

Anime • Videogames • Manga

Genki Life

May

7

春 2012

Spring
Mar 20-June 20

World Cosplay Summit Prelims

Asian-Americans in Universities
Spring Conventions

Manga Inside!



Also

Seiyûs of Winter 2012

Rise of Digital Comics



20th L'Anniversary L'Arc-en-Ciel



World Tour 2012

New York at The Garden

March 23rd, 2012

With more cities to be announced www.larc-en-ciel.com

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Issue 7, Spring March 19 - June 20, 2012

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Editor's

Note

Another season has come and gone. For us here in Southern California, it had been a warm winter season. Our average was 15-20°F warmer than our normal seasonal average. Could we call this global warming? This is a strong la niña season after all. Other than the warm season, most of our staff has started new jobs and school at the beginning of the year. Luckily, I had changed the production schedule to "work around" everyones work and school schedules. Whew!! What a tough deadline!

This spring marks the first year anniversary of the Japanese tsunami and earthquake that devastated northeastern Japan. Recovery is going pretty well, but still help whenever possible.

This issue, Genki Life Magazine has teamed up with the folks at Mizuumi-Con in San Antonio, Texas, for a contest. All you do is click on "Like" on our respective Facebook pages for a chance to win a family pack of four free tickets to Mizuumi-Con. That's all there is to it, however, restrictions do apply. Our respective links are:

www.facebook.com/pages/Genshiken-of-the-Inland-Empire/150293410755

and

www.facebook.com/mizuumicon?ref=ts

- *Ed Gomez*

Graphic Designer

Publisher-Genki Life Magazine, President-GIE



anime.studioartmix.com • borgman_eiji@studioartmix.com



Anime • Videogames • Manga
Genki Life
Magazine

Staff

Publisher & Editor

Ed Gomez

Contributors & Writers

Yukimura82

Hinata Aoi

Lageon

The Goon

Staff Photographers

Timothy Brillo

Andy Van

Lageon

Graphic Design & Layout

Ed Gomez

NiteCore

We're always looking for contributors to this magazine in the fields of writing, reporting, reviewing, photography and graphic design. If you would like to contribute to this magazine, have any suggestions or feedback, please e-mail us at: gje.glm@groups.facebook.com borgman_eiji@studioartmix.com

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SPOT**

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Kyle Hebert and Wendee Lee

MARCH 3, 2012

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 @Knightrokon


NGUYEN
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2012

Guests of Honor

Concerts

Screenings/
Premieres

Exhibit Hall

Cosplaying
Events

Masquerade

Summer
Festival

Artist Alley

Workshops/
Panels

Arcade

Tabletop
Gaming

Console
Gaming

Dances

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Food Trucks

and
MUCH MORE...

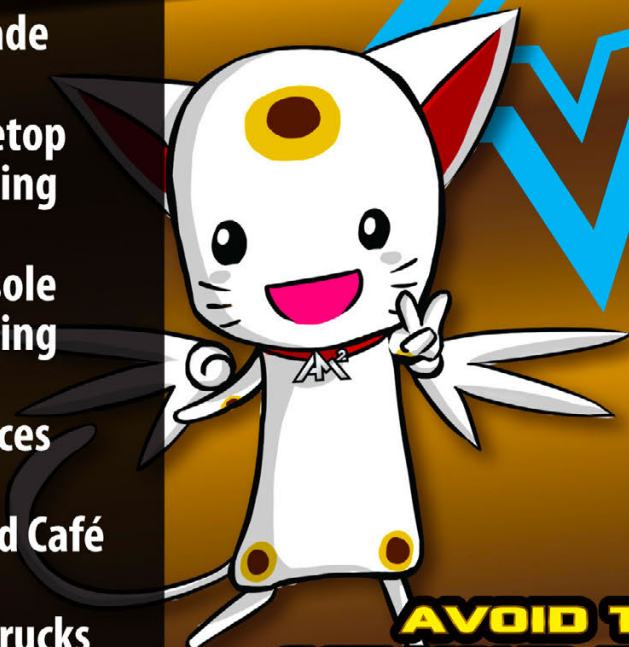
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The Pros and Cons



of Making a Digital Jump With Comics

A nime News Network did an in-depth comparison of reading manga on an iPad vs. a Nook Color today, after Viz Media sent them both devices so they could do a hands-on look at making the digital jump. After taking a hit from the closing of Borders, Viz decided to turn its popular Shonen Jump publication into a digital-only product. Launched in January, *Weekly Shonen Jump Alpha* is \$25.99 for an annual subscription, with three of its flagship series — *One Piece*, *Bleach* and *Naruto* — now running almost concurrent with the Japanese release. Individual issues can be rented for 99 cents for a 4-week period.

The results aren't surprising. By holding up a volume of manga next to an iPad, it shows that the iPad is right about the same size as a manga volume and the experience is just as good as reading a print book. What the article does highlight is the problems that the Nook Color has with Viz's products, especially when it comes to things such as double-page spreads. It doesn't touch on the Kindle Fire, however, since Viz hasn't ported its app out to it yet. As expected, the big drawback to the iPad is the price. While manga sold via Viz's iPad app is cheaper than the print volumes, the price of an iPad would be the barrier preventing teens from completely making that digital jump Viz wants them to make.

We originally looked at the Viz app in 2010, and we were pretty pleased with its offerings then. If you haven't considered a digital transition of your manga and comics yet, the ANN article is a good way to see if you'd want to do so. While I still prefer buying print graphic novels, my comic-buying habits are a mix of supporting my favorite local comic shop and buying digital manga through Comixology and Viz — the latter being excellent for long series that take up a ton of shelf space.

❖ Megan Lavey-Heaton



Mizuumi-Con 5

Our Lady of the Lake University ~ San Antonio, TX

March 31, 2012

Featuring
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&
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BAKA & TEST

HETALIA

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<http://mizuumicon.org>




/mizuumicon



ARAKAWA

UNDER THE BRIDGE

'Arakawa'
adaptation
washes up on
love's muddy
banks



Sexy Venusian expat Nino-san (Mirei Kiritanii) introduces equally sexy salaryman Kō (Kento Hayashi) to a strange new manga-esque world among a homeless encampment by Tokyo's Arakawa River.

Manga artists have one great advantage over live-action film directors: They can fantasize and satirize and otherwise have fun with their characters without worrying how flesh-and-blood actors will interpret them. As American comic artist R. Crumb once told his readers, "It's only lines on paper, folks!!" Instead of making manga characters more realistically human, actors in Japanese film adaptations of popular comics typically imitate the originals, which leads to a lot of odd, over-caffinated performances.

In bringing Hikaru Nakamura's hit manga *"Arakawa Under the Bridge"* to the screen, director Ken Iizuka (*"Sairen," "Summer Nude"*) abandoned any attempt at realism from the get-go, opting instead for tongue-in-cheek stylization in everything from the outlandish costumes to the clipped line deliveries. The film, however, is not the quirky romp promised in its trailer; in its final act it devolves into a preachy, overwrought melodrama on that eternal theme of Japanese films — father-son miscommunication.

It begins promisingly enough. The hero, Kou Ichinomiya (Kento Hayashi), is the straight-arrow, messed-up son of a robotically remote company president father (Takaya Kamikawa). Dad's mantra, which he has drilled into Kou since boyhood, is "never owe anyone anything."

When his father orders him to spy on homeless folks squatting on land by Tokyo's Arakawa River earmarked for a grandiose building project, Kou obediently sets out in suit and tie. Before he can infiltrate his targets, however, he tumbles into the drink — and is miraculously rescued by a mysterious blonde-haired woman (Mirei Kiritani). Calling herself Nino-san (a play on the label reading "2-3" [ni-no-san] on her track suit), she claims to be from the planet Venus, but is living by the Arakawa.

Anxious to erase his debt to Nino, Kou asks her what she wants for saving him. Her

answer: "Your love." Feeling honor-bound to oblige, though a stranger to that emotion himself, Kou decides to move into the homeless encampment as Nino's platonic lover-in-training.

First, though, he has to be vetted by the encampment's "mayor" (Shun Oguri), a guy in a kappa (water sprite) costume who testily claims to be the real green-skinned deal. Once Kou receives the mayor's blessing, as well as a new name, Rikuruto ("Recruit") or "Riku" for short, he finds himself in a strange world in which everyone looks and acts like members of a bizarre cosplay club. There is Hoshi (Takayuki Yamada), a rock star manqué who wears a yellow star mask — and hates Riku



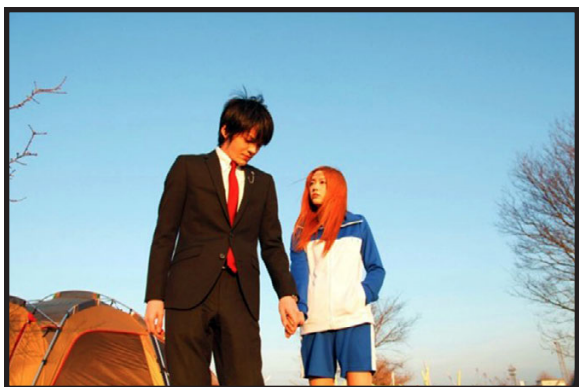
for his instant winning of Nino. There is also Sister (Yu Shirota), a tall, menacing guy who walks around in a nun's habit brandishing lethal weaponry. This homeless village, in other words, is hardly paradise. Even so, the easygoing ways and good hearts of its denizens soften Riku's company-man shell. It is Nino, though, who finally breaks through and teaches him the meaning of love. But she is also homesick for Venus. Will Riku and Nino's planets ever align?

As is often the case with film adaptations of long-running manga — Nakamura's de-

buted in *Young Gangan* magazine in 2004 — "Arakawa" tries to cram in as many characters and incidents from the original as possible, which wearied this nonfan. It's somewhat as if "The Wizard of Oz" had introduced each and every Munchkin.

More problematically, the goofy-if-sweet love story of Riku and Nino ends up taking second place to the turgid histrionics of Riku's vexed relationship with his tyrant of a father, including a riverbank standoff that unfolds in geologic time. Much funnier as comedy and more satisfying as drama is *"Kin'yu Hametsu Nippon: Togenkyo no Hitobito (Shangri-La)"*, Takashi Miike's 2002 black comedy about homeless folks who aid a suicidal printer bankrupted by a devious supermarket magnate. But the film had no best-selling manga behind it and appeared when Miike was still considered a video hack at home, a crazy "king of cult" abroad. So like the real homeless residents of Arakawa's banks, who live under blue tarps rather than in the film's hippy-resort encampment, "Shangri-La" fell between the cracks.

Will the same fate befall "Arakawa?" The casting of Hayashi, Oguri and Yamada — hot male stars all — may draw the female demographic, fans of the manga or no. If they can see past the funny masks, that is. For many guys, though, the film will peak with the arrival of Kiritani as a radiant angel of salvation, offering bliss at hello. Venus, here I come. **Mark Schilling**



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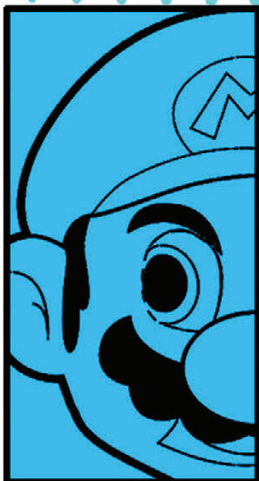


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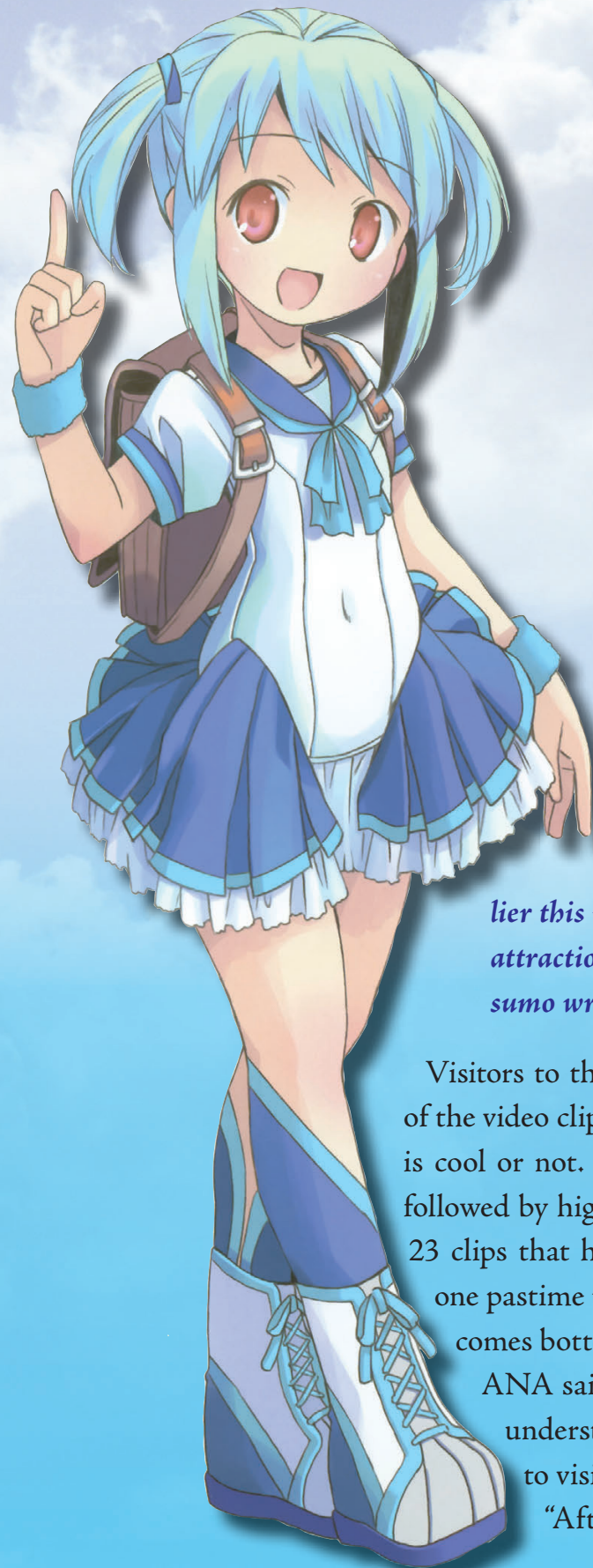
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IS ○ JAPAN COOL?



