



OTAKU

*A publication of the UND Anime Society
Volume 1, Number 2*

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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.

From the Editor...

I was recently talking with a reporter from the Dakota Student who asked, "Why would someone want to join UNDAS?" The answer seemed simple enough. I joined because of an interest in a subject matter, and belonging to the Society affords opportunity to practice my interest area. Of course, I could do that at home by myself if I wished. So why join a group? Hobbies shared in common have additional benefits...friendship, communication and broadening of perspective across an interest area, and leadership opportunities are all great side benefits of joining a group. Of course, not all group members appreciate the subject member in the same way or at the same level or even for the same reasons; but that does not detract from the benefits of sharing a hobby with others. All are welcome at UNDAS, even picky otaku (fans) like me. Come and check us out!

Lyn Willoughby

Review of Flame of Recca: Flame of Recca By Joe Kerian

Hentai: Low, some language though
Type: Shounen/Fighting
Publisher: Fansubbed-Shinsen Gumi

While browsing through my large and somewhat uncharted anime collection, I happened upon Shinsen Gumi's translation of Flame of Recca. After watching this fun little series over the next few days, I decided to write a bit about a title that hasn't been seen too much in this area.

First of all... what's the show about? In a nutshell, Recca, the main character of the show, spends most of his time defending Yanagi, a girl he (apparently) fell in love with during the first episode. Yanagi has a magical ability to heal other people's wounds. Because of this, the villainous billionaire Mori Kouran tries to kidnap her in order to find the secret of her power so he can become immortal. He carries his plans out through various minions, including the delightfully evil Kurei. After Recca and party rescue Yanagi from Kurei, Kurei decides to summon them to a grand tournament for the best fighters in the world, intending for Recca to face him in the final match. Nearly all of these fighters make use of magical "Elemental Weapons" that were made by the Hokage ninja clan more than 400 years ago. As the series progresses, Recca discovers his connection to the Hokage and the powerful weapons.

The characters are the show's shining point. Recca, although undeniably the main character, allows the other characters plenty of camera time. A thoroughly enjoyable romp into anime character

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Japanese Voice Actor Matching Submitted by Rae =)

Good voice actors are important to any anime series, regardless of whether you are watching the subbed or the dubbed version. Putting the wrong sounding voice to a character can completely ruin a series, while the right voice can take the series to new heights. If you are a good voice actor, you can find yourself doing the voices in many popular anime series. Below is a list of anime characters from some anime series that have a strong following in the United States. See if you can match the characters that had the same Japanese voice actors.

From Gundam Wing:
Zechs Marquise
Heero Yuy

From Fushigi Yuugi:
Tamahome
Hotohori
Chichiri
Keisuke Yuki

From: Escaflowne:
Van Fanel
Allen Schezar

From Utena:
Utena
Jury

From: Sailor Moon
Usagi Tsukimo (aka Sailor Moon)

Take the challenge!

BIG EYES AND SPEED LINES



Artist: Jay Johnson

Fanfic Reviews - Crossovers

by Jeff Brothers

I'll admit it. My favorite type of fanfic is the crossover. It's always fun to see how characters from different series would react to each other. Some authors also like to get their favorites to team up and fight side-by-side. Who wouldn't want to see the Sailor Senshi meet Happosai or see what Ranma would do with a wish from Urd. The problem with crossovers, other than the normal fanfic problems, is getting the characters together in a believable manner. Here are a few of the better ones...

The (Sur)Real World

<http://www.thekeep.org/~rpm/sw/>

by Rod M.

This fic was one of my first experiences as an anime fan. It's a good story for the newbie who has yet to get to know any of the characters. *The (sur)Real World* also provides a good laugh for the experienced otaku. The basic premise is a spoof on MTV's "The Real World." That's the show where they take six or seven ordinary kids, throw them in a house together, and film their lives. When the Japanese try it, the kids they get are anything BUT ordinary. The cast includes Ranma Saotome (*Ranma ½*), Washu Hakubi (*Tenchi Muyo!*), Kyosuke Kasuga (*Kimagure Orange Road*), Nuku Nuku (*All Purpose Cat Girl Nuku Nuku*), Mamoru Chiba (*Sailor Moon*), Urd (*Oh! My Goddess*), and Ataru Moroboshi (*Urusei Yatsura*). Anyone who knows these characters, knows it will be an interesting story. If you don't, take my word for it, this is a recipe for chaos.

