



OTAKU

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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.

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Reflections of a Newbie Con-goer...

by Lyn Willoughby

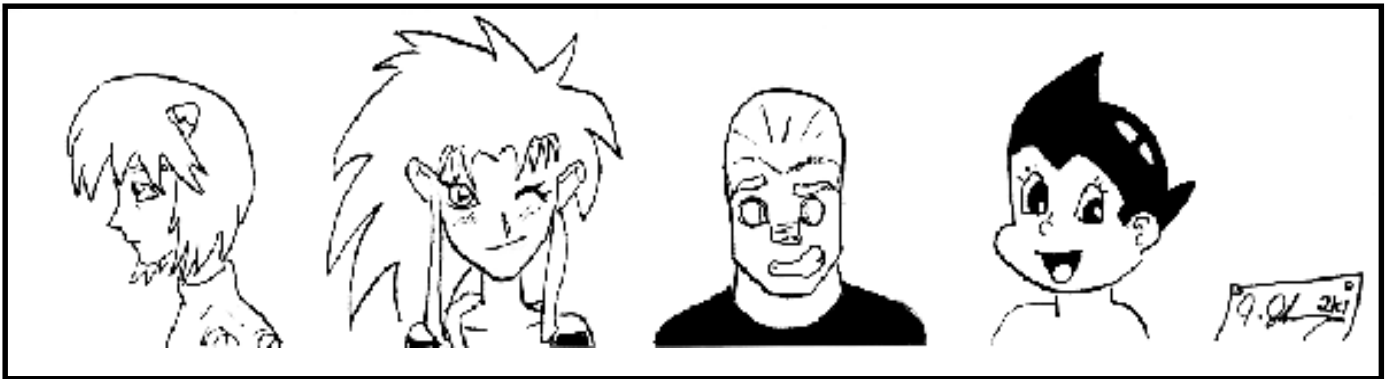
This past August, I had the opportunity to attend my very first con, Animelowa. (I used to say 'convention,' but apparently, like so many other things I say, it marked me as a hopeless newbie, so I now use the term 'con'). I was fearful of how well I would hold up, given that at my age particulars like sleep and regular meals have become essential...and after all, spending a weekend in a hotel with 800 or so hardcore fans, mostly of the 18 - 22 age persuasion seemed a bit daunting. Would I get any sleep? Would I get any food? Would I get to bathe? Would I be the oldest person there? Would I run out of money in the dealer's room? (Oh, sorry, I digress...)

We started our journey early on a Wednesday morning, packing our belongings and 8 persons into a 15 passenger van rented from the UND motorpool. As much space as that would lead one to believe that we had, we DID have our purchases to think about! As it turned out, I rode shotgun; a good vantage point from whence to practice my obsessive-compulsive side-seat driving tendencies...(hey, I AM the advisor...I mean, it's my job to nag...). It took nearly 11 hours to arrive, much hungrier and much less comfortable in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. To our relief, our hotel suites (yes, suites) were beautiful. So was the hotel.

The con didn't actually start until Friday afternoon. We spent the interim sleeping (in advance preparation), eating, bathing, playing cards, and assisting the con staff (yes, an official staff) in setting up for the event. Conveniently, I managed to avoid doing anything that actually resembled labor.

Friday afternoon finally arrived. We had all pre-registered, so of course, we were able to plan our weekend itineraries ahead of time. Thus, when the fated hour arrived, I was near the head of the line for what I considered to be the most important reason for attending a con - the dealer's room. Ah...the dealer's room...that mythical, magical place where I could gleefully part ways with \$250 or so of my hard earned bucks in under 10 minutes on everything anime. It's kinda like 'live-action' ebay on steroids. Actually, I was doing rather well until a certain archivist, whose initials are J.K., stranded me at the cell table with all those beautiful Tomahome cells (original art used to make animation) and my unfettered credit card...ah, the agony and the ecstasy...