All Nippon Airways launched its “Cool Campaign” on its new website Friday, giving visitors the opportunity to win free, round-trip tickets to Japan. The airline introduced its interactive “Is Japan Cool?” website earlier this month to highlight some of the most interesting, fun and offbeat attractions in the country — from elaborately attired Harajuku girls to sumo wrestlers on bicycles, conveyer-belt sushi and public bath-houses.

Visitors to the site — www.ana-cooljapan.com — can then click on each of the video clips for more information and then vote for whether something is cool or not. Top of the rankings at the moment is Japanese hospitality, followed by high-tech toilets, hot spring spas, Mount Fuji and Soba. Of the 23 clips that had been introduced at the time of writing, karaoke — just one pastime that Japan is famous for sharing with the rest of the world — comes bottom of the pile in terms of “coolness.”

ANA said it created the site to spark new interest in Japan, to deepen understanding of the nation’s culture and to encourage more people to visit.

“After the Great East Japan Earthquake on March 11, 2011,



ANA has been striving to increase tourism to Japan through a wide variety of approaches, including a campaign to attract students from abroad,” the company said. “ANA continues to entice people around the world by highlighting the attractiveness of Japan, working to become a bridge between Japan and the world.”

The eclectic mix of trends on the site also includes a new generation of ultra-modern vending machines, the soon-to-open Tokyo Sky Tree, which will be the tallest tower in the world, maid cafes, capsule hotels, electrical goods stores, sake rice wine, visits to shrines, “gyudon” beef and manga cafes.

Japan Airlines, the nation’s other main carrier, the Japanese government, the national tourism agency and other companies are making strenuous efforts to increase the number of tourists coming to Japan after the disasters of last year.

In early February, the government set itself the ambitious target of attracting 18 million visitors a year to its shores by 2016. A record 8.61 million tourists visited Japan in 2010, attracted by a major campaign to raise the nation’s profile as a vacation destination. Tourism authorities were hoping to build on that success in 2011 and had set a target of ten million foreign visitors a year. That target became impossible to achieve after the massive earthquake of March 11. In October, the Japan National Tourism Organisation proposed a campaign that would have seen 10,000 free flights awarded to tourists who would have used social media to express their favorite aspects of the country but, despite news of the potential campaign going viral, the scheme was not approved. ❖ [AFP Relax News](#)



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Rockville, MD

T-MODE

2012

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Convention**

www.tmode.org



Convention Schedule

Spring 2012

Tekkoshon

March 21-25
Pittsburgh Wyndham Grand
Pittsburgh, PA
www.tekkoshon.com

Con-nichiwa

March 23-25
Holiday Inn Palo Verde
Tucson, AZ
www.con-nichiwa.com

Animarathon

March 24
Bowling Green State University
Bowling Green, OH
www.animarathon.com

Kappa Kon

March 24-25
South Milwaukee High School
South Milwaukee, WI
www.kappakon.webs.com

SunnyCon

March 24-26
Crowtree Leisure Centre
Sunderland, UK
www.sunnycon.co.uk

Anime Detour

March 30 - April 1
Sheraton Bloomington Hotel,
Minneapolis South
Minneapolis, MN
www.animedetour.com

Conbust

March 30 - April 1
Smith College (Seelye Hall)
Northampton, MA
sophia.smith.edu/conbust/

EvilleCon

March 30 - April 1
Holiday Inn Evansville Airport
Hotel,
Evansville, IN
www.evillecon.com

I-Con

March 30 - April 1
Stony Brook University
Stony Brook, NY
www.iconsf.org

Kitsune Kon

March 30 - April 1
Radisson Paper Valley Hotel
Appleton, WI
www.kitsunekon.com

Sukoshicon: Birmingham

March 30 - April 1
Clarion Hotel
Birmingham, AL
[www.sukoshicon.com/bham/
location.html](http://www.sukoshicon.com/bham/location.html)

CGA Show Sun Coast

March 31
Charlotte Harbor Event and
Conference Center
Punta Gorda, FL
[www.suncoast.cgashows.com/
home.php](http://www.suncoast.cgashows.com/home.php)

Mizuumi-Con

March 31
Our Lady of the Lake University
San Antonio, TX
www.mizuumicon.org

AnimeFiesta Kuala Lumpur

March 31 - April 1
Kuala Lumpur Convention
Centre, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
kualalumpur.is-into-anime.com

Birmingham MCM Expo

March 31 - April 1
The NEC Birmingham
Birmingham, UK
www.birminghamcomiccon.com

Highlands International Comic Expo

March 31 - April 1
Eden Court Theatre, Inverness, UK
www.bi-ex.co.uk

Jaycon

March 31 - April 1
Holiday Inn Express
Elizabethtown (Hershey
Area), Elizabethtown, PA
www.jaycon.weebly.com

NashiCon

March 31 - April 1
Columbia Metropolitan
Convention Center
Columbia, SC
www.nashicon.com

Castle Point Anime Convention

April 1
Stevens Institute of
Technology
Hoboken, NJ
www.stevens.edu/anime/cgi-bin/cpac/

Anime Boston

April 6-8
Hynes Convention Center
Boston, MA
www.animeboston.com

Anime Matsuri

April 6-8
The Woodlands Waterway
Marriott Hotel & Convention
Center, Woodlands, TX
www.animematsuri.com

iFreeCon

April 6-8
Florida State University
Tallahassee, FL
[www.tallahasseeanime.com/
freecon/](http://www.tallahasseeanime.com/freecon/)



Convention Schedule

Spring 2012 *Continued*

Middle Tennessee Anime Convention

April 6-8
Nashville Convention Center /
Renaissance Nashville Hotel
Nashville, TN
www.mtac.net

Sakura-Con

April 6-8
Washington State Convention &
Trade Center, Seattle, WA
www.sakuracon.org

Triad Anime Convention

April 6-8
The Hawthorne Inn & Confer-
ence Center, Winston-Salem, NC
www.triadanimecon.com



CGA Show Space Coast

April 7
DoubleTree by Hilton Cocoa
Beach Oceanfront
Cocoa Beach, FL
www.cgashows.com/page.php?21

Banzaicon

April 13-15
Sliperiet, Larvik, Norway
www.banzaicon.net

Chicago Comic & Entertainment Expo

April 13-15
North Building at McCormick
Place
Chicago, IL
www.c2e2.com

CyPhaCon

April 13-15
Lake Charles Civic
Center
Lake Charles, LA
www.cyphacon.com

Khaotic Kon

April 13-15
Doubletree Hotel
Tampa Westshore
Airport
Tampa, FL
www.khaotickon.com

Kitacon

April 13-15
Hilton Birmingham
Metropole Hotel
Birmingham, UK
www.kitacon.org

Supanova Pop Culture Expo

April 13-15
Melbourne Showgrounds
Melbourne, VIC Australia
www.supanova.com.au

UBCon

April 13-15
University of Buffalo, North
Campus
Buffalo, NY
www.ubcon.org

Anime Day Vegas

April 14
The Adventuredome at Circus
Circus
Las Vegas, NV
www.animedayvegas.com

Anime St. Louis

April 20-22
Gateway Center
Collinsville, IL
www.animestl.net

Supanova Pop Culture Expo

April 20-22
Gold Coast Convention and
Exhibition Centre
Broadbeach, QLD Australia
www.supanova.com.au

T-MODE

April 20-22
Hilton Washington DC/Rock-
ville Hotel & Executive Meeting
Ctr, Rockville, MD
www.tmode.org

Tora-Con

April 20-22
Rochester Institute of
Technology, Rochester, NY
toracon.rit.edu

FanExpo Vancouver

April 21-22
Vancouver Convention Centre
Vancouver, British Columbia
www.fanexpovancouver.com

Mang'Azur

April 21-22
Palais Des Congres Neptune
Toulon, France
www.mangazur.fr

Nadeshicon

April 21-22
Université Laval
Quebec City, Quebec
www.nadeshicon.com

Bak-Anime

April 22
Doubletree Hotel Bakersfield
Bakersfield, CA
www.bak-anime.com

BotCon

April 26-29
Hyatt Regency Dallas
Dallas, TX
www.botcon.com/BotCon2012/

Anime Central

April 27-29
Hyatt Regency O'Hare / Donald
E. Stephens Convention Center
Rosemont, IL
www.acen.org



PariahCon

April 27-29
Imperial Swan Hotel & Suites
Lakeland, FL
www.pariahcon.com

Shinboku Con

April 27-29
Ramada Elyria, Ohio
Elyria, OH
www.shinbokucon.com

Eastern Shore Fan Con

April 28
University of Maryland
Eastern Shore
Princess Anne, MD
www.easternshorefancon.com

Japan Play Transylvania

April 28-29
Casa de cultură a studenților /
Turnul Croitorilor
Cluj-Napoca, Romania
www.japan-play.com/ro/

Quinni-Con

April 28-29
Quinnipiac University York
Hill Campus
Hamden, CT
www.quinni-con.com

Animefest

May 4-6
Hotel International / Brno
Cultural Center,
Brno, Czech Republic
www.animefest.cz

BAMCon

May 4-6
Crowne Plaza Pittsfield -
Berkshires, Pittsfield, MA
www.bam-con.com

CoreCon

May 4-6
AmericInn of Moorhead, MN
Moorhead, MN
www.fargocorecon.org



No Brand Con

May 4-6
Plaza Hotel and Suites
Eau Claire, WI
www.nobrandcon.com

Zenkaikon

May 11-12
Greater Philadelphia Expo
Center at Oaks
Oaks, PA
www.zenkaikon.com

SVSCon

May 11-13
Sportscenter Herning
Herning, Denmark
www.svscon.dk

Anime-Park

May 12
Canton High School
Canton, MI
sites.google.com/site/animeparkcon/

Bristol Comic Expo

May 12-13
Brunel's Old Station - The Pas-
senger Shed
Bristol, UK
www.bristolexpo.co.uk

CamCon

May 12-13
The Junction
Cambridge, UK
www.thecamcon.com

Anime 2012

May 18-20
Theater Hotel Almelo
Almelo, Netherlands
www.animecon.nl

LouisiANIME

May 18-20
Hilton Lafayette
Lafayette, LA
www.louisianime.com

Mobicon

May 18-20
Ashbury Hotel & Suites
Mobile, AL
www.mobicon.org

Nauticon

May 18-20
Provincetown Inn
Provincetown, MA
www.nauticons.com

Otafest

May 18-20
University of Calgary
Calgary, Alberta
www.otafest.com

All pictures on this page were taken by Jerry N. Shaw. Jerry N. Shaw is the copyright holder of record of these pictures.

Convention Schedule

Spring 2012 *Continued*



OkamiCon

May 19
CasaBlanca Resort & Casino
Mesquite, NV
www.okamicon.com

Kirsikankukkacon

May 19-20
Klassikon koulu
Turku, Finland
kikucon2012.animeunioni.org

Animazement

May 24-27
Raleigh Convention Center
Raleigh, NC
www.animazement.org

Anime Oasis

May 24-27
Grove Hotel / Quest Arena
Boise, ID
www.animeoasis.org

Phoenix Comicon

May 24-27
Phoenix Convention Center
Phoenix, AZ
www.phoenixcomicon.com

Anime North

May 25-27
Toronto Congress Center
Toronto, Ontario
www.animenorth.com

Comicpalooza

May 25-27
George R. Brown Convention
Center, Houston, TX
www.comicpalooza.com

Florida Anime Experience

May 25-27
International Palms Resort &
Conference Center, Orlando, FL
www.floridaanime.com

London MCM Expo

May 25-27
ExCeL Convention Centre, Royal
Victoria Dock, London, UK
www.londonexpo.com

Ultima Con

May 25-27
Sheraton New Orleans Hotel
New Orleans, LA
www.ultimacon.com

FanimeCon

May 25-28
San Jose McEnery Convention
Center, San Jose, CA
www.fanime.com

DoKomi

May 26-27
Congress Center Düsseldorf
Düsseldorf, Germany
www.dokomi.de

A-Kon

June 1-3
Sheraton Dallas Hotel
Dallas, TX
www.a-kon.com

HamaCon

June 1-3
Von Braun Center
Huntsville, AL
www.hama-con.com





QC Anime-zing!

