



# OTAKU

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Volume 1, Number 3*

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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...***

Greetings anime fans one and all! We are excited to announce that this newsletter is now available online at our Web site. Now you can download the PDF version and read all about it, anytime, anywhere. Just visit the UNDAS Web site at <http://echoes.dhs.org/anime>.

This issue features our first fanfic submission. Fanfics are very welcome, provided the content is suitable for a general audience. Submissions should be less than two pages in length. If your story is actually longer than that, consider breaking it into "episodes."

Submissions for the April issue are now being accepted! Please email them to me at my address, listed above. Again, all submission content should be suitable for a general audience.

Happy viewing!

*Lyn Willoughby*

## ***Mythological Heroes in Anime***

By Rae Goodman

As an avid convention attendee, I have had the opportunity to attend many sessions, events, and panels. Of these, my personal favorite, held at Anime Central 2000, was a session by Crispin Freeman\* titled "Mythological Heroes in Anime." Based on the title, I expected this to be a talk comparing anime characters to mythological characters. In a sense this was true, but the talk covered so much more.

The session started with a 45 minute video of an interview with Joseph Campbell (author of *The Hero with a Thousand Faces* and *The Power of Myth*) with scenes from different anime series spliced in to illustrate the points Joseph Campbell was making. When the video ended, a discussion started that bounced from religion to religion comparing philosophies, myths, beliefs, and practices, and all of this was while discussing different anime characters and their journeys. One of the main points that kept coming up was that of the epic mythological journey of transformation that so many anime characters seem to undergo over the course of a movie or series. The participants as a whole seemed to feel that this journey is one of the reasons that anime is so popular; and the lack of this type of journey in United States entertainment (with the exception of Luke Skywalker in Star Wars and Neo in the Matrix) is the reason that anime is becoming more widely accepted and viewed in the United States.

Crispin Freeman's knowledge of religion, philosophy, mythology, and anime helped to make the session most enjoyable and educational. Without even pausing, Mr. Freeman could bounce from religion to religion and culture to culture. When the two hours ended, no one in the session was ready to leave and it took some time for the convention staff to end the discussion and move us all out of the room. This session could very easily have been taught as a religion and philosophy or mythology colloquium/class at a university instead of as a two hour session at an anime convention.

With this year's convention run right around the corner, if you happen to have the opportunity to attend Anime Central, make sure to stop by Crispin Freeman's "Mythological Heroes in Anime" session.

\*Crispin Freeman is an American voice actor whose roles have included Zelgadis in *Slayers*, Touga Kiryuu and Dios in *Revolutionary Girl Utena*, Captain Tylor in the *Irresponsible Captain Tylor*, and Spark in the *Lodoss War TV Series*.

***Come Again?***

By Lyn Willoughby and Joe Kerian

Things we will never hear our favorite characters say...

Heero Yuy (Gundam Wing): Remember, Duo, the important thing is to be open and honest about your feelings.

Vegeta (DBZ): I really think we should consider peer mediation before we resort to violence.

Gene Starwind (Outlaw Star): I'm sorry, but no matter how much you pay me, I make it a policy never to get involved with beautiful, mysterious women with complicated past histories...

Van Fanel (Escaflowne): It's a good thing that Hitomi can sew!

Goemon (Lupin III): I'm only in this for the money.

Ranma (Ranma 1/2): Everyone, follow Ryoga!

Miaka (Fushigi Yugi): No, I insist! *You* take the last piece of cake.

Ryoko (Tenchi Muyo): I think we should all just give Tenchi some space and let him make up his own mind.

Zechs Merquise, a.k.a. Milliardo Peacecraft (Gundam Wing): Oh, Relena! That's just Heero's way of saying he loves you!

Pai (3 x 3 Eyes): Dude! They killed Yakumo!

Yakumo (3 x 3 Eyes): Pai, I think you should stay and try to fight!