Continued page 4...



The anime terminology you've never heard of...

by Mike Howland

Anyone who is familiar with anime knows that there's a whole long fragging vocabulary list that goes with it. That's not what this article is all about. This list of anime terms is inspired by conditions brought on by watching too much anime and by those shows that deserve classifications of their own, probably because the writer was carted off to the loony bin. Here they are, in random order:

Anno: A show that abruptly changes mood mid-season because the writer suffers a nervous breakdown is carted off to the loony bin.

Panda-dance: An anime feature chock full of wacky animals doing cute human things like talking with signs or eating pudding with spoons instead of sucking it straight out of a pudding cup (see also: Dr. Pudding).

Frag: A sci-fi show in which the characters substitute "Frag!" for real swear words, possibly because they don't know any real obscenities.

Chibi Toast: A show so unbearably cutesy that it fills you with the urge to firebomb CLAMP HQ.

Jiggly-Bounce: The boobies go boingy-boingy, tee-hee (OK, so I know there's a real term like this, but it had to be done).

Akira Syndrome: This state of mind occurs after watching a real brain-frag, when it seems the only viable option is hari-kari.

Tentacle: Aw, c'mon. Monsters (with hideously suggestive tentacles) need loving too, ya know.

Dr. Pudding: Someone who eats pudding without a spoon by sucking it out through the bottom of a pudding cup (this one has nothing to do with anime, but eh...)

Tragedy: Paying \$29.95 for a DVD with a single thirty-minute episode of Blue Sub 6, after which it seems the only viable option is hari-kari.

Poke-series: Don't watch the first tape because you've gotta buy them all...and all the merchandise...and the soundtracks...and artbooks...and the original animation cells...

NANI?!: exclamation used frequently after three minutes of DiGi Charat or an episode of Kodoma no Omocha, often interchanged with "What the frag...?!"

IT-ism: condition brought on by too much Ramna 1/2 and Maze, often results in disturbing trans-gender transmogrification via sexual reassignment surgery.

Mech-disaster: A program with mecha designs so horrid that they make you want to spew yellow, blue, and red Gundam parts.

...to go Ikari: Violent berserker rage brought on by emotional and psychological instability (often due to the lack of a father's love).

Navi obsession: The desperate urge to upgrade your computer after watching large amounts of Lain (Remember kids: coolant is rather difficult to mop up).

Mikey-kun's syndrome: A mental disorder caused by reading this column, usually results in confusion and furrowed eyebrows, after which it seems the only viable option is hari-kari.

Hope you enjoyed the list of new anime vocabulary. Make sure you use these often when talking about anime, or your friends will think you're a complete moron. Oh, and be sure to keep those blades sharp!

(Special thanks to Dr. Pudding, although he didn't contribute.)

Note: *The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of the editorial staff or UNDAS. We do not, for example, recommend sucking pudding directly from a pudding cup without first consulting your physician. Please consume pudding responsibly. The life you save may be your own.*

Cracks in the Facade

by Jay Johnson

As an anime fan, I take my hobby quite seriously, and over time I have a number of opinions which I now have the ability to comment on.



1. Watching lots of anime doesn't necessarily make you an authority on Japanese culture. Was *Godzilla* a definitive portrayal of American culture? Will watching every Will Smith movie ever made dozens of times make you an Authority on American culture? No. Therefore, it is logical to assume that watching *Dirty Pair* 32 times will not make you an expert on the Japanese culture. If you doubt this, go to Japan and observe yourself being baffled and alienated by the culture you previously "understood."