Final Score: ****½

Dance of the Shiva

<http://maison-otaku.net/~rhea/Shiva/Shiva.html>

by John Biles

If you want a story with more substance, try *Dance of the Shiva*. To put it bluntly, this is the only successful MEGA-crossover I've found. The story focuses on the *Bubblegum Crisis* and *Tenchi Muyo!* characters for most of the story, but it does include *Sailor Moon*, *Patlabor*, *Kimagure Orange Road*, and a plethora of others. The best way to sum up this story without spoiling the story for you is to say that it is about the end of the world. I bet that got your attention. Yes, it is a long story, but there are longer ones. Plus, it's a story best left for the experienced otaku since Biles makes frequent references to the various series. The newbie will be left behind quickly.

Final Score: ***½

Lines of Destiny

<http://www.anime.usacomputers.net/~dragon/lines/lines.html>

by Louis-Philippe Giroux

While browsing the web, I've found that the most common series to write a crossover with is *Sailor Moon*. I've even found several non-anime crossovers with the series. Of the *Sailor Moon* crossovers, the most common series to mix with is *Ranma ½*. Is this because they are two of the most popular anime series, or because many authors just want another excuse to put Ranma in a fuku? I'll leave that to you to decide. Still, I felt obligated to put one *Sailor Moon/Ranma ½* crossover in the mix. I choose *Lines of Destiny* because it actually makes the reason Ranma is a Sailor Senshi somewhat plausible. The author is also quite knowledgeable about both series, and tries to get the details right. He even supplies notes at the end of each chapter to let the reader know from where he's taking his information. I can't give a summary without giving away too much of the story, just be sure to check out the fight scene in chapter 7: Ranma-chan and the Sailor Senshi vs. Happosai!

Final Score: ****

Halftime

www.visi.com/~spanner/fanfics/Halftime/Halftime.html

by Aaron Ziegler

For my final story I decided to go out on a limb. *Halftime* is a crossover between *Ranma ½* and the time travel RPG, *Chrono Trigger*. (Get it? HALF-TIME! HA!) I justify this because Akira Toriyama (the artist for *Dragonball Z*) did the character designs for the game. Before anyone throws a fit, you do not need prior knowledge of the game to read the story. When I first read *Halftime* I had never even heard of *Chrono Trigger*. The story is written from the perspective of the Ranma characters so prior knowledge is not necessary. The long and short of the plot is that the cast from *Chrono Trigger* gets stranded on Earth. In the process of getting home they get in a few fights and discover a Lavos (the villain from *Chrono Trigger*) on Earth. The author also includes a bonus with each chapter: game tips for *Chrono Trigger*. If you don't have your own copy, don't worry. The tips are fun to read by themselves. If you're really interested in the game afterwards (like I was), Squaresoft has announced that they will be releasing the Playstation remake this summer with added anime footage.

Final Score: ****½

Helpful Fanfic Terms:

Facefault : The expresion used to describe when an anime character collapses or falls over from extreme shock.

One-shot: A short, one-part story.

WAFF: Short for "Warm And Fuzzy Fic"



Anime Characters: Why do they look American?**Submitted by Rae =)**

At one point or another each of us has been watching an anime and asked ourselves (and more than likely those seated around us), "Why do the characters in Japanese animation always look American and not Japanese?" This question has been around almost as long as anime has been around. While the answer will continue to perplex many of us, the following answer found on the AnimeNation web site may shed some light on the matter. See the original at <http://animenation.net/news/aj-index.php3?id=153>.

Subject:

Why do Anime Characters Look Occidental?
October 10th, 2000

Question:

Why is it that in many shows, there are characters, especially women, that look like they are American or another nationality but have Japanese names?