June 1-3
Clarion Hotel Conference Center
Davenport, IA
www.qcanimezing.com

Colossalcon

June 7-10
Kalahari Resort and Convention
Center, Sandusky, OH
www.colossalcon.com

AnimeNEXT

June 8-10
Garden State Exhibit Center
Somerset, NJ
www.animenext.org/wordpress/

Desucon

June 8-10
Sibelius Hall, Lahti, Finland
www.desucon.fi/desucon/

OMGcon

June 8-10
Julian Carroll Convention Center
Paducah, KY
www.omgcon.com

Sugoku Con

June 8-10
Red Lion Colonial Hotel
Helena, MT
www.sugokucon.homestead.com

Anime Blitz & Comic Spectacle

June 9
Saskatoon Inn
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
www.sllag.info

Knoxville Comic & Anime Con

June 9-10
Falls Cedar Bluff Convention
Center
Knoxville, TN
www.knoxvillecomicanimecon.com

Wie.MAI.KAI

June 9-10
Bürgerhaus Kastel
Wiesbaden, Germany
www.wiemaikai.de

SoDak Anime Convention

June 15-17
Rushmore Plaza Civic Center
Rapid City, SD
www.sdcon.org

AM2

June 15-17
Anaheim Convention Center
Anaheim, CA
www.am2con.org

Anime Mid-Atlantic

June 15-17
Chesapeake Conference Center
Chesapeake, VA
www.animemidatlantic.com

Anime Blues Con

June 15-17
Hilton Memphis, Memphis, TN
www.animeblues.com

Metrocon

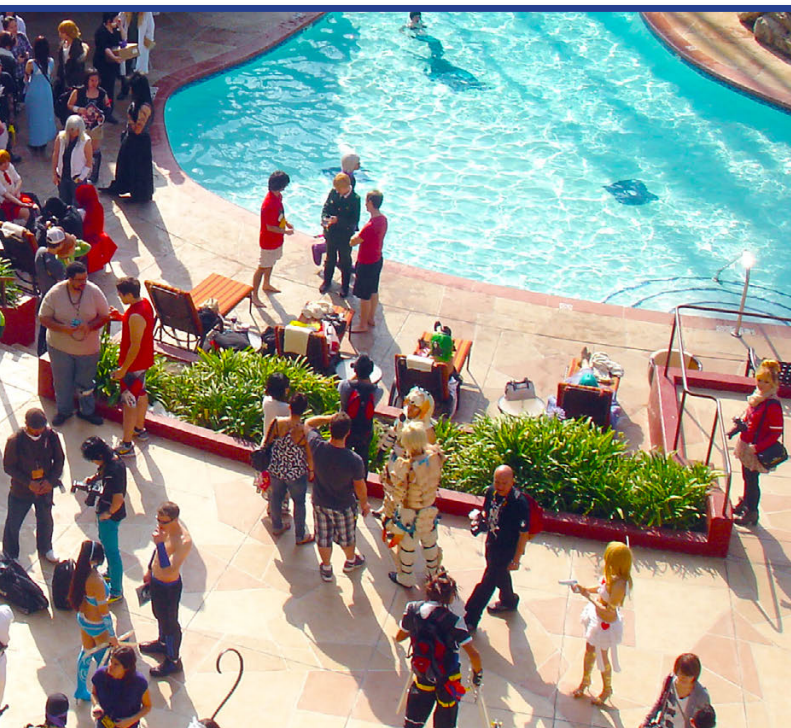
June 15-17
Tampa Convention Center
Tampa, FL
www.metroconventions.com/

Supanova Pop Culture Expo

June 15-17
Sydney Olympic Park
Sydney, NSW Australia
www.supanova.com.au

UppCon

June 15-17
Uppsala Konferens & Kongress
Uppsala, Sweden
12.uppcon.se





OkamiCon

ANIME | COMICS | GAMING

MAY 19TH, 2012

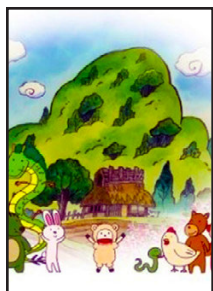
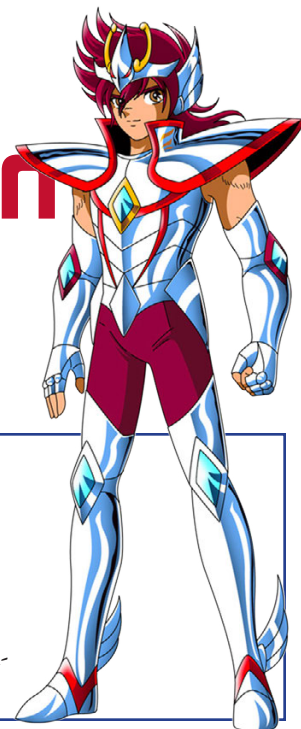
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MESQUITE, NV

WWW.OKAMICON.COM

Anime Schedule

2012 Spring Season



Furusato Saisei: Nippon no Mukashibanashi

ふるさと再生 日本の昔ばなし

Tomason • April 1 • TV Tokyo

The Furusato Saisei Nippon no Mukashi Banashi (Hometown Regeneration: Japan's Folklore) anime TV series will premiere on the TV Tokyo network on April 1. Similar to earlier anime TV series including Manga Nihon Mukashi Banashi and Nihon Omoshiro Mukashi Banashi, "Furusato Saisei" will illustrate Japanese folk tales originating from varying regions of the country. The first episode will illustrate the "Hanasaka Jiisan" fairy tale.



Saint Seiya Ω

聖闘士星矢Ω

Toei Animation • April 1 • TV Asahi • www.toei-anim.co.jp/tv/seiya/

The storyline of Ω takes place in the future era, 25 years after the Holy Wars of the 20th century narrated in the original manga and its anime adaptation. The goddess Athena is still on Earth after reincarnating to cleanse it of the agent of evil as she has done during millennia, accompanied by her *Saints*, fulfilling her duty of protecting peace on Earth, after her victories over antagonistic deities. Athena and a new generation of Saints prepare to face a new menace that lurks in this new era, in which Pegasus Seiya, the protagonist of Kurumada's manga, is revered as a Saint of legend.



Uchū Kyōdai (Space Brothers)

宇宙兄弟

A-1 Pictures • April 1 • Yomiuri TV/Nippon TV • www.ytv.co.jp/uchukyodai/

Once upon a time there were two brothers, Hibito and Mutta. Hibito, the littler brother, had been blessed with good luck since the day he was born. Mutta, the elder, had always had bad luck. One day, looking up at the night sky, the two brothers saw a UFO. This experience made them both promise to become astronauts.



Shiba Inuko-san

しばいぬ子さん

April 1 • TV Tokyo • 4koma.takeshobo.co.jp/cat02/2988/

Shibainuko-san is a 14-year-old girl who looks exactly like a *Shiba Inu* dog. One of her classmates, Ishibashi Chako, wonders about her appearance, but no one else thinks it is strange.

The information presented here is as accurate as much as humanly possible and is subject to change without notice.

Anime Schedule 2012 Spring



Zetman

ゼットマン

TMS Entertainment • April 2 • Yomiuri TV/Tokyo MX/BS11 • zetman.jp

The story starts off with a face-off between two rival heroes, ZET and ALPHAS, and then traces their origins — Jin Kanzaki, a young man with the ability to transform into a superhuman being known as ZET, and Kōga Amagi, a young man with a strong sense of justice who uses technology to fight as ALPHAS. The fates of these two men and those around them intertwine as they fight to protect mankind and destroy monstrous abominations known as Players, who ironically are the creations of the Amagi Corporation, the company founded by Kōga's grandfather, Mitsugai Amagi.



Naruto SD: Rock Lee no Seishun Full-Power Ninden

ロック・リーの青春フルパワー忍伝

Pierrot • April 3 • TV Tokyo • www.tv-tokyo.co.jp/anime/lee/

The hidden village of Konoha. It's the same ninja village where the famous ninja, Naruto, lives. Day and night, it's the ninja's duty to train. This story is about Naruto, who wants to be the strongest of the ninja, but Rock Lee's patience-jutsu technique cannot be used. Even the, Rock Lee still dreams big. "You've become a great ninja, Rock Lee!"



Gakkatsu!

ガッ活!

Fanworks • April 3 • NHK Seg 2 • www9.nhk.or.jp/anime/gakkatsu/

In a fictional school, "Tender Tank" Rareko is constantly opening absurd yet strangely enthusiastic debates, this way creating a lively classroom life. Bringing up tremendous themes, she and her classmates exchange words like sword-strokes, and here and there even a profound remark is slipped in. A fun and informative debate comedy, packed into only five minutes each time.



Ginga e Kick Off!!

銀河へキックオフ!!

TYO Animations • April 3 • NHK • www9.nhk.or.jp/anime/ginga/

The story follows a boy who was in a soccer team, but it was disbanded due to not enough players. However, after the boy meets a female professional soccer player, he aims to bring his soccer team back.



Kimi to Boku. 2

君と僕。 第2期

J.C. Staff • April 3 • TV Tokyo • www.kimiboku.tv

The story revolves around four teens — the good-looking twins Yūta and Yūki Asaba, the effeminate Shun Matsuoka, and the class head Kaname Tsukahara — who have known each other since early childhood. While they are not necessarily good or bad friends, they continue to hang out well into high school. The half-Japanese transfer student Chizuru Tachibana joins the circle of friends in this comedy about the everyday life of adolescence. Second part of *Kimi to Boku*.

g Season



Yurumates 3D

ゆるめいつ 3でい

C2C • April 3 • TV Kanagawa • www.takeshobo.co.jp/sp/tv_yuru/

Yurume, an 18-year-old “ronin” and recent high school graduate, has high hopes of being accepted and attending Tōkyō University. She moves into an apartment complex, the *Maison du Wish*, located on the outskirts of Tōkyō where other ronins living there are studying for upcoming college acceptance exams.



Medaka Box

めだかボックス

GAINAX • April 4 • TV Tokyo • medakabox.jp/

Kurokami Medaka, a first year, is elected as Student Council President, and the first thing she does is establish a suggestion box, later dubbed by students the “*Medaka Box*.” Medaka encourages students to submit any problem to the box without hesitation and promises to take on any issue from anyone. Since Medaka won the Student Council elections with a staggering 98% of the vote, she ends up as the Council’s only member. She asks her childhood friend, Hitoyoshi Zenkichi, for help and he grudgingly agrees, becoming the Student Council’s lowest ranking member.



Sengoku Collection

戦国コレクション

Brains Base • April 5 • TV Tokyo • www.konami.jp/products/sns_mob_sengokucollection/

Anime adaptation of Konami’s *Sengoku Collection* social networking service game, set in the tumultuous Sengoku Era of historical Japan, when military masters circle the figurative throne of Japan’s first shogunate.



Shirokuma Café

しろくまカフェ

Pierrot • April 5 • TV Tokyo • www.tv-tokyo.co.jp/anime/shirokumacafe/

Comedy anime about a polar bear that runs a café with 3 regulars: a panda, a koala, and a penguin.

Anime Schedule 2012 Spring



Kore wa Zombie Desu ka? OF THE DEAD

これはゾンビですか? OF THE DEAD

Studio DEEN • April 5 • Tokyo MX/AT-X • kadokawa-anime.jp/zombie/

Haruna is given the task to hold a Spring Festival at the local shrine, in her own magical-warrior-girl way, of course... Seraphim does not want to be a freeloader at Haruna's and Ayumu's place, so she starts cooking... and a concentration-game contest in the school's main assembly hall pushes Ayumu and Orito to their limits. Second season of "Kore wa Zombie desu ka?"



Natsuiro Kiseki

夏色キセキ

Sunrise • April 5 • MBS • www.natsuiro-kiseki.jp

Original anime featuring the four members of sphere as voice actresses. The anime will feature an opening song, an ending song, and image songs by the voice actress group *Sphere*, who will also star in the anime.



Accel World

アクセル・ワールド

Sunrise • April 6 • Tokyo MX • www.accel-world.net

One autumn day in 2046, Haruyuki has an encounter with Kuroyukihime, the prettiest girl in his school. For the middle school boy who is often bullied, the meeting changes his life. Through a mysterious piece of software from her, Haruyuki learns of the existence of the virtual *Accel World*. In that moment, the lowest of the "school caste" becomes "Burst Linker," a knight defending a princess.



Acchi Kocchi (Place to Place)

あっちこっち

AIC • April 6 • TBS/BS-TBS • www.tbs.co.jp/anime/ackc/

Wouldn't you just love to poke in a relationship between two young high schoolers who have a subtle distance between each other? Of course you would. Tsumiki and Io have this subtle distance that anyone would want to jump in between just to bug them. That's what the other characters are there for. Tsumiki, being a tsundere and all, won't be honest about her feelings toward Io. Io on the other hand is unaware of Tsumiki's feelings, hence the subtle distance between the two. Now, let's watch these two and see what events await them...



