Jeff sighed as he dragged him through the opposite door, which lead to the arena. "Later. Right now we have a fight to announce."

In the center of the arena, the two brothers stood between the challengers.

"Welcome back to the Kislev Battling Arena," Jeff announced. "This month we have a face off between two of animé's most secretive characters. From Slayers we have Xellos, the General-Priest of Beastmaster Zelas-Metallum, and from Sailor Moon we have Sailor Pluto, the Guardian of Time."

After allowing Xellos and Pluto to wave to their respective fans for a few moments, Jeff turned to Xellos.

"So, Xellos," he began, "since this is going to be a competition to see who can keep a secret the longest, I was wondering if you had a particular strategy in mind?"

Xellos appeared to think for a moment and then answered. "Yes."

"Do you mind if I ask what it is?"

"Not at all." Xellos grinned.

Jeff waited for him to continue. When it became obvious he wouldn't he asked, "What is your strategy, Xellos?"

Xellos leaned forward conspiratorially and whispered, "It is..." Jeff began to lean forward also, so he could hear. "... a secret." Xellos grinned widely as waggled a finger in front of his face.

Jeff facefaulted. "I should've know better," he mumbled as climbed to his feet. "Patrick, you can interview Sailor Pluto, now," he said as he turned to them.

Except Patrick wasn't there. Pluto pointed toward the stands. Patrick was in the front row of the Pluto fan section chatting with Filia.

"PATRICK," yelled Jeff as he stomped over, "What are you doing!"

"Uh oh," said Patrick to Filia as noticed his furious brother incoming. "I gotta go. Can I get that autograph after the fight?"

"Certainly," said the dragon priestess pleasantly just before Jeff dragged his brother out of the stands.

"Can you keep your obsession with dragons under control for one day," grumbled Jeff as he planted his sibling in front of Pluto.

"Uh, sure. So, Sailor Pluto, we were wondering if, since you can see the future, you could tell us who's going to win today?"

Sailor Pluto, for her part, merely stood there smiling in amusement at the show they just put on.

"I guess not," Patrick concluded.

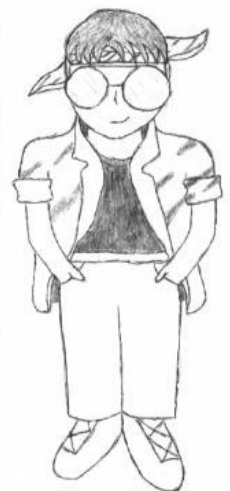
He turned to Jeff who sighed. "Let's get this over with, then," he said as began to cover the rules of the contest. "The rules are simple," continued Jeff. "Me and my brother will give each of you a secret. Whoever reveals their secret first loses. You can use any means at your disposal to coerce your opponent into revealing their secret; from trickery to torture. Do you understand?"

Xellos' grin widened slightly at the mention of torture. "No questions here. How about you, Pluto-san?"

Pluto's only reply was to shake her head.

Jeff and Patrick stepped forward to whisper the secrets to their respective charges. Pluto maintained a perfect poker face as Jeff whispered in her ear. Xellos, on the other hand, actually opened his eyes in surprise for a moment before returning to his trademark grin.

Jeff Brothers



Continued page 4...

Continued from page 3...

Once they were certain that the competitors understood their secrets, the two brothers stepped back to the edge of the arena.

"Alright," shouted Jeff, "go for it!"

Sailor Pluto turned to Xellos and with a slight smirk asked, "What is your secret?"

"Filia isn't wearing any underwear."

Xellos' grin rivaled the Cheshire Cat's as a deadly silence settled over the arena. A cricket could be heard in a distant corner until it got self-conscious and shut up.

Suddenly the section of stands where the Pluto fan section was exploded outward as Filia transformed into her dragon form. Usagi, Minako, and Chibi-Usa were thrown though the air by the blast since they hadn't evacuated the area quite quickly enough.

"XELLOS!!!" roared Filia as she began firing her laser breath into the center of the arena where Xellos would have been if he hadn't teleported out of the way.

Xellos grinned impishly from his new vantage point in the rafters. "What's the matter Filia-chan? Don't tell me, it's true!"

Filia's skin tone changed from golden to a bright red before she screamed incoherently and fired another blast, which also missed Xellos and punched a rather sizeable hole in the roof.