Answer:

I've attempted to answer this question before in an "Ask John" answer, but that answer apparently was one of those that vanished from the AnimeNation site during one of our site-revamps. Because this is an interesting question, I'll provide my amateur answer once again. It's a known fact that anime characters have big, round, Western eyes because Osamu Tezuka patterned his characters' eyes after Walt Disney's style of character design. I believe that the Western look of typical anime characters is an extension of this pattern. Especially in

the early days of anime, the 1960s and 1970s, Japan was a country wholeheartedly devoted to a single-minded attainment of success. As a result of this tireless pursuit, Japanese culture left little room for personal freedom of expression. Japan looked to the west, particularly at the cultural abandon of the United States, and saw a degree of individuality and freedom impossible in highly formal, polite Japanese society. Anime, being the escapist medium that it is, addressed this anxiety by allowing young viewers to imagine that they also had the freedom and power to do whatever they wanted and go wherever they wanted. By making anime characters look Western, anime took on a cathartic essence. Anime allowed viewers to role-play, imagine that they were someone completely different, either living under a totally different cultural system, or living in a contemporary Japan that was just a little bit more wild and adventurous and dangerous than reality. In order to maintain a bond to the viewer, anime had to have some sort of basis in reality and connection to the viewer. That's why Western looking anime characters kept their Japanese names. If anime characters were Japanese, but looked Western, they could be everyday Japanese people that had a little bit more worldliness to them, a bit more diversity and freedom and either more or less responsibility than the average Japanese person. If the characters were actually foreigners, it would be less easy for viewers to relate to them personally. Creating occidental-looking characters with Japanese names and a grounding in Japanese culture allowed animators the widest possible range of dramatic development with their characters and the greatest chance of universal acceptance and recognition.

**The Historical Origin of Anime
by Travis Hildebrand**

People assume the birth of Anime to be a new phenomenon. This is incorrect; to even say Anime is just animated cartoons is also misguided. Anime refers to the Japanese Animation, Manga, and film industry. The word A-ni-me is a shortened form of the French word "animation." But here is where it gets trippie.

Animation has its roots in political cartoons of newspapers of the 19th Century. We know examples of the political commentary made in the United States. However in Japan, it was **treason** to make fun of or site corruption in the Japanese state. Thus the Japanese artists made the political jokes as European descendant world powers. That's right, no Japanese person was depicted in a Japanese newspaper. Instead, heads of Americans and Germans would appear.

Well, now that explains why Anime characters do not look like they are Japanese. The origin of Anime is an expansion from the political cartoons of the 19th Century.

Anime Rebyuruushon: The Anime Revolution by Travis Hildebrand

In the beginning of the modern Anime revolution, there was **Astro Boy**. This was the first syndicated Japanese Animated series (RightStuf.com). You should see at least a few episodes! Anime grew slowly, and in the 1970's the first wave hit the United States.

1st wave: 1970's Giant Robot shows, (**Giant Robo**) Giant robots defended mankind (the Japanese) from the scum of the universe. This would include the live action Godzilla films, cheesy but they ROCK!

2nd wave: **Spacebattleship Yamato** (1980)
The Japanese resurrect the WWII battleship Yamato. They placed a large gun into the bow called Yamato Gun, or the Wave Motion Gun. Since then everyone has used this idea. Oh, and an alien species is out to destroy the earth.

3rd wave: **Robotech** (1983-85)
I am a veteran of the Robotech wave. Another evil Carl Macek dub (Streamline). But I like it, nyo! Robotech was just plain cool. It includes Mecha, laser fights, and an alien enemy about to destroy earth.

4th wave: **Akira** (1989)
A spiritual being about to destroy the earth. Are you beginning to see a pattern?

5th wave: **Cartoon Network** Syndication (about 1996) and **Evangelion**
Guess the plot? That's right, evil scum try to destroy the Earth. Good you're catching on.

You'd think these aliens and evil beings would learn. You cannot win against a five-person sentai (action) team, nor a space battleship equipped with a big gun. Come on! These are the Anime waves as expressed by SWAMP members and myself.

You could argue other titles have had a great impact, but it is undisputable what these occurrences have caused in the anime community.



Continued from page 3...