Sankarea

さんかれあ

Studio DEEN • April 6 • TBS/BS-TBS • www.tbs.co.jp/anime/sankarea/

Furuya's obsessed with zombies. He collects any figurines, watches any movie, and plays any game with the living dead, and is even only interested in zombie girls. When his cat dies, Furuya begins trying to raise it from the dead using an ancient book of the occult he bought from a shop. But what will happen when he sees the idol of a nearby all girl's school walking close to where he conducts his experiment, wishing to die and be reborn as a different person?

g Season



Pretty Rhythm: Dear My Future

プリティーリズム ディアマイフューチャー

Tatsunoko Production • April 7 • TV Tokyo/BS Japan • www.tv-tokyo.co.jp/anime/prettyrhythm/dmf/

Three years after the events of "Pretty Rhythm: Aurora Dream," Aira, Mion and Rizumu have grown up and tutor a new group of aspiring idols: Karin, Reina, Mia and Ayami, who form the Prizmmmy☆. Teenage girls from Korea, named Somin, Shiyoon, Haein, Chaekyung and Jae Eun (who are the Kara), appear as a rival group.



Kuroko no Basuke (Kuroko's Basketball)

黒子のバスケ

Production I.G • April 7 • MBS/TOKYO MX • www.kurobas.com

Kuroko is a member from the legendary middle school basketball team known as "The Generation of Miracles," and while nobody seems to know about him, the main five players of the team all admit that he is a better player. When he joins the high school basketball team, everyone is surprised to find out that he is small, weak, and easy to miss. What is the secret that makes him so strong, and how will he help his high school team?



Jewelpet Kira☆Deko!

ジュエルペットきら☆デコッ!

Studio Comet • April 7 • TV Tokyo • www.jewelpet.jp

The Plum Section of the 3rd grade class at the Sunshine Academy in Jewel Land are also known as "the Leftovers." Ruby and her classmates aim to graduate and follow their dreams. The fourth season of Jewelpet.



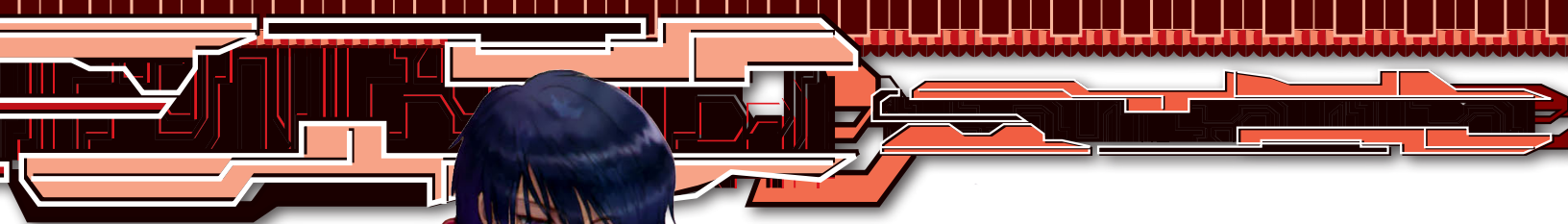
Upotte!!

うぽって!!

XEBEC • April 7 • Nico Nico Douga • www.upotte.jp

A teacher is looking for a school by the name of Seishō Academy, as he is a new transfer teacher for that school. Seishō Academy is known for having students with excellent marksmanship. However, he gets lost along the way and decides to look for someone who knows where the school is at a summer festival. He encounters a girl at a shooting range and finds her marksmanship skills to be professional. The girl tells the new teacher that she is an assault rifle, not a student. Her name is FNC and is an assault rifle of Seishō Academy.

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Shining Hearts 2012 Spring



Shining Hearts ~Shiawase no Pan~ (Shining Hearts: Bread of Happiness)
 シャイニング・ハーツ ～幸せのパン～
 Production I.G • April 2012 • Tokyo MX/MBS/CBC • shining-world.jp/hearts/
 One day, a mysterious girl named Kaguya was washed ashore the island of Wyndaria after a great storm. She encounters Rick, a swordsman who wound up working at the island's bakery. Apparently, Kaguya is suffering from having lost her memories and emotions. In addition, the usually peaceful Wyndaria is now swarming with pirates who came seeking for the special spirit stone that is worn around Kaguya's neck. Knowing the situation, Rick and his co-workers, Nellis, Amyl, and Aerie decided to bring back peace to island and help Kaguya regain her lost memories and emotions.

g Season



Nazo no Kanojô X (Mysterious Girlfriend X)

謎の彼女X

Hoods Entertainment • April 7 • Tokyo MX • www.starchild.co.jp/special/nazokano_x/

One day, a strange transfer student appears before Tsubaki. Urabe Mikoto is an antisocial girl, whose hobby is just sleeping during class-breaks. One day, Tsubaki goes to wake her up and accidentally tastes her drool... and gets hooked on that! After that, he starts going out with her and gets to know her better. Her second hobby, as it turns out, is carrying around scissors in her panties and cutting paper into flowers...



Baku TECH! Bakugan

爆TECH! 爆丸

April 7 • Tokyo MX • www.bakugan.jp/anime/

Bakugan is the card game for a new generation. In “*Baku TECH*” passionate warriors fight each other and risk their life for Bakugan.



Fate/Zero 2nd Season

フェイト/ゼロ2

ufotable • April 8 • Tokyo MX • www.fate-zero.jp

Fate/Zero takes place 10 years prior to the events of *Fate/Stay Night*, detailing the events of the 4th Holy Grail War in Fuyuki City. The War of the Holy Grail is a contest in which seven magi summon seven Heroic Spirits to compete to obtain the power of the “*Holy Grail*,” which grants a miracle. After three inconclusive wars for the elusive Holy Grail, the Fourth War commences. Second part of *Fate/Zero*.



Cardfight!! Vanguard: Asia Circuit Hen

カードファイト!! ヴァンガード アジアサーキット編

TMS Entertainment • April 8 • TV Tokyo • cf-vanguard.com/en/

The Asia Circuit is a huge tournament where Aichi, Kai, Misaki, Kamui and Ren have to travel around Asia to fight different fighters. The first tournament will be in Singapore. The other side characters like Miwa, Morikawa, etc will be left in Japan and Miwa will be looking after Card Capital, as the Acting Shop Owner, during the Tournament Period. Sequel of *Cardfight!! Vanguard*.



Phi Brain: Kami no Puzzle 2nd Season

ファイ・ブレイン ～神のパズル 第2シリーズ

Sunrise • April 8 • NHK-E • www.phibrain.net/index.html

Kaito Daimon would be a completely average high school student except for one thing: he's a ‘demon’ at solving puzzles. Kaito is so brilliant, in fact, that when he's asked to take some ‘special’ tests of his unique ability, he immediately suspects that the test itself is a test. Kaito suddenly finds himself caught up in a lethal Philosopher's Puzzle made by the sinister group POG, a murderous maze of trap upon trap, where failing to solve the secret correctly will result in death! Second season of *Phi Brain: Kami no Puzzle*.

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Anime Schedule 2012 Spring



Saki: Achiga-hen episode of side-A

咲-Saki-阿知賀編 episode of side-A

Studio Gokumi • April 8 • TV Tokyo • www.saki-anime.com

The Achiga Girls' Academy in Nara once defeated regional mahjong powerhouse Bansei High School. It advanced into the national team semifinals but lost to the eventual champion, and the mahjong club was later disbanded. Six years later, elementary school student Shizuno Takakamo befriends transfer student Nodoka Haramura. The two eventually enter Achiga Girls', but Nodoka transfers out of the school in the second year. When Shizuno sees Nodoka on television the following year as the national middle school individual mahjong champion, she decides to revive Achiga's mahjong club.



Tasogare Otome x Amnesia (Dusk Maiden of Amnesia)

黄昏乙女×アムネジア

Silver Link • April 8 • Chiba TV/Sun TV • www.amnesia-tv.com

The story takes place in Seikyō Private School. A facility that consists of multiple buildings that connect together to accommodate both junior and senior high school students. Sixty years of ongoing renovations and expansions have meant most of the old inner structures have been sealed and abandoned. Classrooms turned into storage rooms, staircases no longer in use, hallways like dark alleys. With the existence of such a maze-like building, it is only natural that rumours of the paranormal would appear.



Jormungand

ヨルムンガンド

White Fox • April 10 • TV Tokyo • www.jormungand.tv

The series follows Koko Hekmatyar, a young arms dealer who sells weapons under HCLL, a weapons corporation. As one of the company's unofficial weapon sellers, she secretly sells weapons in many countries while avoiding the local authorities and law enforcements as most of her work is actually illegal under international law. Traveling with her is her team of bodyguards who are mostly composed of ex-military veterans. What follows is Koko and her crews escapades around the world.

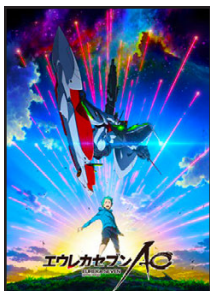


Haiyore! Nyaruko-san

這いよれ!ニャル子さん

XEBEC • April 10 • TV Tokyo/AT-X • www.nyaruko.com

The story of Haiyore! Nyaruko-san centers around Nyaruko, a formless Cthulhu deity of chaos (Nyarlatotep) who can take on the shape of a seemingly ordinary silver-haired girl. Mahiro Yasaka is a normal high school boy who is chased by aliens one night, until Nyaruko saves him.



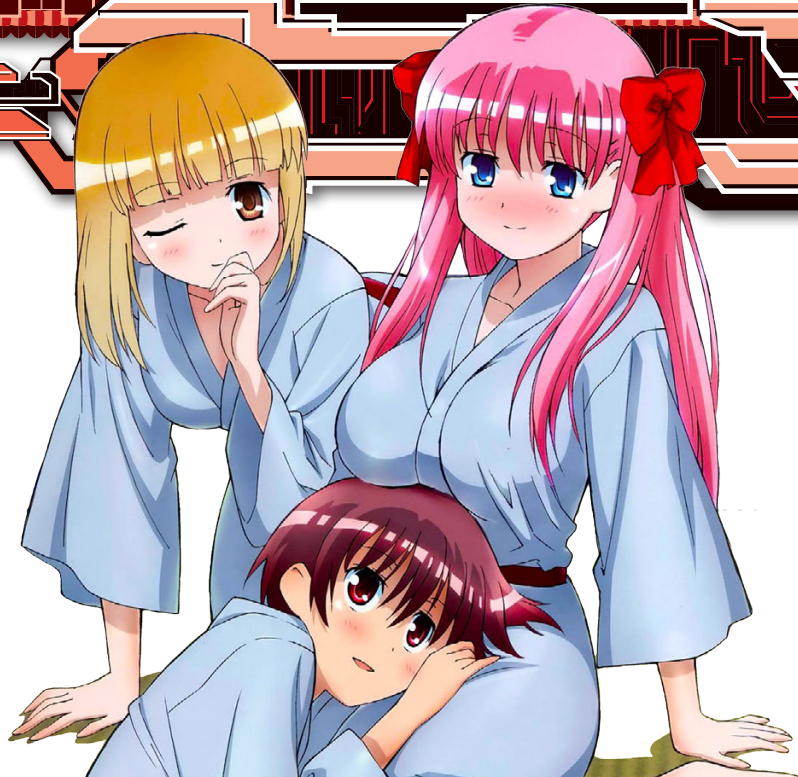
Eureka Seven AO

エウレカセブンAO

Bones • April 12 • MBS • eurekaao-prj.net

The story is set on Okinawa's isolated island of Iwado, which has seen a growing movement advocating a return to an autonomous government. Ao Fukai, a 13-year-old boy with a missing father, lives on the island with an old doctor named Toshio and is about to enter middle school. Ao's mother was taken away a decade ago by unknown individuals. Naru Arata, Ao's 13-year-old childhood friend and the story's heroine, lives with her father, older sister, and grandmother. She has a "Yuta" power awakened within her due to an incident when she was young.

g Season



Sakamichi no Apollon (Kids on the Slope)

坂道のアポロン

MAPPA • April 12 • Fuji TV • www.noitamina-apollon.com

Nishimi Kaoru has moved from city to city and school to school because of his father's job. So the first day at his new school was just routine for him. Being intellectual and the new transfer student, he has always been seen as an outcast and all Kaoru had to do was bear it until the next time he moved. But things were slightly different this time. First, he started to get close to the class president, Mukae Ritsuko, and, secondly, unlikely as it seemed, grew closer to Kawabuchi Sentaro. Sentaro was infamous for getting into fights, skipping class and was an overall bad boy.



Tsuritama

つり球

A-1 Pictures • April 12 • Fuji TV • www.tsuritama.com

Yuki Sanada is a high school boy who cannot communicate with people well and doesn't have a single friend. He lives on Enoshima island with his French grandmother. One day, he meets a boy named Haru. Haru calls himself an alien who visited the Earth for fishing. Another high school boy, Natsuki, and a mysterious Indian, Akira, join the two and the island becomes the center of the event which determines the fate of the world.



Hyōka

氷菓

Kyoto Animation • April 23 • Chiba TV • www.kyotoanimation.co.jp/kotenbu/

Oreki Hotaro is a high school boy, who always acts passively. One day, he enters "Koten Bu (Classic Literature Club)" as recommended by his elder sister. They begin to investigate a case that occurred 33 years ago. Hints of the mystery are buried in an old collection of works of the former members of Koten Club. The collection is titled "Hyōka."