Xellos flew out the new exit while muttering, loud enough for the whole stadium to hear, "To think, that a priestess of the golden dragons would do such a thing..."

Bellowing in rage Filia pursued him, thus making the hole even larger. Unable to take any more abuse, the roof gave up and collapsed. Everyone began to evacuate the crumbling stadium except Jeff and Patrick.

"I guess this means Sailor Pluto won," said Patrick as he watched Xellos and Filia's forms fade in the distance.

Jeff glanced sidelong at his brother for a moment before opening his mouth. "Say, Patrick..."

"I made it up," interrupted Patrick.

"What?"

"The secret. I made the whole thing up." He paused before continuing, "I never thought it would be true."

"That's not what I was asking!" shouted Jeff before muttering, "But I was wondering about that, too." Taking a deep breath he tried again. "Why didn't you tell Xellos a secret that he would actually try to *keep* a secret?"

Patrick thought for a moment. "I thought Xellos would be too afraid of being creamed by Filia to say it."

"Ah. So it completely slipped your mind how much he enjoys tormenting Filia, not to mention that he's a masochist."

"A what?"

"A GLUTTON FOR PUNISHMENT!"

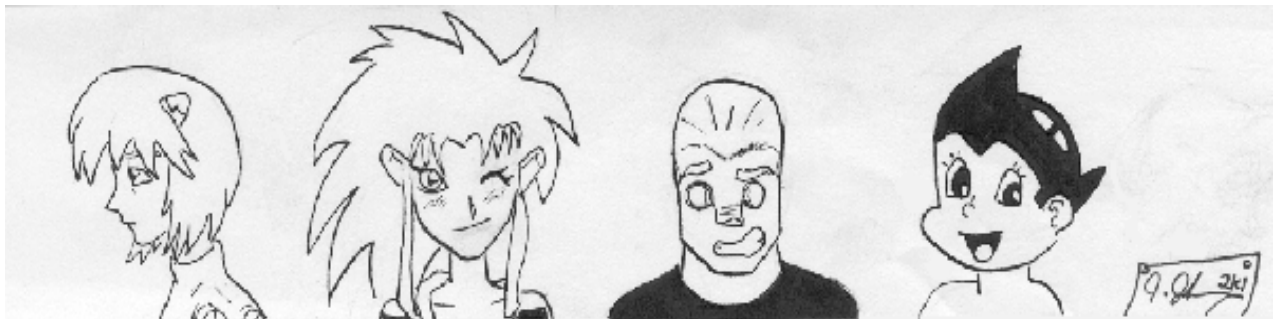
Patrick actually sweatdropped. "Oh... yeah... that..."

There was a short nervous pause before Jeff asked, "What do you think is gonna happen when Filia calms down and realizes who told Xellos that embarrassing secret?"

Patrick paled. "You know, I think it's time I went on a long, secluded vacation. I wonder how Abu Dhabi is this time of year."

Patrick was turning to leave when he paused. "Hey, Jeff. I was curious, what did you tell Pluto?"

Jeff grinned and said, in a perfect imitation of Xellos, "Now, that is a secret."



Artist: Jay Johnson

Did you know...

This newsletter is also available as a PDF online at the UNDAS Web site! Now you can "read all about it, anytime, anywhere!" Just visit us at <http://echoes.dhs.org/anime!>

Element Warriors: Retaking Mercury

A Sailor Moon fanfic by Tim Winter

Timeline: One Month After the Final Battle With Galaxis.

"Commander Shona," Said General Zabak showing the woman a picture of a white wolf with streaks of light blue in its fur, "You are to take Lieutenant Kanal, find this wolf, and kill it."

"As you wish General Zabak, I will find the Lieutenant immediately."

The General couldn't help thinking that he was sending these to warriors to their deaths. This wolf had been a human until The General had hit with it with a weapon that had locked it in animal form. Even then, the wolf had still destroyed the weapon after being transformed to a wolf permanently. That had been three months ago, and now the wolf appeared to be heading to Tokyo, Japan, Home of the Sailor Scouts. That was why he had sent some relatively worthless warriors after it. If they succeeded, they would be rewarded well. If they didn't, well, it would be no big loss.

One Month Later...

The inner scouts had gathered at their usual place, the temple, and were talking about what to do that weekend.

"I think we should go to the mall, where it's nice and safe," said Usagi.