2. Anime is cartoons. Accept this.

3. Dubs are OK. The story is the same, the dialogue is simply a bit different. Dubs are an excellent way to watch the gorgeous animation without having to tear your eyes away to read subs. Some people find it difficult to read and watch the purty pictures, or cannot read fast enough to catch everything. Or, if you're like me, you simply despise illegible yellow subtitles against a flesh-colored background of the character's face. Often, the English voice cast is as good or better than the original. *Tenchi*, *El Hazard*, and *Ranma* are examples of good dubs. As for the "bad English acting," can you tell me if the Japanese acting is as bad? What's that...you don't speak the language? I rest my case. The next time some pimple-faced, surly, socially maladjusted American "Otaku" accuses you of not

being a "true fan" for watching dubs occasionally, you have my blessing to laugh and discredit him.

4. Otaku is an insult in Japan. Don't proudly describe yourself as one.

5. Don't call animes like *Princess Mononoke* "Mononoke Hime." If you are an idiot pretending to be an authority by using original Japanese, it shows. You can call them by their original names when you can speak the language.

6. F*#% *Dragonball Z*. If you watch anime for kinky sex and ultra violence but fall asleep during *Grave of the Fireflies*, you are not a fan.

7. Anime and Manga is no reason to scoff at American cartoons or comics. Many American 'toons like *Batman the Animated Series* or Disney's *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* are as good as most anime. Likewise, there are good American comics writers. Frank Miller, Jeph Loeb, and Warren Ellis (OK, so he's English) are as much masters as Shirow Masamune.

8. F*#% ADV. I will not pay \$29.99 for 30 minutes of tape. "Don't cheat the distributors?" I'll stop cheating them when they stop cheating the fans.

9. This is not YOUR exclusive hobby. Everyone has the right to enjoy it. The more popular it becomes, the more availability it will have. Anime becoming more mainstream is a good thing.

10. Enjoy your anime. Whether you like it subbed, dubbed, cut, broadcast, whatever. It's still anime, and it is a beautiful and compelling art form meant to be enjoyed.

Art Show!!!

As you may or may not be aware, UNDAS is planning a fanart show. We'll be showcasing artwork from members in a gallery-style venue early next semester.

So here's the scoop for all you artists out there: we want your art! Submissions should be made as soon as humanly possible to Jay Johnson or Mike Howland for preparations. Any medium is welcome, any way you want to do it. Original art is encouraged, as well as fanart of all sorts.

Why wait another day to be recognized for your talents? Get those submissions in now!

Questions? Call 775-0585.



UNDAS Artist Guild

If you have ability, style, or just enough free time to draw your favorite characters, we want to showcase them!

Visit our page online at:

www.geocities.com/scorpius_98_99/anime

You'll be glad that you did!

Continued from from Cover page...

As predicted, sleeping, eating and bathing did become somewhat optional at that point. I was surprised at how well I was able to cope with the new schedule of napping between events. As it turned out, I was NOT the oldest person there, by a long shot. Nor was I the only newbie. A strange mix of dry cereal and other assorted crunchies known as "Otaku chow," supplemented by occassional Chinese take-out, became de rigueur and by the time Sunday arrived, I found my jeans a bit loose at the waist. Of course, no complaints here on that account.

As I mentioned, the con was packed with activity 24 hours a day. Three viewing rooms featured round-the-clock showings of all kinds of anime programming from every genre, including titles ranging from *Angel Sanctuary* to *Zetsu-ai Bronze*. I didn't actually think I could become sick of watching anime, but at this event, I came very close to overdosing. A 4 a.m. viewing of *Miyuki-chan in Wonderland* nearly did me in, although I must admit that I only watched that one in trade for company at the *Tokyo Babylon* showing, but that's another story. In addition to showings, there were a plethora of discussion panels covering the various 'philosophical' aspects of life in animedom as well as activity sessions where one could learn the intricacies of cell painting or how to better use Photoshop to publish a manga. I personally enjoyed the Photoshop session, as I use it professionally, and learned a few new tricks of the trade.