Emperor Dornkirk (Escaflowne): Then again, I could be wrong.

Heroine/Victim of the Week, speaking to Bolt Crank (Eatman '98): Could 'ya just stop talking already?! Who can think with all the chatter?!

Taki (Wicked City): I prefer the gender-neutral, politically correct approach, myself.

Lum Lum (Ursei Yastura): Now be honest, does this outfit make me look fat?

Urd (AH! My Goddess): I've decided to stop meddling and let you two work out your own relationship issues.

Kenshiro (Fist of the North Star): Ew! Gross! Blood!

Rin/Shion (Please Save My Earth): I've decided to let by-gones be by-gones and forgive you.

Mihoshi (Tenchi Muyo): ...and so, Washu, from my studies of special relativity, in this instance...

Wufei Chang (Gundam Wing): A lawyer, a doctor, and a Gundam pilot walk into a bar...

D (Vampire Hunter D): ...and this week's special includes a *free* cholesterol check...heh-heh...

Rezo the Red Priest (Slayers): Oops!

Tasuki (Fushigi Yugi): I'm trying to get in touch with my feminine side.

Gourry (Slayers): Of course I understand.

Duo Maxwell (Gundam Wing): Geez, Heero, do you have to be such a cry baby?

San (Mononoke Hime): *Hello!* I could use a wet wipe over here!

Spike (Cowboy Beebop): Oh no! A door-ding! I knew I shouldn't have parked here!

Fuma, speaking to hairdresser (X1999): Oh, I don't know...how 'bout just a little off the top?

Ushio Aotsuki (Ushio and Tora): From "me" to DBZ in 1.6 seconds!

Yoji Kudou (Weiss Kreuz): Looks mean nothing to me. I'm only interested in women who can challenge me intellectually.

Aya Fujimiya (Weiss Kreuz): Forgive and forget, that's my motto.

Bean (Riding Bean): I can always get another car.

Lady Iboshi (Mononoke Hime): Could someone lend me a hand?

The Colonel (Akira): It's the Stay-Puft Marshmallow Man!

Gendo Ikari (Evangelion): Shinji, we're going to be late! Aren't you dressed for the father-son banquet yet?

Asuka, speaking to Rei (Evangelion): I'm sure the elevator repair crew will get here eventually.

Lain (Lain): Dial 1-800-CALL-ATT and save them a buck or two!

## **Anagram-tastic! Anime Rearranged**

By Mike Howland

What if I tell you that there's a website that provides free anagram services?

### ***Holy rusted pinking shears, Batman!***

I know you're excited. Calm yourself. It's the future now... [www.anagramgenius.com](http://www.anagramgenius.com) ! On one of my whims, I spent some time checking this site out. If you enter your name into it, it sends you an e-mail with a list of anagrams made from the rearranged letters of your name.

So I thought, wouldn't it be fun to see what's hidden inside the names of favorite Anime characters? Some of the results are disturbingly accurate, like horoscopes. Others are just silly. Here they are, in random order:

Ranma Saotome = Moron as a mate.  
 Rei Ayanami = I. I a many are.  
 Dilandau Albatou = About dual in a lad.  
 Tenchi Masaki = The sick mania.  
 Relena Peacecraft = Perfect clean area.  
 Gendo Ikari = Ignore a kid.  
 Nabiki Tendo = I banked on it.  
 Hanabishi Recca = His archaic bane.  
 Hitomi Kanzaki = I Nazi kith amok.  
 Soun Tendo = Nude to son.  
 Lina Inverse = A vile sinner.  
 Misato Katsuragi = Am OK as guitarist.  
 Zelgadiss Graywords = Godless gas wizardry.  
 Genma Saotome = Am mean stooge.  
 Lain Iwakura = I walk in aura.

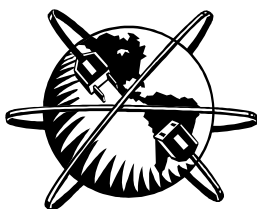
And finally, my mixed up name reveals...  
 Michael David Howland = Halved down, I am a child.