AKB0048

Satelight • April 29 • akb0048.jp

In the beginning of the 21st century, a world war breaks out over interplanetary travel tech. The environment is pretty much destroyed so mankind leaves Earth and starts Star Calendar 00. Entertainment and songs become heavily regulated and eventually banned due to their power to move people, but a brave idol group puts on guerrilla performances in the name of a famous act from earlier times that sang to Earth's bitter end, AKB48. The illegal revival group's name is... AKB0048.

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Sleeping Samurai

Card and board gaming from
Alderac Entertainment Group





SOME ASIAN STUDENTS DON'T IDENTIFY AS ASIAN FOR COLLEGE ADMISSIONS

LANYA OLMSTEAD WAS BORN IN FLORIDA TO A MOTHER WHO IMMIGRATED FROM TAIWAN AND AN AMERICAN FATHER OF NORWEGIAN ANCESTRY. ETHNICALLY, SHE CONSIDERS HERSELF HALF TAIWANESE AND HALF NORWEGIAN. BUT WHEN APPLYING TO HARVARD, OLMSTEAD CHECKED ONLY ONE BOX FOR HER RACE: WHITE.

Harvard University,
Cambridge, Massachusetts



"I didn't want to put 'Asian' down," Olmstead says, "because my mom told me there's discrimination against Asians in the application process."

For years, many Asian-Americans have been convinced that it's harder for them to gain admission to the nation's top colleges. Studies show that Asian-Americans meet these colleges' admissions standards far out of proportion to their six percent representation in the U.S. population, and that they often need test scores hundreds of points higher than applicants from other ethnic groups to have an equal chance of admission. Critics say these numbers, along with the fact that some top colleges with race-blind admissions have double the Asian percentage of Ivy League schools, prove the existence of discrimination.

The way it works, the critics believe, is that Asian-Americans are evaluated not as individuals, but against the thousands of other ultra-achieving Asians who are stereotyped as boring academic robots. Now, an unknown number of students are responding to this concern by declining to identify themselves as Asian on their applications. For those with only one Asian parent, whose names don't give away their heritage, that decision can be relatively easy. Harder are the questions that it raises: What's behind the admissions difficulties? What, exactly, is an Asian-American – and is being one a choice?

Olmstead is a freshman at Harvard and a member of HAPA, the Half-Asian People's Association. In high school she had a perfect 4.0 grade-point average and scored 2150 out of a possible 2400 on the SAT, which she calls "pretty low."

College applications ask for parent information, so Olmstead knows that admissions officers could figure out a student's background that way. She did write in the word "multiracial" on her own application. Still, she would advise students with one Asian parent to "check whatever race is not Asian."

"Not to really generalize, but a lot of Asians, they have perfect SATs, perfect GPAs, ... so it's hard to let them all in," Olmstead says.

Amalia Halikias is a Yale freshman whose mother was born in America to Chinese immigrants; her father is a Greek immigrant. She also checked only the "white" box on her application.

"As someone who was applying with relatively strong scores, I didn't want to be grouped into that stereotype," Halikias says. "I didn't want to be written off as one of the 1.4 billion Asians that were applying."

Her mother was "extremely encouraging" of that decision, Halikias says, even though



In this Nov. 18, 2011 photo, Harvard University student Lanya Olmstead stands in front of an entrance to the school's quad as passers-by stream by, in Cambridge, Mass. Ethnically, she considers herself half Taiwanese and half Norwegian. But when applying to Harvard, Olmstead checked only one box for her race: white. (AP Photo/Steven Senne)

she places a high value on preserving their Chinese heritage.

"Asian-American is more a scale or a gradient than a discrete combination. I think it's a choice," Halikias says.

But leaving the Asian box blank felt wrong to Jodi Balfe, a Harvard freshman who was born in Korea and came here at age 3 with her Korean mother and white American father. She checked the box against the advice of her high school guidance counselor, teachers and friends.

"I felt very uncomfortable with the idea of trying to hide half of my ethnic background," Balfe says. "It's been a major influence on how I developed as a person. It felt like selling out, like selling too much of my soul."

"I thought admission wouldn't be worth it. It would be like only half of me was accepted."

Other students, however, feel no conflict between a strong Asian identity and their response to what they believe is injustice.

"If you know you're going to be discriminated against, it's absolutely justifiable to not check the Asian box," says Halikias.

Immigration from Asian countries was heavily restricted until laws were changed in 1965. When the gates finally opened, many Asian arrivals were well-educated, endured hardships to secure more opportunities for their families, and were determined to seize

the American dream through effort and education. These immigrants, and their descendants, often demanded that children work as hard as humanly possible to achieve. Parental respect is paramount in Asian culture, so many children have obeyed – and excelled.

"Chinese parents can order their kids to get straight 'As.' Western parents can only ask their kids to try their best," wrote Amy Chua, only half tongue-in-cheek, in her recent best-selling book "Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother."

"Chinese parents can say, 'You're lazy. All your classmates are getting ahead of you,'" Chua wrote. "By contrast, Western parents have to struggle with their own conflicted feelings about achievement, and try to persuade themselves that they're not disappointed about how their kids turned out."

Of course, not all Asian-Americans fit this stereotype. They are not always obedient hard workers who get top marks. Some embrace American rather than Asian culture. Their economic status, ancestral countries and customs vary, and their forebears may have been rich or poor.

But compared with American society in general, Asian-Americans have developed a much stronger emphasis on intense academic preparation as a path to a handful of the very best schools.

“The whole Tiger Mom stereotype is grounded in truth,” says Tao Tao Holmes, a Yale sophomore with a Chinese-born mother and white American father. She did not check “Asian” on her application.

“My math scores aren’t high enough for the Asian box,” she says. “I say it jokingly, but there is the underlying sentiment of, if I had emphasized myself as Asian, I would have (been expected to) excel more in stereotypically Asian-dominated subjects.”

“I was definitely held to a different standard (by my mom), and to different standards than my friends,” Holmes says. She sees the same rigorous academic focus among many other students with immigrant parents, even non-Asian ones.

Does Holmes think children of American parents are generally spoiled and lazy by comparison? “That’s essentially what I’m trying to say.”

Asian students have higher average SAT scores than any other group, including whites. A study by Princeton sociologist Thomas Espenshade examined applicants to top colleges from 1997, when the maximum SAT score was 1600 (today it’s 2400). Espenshade found that Asian-Americans needed a 1550 SAT to have an equal chance of getting into an elite college as white students with a 1410 or black students with an 1100. Top schools that don’t ask about race in admissions process have very high percentages of Asian students. The California Institute of Technology, a private school that chooses not to consider race, is about one-

third Asian. (Thirteen percent of California residents have Asian heritage.) The University of California-Berkeley, which is forbidden by state law to consider race in admissions, is more than 40 percent Asian – up from about 20 percent before the law was passed.

Steven Hsu, a physics professor at the University of Oregon and a vocal critic of current admissions policies, says there is a clear statistical case that discrimination exists.

“The actual dynamics of how it happens are really quite subtle,” he says, mentioning factors like horse-trading among admissions officers for their favorite candidates.

Also, “when Asians are the largest group on campus, I can easily imagine a fund-raiser saying, ‘This is jarring to our alumni,’” Hsu says. Noting that most Ivy League schools have roughly the same percentage of Asians, he wonders if “that’s the maximum number where diversity is still good, and it’s not, ‘we’re being overwhelmed by the yellow horde.’”

Yale, Harvard, Princeton and the University of Pennsylvania declined to make admissions officers available for interviews for this story.

Kara Miller helped review applications for Yale as an admissions office reader, and participated in meetings where admissions decisions were made. She says it often felt like Asians were held to a higher standard.

“Asian kids know that when you look at the average SAT for the school, they need to add 50 or 100 to it. If you’re Asian, that’s what you’ll need to get in,” says Miller, now

“MY MATH SCORES AREN’T HIGH ENOUGH FOR THE ASIAN BOX,” SHE SAYS. “I SAY IT JOKINGLY, BUT THERE IS THE UNDERLYING SENTIMENT OF, IF I HAD EMPHASIZED MYSELF AS ASIAN, I WOULD HAVE BEEN EXPECTED TO EXCEL MORE IN STEREOTYPICALLY ASIAN-DOMINATED SUBJECTS.”

an English professor at the University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth.

Highly selective colleges do use much more than SAT scores and grades to evaluate applicants. Other important factors include extracurricular activities, community service, leadership, maturity, engagement in learning, and overcoming adversity. Admissions preferences are sometimes given to the children of alumni, the wealthy and celebrities, which is an overwhelmingly white group. Recruited

Campus of California Institute of Technology (Caltech)



athletes get breaks. Since the top colleges say diversity is crucial to a world-class education, African-Americans, Latinos, Native Americans, and Hawaiian/Pacific Islanders also may get in despite lower scores than other applicants.

A college like Yale “could fill their entire freshman class twice over with qualified Asian students or white students or valedictorians,” says Rosita Fernandez-Rojo, a former college admissions officer who is now director of college counseling at Rye Country Day School outside of New York City. But applicants are not ranked by results of a qualifications test, she says – “it’s a selection process.”

“People are always looking for reasons they didn’t get in,” she continues. “You can’t always know what those reasons are. Sometimes during the admissions process they say, ‘There’s nothing wrong with that kid. We just don’t have room.’”

In the end, elite colleges often don’t have room for Asian students with outstanding scores and grades. That’s one reason why Harvard freshman Heather Pickerell, born in Hong Kong to a Taiwanese mother and American father, refused to check any race box on her application.

“I figured it might help my chances of getting in,” she says. “But I figured if Harvard

wouldn’t take me for refusing to list my ethnicity, then maybe I shouldn’t go there.”

She considers drawing lines between different ethnic groups a form of racism – and says her ethnic identity depends on where she is.

“In America, I identify more as Asian, having grown up there, and actually being Asian, and having grown up in an Asian family,” she says. “But when I’m back in Hong Kong I feel more American, because everyone there is more Asian than I am.”

Holmes, the Yale sophomore with the Chinese-born mother, also has problems fitting herself into the Asian box – “it doesn’t make sense to me.”

“I feel like an American,” she says, “...an Asian person who grew up in America.”

Susanna Koetter, a Yale junior with an American father and Korean mother, was adamant about identifying her Asian side on her application. Yet she calls herself “not fully Asian-American. I’m mixed Asian-American. When I go to Korea, I’m like, blatantly white.”

And yet, asked whether she would have considered leaving the Asian box blank, she says: “That would be messed up. I’m not white.”

“Identity is very malleable,” says Jasmine Zhuang, a Yale junior whose parents were both born in Taiwan.

She didn’t check the box, even though her last name is a giveaway and her essay was about Asian-American identity.

“Looking back I don’t agree with what I did,” Zhuang says. “It was more like a symbolic action for me, to rebel against the higher standard placed on Asian-American applicants.”

“There’s no way someone’s race can automatically tell you something about them, or represent who they are to an admissions committee,” Zhuang says. “Using race by itself is extremely dangerous.”

Hsu, the physics professor, says that if the current admissions policies continue, it will become more common for Asian students to avoid identifying themselves as such, and schools will have to react.

“They’ll have to decide: A half-Asian kid, what is that? I don’t think they really know.”

The lines are already blurred at Yale, where almost 26,000 students applied for the current freshman class, according to the school’s web site. About 1,300 students were admitted. Twenty percent of them marked the Asian-American box on their applications; fifteen percent of freshmen marked two or more ethnicities. Ten percent of Yale’s freshmen class did not check a single box. ♦

Jesse Washington (AP)

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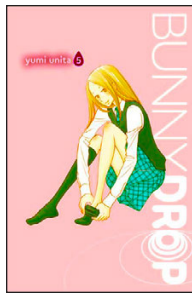
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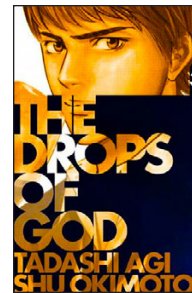
Spring 2012



Shugo Chara Chan, Vol. 3
PEACH-PIT
Kodansha International
March 20



Bunny Drop, Vol. 5
Yumi Unita
Yen Press
March 27



Drops of God, Vol. 3: Les Gouttes de Dieu
Tadashi Agi, Shū Okimoto
Vertical, Incorporated
March 27



Mobile Suit Gundam: Awakening, Escalation, Confrontation
Yoshiyuki Tomino
Stone Bridge Press
March 27



Negima! Omnibus, Vol. 4
Ken Akamatsu
Kodansha International
March 27



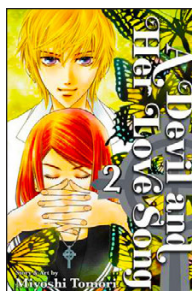
Pandora Hearts, Vol. 9
Jun Mochizuki
Yen Press
March 27



13th Boy, Vol. 11
SangEun Lee
Yen Press
March 27
Not Actual Cover



The Melancholy of Suzumiya Haruhi-chan, Vol. 5
Nagaru Tanigawa
Yen Press
March 27



A Devil and Her Love Song, Vol. 2
Miyoshi Tomori
VIZ Media, LLC.
April 3



Arisa, Vol. 7
Natsumi Andō
Kodansha International
April 3



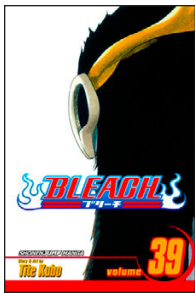
Bakuman, Vol. 10
Tsugumi Oba, Takeshi Obata
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April 3