Rei replied "Usagi, you don't think with enough excitement. We should go skiing. It should only be -18 C this weekend. It would be perfect weather."

"Yah, but where should we go?" asked Minako.

"Well I was thinking about that place we found when we were still fighting Queen Beryl," Rei said.

"No way, it's too dangerous there! In case you've forgotten we were attacked there, they could do it again!" shrieked Usagi.

"Get real Usagi, we've beaten the Negaverse, they can't do anything to us," said Makoto.

"Well, if you say so," answered Usagi with a tone of resignation, "Let's put it up to a vote."

All the scouts wanted to go.

That Weekend...

"Wow, I'd forgotten how much fun this is!" exclaimed Usagi, "I'm usually grounded too much to do this."

"Hey, Rei, why don't you show us where you and Usagi fought that Negamonster!" shouted Makoto.

"Yah, that would be neat!" agreed Ami.

"Well, if you insist." Rei said in a tone that indicated that she wanted to go there too.

It took them about five minutes to find it, but it was easy to recognize because it was such a big pit. Rei was soon telling everyone *what* had happened *where*. Usagi was running around warning of imminent doom. She was almost right. Rei was showing everyone the tunnel that Chad had dug to get to them when suddenly, they heard a man's voice coming from the rim of the hole.

"Well what do you know? The Sailorscouts! This is a pleasant turn of events. I was looking for a wolf but you are even better." As he lifted his arms he said, "Prepare to die!"

Suddenly there was a low growl and a large shape hit the man in the back, sending them both to the ground. As the man rolled away the scouts saw what looked like a large white wolf.

The man said to the wolf "Well, you just saved me the trouble of having to find you!"

In response the wolf just growled and leapt at the man.

As the two were rolling around on the ground Luna said, "Hurry, transform while she's occupied."

"Where did you come from?" asked Usagi, "You know pets aren't allowed here?"

"I was hiding in your backpack, now hurry up and transform."

"OK, Moon Crystal Power!"

By the time Usagi had transformed into Sailor Moon, the two combatants had separated themselves again.

"Stand still so I can kill you, you stupid wolf!" yelled the man.

The wolf's only response was to jump on the man again. The wolf knocked the man down and was able to get its jaws around the man's throat. As the jaws started to close the man let out a blood curdling scream that started to sound like it was coming through a liquid. Sailor Mercury had the feeling that that liquid was the man's blood. After the screaming stopped and the man lay still, the wolf lifted its head and looked straight at Sailor Mercury with the green blood that characterized those from the Negaverse dripping down its chin.

As the wolf started to walk towards the scouts, Sailorvenus said, "Um, Mercury, don't you think it would be a good idea to put a wall between us and that wolf?"

"Yeah, I guess it would! Shine Aqua Illusion!"

With those three words a wall of ice appeared right in front of the wolf, making it jump back in shock. The wolf, evidently realizing that it could get no closer to the Sailorscouts lay down and started to wash.

"Alright scouts, I've been trying to remember what type of wolf that is over there," said Luna. "I think I finally did it. Unfortunately this gives us a even bigger problem since that wolf shouldn't even be here."

"What do you mean it shouldn't be here? Couldn't it have just escaped from some zoo?" asked Sailor Jupiter.

"I'm afraid not Jupiter. You see, that wolf is a Snow Wolf, the most feared predator on the planet Mercury. Now do you see the problem?"

"Yeah, I guess we do," answered Sailor Mars for the whole group.

"Do you think it would be any help if I did a scan of it with my computer?" asked Sailor Mercury.

"That is a very good idea Sailor Mercury. Why don't you do that," Luna replied.

Continued page 6...

Element Warriors: Retaking Mercury Chapter 2

After Luna and Ami had done the scan they found some very interesting things about the wolf.

"It looks like a big wolf in all ways but one," Ami was telling the group, "and that is it's brain-wave. It's brain-wave is like one I'd expect to get when I scan one of you. It showed up as a human on the brain-wave scale. Since it was being hunted by someone from the Negaverse, I think that it may be a human that has been turned into a wolf."

"Finally, some people that can help me," the snow wolf thought. "Wait a minute, what's that scent I smell? Oh no, not her! I'm going to die just when I find the only people who can help me!"

Ami stopped talking when she heard the snow wolf start to growl. She looked over to see it staring up at the cliff where the first negawarrior had come from. Suddenly it stopped growling and ran over to a corner and started digging.