Ummm...wait a sec...

***Have you seen the UNDAS Web site?***

***Check in at***

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



## **Wing ZERO vs. Xenogears**

A Fanfic by Jeff Brothers

Jeff walked into the stadium and asked, "Is everything ready?"

His brother Patrick looked from his clipboard. "I guess, but are you sure you want to go through with this?"

Jeff just shrugged him off by saying, "Don't worry. I had the city evacuated just in case the fight gets out of hand. What could go wrong? Where's the camera?"

Patrick pointed into the corner of the room where a camera was mounted on a tripod. It was set up so it had full view of the massive arena outside a nearby window. Standing in the center of the arena were two massive mechs.

"Great. Let's get this thing started." Walking over to the tripod Jeff grabbed the mike and turned the camera on. "Hi, everybody! I'm Jeff Brothers broadcasting from the Battling Arena in the Imperial Capitol Kislev with by brother Patrick." Patrick waved meekly. "I coming to you today to bring you the mecha battle of the century: Wing ZERO vs. Xenogears! Both machines are the most powerful machines of their respective worlds and are piloted by some of the best fighters. Wing ZERO is the well known Gundam of Heero Yuy from the popular anime, Gundam Wing, while Xenogears is the Gear of Fei Fong Wong, the main character of the Squaresoft game of the same name. Now, to go over the strengths of the each fighter, their managers."

Jeff turned to two young men in the corner. One was dressed completely in black with his long brown hair braided all the way to his waist. The other one also had his blonde hair braided, but it only reached to just below his shoulder blades. He had an eyepatch over his left eye and wore a red coat with the sleeves ripped off. The whip on his belt completed the "pirate" look.

The boy in black took the microphone first. "Name's Duo Maxwell, The Great Destroyer. I'm Heero's manager. You want the strengths of Wing ZERO? I guess the biggest advantage Wing ZERO has over other mobile suits is its ZERO system. With it, reaction time is practically eliminated. Heero'll beat that other guy before he has a chance to move."

The pirate started laughing. "Is that all you got?" Duo didn't have a chance to protest as he grabbed the mike and proceeded to introduce himself. "My name is Bartholomew Fatima, 'Bart' to my friends, and if that's all you got, Fei'll wipe the floor with Wing ZERO. Xenogears is an organic machine that's synced up with Fei. There is no reaction time at all! Plus, Fei can use the Ether Amplification System to blast Wing ZERO with an amplified chi blast before it can get close."

Duo tried to wrestle the mike out of Bart's grasp. "Ha! That's nothing!" he shouted. "Wing ZERO's Buster Rifle has taken out entire colonies in a single shot. One

*Continued page 4...*

Continued from page 3...

shot from that thing and Xenogears'll be scrap!"

"Fei took on a god in Xenogears. You think he'll lose to that jerk after that," screamed back Bart as the argument degenerated into a full out brawl. Soon, the only intelligible words that could be made out was an occasional "Jerk!" or "Loser!" And those were the non-profane ones.

Jeff finally lost patience. "Stop it!" The pair froze while Duo had Bart in a headlock and Bart was trying to tangle his whip in Duo's legs. "This isn't the WWF! If you want to fight, take it out side," Jeff commanded.

Duo and Bart blinked before regarding each other.

"Sound's good," said Duo.

"I'll meet you there," added Bart as he followed him out the back door.

Jeff blinked. "That was easy..."

Patrick just shrugged as Jeff retrieved the abused microphone. Opening the intercom to the arena he said, "Let's get this show on the road. Show us what you got!"

Three hours later, the two mechs still stood in the center of the arena facing each other.

Jeff was pleading over the intercom. "C'mon, Fei! Why won't you fight?"

"I don't like fighting," came the response. "I don't want to hurt anyone."