Sunday found our little troop of con-goers largely crashed out in our rooms, and the advisor (moi), now hyper-goofy from lack of sleep, rushing about exclaiming, "Get up! This ain't no rest home!" Which brings me to the ride home again. Back in the 15 passenger van, now quite packed with our purchases, we began the 11 hour trek home, which was an adventure unto itself given the combination of hyper-goofiness, exhaustion, caffeine and pudding. But again, that's another story.

So, based on my experience, I have a few recommendations and observations for would-be con-goers, young and old:

- Bring cash...lots of cash. And Visa, of course, since it's "everywhere you want to be."
- Bring snacks...lots of snacks.
- Costume: optional. Kitty ears: mandatory.
- Pace yourself. Consider power napping during production credits.
- Sub vs. dub? Trust me, after 36 hours, you don't remember the difference.
- A pocket knife works well when you want to consume pudding straight out of the cup. Poke from the bottom.
- Bring film...lots of film. You never know when Rei Ayanami, Vash the Stampede or the scotch tape girl will make an appearance.

OTAKU EXCLUSIVE! music news report unassociated press

Last month, *Gundam Synch* exploded on the scene to the delight of teen girls everywhere. Their album, "Love and Gundanium," has already reached the platinum mark after the hit songs "I only kill you because I love you" and "I hope this waltz never ends." The group's enigmatic manager, Treize Khushrenada, told the world at a press conference last Thursday: "The concert has begun, and when it is over, there will be an encore." In related news, *Backstreet Weiß* just released their debut album "Assassin by Night" and are kicking off their world tour in Berlin next month. Aya, the boy-band's leader, was unavailable for comment.

The cast from *DiGi Charat* has formed the band *Locus of Control*, and slam onto the thrash-metal scene with the hard and heavy hit "SkullKrusher Nyo." Lead singer/guitarist Dejiko and co-lead singer/rhythm guitarist Usada "Rabi-en~Rose" have gained acclaim for their *Pantera*-style vocals. On the concern that fans of *DiGi Charat* wouldn't appreciate the bands caustic music, bassist Puchiko told **Rolling Boulder** magazine: "F%&\$ what the public wants us to be, man. We gotta be true to ourselves, ya know, tats and piercings and all. F%&\$ that cutesy sh%&, we want the metal life." Gema, the band's drummer, commented: "We wanted to show our bad side, gema. And the chicks are great, gema."

Anime mascots Kero-chan, Chu-Chu, Pen-Pen, and Ryo-Ohki have teamed up to form *Glass Onion*, a *Beatles* cover band. Their first release, "Yellow Submarine 6," is available in stores. Ringo Starr, remarked in a conversation with **Entertainment Today**: "Their popularity is phenomenal, and Kero sounds just like John." On the rumor that Kero-chan was chosen as lead singer over Pikachu, *Utena* cast member Chu-Chu reveals "Chu, chu chu, chu squeek chu chu chu." Other members of the band declined to comment, as they felt there was nothing left to say on the subject.



Element Warriors: Retaking Mercury

Chapter 3

A Sailor Moon fanfic by Tim Winter

(...continued from last spring. Back issues available at our website at www.und.nodak.edu/org/undas).

Ami ran over to Sailor Moon, "Quick, Sailor Moon, wake up, wake up!"

Sailor Mercury yelled, "Heal the wolf, heal the wolf!"

Sailor Moon stared groggily at Sailor Mercury, "But I thought you were afraid of it?"

"I changed my mind after it saved my life, ok?," Sailor Mercury finally replied, "So will you just hurry up and save it?"

"Well, alright" Sailor Moon stood and said, "Moon Healing Escalation!"

With that, a stream of energy flowed from the Crescent Moon Wand. The bands of energy wrapped around the Snow Wolf and it started to glow, then started to change into a man.

"Whoa, what's going on here! This is starting to creep me out." Sailor Jupiter exclaimed, "That wolf is turning into a person!"

Sailor Mercury replied, "I knew it! It WAS a human that's been turned into a snow wolf."