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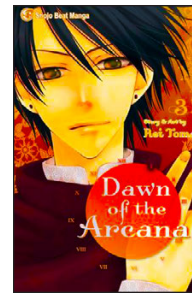
Bleach, Vol. 39

Tite Kubo
VIZ Media, LLC.
April 3



Blue Exorcist, Vol. 7

Kazue Katō
VIZ Media, LLC.
April 3



Dawn of the Arcana, Vol. 3

Rei Toma
VIZ Media, LLC.
April 3



Kamisama Kiss, Vol. 8

Julietta Suzuki
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April 3



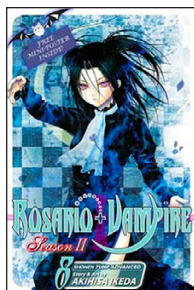
My Girlfriend's a Geek (Novel), Vol. 2

Pentabu
Yen Press
April 3



Nura: Rise of the Yokai Clan, Vol. 8

Hiroshi Shiibashi
VIZ Media, LLC.
April 3



Rosario+Vampire Season II, Vol. 8

Akihisa Ikeda
VIZ Media, LLC.
April 3



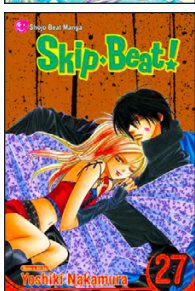
Sakura Hime: The Legend of Princess Sakura, Vol. 7

Arina Tanemura
VIZ Media, LLC.
April 3



Sayonara, Zetsubō-Sensei, Vol. 14: The Power of Negative Thinking

Kōji Kumeta
Kodansha International
April 3



Skip Beat!, Vol. 27

Yoshiki Nakamura
VIZ Media, LLC.
April 3



Slam Dunk, Vol. 21

Takehiko Inoue
VIZ Media, LLC.
April 3





Toriko, Vol. 9
Mitsutoshi Shimabukuro
VIZ Media, LLC.
April 3



Abandon the Old in Tokyo
Yoshihiro Tatsumi
Drawn & Quarterly
April 10



Excel Saga, Vol. 23
Rikudō Kōshi
VIZ Media, LLC.
April 10



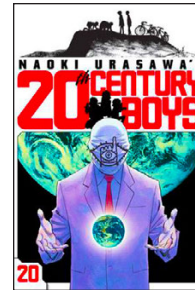
Gon, Vol. 5
Masashi Tanaka
Kodansha International
April 10



Kekkaishi, Vol. 31
Yellow Tanabe
VIZ Media, LLC.
April 10



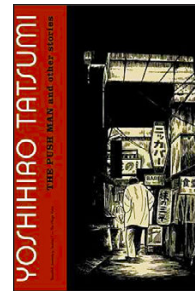
Maoh: Juvenile Remix, Vol. 10
Megumi Osuga
VIZ Media, LLC.
April 10



20th Century Boys, Vol. 20
Naoki Urasawa
VIZ Media, LLC.
April 10



The Kurosagi Corpse Delivery Service, Vol. 12
Hōsui Yamazaki, Eiji Otsuka
Dark Horse Comics
April 10



The Push Man and Other Stories
Yoshihiro Tatsumi
Drawn & Quarterly
April 10



Toradora! Vol. 4
Yuyuko Takemiya, Zekkyo Seven Seas
Entertainment, LLC.
April 10



Air Gear, Vol. 23
Oh!Great
Kodansha International
April 17



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Spring 2012 *Continued*



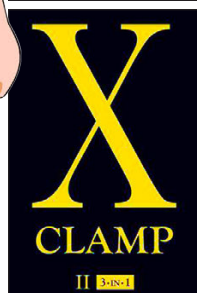
Dorohedoro, Vol. 6

Q Hayashida
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April 17



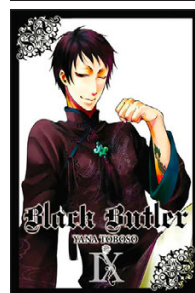
Tenjo Tenge, Vol. 6: Full Contact Edition 2-in-1

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VIZ Media, LLC.
April 17



X, Vol. 2: 3-in-1

Clamp
VIZ Media, LLC.
April 17



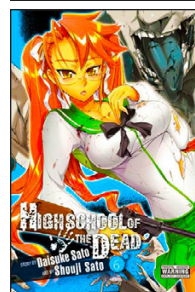
Black Butler, Vol. 9

Yana Toboso
Yen Press
April 24



Durarara!!, Vol. 2

Ryōgo Narita, Akiyo Satorigi
Yen Press
April 24



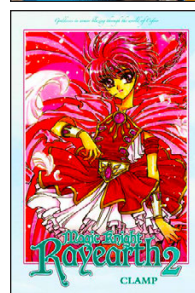
Highschool of the Dead, Vol. 6

Daisuke Satō, Shōji Satō
Yen Press
April 24



Higurashi When They Cry: Atonement Arc, Vol 4

Karin Ryukishi07, Karin Suzuragi
Yen Press
April 24



Magic Knight Rayearth, Vol. 2 Omnibus Edition

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Dark Horse Comics
April 24



Negima!, Vol. 34

Ken Akamatsu
Kodansha International
April 24



Ai Ore!, Vol. 5: Love Me!

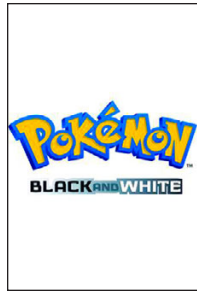
Mayu Shinjō
VIZ Media, LLC.
May 1



Haruka: Beyond the Stream of Time, Vol. 16
 Tôko Mizuno
 VIZ Media, LLC.
 May 1



One Piece, Vol. 62
 Eiichirô Oda
 VIZ Media, LLC.
 May 1



Pokemon Black and White, Vol. 7
 Hidenori Kusaka, Satoshi Yamamoto
 VIZ Media, LLC.
 May 1
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Psyren, Vol. 4: Melze's Door
 Toshiaki Iwashiro
 VIZ Media, LLC.
 May 1



Sailor Moon, Vol. 5
 Naoko Takeuchi
 Kodansha International
 May 1

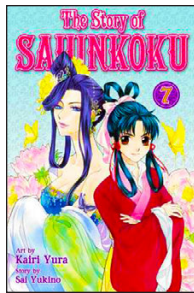


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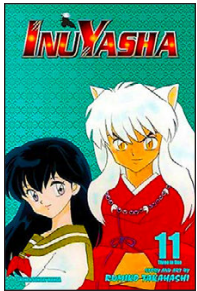
Tegami Bachi, Vol. 9
Hiroyuki Asada
VIZ Media, LLC.
May 1



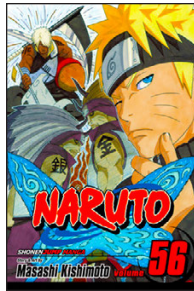
The Story of Saiunkoku, Vol. 7
Sai Yukino, Kairi Yura
VIZ Media, LLC.
May 1



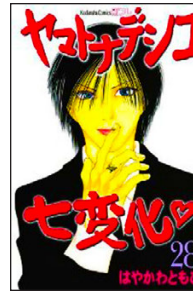
A Certain Scientific Railgun, Vol. 4
Kazuma Kamachi, Motoi Fuyukawa
Seven Seas Entertainment, LLC.
May 8



Inuyasha, Vol. 11 (VIZBIG Edition)
Rumiko Takahashi
VIZ Media, LLC.
May 8



Naruto, Vol. 56
Masashi Kishimoto
VIZ Media, LLC.
May 8



The Wallflower, Vol. 28: Yamato Nadeshiko Shichi Henge
Tomoko Hayakawa
Kodansha International
May 22
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Fairy Tail, Vol. 19
Hiro Mashima
Kodansha International
May 29



Omamori Himari, Vol. 7
Milan Matra
Yen Press
May 29



Pandora Hearts, Vol. 10
Jun Mochizuki
Yen Press
May 29



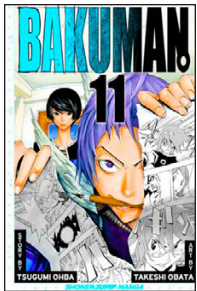
Soul Eater, Vol. 9
Atsushi Ōkubo
Yen Press
May 29



Sumomomo, Momomo: The Strongest Bride on Earth, Vol. 12
Shinobu Ōtaka
Yen Press
May 29



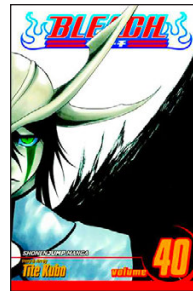
The Melancholy of Haruhi Suzumiya, Vol. 12
Nagaru Tanigawa, Gaku Tsugano, Noizi Ito
Yen Press
May 29



Bakuman, Vol. 11
Tsugumi Ōba
VIZ Media, LLC.
June 5



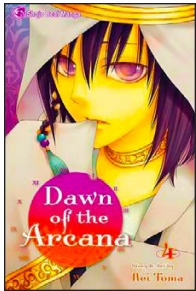
Black Bird, Vol. 14
Kanoko Sakurakōji
VIZ Media, LLC.
June 5



Bleach, Vol. 40
Tite Kubo
VIZ Media, LLC.
June 5



Bleach, Vol. 41
Tite Kubo
VIZ Media, LLC.
June 5



Dawn of the Arcana, Vol. 4
Rei Toma
VIZ Media, LLC.
June 5



Devil and Her Love Song, Vol. 3
Miyoshi Tomori
VIZ Media, LLC.
June 5



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Julietta Suzuki
VIZ Media, LLC.
June 5



Nura: Rise of the Yokai Clan, Vol. 9
Hirosshi Shiibashi
VIZ Media, LLC.
June 5



Ouran High School Host Club, Vol. 18
Bisco Hatori
VIZ Media, LLC.
June 5



Pokemon Adventures: Diamond and Pearl/Platinum, Vol. 5
Hidenori Kusaka, Satoshi Yamamoto
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June 5



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Arina Tanemura
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Slam Dunk, Vol. 22
Takehiko Inoue
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June 5



Toriko, Vol. 10
Mitsutoshi Shimabukuro
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June 5



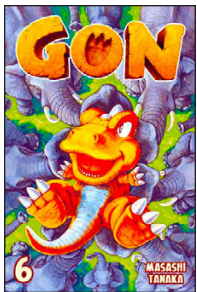
Yu-Gi-Oh! 5D's, Vol. 3
Masahiro Hikokubo
VIZ Media, LLC.
June 5



Bokurano: Ours, Vol. 6
Mohiro Kitō
VIZ Media, LLC.
June 12



Drops of God, Vol. 4: The Second Apostle
Tadashi Agi, Shu Okimoto
Vertical, Incorporated
June 12
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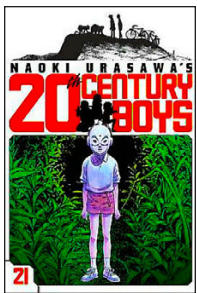
Gon, Vol. 6
Masashi Tanaka
Kodansha International
June 12



House of Five Leaves, Vol. 7
Natsume Ono
VIZ Media, LLC.
June 12
Not Actual Cover



Kekkaishi, Vol. 32
Yellow Tanabe
VIZ Media, LLC.
June 12



20th Century Boys, Vol. 21
Naoki Urasawa
VIZ Media, LLC.
June 12



Shugo Chara Chan, Vol. 4
PEACH-PIT
Kodansha International
June 12
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Mardock Scramble, Vol. 5
Tō Ubukata
Kodansha International
June 19



Neon Genesis Evangelion: The Shinji Ikari Raising Project, Vol. 11
Osamu Takahashi
Dark Horse Comics
June 19



Tenjo Tenge, Vol. 7: Full Contact Edition 2-in-1
Oh!Great
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Spice and Wolf, Vol. 6
Isuna Hasekura
Yen Press
June 26

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New Genre Convention Coming to Maryland in 2012



UMES Student Services Center

A new convention is being held on Maryland's Eastern Shore April 28th, 2012. The Eastern Shore Fan Con will be a genre con focusing on comic books, anime, video games and all things geeky.

While this convention has just been announced, it already features an exciting selection of guests and events sure to be a big hit with its attendees. Special guest Greg LaRocque will be in attendance. LaRocque is best known for his work on *The Flash*, but has worked for both Marvel and DC as well as being a fixture on the indie comic scene. Several indie Comic publishers and creators have signed on as well, such as; Buz Hasson and Ken Haeser creators of *The Living Corpse*, PLB Comics, 21st Century Sandshark Studios, Underground Comixxx, Faithstar Comics and more. Along with meeting guests, attendees will have access to anime screenings in a real theater all day long, panels happening every

hour, a costume contest with prizes, competition in video game tournaments and much more, all included in the cost of admission.

Held on the campus of The University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES), Fan Con boasts more advanced facilities than most smaller cons could have access to. Within the Student Services Center where the convention will be held is a full movie theater for screenings and costume contest, several large meeting rooms with full AV support for panels, a separate space dedicated to video game tournaments featuring giant pull down screens and plenty of room for both players and spectators. And of course there is a large convention floor for vendors, artists and guests. And as an added bonus, real food will be available, prepared by the college's culinary arts dept.