Answers to the Japanese Voice Actor Matching **Submitted by Rae =)**

Here are the answers to the voice actor matching. All answers are listed by the name of the voice actor who portrayed the characters.

Tomoko Kawakami – **Utena** and **Chiriko**
Takehito Koyasu – **Hotohori** and **Zechs**
Hikaru Midorikawa – **Heero Yuy** and **Tamahome**
Shinichiro Miki – **Keisuke Yuki** and **Allen Schezar**
Kotono Mitsuishi – **Usagi Tsukimo** and **Jury**
Tomokazu Seki – **Van Fanel** and **Chichiri**



Flame of Recca, continued from page 1...

stereotypes, the creators seem to have decided that no matter who you are, you'll find a character you'll like. Mikagami, the show's bishounen, has an appropriately complicated and tear-jerking history. Fuko, the tomboy, slowly masters her powers over wind as she takes on more of Recca's attitude and fighting prowess. The massively muscled Domon becomes the group's mediator, and Koganai remains the blade wielding, incredibly coordinated mascot.

As much fun as the show was, there are problems. For one thing, don't watch it for the art. Although some scenes, such as Recca summoning the dragons, are truly impressive, there's nothing either bad or good about most of the drawing. DragonBall Z fans shouldn't mind this too much though, or the somewhat repetitious feeling of the tournament that takes up slightly more than the second half of the series. After about 7 episodes of "Hero goes out into arena with too much confidence, episode ends in cliffhanger with baddie winning, hero escapes and wins in next episode" it began to feel repetitive. Fortunately, the writers realized this and present plenty of intrigue around the villains and a touch of character development for the heroes during these episodes.

In the end, if you like shounen anime titles such as Shadowskill or DBZ, you might want to give this a try. It is somewhat similar to Fushigi Yuugi, but without the romance.

Gencon and Maicon **By Crystal Daigre**

During the late summer of 2000 I had the opportunity to attend an anime convention held at GENCON in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. GENCON is primarily a gamers convention for things like RPGs (Shadowrun, AD&D, Alternity etc.), computer games (Robotech), miniatures (Warhammer), and card games (Babylon 5 and Magic: The Gathering). The convention itself takes place over about 4 days and includes freelance games, tournaments, and well-known authors and actors from all over the country. I had the chance to meet people such as Anthony Daniels (C-3PO of Star Wars), three of the main cast members of the new Dungeons and Dragons movie including Justin Whalin, authors Terry Brooks and Margaret Weis, and last but not least the creators of AD&D (Wizards of the Coast).

During this convention there was a smaller anime-con held across the street in the ballroom of the Hilton Hotel (nice!); which was sponsored by the local Milwaukee area anime club. They played anime on a full screen 24 hours a day all during GENCON. The club gave away posters, T-shirts and tons of memorabilia everyday by having trivia contests and drawings for the people who were there.

They showed a lot of different anime such as: Lain (all of it), Gundam 0083, Vampire Hunter D (at 2 AM), Record of Lodoss War, Slayers, Porco Rosso, and the unforgettable X by Clamp. Bubble Gum Crisis was a great success and Ranma 1/2 is always well-loved, but nothing topped Maico 2010. They showed the entire series to all those who stayed to watch it, which was quite a few people (the true OTAKU). A charming a

funny story of a young girl who is an android and works as a radio announcer for a Japanese radio station. The story was wonderful and the characters superb, but nobody knew just how popular it was until the opening of the fourth episode when all of the Otaku in the front row started singing the opening along with the video. This continued to happen at the beginning of every episode throughout the rest of the series with more and more people singing the opening lyrics each time. By the end of the show I think everyone had sang at least a little bit.

The convention continued with costume contests and anime booths selling stuff on the exhibition floor of GENCON. Recognizable companies such as ADV were there with great deals and tons of people were dressed as Sailor Moon (even 40 year old, bearded men!). I guess you just can't pass up the opportunity to wear a yellow mini-shirt and carry a baton.

It was a truly memorable experience that I would gladly relive, but I fear that nothing shall ever top the Otaku Maico singers of the anime convention at GENCON 2000. So to follow their tradition the Maico way...I shall go out singing...