As the wolf slowly transformed into a man the sign of mercury could be seen flashing on his forehead. It stopped flashing when the transformation was done. The man was looked to be about age 24, was about 6 feet tall with dark brown hair and ice blue eyes. Even through the black, gold, and blue combat fatigues you could tell that he was well muscled, but didn't have the bulk of a heavy weightlifter. He was conditioned more for endurance than brute strength.

"He looks like one of my old boyfriends!" exclaimed Sailor Jupiter.

"Shhh, He's waking up!" Sailor Venus scolded.

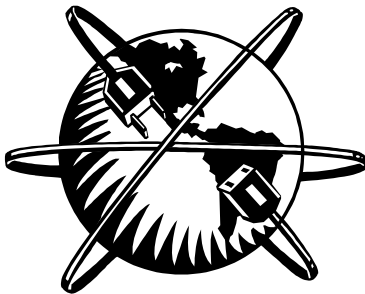
"Unngh," the man moaned, "I really hate having to be healed, it feels like someone dropped a fifty pound wieght on me."

"Who are you and how do you know how it feels to be healed? Do you work for the negeverse?!" Sailor Mars demanded.

"I know how it feels to be healed because Queen Serenity had to heal me," he mumbled to himself a bit, "Ten times. As for who I am, I am Colonel Blizzard of the Silver Milenium Defense Force, commander of the Element Warriors. Does that answer your questions?"

"Uh, yeah, I guess so." Sailor Mars said.

"I have a question," said Luna, " How did you become the wolf?!"



UNDAS Web site has moved!

Point your Navi towards:

<http://www.und.nodak.edu/org/undas>

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 ***www.und.nodak.edu/org/anime***

Japan Um Um Good!

By Travis Hillebrand

Japan is the island nation of action and excitement with an occasional chance of rain. You're thinking the land of Manga and Anime, but wait! There is much, much more!

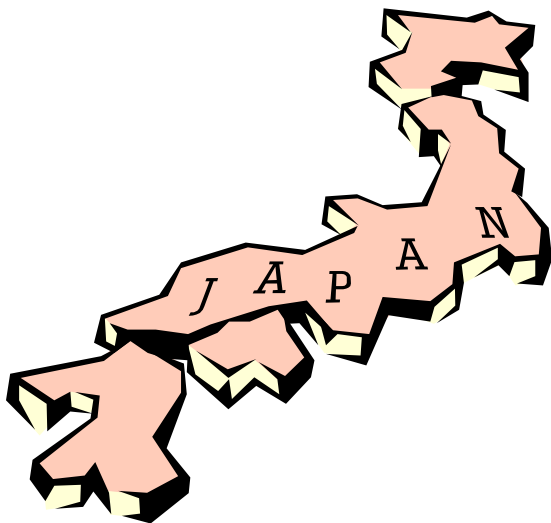
Open air shopping malls are everywhere; no need to worry as there is no such thing as a North Dakota winter in Japan. Yes, Japan is expensive, but there are deals everywhere. Video arcades, 100 Yen dollar stores, CD/DVD/LD, and used book stores are everywhere. If there is barely enough room, then there is probably a shop there too. New manga is about 400 yen (\$4); used is about one US dollar.

English or Japanglish is everywhere, for example my notebook declares... "When I changed concept, I could see genuine articles. A reliable brand selected by those with good tastes." Yeah, whatever, I needed a notebook.

Video games are generally one play per US dollar, some have better deals. Fighter style games are most common type. Dance Dance Revolution and Samba (a maraca game) usually give you three games if you pass the stages. Most DDR machines are using 4th mix in Nagasaki. Essentially, you can learn to play basic guitar, drums, and many others musical instruments just by playing the arcade games. As for console games, they are DIRT CHEAP.

School and work for the Japanese is six days a week. The Japanese prize education very highly; you will see children of all ages commuting to school on any given day.