The Eastern Shore Fan Con is being presented by UMES student group A.C.T.I.O.N.

Anime with support from PLB Comics as a way to promote the comics and anime culture and the independent creators involved in them. All proceeds from ticket and table sales go directly to A.C.T.I.O.N. Anime to help fund trips, more events and community outreach. UMES has one of the only degreed sequential arts programs at a public university in the US, and members of that department will be on hand to speak with perspective students.

For more details, directions and the latest news you can find Eastern Shore Fan Con online at: www.easternshorefancon.com and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/easternshorefancon

There is still space for vendors, guests and artists to exhibit. For any questions, to reserve your space or for press inquiries please contact James Dufendach at promotions@plbcomics.com



A Friendly Outfit:



World Cosplay Summit US Preliminaries at Katsucon 2012

On the shore of the Potomac River in National Harbor, Maryland, the impressive glass structure at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center stands out. An enormous open space, fifteen stories tall, contains trees, several storybook houses with peaked roofs, walkways and fountains. Towering above like skyscrapers are the hotel rooms, the balconies looking down on the enclosed plaza. For attendees of Katuscon 18, this environment served as a stable alternative to the late-winter weather outside, which alternated between sunny, windy, and rainy.

Left Page:

2nd Place Team Cupcake Cosplay — Starlighthoney as Belldandy and Breathlessaire as Morgan Le Fay – Ah! My Goddess!
Photo by Ejen Chuang ■ www.cosplayinamerica.com



Fans of anime, manga, music and video games wandered around, snapping pictures and chatting with the cosplayers, who posed, grouped up and acted out impromptu skits to the delight of the onlookers. The quality and diversity of cosplay at Katsucon was evident just from those in the halls, with well-made and detailed outfits from a variety of sources. Supergirl and *Vampire Hunter D*'s Countess Carmilla battled over a human version of Pinkie Pie from *My Little Pony*, Cloud and Zack from *Final Fantasy VII* chatted with admiring fans, and a stilt-legged Jack Skellington crept and swayed amongst the crowds, towering over all when he stood upright. These were just a few of the myriad costumes on display. The mood overall was relaxed and jovial, and everywhere you looked, con-goers wore costumes from shows new and old. The full breadth of anime and manga fandom was on display. There was a real sense that people were wearing exactly what they wanted, not jockeying to outdo each other with trendy series.

Behind closed doors deeper in the convention center, a similar level of diversity was on display, but with much higher stakes. Here in a panel room like one would find at any convention, cosplayers were undergoing craftsmanship judging for the *World Cosplay Summit United States Preliminaries*. In spite of the raised stakes, the mood and atmosphere was just as cheerful and friendly as in the lobby and event halls. Judges and competitors chatted, discussing the costumes, the techniques involved in their construction, and materials used. More than twenty pairs teams have gathered here to compete. In addition to cash a prize provided by the convention and costuming merchandise provided by cosplayer-run *Arda Wigs*, everyone was here to win a chance to travel to Japan and show off their handiwork to international teams and Japanese television audiences.

World Cosplay Summit was established in 2003 in cooperation with the Japanese television station TV Aichi to, in their words, "promote international exchange through the Japanese youth culture of manga and anime." While the first year only saw participants from Germany, France, Italy and host nation Japan, the number of countries grew rapidly over the years. For 2012, twenty countries are sending teams, with the United Kingdom, Indonesia and the Russian Federation joining for the first time.

In the United States, interest in the event was high this year, owing to the nationwide scope and increased promotional efforts of the organizers both in the US and Japan, photographers and other staff from the *American Cosplay Paradise* website were behind the scenes, documenting the judging process and interviewing the teams. Videos of these interviews were posted online on Friday, giving a brief but personal glimpse into the proceedings.

Teams from all corners of the country, from southern California to Washington, Tennessee to Texas, and New Jersey to Florida spent ten minutes at a time with the judges, but it was clear from the chatter that many people knew each other from before, as the American 'pro-am' cosplay scene is tight-knit. Indeed, all the judges were themselves involved with World Cosplay Summit in years past, bringing an expertise and understanding of expectations to the judging process. Additionally, in the months leading up to this weekend, cosplayers had been sharing their progress and results with each other through social networks like Facebook. Fostering a strong sense of community and camaraderie was important to the United States Organizer Laura Butler née Chase, herself a competitor in the *World Cosplay Summit* in 2005.

In retrospect, it seems like Ms. Butler has been prepping for the work of this weekend for most of her life. First exposed to the world of anime at a young child, through the shows being aired in the early days of Nickelodeon, such as *Maya the Bee*, *Belle and Sebastian*,

Top Left Page:

Green Jello Cosplay — Elrowiel as Beatrice and Pannon as Ushiromiya Battler – Umineko no Naku Koro ni

Bottom Left Page:

Scarlet Mafia — Erisaka Blu as Fenrir, the Princess of Disaster – Prétear

Bottom:

Scarlet Mafia — Holleywane as Himeno Awayuki (Wind Prétear) – Prétear

Photos by Ejen Chuang







Top:
Shiya Wind as Aqua and Court as Terra – Kingdom
Hearts: Birth by Sleep

Left Page:
Last Minute Cosplay — Tohma as Yuki Gihō and Shey
as Luka Crosszeria – Uragiri wa Boku no Namae wo
Shitteiru

Photos by Ejen Chuang

and *The Mysterious Cities of Gold*. Her early exposure to series such as these, as well as Studio Ghibli's *My Neighbor Totoro* and the iconic *Dragon Ball* helped cement Japanese media as a lifelong interest for her. This, coupled with an enjoyment for dressing up, led her to her first foray into cosplay at the 2000 **Anime Expo**, where she portrayed Terra Branford from *Final Fantasy VI*. Every year after, she would get together with her friends to craft costumes and develop skits from their favorite series and games, competing in the Masquerade at Anime Expo, as well as other conventions around California.

In 2005, World Cosplay Summit brought officials to Anime Expo, seeking both a group and a solo performer to bring to the competition in Japan. Laura, wearing an elaborately detailed costume of Haruhara Haruko from Gainax's *FLCL*, complete with hand-painted motorcycle helmet and a modified electric guitar, was chosen. She became part of a group alongside Lynleigh Sato née Benton and Lisa Truong née Munden. Deandra Ervin was chosen as the solo participant, and they all traveled together to Japan to meet teams from Japan, Spain, China, Germany, Italy, and France. They performed in new costumes created specifically for the competition, based on the living dolls from the gothic fantasy anime *Rozen Maiden*. They presented a comedic performance laced with Japanese pop cultural references, which received an enthusiastic response from the live audience.

Even more than the thrill of performing in front of the receptive live crowd and judges, the experience of meeting and befriending people from around the globe who share in this unique hobby was the most enriching experience for Ms. Butler. Over the next few years, Laura worked with Anime Expo and judged cosplay events at various conventions, as well as continuing to work on her own costumes. In 2010, after two years of involvement with an east coast convention, World Cosplay Summit officials were looking to establish a new home for the event in the United States. Due to her organizational experience and deep involvement in the cosplay community, Laura Butler fell into the position of event organizer and preliminaries were held at **FanimeCon**. Driven by her desire to share the feeling of global community she experienced in 2005, Ms. Butler has been working hard since then to expand the scope of the US Preliminaries and open up opportunities to participants nationwide. She has brought a no-nonsense sensibility to the management of the event, and the hard work seems to have paid off.

For **Katsucon**, the goal was to raise the profile of the event and get as many people as possible interested in World Cosplay Summit. After existing as a secondary event at most of the previous conventions it was hosted

at, Ms. Butler and the Katsucon management promoted the Preliminaries as a main event. It was held on the main event stage which was also used for Masquerade earlier on that evening. Yaya Han, a professional cosplayer and prolific figure in the cosplay scene, was chosen to host the live event on Saturday. A twelve-year veteran of conventions, she was already involved with Katsucon's Masquerade competition as a judge, and was eager to be involved in the World Cosplay Summit proceedings.

In previous years, from 2005 to 2009, participants were mainly limited to the regions surrounding the respective conventions. In 2010 and 2011, as promotion of the event expanded, so too did interest, and teams from out of state submitted applications to compete. Katsucon saw the largest promotional push and subsequent interest in the event. Cosplayers such as Erin Burke and Steven Gose from Washington, Amazonian Cosplay from Massachusetts, and Chocolate Covered Cosplay from Los Angeles made the trek to Maryland. Further showcasing the strength of collaboration and camaraderie, a

variety of teams were made up of cosplayers from completely different states. Evenstar1 and Elendria came from Tennessee and Alabama. Effembee, partnered with Lady Asteria, traveled multiple times from Illinois to Michigan in order to prepare.

Around noon on the day of the event, a group meeting was held for staff, press and the teams. The main thrust of the meeting was operational, reviewing the itinerary for the evening. As each team was informed what order they would be performing in, the other teams, being peers and friends now as well as competitors, cheered each other on. Following a rallying cry of "WCS is awesome!" the teams went off to finish their preparations.

As everyone gathered several hours before show time, spirits were high in the green room as well, as conversations blossomed while makeup was touched up and costumes were adjusted. Everyone was willing to help out the other teams with such preparations, and the positive atmosphere fostered the development of new friendships between the cosplayers, many of whom had never had the

chance to meet the other teams face-to-face.

A large projection screen was set up towards the front of the room, and everyone watched eagerly to see what the other teams had prepared. At one point, during Penny and Destiny's performance, everyone backstage busted into an impromptu dance-off to the tune of Bon Jovi's *It's My Life*, which was being used as their soundtrack. Occasional small frustrations were similarly met with good humor, such as when the large black wings on Shey's *Luka Crosszeria* costume would not fit through the doorway out of the green room.

Cosfu was on hand to host a live internet stream of the event, expanding the potential audience for the event to anyone who wanted to watch on the web. As the event proceeded, online chatter was positive and energetic, with viewers cheering on their favorite teams and discussing the performances. The auditorium itself was well-attended by conventioners. The six judges sitting at a table up front alongside Ms. Butler and other staff. Special guests were Ed Hoff, the Communications





Right:
Baron as Seth Nightroad (Empire Dress) –
Trinity Blood

Left, Left Page:
Foxy Cosplay — MarikaSan as Clare
and Foayasha as Teresa – Claymore

Right, Left Page:
Destiny as Eternal Sailor Moon – Sailor Moon
- Sailor Stars

Photos by Ejen Chuang

Right Page:

Yu&Mi — Minachiko as “Madness” of King Ludwig II and Slightlysalted as King Ludwig II – Ludwig II

Bottom:

Chocolate Covered Cosplay — Ashi-chan as Panty and GNB Cosplay as Scanty – Panty and Stocking with Garterbelt

Photos by Ejen Chuang



Organizer and translator for World Cosplay Summit in Japan, and Keisuke Ogura from TV Aichi.

Yaya Han introduced all the teams as they took the stage to perform their two-and-a-half minute skits. Twenty-two teams in all participated, presenting costumes ranging from classic series like *RG Veda* and *Sailor Moon* to recent releases like *Puella Magi Madoka Magica* and *Kingdom Hearts: Birth By Sleep*. Skits ranged from humorous pantomime to elegantly choreographed dances and everything in between. The crowd reactions to the performances were enthusiastic throughout, as the audience finally had a chance to see the high quality of costume work and performances first-hand. Even Yaya, in her unique position as emcee, was swept up in the excitement, and it was apparent in her voice how moved she was.

Once the performances were over, a retrospective showcasing the teams from past World Cosplay Summits was shown as the judges deliberated their decision. After judging was complete, all the teams came and sat towards the front of the auditorium. Yaya came back out and called the top ten teams to the stage. All the other teams were supportive, cheering on all who were called up.

Laura Butler took the stage next to speak to the audience and participants, sharing her experiences with World Cosplay Summit and stressing that the event’s greatest strength is the bonds it builds, both locally and internationally, between individual cosplayers and each country’s fan communities. Her stated objective was to expand the scope of World Cosplay Summit, and to develop it into the best cosplay event in the United States. Citing the challenge in attaining this goal, she introduced Lynleigh Sato as the new assistant organizer for the US Preliminaries.

Highlighting the spirit of camaraderie exemplified in the events leading to this moment, she said in her speech, “you are all now a part of that WCS community, whether you are new to the event, or a welcomed return. You can make friends and find new people to work with, swap costuming tips, get some amazing press photos, and meet people you may not otherwise have the chance to meet. This is more than just a competition; the event has a life and light all it’s own that touches you, and makes you a part of something bigger.”



Top:
Athena's Wink — SAthena as Amira Halgal – A
Bride's Story

Bottom:
Bejitaballz — Binkx as Utena Tenjou and Mike
as Akio Ohtori – Revolutionary Girl Utena

Right Page:
Effembee as Meiren Yu and Lady Asteria as Nu Wa –
Dynasty Warriors: Strikeforce 2

Photos by Ejen Chuang

Ashley Rice, a member of the 2011 United States team, was in attendance both to present the awards, and to pass the torch to the winning team. She shared a story of a particular clothes iron which she and her teammate had brought. They themselves had been told by their predecessors that the hotel would most likely not have irons of their own, so they wanted to come prepared. It became apparent that none of the other teams from the other countries had irons of their own, and turn by turn, everyone came to the United States team to borrow it. As she explained, "this actually turned out to be a really great situation for us, because it gave us an opportunity to interact with teams from other countries, even if we didn't share the same language. The French team, for instance, didn't speak English, and neither of us spoke French, but we all spoke costuming and we were able to connect with each other on that level."