Jeff started to yank out his hair in frustration. "What about you, Heero? Why won't you fight?" he yelled at Wing ZERO.

"Why should I?" The voice was flat and Jeff could just imagine Heero in the cockpit of the Gundam with his arms crossed and eyes closed.

"I don't know. Pride and honor maybe?"

...

Jeff was banging his head on the console when Patrick walked over. "That's what you get for trying to get two pacifists to fight each other."

"I've never thought of Heero as much of a pacifist," Jeff groaned. "Where have you been, anyway?"

"Hm? Oh, I was outside watching Duo and Bart duke it out in Death Scythe and Andvari."

"What!?"

Patrick led Jeff outside to show him the destruction. There were impact craters everywhere and not a building was left intact. While Jeff surveyed the carnage, Patrick told him what happened.

"Once outside, it didn't take long for their fight to escalate to mecha combat."

"Who...won?" Jeff managed to ask weakly.

"They got tired of fighting a little while ago and called it a draw. They went home. Too bad you missed it. It was a great fight."

Jeff continued to stare in complete shock. Patrick waved his hand in front of Jeff's face a few times. When Jeff failed to respond, he shrugged and started to leave.

"It's been a long day," he muttered, "Think I'll go home and get some sleep."

Inside the battling arena, Xenogears and Wing ZERO were still standing there. Finally, Fei broke the silence.

"Hey, Heero?"

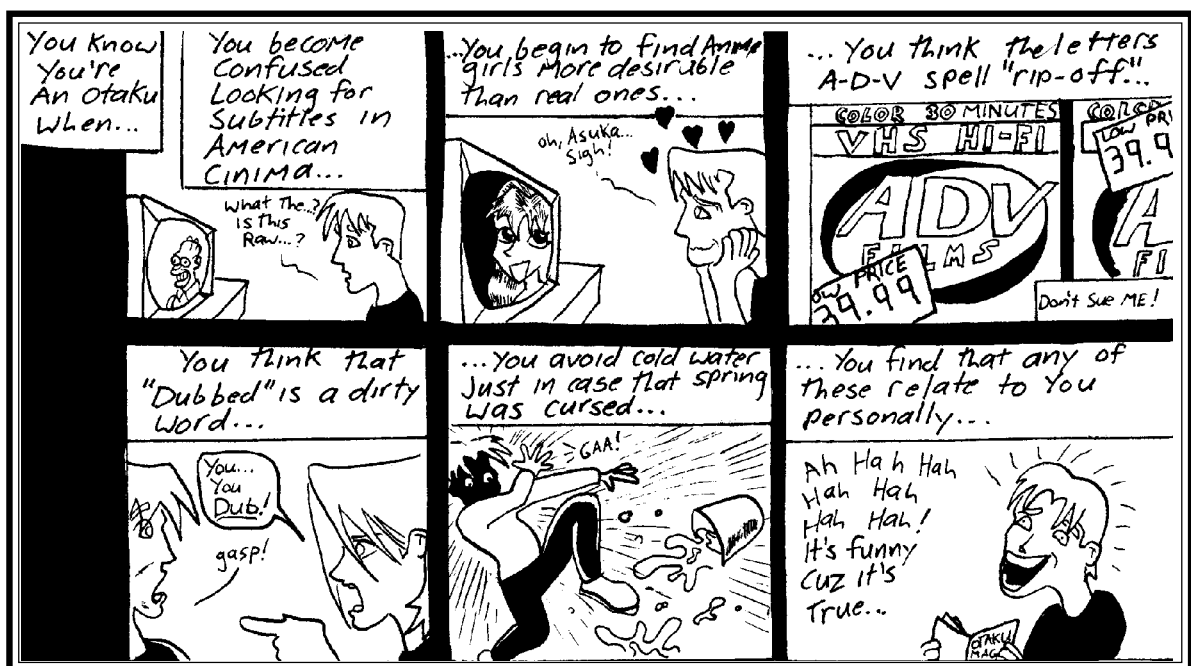
...