The food is some of the best stuff I have had anywhere, and I have eaten foods from around the world. Miso soup with miscellaneous contents and rice are usually basic for supper, along with many other dishes. Salad and great tasting white bread with honey are typical in the morning with Ocha (Japanese tea) in between. Chinese restaurants are everywhere. They do not serve American ramen, instead it is Chinese Raamen, Um Um good! Ja ne Yo!



The White Serpent vs. The Black Rose

by Jeff Brothers

Jeff and Patrick were up in their announcers' booth preparing for the first Crossover Anime Chaos Battle of the season. Jeff was reading off a checklist to Patrick.

"New stadium."

"Rented out the Fargodome. Check."

"Fighters."

"Naga and Kodachi are warming up in the arena. Check."

"First-aid supplies."

"Twenty cases of assorted bandages. Check."

"Referee."

"Daniel's not here, yet."

"What's that about me?" Patrick and Jeff looked up to see the last of the three brothers walk in through the door.

Jeff stood up to greet him, "You're finally here! Now we can start!"

Daniel looked out on the arena with disgust as he said, "I can't believe I actually came. What did you want me for?"

"You didn't tell him?" Jeff asked Patrick.

Patrick just shrugged. "It must've slipped my mind."

As Daniel turned back to them Jeff said, "I asked you here to be the referee for our fights."

Daniel stared for a moment. "You're joking, right? I don't even like that stuff!"

"That's the point," Patrick interjected. "Since you hate all anime, you don't have any favorites."

"Besides," Jeff added, "We'll reimburse you."

There was silence for a moment. "With what?"

"I'll let you play as much Madden as you want."

Daniel looked suspicious for a moment but then nodded.

"Great! You head down to the floor and we'll introduce the match."

Still looking wary, Daniel ambled down to the arena floor. Just as Daniel got down to the bottom level, Jeff came on the PA system.

"Welcome to a new year of fights, and the NDSU Fargodome. We'd also like to welcome our other brother, Daniel, who will be ref-ing the matches from now on. To kick off the year, we have Naga the White Serpent, from the show *Slayers*, taking on Kodachi "The Black Rose" Kuno, from *Ranma ½*."

As Kodachi and Naga entered the arena from opposite sides, Daniel began to look nervous.

Patrick then continued, "This should be a popular fight among the guys, considering that the two fighters like to wear next-to-nothing."

As Kodachi and Naga began posing in their leotard and leather battle bikini respectively, recognition dawned on Daniel's face.

"TIME OUT!" he shouted.

Continued page 7...

Everyone looked puzzled as Daniel rushed out of the arena and into the announcers' booth.

"Why didn't you tell me that it was the psycho gymnast and demented sorceress that were fighting?" Daniel growled as he dove into the closet in the back.

"Because then you wouldn't take the job," said Patrick matter-of-factly.

The rummaging in the closet paused for a second. "Good point," Daniel admitted.

"Does this mean you're going to quit?" asked Jeff.

"No, I said I would do it, didn't I?" Daniel emerged from the closet clad in hockey pads and a football helmet. He was also carrying an aluminum baseball bat across his right shoulder. "If I'm going to be a target, I might as well be prepared."

Once Daniel returned to the arena floor Jeff came back on over the intercom.

"Now that our ref is ready, I've got another surprise for you."

Patrick looked up in shock. He hadn't been told about this part.

"One of the best parts of fight is listening to the fighters banter with each other. That's why I equipped the fighters with microphones earlier." With that Jeff flipped a switch on the control panel and said, "Have at it, people!"

Patrick looked at his brother skeptically. "You didn't think this out too hard, did you?"

"What makes you say that?"

Down on the floor, Naga and Kodachi had begun taunting each other with their microphones, carrying every syllable to every corner of the Fargodome.

"You might as well give up now, girl," shouted Kodachi as she twirled her gymnastics ribbon. "No one can defeat the rising star of martial arts rhythmic gymnastics world. OHOHOOHOOH!"