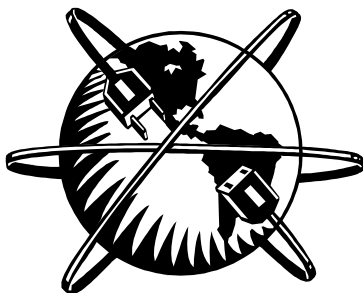
*Sora sora sora sora mi
Sora sora sora sora fa
Sora sora sora sora fa
Re re mi re do mi*

*Sora sora sora sora mi
Sora sora sora sora fa
Sora sora sora sora fa
Re re mi do ra do...*

Have you seen the UNDAS Web site?

Check in at

<http://echoes.dhs.org/anime>



Domestic Anime Releases

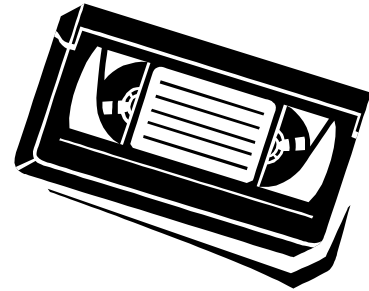
From Animerica Vol 8, #12:

1/30 Biohunter (DVD)
 1/30 Bride of Darkness (Dub)
 1/30 Dual! Vol 3: Artifacts (Dub/Sub)
 1/30 Irresponsible Captain Tylor 1-4 (DVD)
 1/30 KITE: Directors Cut (Dub/Sub)
 1/30 Tenchi Universe Vol 6: Space II (Dub/Sub/DVD)
 1/30 Tobor the 8th Man: Vols 1-4 (Dub)
 2/6 Sailor Moon S TV Series Vol 1: Pure Hearts (Dub/Sub)
 2/6 Sailor Moon S TV Series Vol 2: The Love War (Dub/Sub)
 2/6 Pure Love (Dub)
 2/22 Sailor Moon: Red Hearts & Silver Crystals (Dub)
 2/22 Sailor Moon: Introducing Sailor Jupiter (Dub)
 2/27 La Blue Girl Live: Demon King (Sub-Live Action)
 2/27 Maiden of Destruction (Dub)

From AnimeNation.com:

1/30 Dual 3 dub 'Artifacts' (Dub/Sub)
 1/30 Street Fighter Alpha: The Movie (Dub/Sub)
 1/30 Bio Hunter Special Edition DVD
 1/30 Blue Seed 1 DVD
 1/30 Dual 3 DVD 'Artifacts'
 1/30 Earthian Angelic Collection DVD
 1/30 Gundam Wing DVD Operation 5
 1/30 Irresponsible Captain Tylor TV DVD Collections 1-4
 1/30 Irresponsible Captain Tylor TV DVD Collection Box Set
 1/30 Ninku/YuYu Hakusho Double Feature – DVD
 1/30 Street Fighter Alpha: The Movie DVD
 1/30 Tenchi Universe Collection 6 DVD
 2/6 Escaflowne 3 dub 'Angels & Demons'
 2/6 Escaflowne 4 dub 'Past & Present'
 2/6 Gundam Wing: The Movie 'Endless Waltz' dub
 2/6 Sailor Moon S TV 1 'Pure Hearts' Uncut (Dub/Sub)
 2/6 Sailor Moon S TV 2 'The Love War!' Uncut (Dub/Sub)
 2/6 Escaflowne 3 DVD 'Angels & Demons'
 2/6 Escaflowne 4 DVD 'Past & Present'
 2/6 Gundam Wing: The Movie 'Endless Waltz' DVD
 2/6 Sailor Moon S TV 1 DVD 'Hearts Collection'
 2/13 Agent Aika 3 dub 'Final Battle'
 2/13 Bubblegum Crisis TV 12 dub 'Deathstrike!' (Dub/Sub)
 2/13 Lost Universe 5 (Dub/Sub)
 2/13 Maze: Shocking Transformation dub
 2/13 Ranma MM 2 sub 'Marry Me Akane'
 2/13 Sol Bianca The Legacy 3 dub 'Going Home' (Dub/Sub)
 2/13 Bubblegum Crisis TV 4 DVD 'Buried Secrets'
 2/13 Neon Genesis Evangelion DVD 4
 2/13 Saber Marionette J DVD Collection
 2/13 Shamanic Princess Complete DVD
 2/13 Sol Bianca The Legacy 3 DVD 'Going Home'