"I don't think they're coming back. Want to go grab a drink or something?"

"...Sure."

Who would win in a fight between Wing ZERO and Xenogears? The world may never know...

BIG EYES and SPEED LINES



Artist: Jay Johnson

## Videogame Fanfics

By Yuffie Kisaragi

(Submitted by Jeff Brothers, Illustrations by Pat Bros.)

Hey there, people! Yuffie Kisaragi, materia hunter extraordinaire from Final Fantasy VII (FFVII), here to fill in for Jeff. He's kinda tied up at the moment and asked me to do the reviews this week. This week I'll be doing reviews on some video game fanfics. Just let me grab Jeff's notes on the subject.

[Opens closet door.] Hey, Jeff, where are those fanfic notes? [Muffled voice heard.] Never mind. I see them. [Slams door]

Anime and video games actually have a lot in common. Art style. Story line. Some recent games even incorporate animated video footage in the games (known as FMV). It also helps that some games, such as Street Fighter, Rayearth, and Tekken, have shows based on them or vice-versa. That said, let's get to the stories:

### The Search For Aeris

By Frank Venderosa

<http://www.geocities.com/TimesSquare/Ring/3665/search.htm>

Final Fantasy VII was, in my unbiased opinion, the best RPG ever made. It also seems to have spawned the most fanfiction. One reason for this is probably everyone's reaction to the death of Aeris. Half the fanfics out there are "Aeris resurrection" fics. This one is different. A year after the Meteor incident, the old gang gets together to resurrect our fallen friend, only there's a sinister force behind it. I won't spoil it any more, but the reaction the story was so good that Frank wrote six MORE stories afterwards! "The Search For Aeris" was a rather flat story, I'll admit. But it did lead into some of the best fanfics I've ever been in, and I did get some new material out of it!

Final Score: \*\*\*½

### Magical Troubleshooting Crossover Fighting Tournament BETA

By Stefan Gagne

<http://www.mtcffultra.com/beta/>

I'll admit, I am a fan of the fighting game genre. I even made a cameo appearance in the Ehrgeiz fighting game. The problem with fanfics and anime based on them is they usually turn out to be just an excuse for everyone to fight. BETA isn't any different. The basic plot is God has gotten tired of being God, so he holds a fighting tournament to find a replacement while he goes on vacation. He picks the worst fighters from several fighting games and a couple anime to compete in his



tournament up in heaven. These include, among others, Dan Hibiki (Street Fighter), B. B. Hood (Darkstalkers), Tatewaki Kuno (Ranma ½), and Casey Jones (Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles). When the story was originally written, the readers would E-mail in their votes for who would win each round. The story was then written accordingly. The polls are long since closed, but it's still a fun story to read. If you haven't figured it out yet, BETA is a comedy. Only two or three bouts are determined by straight out fighting. The writer also flavors the story up with commentary from the 3 goddesses (Urd, Belldandy, and Skuld) as well a "You killed Kenny" joke or two. Some of my favorite bouts are Kasumi Tendo vs. Master Splinter, Mihoshi vs. Kiyonne, and Urd vs. Sephiroth. Final Score: \*\*\*\*½

### RPGamer Fanfic Archive

<http://www.rpgamer.com/fanfics/ficarchive.html>

Saving the world is hard work. I don't always have time to read all those long stories. That's why I was thrilled to find RPGamer's fanfic page. Writers submit their stories to the webpage and only the best get posted. The stories are usually short single installment fics. They got everything from Pokémon and Zelda to Final Fantasy. New stories are posted every two weeks, so there is also a constant steam of new material. It's kinda hard to suggest stories since there are all so good, but I can recommend a bad one. It was originally posted as an example of how NOT to write a fanfic. You can find "The Worst Final Fantasy Fanfic Ever" in the Crossover section of the archive. All you Final Fantasy haters may want to check it out, also. I'll come by your house to throttle you later.