"I wonder what it's doing?," Minako asked.

Just then it dived into the hole it had dug and started to cover it's self with snow.

"Hiding," answered Luna.

"Yes, but what is it hiding from?," asked Ami.

"Well well well, what have we here, a sailorgirl meeting."

"Who said that?," whimpered Usagi.

"I did! You pitiful human!" said a woman standing on the cliff where the man had appeared. "I am your death!"

With that the woman jumped down and started blasting at the scouts.

"Quick, everybody scatter!" shouted Sailor Mars. "Give her a harder target! Mars Soul Fire, Ignite!," she shouted, sending a fireball at the negawarrior.

The negawarrior formed a shield of energy and blocked the blast.

"Is that the best you can do? I'm surprised you lasted this long."

"We can do better!" answered Sailor Jupiter. "Here, I'll show you!" With that she yelled, "Jupiter Supreme Thunder Dragon, Strike!"

A dragon formed out of lightning in front of Jupiter but as it arched it's neck down to swallow the negawarrior, she fired a energy blast up through its jaws destroying it.

"I thought you would have been better than this. Do you really think you can defeat me?"

Usagi mumbled, "We're meatloaf."

"Thank you for being so candid, as a reward I'll kill you first," replied the negawarrior.

With that, she blasted Usagi into a wall of snow, knocking her unconscious.

"You witch! Your gonna die now!," Makoto screamed. "Jupiter Supreme Thunder, Crash!"

Sailor Jupiter's lightning streaked out at the

negawarrior, only to be deflected back into her by the negawarrior's energy shield. Her own lightning sent Jupiter into the wall next to Usagi, leaving her moaning on the ground.

"Venus Love Me Chain, Encircle!," shouted Sailor Venus.

The chain of energy shot towards the negawarrior but was shattered by a blast of energy.

"Now you shall pay for your audacity!" the negawarrior said before she shot, sending Venus through the air to land on top of Makoto.

"Burning Mandala, Ignite!" Makoto shouted.

The eight fireballs shot towards the negawarrior, who was only able to block three of them, letting the other five hit her. Before she got hit by the fireballs the negawarrior was able to get a shot off of her own that hit Mars squarely in the chest, knocking her to the ground.

"All right little miss smarty-pants, now it's your turn."

"Oh no, she's going to hurt the princess, gotta move quick.," the wolf thought, "Not enough time to keep her from shooting, but maybe enough to block the shot."

All Ami could think of was that she was going to die and there was no use denying it. She was about to close her eyes and await the inevitable when the wolf jumped up in front of her took the blast of energy that had been meant for her, proving that the inevitable wasn't quite inevitable. Both she and the negawarrior were surprised that she wasn't dead, Mercury just recovered sooner.

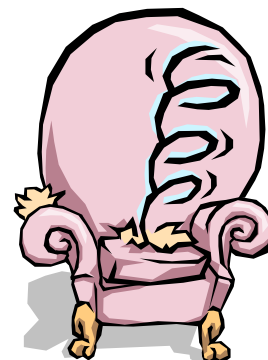
"Mercury Shabon Spray, Freezing!"

The bubbles shot out freezing the negawarrior dead in her tracks, quite literally. Ami turned to look at the wolf, of whom she had at first been terrified, but had now saved her life. She wished she hadn't looked. The Wolf had a very large hole in its abdomen and its stomach and most of its intestines were laying on the ground next to it.

The wolf just whimpered up at her as if to say, "Can't you help me?"

Coming next, Chapter 3.

To be continued September 2001...



Spring has sprung, the grass is riz, I wonder where the anime is?

Ranma ½ Fanfics

By Ryoga Hibiki

Submitted by Jeff Brothers

Ryoga: Yuffie, I really don't want to do this. I have to go...

Yuffie: Get revenge on Ranma. Yadda, yadda, yadda. Look this is your chance to be in the spotlight instead of Ranma. Just review the stories on the cards.

Ryoga: But these stories are all about Ranma!

Yuffie: No they're not. [Points to the last card.] That one's about Kuno.

Ryoga: [Dryly] That makes me feel better.

Yuffie: Look, considering your sense of direction, when are you going to have another opportunity like this? Now review those fanfics while I distract Jeff.

Ryoga: But...