"You? Defeat me?" Naga scoffed. "Don't make me laugh!" She followed the comment up by laughing herself.

All around the stadium, the spectators started covering their ears in a vain attempt to block out the horrible noise of the two competitors' cackling. This was futile because with the PA system amplifying the sound, the laughing just kept getting louder and louder.

"I think I see what you're talking about," said Jeff as he tried to cover his ears as well.

Patrick quickly turned off Naga and Kodachi's microphones, but it didn't help. The sound of the horrible laughing echoing off of the dome only worked to amplify the sound. It wasn't long before the building began to shake.

"Their laughing must match the building's sympathetic frequency," Patrick shouted over the noise.

"What's that mean?"

"It means the Fargodome is coming down around our ears!"

"Oh."

Meanwhile, the audience had realized that the

structure wouldn't last much longer and had begun to evacuate.

"Kyle, come on!" a girl in white robes and with tufted ears shouted over the din. "We have to get going!"

The man in question was dressed like a mountain bandit and had huge broadsword strapped to his back. He was, instead, enraptured by the horrible noise coming from the arena floor.

"Listen to it, Jessie. Isn't it the most beautiful sound you ever heard?"

Jessie stared for only a second before she whipped out a mace. "This is for your own good, you tone deaf idiot," she said as she clocked him in the back of the head. After she knocked him out she dragged him out of the arena.

On the arena floor, Daniel had managed to find a handy table to hide under while Naga and Kodachi continued to cackle at each other.

"I hate my life," he muttered as the structure finally gave up the ghost and collapsed in a heap.

Slowly, Daniel managed to climb his way out from the rubble, groaning all the way.

Once he was finally clear, he laid down on his back. "What do I do now?"

Suddenly a heap of rubble a few yards away exploded outward to reveal Naga posing victoriously.

"You silly girl! Did you really think dropping a building on me would defeat me?" she bellowed. "I've taken much worse at the hands of my rival, Lina Inverse. OHOHOOHOOH!"

Daniel winced. "I guess this means she wins," he muttered. Walking up to the sorceress he said, "Congratulations. You wanna cookie?"

Naga actually stopped laughing to look at him in surprise. "A cookie?"

Meanwhile, Patrick and Jeff were digging themselves out of the remains of the control booth.

"There goes our security deposit," muttered Jeff as he surveyed the ruins.

Jeff Brothers



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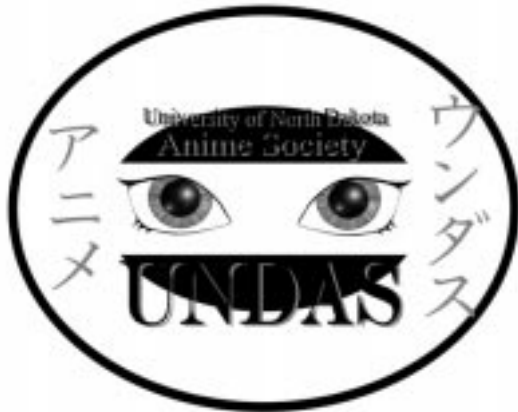
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For Your Calendar...

UNDAS meets every Wednesday in Wilkerson, room 32, UND campus. Come on over for the hottest anime titles in the state!



Events we'd like you to know about:

Japanese Night: The International Centre is hosting a Japanese culture night on November 8. Show up at 7:00pm for an informative and fun look at Japanese life!

El-Hazard Marathon: Reading and Review Day, we'll be hosting a marathon showing of *El Hazard: The Magnificent World 1 and 2*. Come and enjoy the journeys of Mokoto and his teacher, Mr. Fujisawa, as they wander a land of endless magic, considerable danger, and nonstop comedy! Friday, December 14, starting at 11:30am.

UNDAS XMAS Party: immediately following the El Hazard Marathon...check your local listings for time and channel.