2/13 Sprite: Between Two Worlds DVD
 2/20 Dragon Ball Z 42 dub 'Imperfect Cell 17's End' uncut
 2/20 Dragon Ball Z 43 dub 'Perfect Cell Hunt For 18' uncut
 2/20 Maison Ikkoku 27 sub 'Schoolgirl Fantasy'
 2/20 Sailor Moon: Red Hearts & Silver Crystals
 2/20 Sailor Moon: Introducing Sailor Jupiter
 2/20 Gunsmith Cats: Bulletproof DVD
 2/20 Sorcerer Hunters 1 DVD 'Magical Encounters'
 2/27 Legend of Black Heaven 3 dub 'All Right Now' (Dub/Sub)
 2/27 Legend of Black Heaven 3 sub 'All Right Now'
 2/27 Monster Rancher 7 (Dub/Sub)
 2/27 Monster Rancher 8 dub 2/27 Nadesico 8 'Memories' (Dub/Sub)
 2/27 Rurouni Kenshin TV 5 'Renegade Samurai' (Dub/Sub)
 2/27 Virtua Fighter TV 3 dub 'Combat to the Death'
 2/27 Virtua Fighter TV 4 dub 'Shadow Heart'
 2/27 Legend of Black Heaven 3 DVD 'All Right Now'
 2/27 Nadesico 4 DVD 'Paradigm Shifts'
 2/27 Pet Shop of Horrors Special Edition DVD
 2/27 Rurouni Kenshin TV 5 DVD 'Renegade Samurai'
 2/27 Sailor Victory DVD 2/27 Sakura Diaries 4 DVD
 2/27 Urusei Yatsura TV 1 DVD



The List: What Every Fan (Otaku) Should See (Excuse me if I missed your favorite)

Japanese Animation: What Have You Watched?
 The Otaku List: Generic Spread

Ghilbi: (Hayao Miyazaki): Nausicaa, Kiki, Mononoke, Totoro,

Like the Clouds Like the Wind

Luputa, ... All not mentioned.

Mech: Giant Robo, Yamato, Robotech (Macross), Gundum, Evagelion

Punk: Bubblegum Crisis, Akira, Ghost in the Shell

Relationships: Kimera Orange Road, Maison Ikkoku, Yatsura, Ranma ½, Tenchi

Fantasy/Comedy/Action: Escaflowne, Fushigi Yugi, Nadia, Loddos War, Dirty Pair, Project A-ko, Slayers, Lupin III Steam Detectives, Sakura Wars, El Hazard

Dark Evil Forces: Vampire Hunter D, Ninja Scroll, etc.

Sentai Teams: Sailor Moon, Dragonball Z

Parodies and Cuteness: Ranma 1/3, Shinesman, Di Gi Charat, Dragon Half

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Volume 1, Number 2
February 2001

For Your Calendar...

Viewings Currently Scheduled in Spring Semester 2001

January 10th

Akira

Irresponsible Captain Tylor

January 17th

Tenchi Muyo: Movie 1

January 24th

Serial Experiments Lain (First Half)

January 31st

Serial Experiments Lain (Second Half)

February 7th

Lupin III: Napoleon's Dictionary

February 14th

Ah! My Goddess

February 21st

3x3 Eyes

February 28th

Patlabor: Movie 2

March 7th

Fansub Sampler Night

Upcoming dates: TBA

UNDAS meets every Wednesday, 7:00 p.m., Wilkerson,
Room 32

2001 Convention Information

Anime Central Anime Convention (industry convention)

May 11-13, 2001, Arlington Heights, IL

<http://www.acen.org>

\$35 if register before February 19, 2001

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/](http://www.wizards.com/gencon/2001/main.asp?x=2001/welcome,3)

[main.asp?x=2001/welcome,3](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

Stay tuned for more convention updates as they become
available

Contributor: Rae Goodman