Average Score: \*\*\*\*½

Well, that should be...

[Door slams open. Jeff is standing there tangled in a rope and doing the battle aura trick.]

JEFF: YUFFIE!!!

YUFFIE: Yipe! Seeya, next month! [Yuffie runs away with Jeff hot on her trail.]

JEFF: Get back here, you klepto!!!

Jeff Brothers



## New Releases

Contributed by Joe Kerian

*From www.animenation.com:*

Harlock Saga 1 dub 'Clash of the Space Pirates' - 3/3/01

Crest of the Stars 1 DVD 'To the Stars' - 3/6/01

Outlaw Star DVD Collection 3 - 3/6/01

Saber Marionette J DVD Collection 2 - 3/6/01

Agent Aika 1 DVD 'Naked Missions' - 3/13/01

Generator Gawl 3 dub/DVD - 3/13/01

Knights of Ramune DVD - 3/13/01

Lost Universe 5 DVD - 3/13/01

Lost Universe 6 sub/dub - 3/13/01

Maze: Beautiful Stranger dub - 3/13/01

Princess Mononoke dub - 3/13/01

Ranma MM 3 sub 'Tea for Three' - 3/18/01

Dragon Ball Z 49 dub 'Great Saiya Man Declaration' uncut - 3/20/01

Dragon Ball Z 50 dub 'Great Saiya Man Gohan's Secret' uncut - 3/20/01

Gundam Wing DVD Operation 6 - 3/20/01

Gundam Wing 10 dub 'Arise, Sanc Kingdom!' Uncut - 3/20/01

Gundam Wing 11 dub 'Enter the Epyon!' Uncut - 3/20/01

Maison Ikkoku 28 sub 'Pajama Party' - 3/20/01

Flint, the Time Detective 3 dub/DVD 'The Sands of Time' - 3/26/01

Flint, the Time Detective 4 dub/DVD 'Can't We All Get Along?' - 3/26/01

AD Police TV 2 dub 'Love's Labor Lost' - 3/27/01

Dual 4 sub/dub/DVD 'One Vision' - 3/27/01

Gasaraki 4 dub/DVD 'From the Ashes' - 3/27/01

Magic Users Club (Maho Tsukai Tai) sub/dub/DVD - 3/27/01

Orphen: Scion of Sorcery 1 dub/DVD - 3/27/01

Pokemon 39 dub/DVD 'A Brand New World' - 3/27/01

Pokemon 40 dub/DVD 'Midnight Guardian' - 3/27/01

Rurouni Kenshin (Samurai X) The Motion Picture dub/DVD - 3/27/01

Rurouni Kenshin TV 6 sub/dub/DVD 'The Flames of The Revolution' - 3/27/01

Twin Signal dub/DVD - 3/27/01

Blue Submarine No.6 (Edited) DVD - 4/3/01

Lost Universe 6 DVD - 4/10/01

Angel Links 1 DVD - 4/17/01

Arc the Lad 1 dub/DVD - 4/17/01

Dragon Ball Z 44 dub 'Perfect Cell Temptation' uncut - 4/17/01

Dragon Ball Z 45 dub 'Perfect Cell Perfection' uncut - 4/17/01

Maison Ikkoku 29 sub 'Dogged Pursuit' - 4/17/01

Ranma MM 4 sub 'Daddy Dearest' - 4/17/01

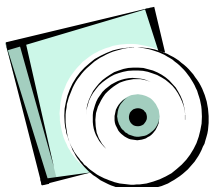
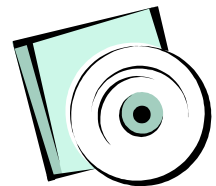
Nadesico 9 sub/dub 'Heavenly Bodies' - 4/24/01