Yuffie: [Already leaving.] Hey, Jeff. I found proof that Naga is Amelia's older sister!

Jeff: Really! Where!



Um... I'm Ryoga Hibiki. I reviewing the Ranma ½ fanfics this month since Jeff is ...um... occupied. I'm not really good at talking in front of people. If you don't know me, I'm the rival of Ranma from Ranma ½. <sigh> And I'm also the little black pig named P-Chan. It's a long story. If you want to know, watch the show.

The story centers around this jerk, named Ranma Saotome, and how he made all of our lives a living hell! He happens to turn into a girl when splashed with cold water and somehow manages to get three fiancés when he doesn't deserve any of them. That Casanova!

The Ends

By Stefan Gagne

<http://pixelscapes.com/twoflower/fanfic/TheEnds.txt>

One of the reasons that so many people write fanfic about Ranma is that Rumiko Takahashi left us hanging. To put it simply, when the series ends, nothing changes. None of the relationships get resolved.

This has led many writers out there to try and write their own endings for it. They range from the obvious pairings (Me and Akane!), to ludicrous (Ranma and Akane. Grrr.), to insane (Ranma and Kodachi. <shiver>). This guy got fed up with all of it and wrote this story to express what he felt.

Simply put, he puts the ending in our hands, the characters of Ranma ½. Akane writes a story that pretty much mimics our lives all the way up to the official ending. After reading it, Ranma feels that the ending doesn't really end anything. He then takes it as a challenge to find an ending for the story that works. He ends up consulting everyone in Nerima for their opinions.

The story is pretty short and to the point. Also, if you

read a lot of Ranma ½ fanfic, you'll notice that some of the endings this guy borrowed from other stories.

How's it end? I'm not telling you! Read the stupid story for yourself.

Final Score: ***½ (I still don't get Akane. <Sigh>)

Hearts of Ice

By Krista Perry

<http://www.akane.org/heartsofice/story/>

Hearts of Ice is, simply put, a tragic love story. Whenever it looks like Akane and Ranma are about to get back together, another obstacle pops up. ... It's a lot like Miaka and Tomahome's love life, really.

Let me warn you right here: This is not a comedy! The story starts when Shampoo casts a spell to separate Ranma and Akane forever. The spell sends Akane off to the Kami (or god) plane. The rest of the story is spent with Ranma trying to get Akane back.

Final Score: ****½ (It almost had me cheering for the Ranma/Akane pairing. Almost.)

Kuno's Excellent Adventure!

By John Biles

http://members.tripod.com/~Basara_Nekki_Mac7/kunou-main.htm

Here's a story I stumbled across while I was lost on Biles' fanfic page. (Who knew it was that easy to get lost on the Internet?) It's not so much a story as a 'choose your own adventure'.

In Biles' own words, it lets you take control of Nerima's biggest idiot for a day. You control everything Kuno does from challenging the "sorcerer Satome" to buying photos from Nabiki. The story even has a rating system to let you know how well you do.

The story isn't very deep as far as the plot goes, but it's very entertaining. Even if you haven't seen the show, it's still amusing to give it a try at least once.

Final Score: ***½ (I shall date them both! Shoot, I'm still thinking like Kuno.)

Ryoga: Well, that's that. Now, which way is Japan? <SPLASH>

Jeff: [Holding an empty bucket.] Well, well. If it isn't P-chan! Thought you could steal my column and get away with it didn't you?

P-chan: Squee!

Jeff: Don't give me that. You still did it didn't you?

P-chan: Squee.

Jeff: Now, what should I do with you? Maybe I'll throw the old pigskin around while I think...

P-Chan: SQUEEEEE!!!!



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For Your Calendar...



2001 Convention Information

Convergence Sci-Fi Convention (with anime room)
July 6-8, 2001, Bloomington, MN
<http://www.convergence-con.org>
\$35 if register before May 15, 2001

GenCon Gaming Convention (with anime room)
August 2-5, 2001, Milwaukee, WI
<http://www.wizards.com/gencon/2001/main.asp?x=2001/welcome,3>
\$47 (full four day admission) if register before
January 29, 2001

Animelowa Anime Convention (fan convention)
August 24 - 26, 2001
Cedar Rapids
<http://www.animeiowa.com/2001>
\$25 if register before July 31, 2001
Those attending Anime Iowa, please contact Rae Goodman for travel information. This convention is the "official" club trip.