Rayearth Memorial Collection DVD 2 - 4/24/01

Rurouni Kenshin TV 7 sub/dub/DVD 'Shadow of the Wolf' - 4/24/01

Virtua Fighter TV 5 dub - 4/24/01

Virtua Fighter TV 6 dub - 4/24/01



## **Anime Crossovers I'd Like To See (and That You Prayed Would Never Happen...)**

by Mike Howland

Thanks to fansites across the 'net, we've got a plethora of anime fanfics and crossovers to keep us entertained. We get to see our favorite characters in new and interesting situations, as well as how they might react to different characters from other series. The groundwork has been laid, now the challenge is to create crossovers that completely breach the barrier of good taste. Lucky for you, I've got a small list of crossovers that you might never see (nor want to):

*(Caution: contains some spoilers!)*

### **Serial Experiments: Ranma**

Take all the surreal imagery of the acclaimed series Serial Experiments: Lain, and add the gender bending hijinks and martial arts mayhem of Ranma ½, and you've got a surefire classic.

*Ranchan: <wearing Teddy-bear pajamas> Daddy, can I get a new Navi?*

*Genma: Foolish boy! A martial artist doesn't concern himself with such things!*

In this series, Ranma comes to the realization that he's really an artificial intelligence created in the Wired, and proceeds to travel the electronic medium in order to become the ultimate martial artist by defeating the god of the Wired, who just happens to be Happosai. Meanwhile, Ryoga wanders the landscape of Japan laden with computer equipment and a VR interface, attempting to get revenge on Ranma and join the Knights of the Eastern Calculus. Until he gets wet, anyhow...at which point his interface short-circuits and fries him like bacon (that's a pun).

### **Golden Akira**

I can already hear the audience groaning about this one...Picture this: Kintaro Oe, (*Golden Boy*) rides his favorite bike across the post-apocalyptic landscape of Japan. He reaches Tokyo, and finds himself working as a scientist for the Akira project. His new supervisor, a gorgeous woman, hates him on sight, and makes him scrub the toilet (Okay, so you've seen it...). Kintaro bumbles around while he's learning the job, inadvertently causing the project to lose funding. He gets fired, but the end comes out all right when he harnesses the power of Akira and becomes a large perverted puddle of protoplasm, to which the supervisor runs screaming "Oh Kintaro! I LOVE YOU!!" It brings a tear to my eye just thinking about it...

### **The Vision of Evangelion**

You knew this was coming. Hitomi returns from Gaea to an alternate world in which she is the pilot for Unit 00, Van is the pilot of Unit 01, and Merle is the pilot of Unit 02. Van becomes sullen and depressed, because it turns out that Commander Ikari had a fling with his Atlantian mother and is his real father. Hitomi retains her powers of prognostication and foresees the destruction to be made by strange giants, Angels, under the control of Isaac Newton. Allen guest-stars as the pilot of Unit 03, but isn't around too terribly long. The rest practically writes itself...some great battles, Van goes psycho (again) and the ending is really disappointing, only to be remade.

I hope this was enough for you this time around. Next time: *Perfect Otaku* (a cross between *Otaku no Video* and *Perfect Blue*) Good viewing to ya, and keep reading those fanfics!



### **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!>

## OTAKU

A publication of the UND Anime Society  
Volume 1, Number 2  
March 2001

### *For Your Calendar...*

#### **Viewings Currently Scheduled in Spring Semester 2001**

*March 21st*

Gasaraki  
Cowboy Beebop

*March 28th*

Trigun  
Project A-ko

*April 4th - Anime American Style...*

Aeon Flux  
The Last Unicorn

*April 11th*

Ghost in the Shell  
Slayers: The Movie

*April 18th*

Grave of the Fireflies

*April 25th*

Fansub Night - Titles TBA

*May 2nd*

Sailormoon R : Movie  
Shoujo Kakumei Utena

*May 9th*

Request Night - Titles 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/  
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