The top three teams were announced. In third was Bejitaballz, presenting a piece based on *Revolutionary Girl Utena*, set to an orchestral arrangement of *Paint It Black*. With Utena Tenjou and Akio Ohtori onstage before a stylish archway, they moved from ballroom dance to unwanted romantic advances, sword fighting and an onstage costume change. Pulling away a curtain in the archway, Utena's pink gown was revealed, designed in such a way so that it could be put on in a matter of seconds. The scene culminated in Utena running through Akio with her sword.

In second place, Cupcake Cosplay presented a scene involving the goddess Belldandy and the witch Morgan Le Fay from *Ah! My Goddess*. Belldandy was portrayed with her angelic wings. Whereas mobile costume wings are usually rigged to another part of the body, causing them to flap when an arm is raised, for example, Belldandy's were built with remotely controlled mechanisms, affording her a full range of movement during her performance. The skirt of the costume was adorned with around 14,000 hand-placed Swarovski crystals and featured meticulous detailing. Morgan Le Fay's distinctive butterfly wings featured LED lights around the edges, and a bodysuit detailed with a specially molded silicone rubber material called *Dragon Skin*. Owing to the light elements in the Morgan Le Fay costume. Their piece, a choreographed face-off between the two characters, integrated further light effects in the form of controlled stage lighting and a pair of illuminated pillars.

The winning team, chosen to travel to Japan and represent the United States as the most dynamic in the competition, were







Coconut Bubble Sex Cosplay. They portrayed Rue and her alter-ego Princess Kraehe from the ballet-themed fantasy drama *Princess Tutu*. Playing with ideas from the American film *Black Swan*, the duo utilized a two-way mirror, timed backlighting and authentic ballet to portray the character's dual sides. Kraehe's striking black tutu was hand-sewn from twelve layers of fabric and included intricate detailing throughout. Rue's elegant gown included a custom-made corset. This team had competed in 2008 for World Cosplay Summit inclusion but did not make it then, and set out this year to create costumes they loved, so that even if they didn't win, they could still stand proud of the work they did. Their performance at Katsucon drew an enthusiastic response from the crowd and the judges, and the quality of their costumes and faithfulness to the source

material pushed them to the top amongst all the groups in attendance.

Emotions were high as Coconut Bubble Sex Cosplay was announced as the winner, and everyone was in a congratulatory spirit. Though every team on stage was there to vying for this honor, the experience of building bonds and becoming friends was equally important, an Ms. Butler was thrilled to have promoted this spirit of camaraderie and support throughout the proceedings.

Looking forward, Ms. Butler and Ms. Sato are working to expand the scope of the World Cosplay Summit competition, including the establishment of *Qualifier* events at conventions around the country and getting a new national website set up. She is working to refine the set of rules to be followed at any such events, to keep competition fierce but fair. These events should also serve as a

chance to engage even more cosplayers in local competitions, and to send the winners of these events on to **Katsucon 2013** for the national finals. Already, World Cosplay Summit will be entering into new territory, as it has been announced that **HEX 2012, the Hawaiian Entertainment Expo**, will be hosting their first-ever World Cosplay Summit US Qualifier. Negotiations are underway with other conventions as well.

Ms. Butler hopes that more and more conventions will see hosting Qualifiers as an opportunity to increase their profile and engage with the fans of Japanese media in new and exciting ways. If things keep moving at this pace, it is not so hard to imagine World Cosplay Summit fulfilling their new mission statement: *Cosplay Everywhere!*

❖ **Greg J. Hansen with Laura Butler (World Cosplay Summit US Organizer)**

Top Left Page:

Erin Burke (Waka-chan) as Yukari Hayasaka
and Steven Gose (Alucard) as George
Koizumi – Paradise Kiss

Top:

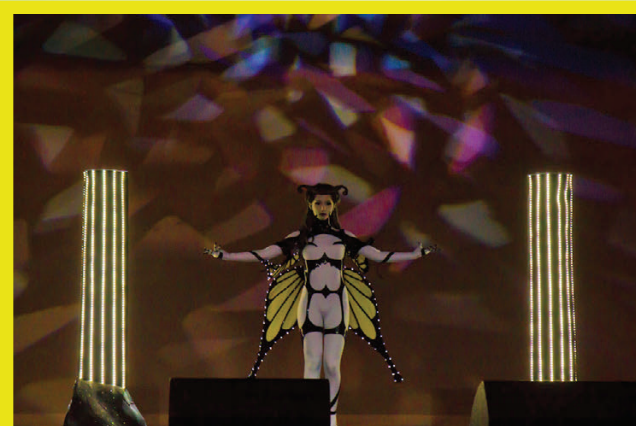
Elendriel as Alice – Pandora Hearts

Bottom:

Amulet Cosplay — Mika-chan as Juliet
and Ami-chan as Romeo – Romeo x Juliet

Photos by Ejen Chuang





Photos Left to Right:

WCS US Alum past and present and Uguu face — Laura Butler (Organizer) + Lynleigh Sato (Assistant Organizer) [US Team 2005], Renee Gloger + Sonnya Paz [Team 2008], India Davis [Team 2009], Kathryn Griffin + Krystal Stoner [Team 2010], Ashley Rice [Team 2011] and Katie George + Diana Owen [Team 2012]

3rd Place Team — Bejitaballz (Binkx + Mike) with Revolutionary Girl Utena

2nd Place Team Cupcake Cosplay — Breathlessaire as Morgan Le Fay – Ah! My Goddess

Amazonian Cosplay (LoraFloraDora + Reverie) – Odin Sphere

Tastes Like Curry (Ana Aesthetic + Rosabella Scarlet) with Trinity Blood

Photos by Chris Landingin (GaMeReVX)

<http://gamerevx.wordpress.com/> ■ <http://gamerevx.deviantart.com/>



Top:
US Team during winning performance — Coconut Bubble
Photo by Chris Landingin (GaMeReVX)

Right:
1st Place Coconut Bubble Sex Cosplay — Diana as Rue and
Katie as Princess Kraehe – Princess Tutu
Photo by Ejen Chuang



Left:
Staff and Guests with the new US Team - Diana Owen + Katie George [Team 2012] with Laura Butler (Organizer) + Lynleigh Sato (Assistant Organizer) [Team 2005] and Ed Hoff (Organizer on the Japanese side of the event/translator) and Keisuke Ogura (guest from TV Aichi)
Photo by Ejen Chuang

United States Preliminary Round 2012 Judging Staff

Lynleigh Sato [US Team 2005]
Renee Gloger [US Team 2008]
Sonnya Paz [US Team 2008]
India Davis [US Team 2009]
Kathryn Griffin [US Team 2010]
Krystal Stoner [US Team 2010]

World Cosplay Summit — United States Staff

Organizer: Laura Butler
Assistant Organizer: Lynleigh Sato
Media: Chris Landingin

Official Information

Japanese Event Site: <http://www.tv-aichi.co.jp/wcs/e/>
Main Host Event/National Final: <http://www.katsucon.org>
Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/WCSPrePrelimsUS>
Twitter: WCSPrePrelimsUS
Email: wcsprelimsus@gmail.com

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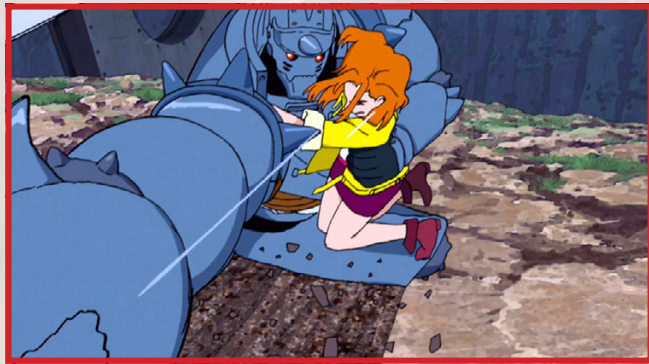
FULLMETAL ALCHEMIST

THE SACRED STAR *of* MILOS



With the new year beginning, it started off with big news for the U.S. anime fans.

The news was for the U.S. launch of, “*Fullmetal Alchemist: The Sacred Star Of Milos.*” The new movie was only going to be shown in select theaters and only for a couple days. The locations of the theaters in Southern California were pretty much of a drive away from, *Genshiken of the I.E.* headquarters. It was not going to stop fans like Lageon, my brother and I from watching this movie at our local Temecula, CA, theater.



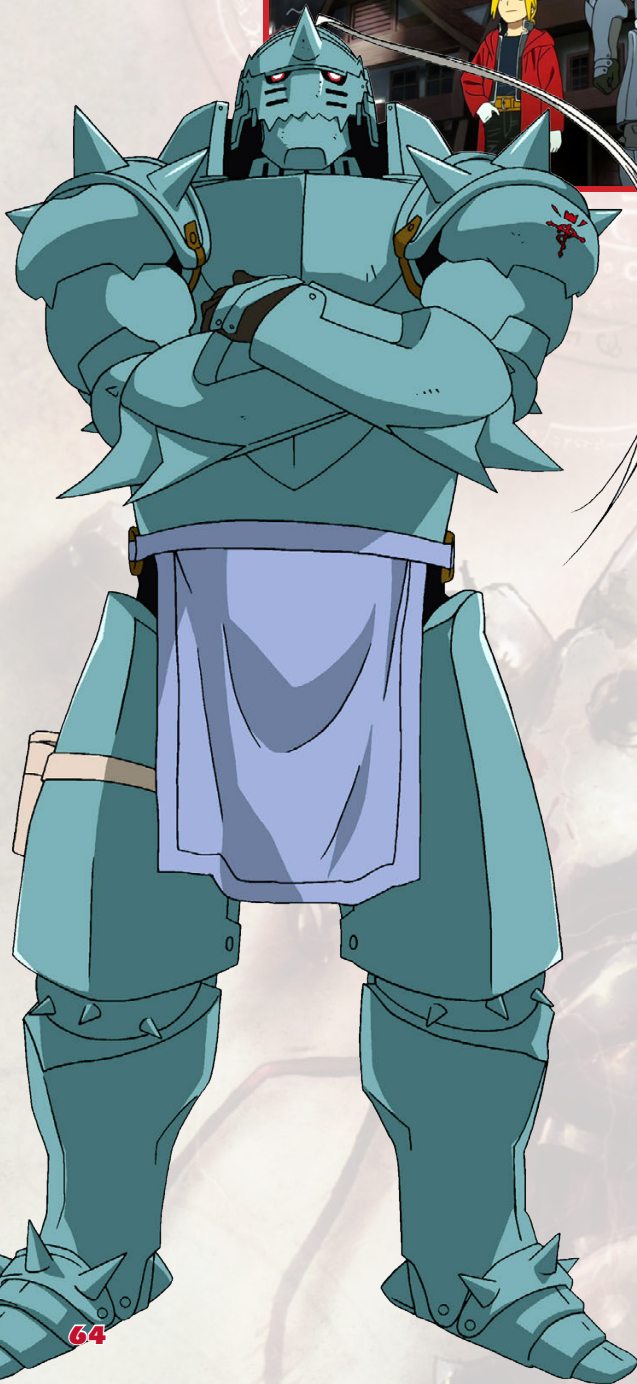
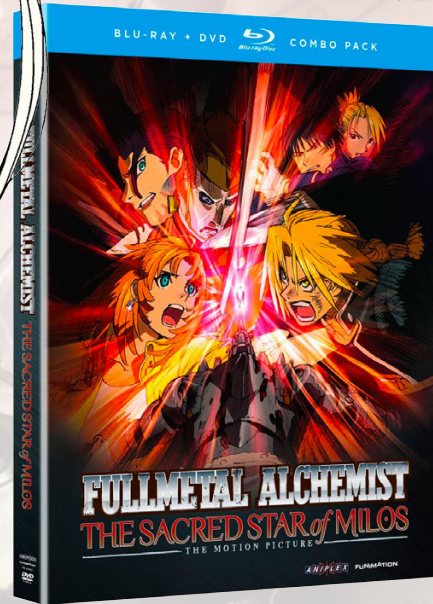
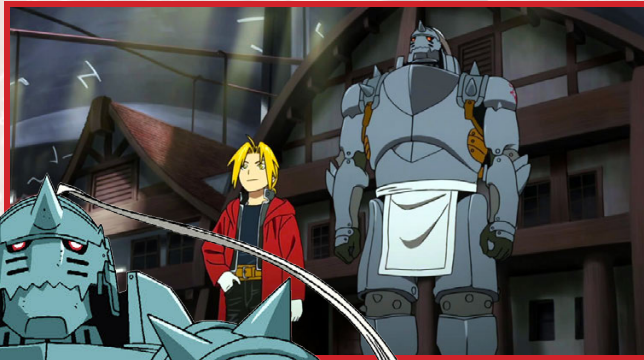
The movie begins with a dream of a family removed from their home by soldiers. The girl who was dreaming wakes up in the middle of the night beside her older brother who is studying notes left by the parents. Soon the two heard some strange noise and the older brother went to investigate. The brother tells his sister not to follow him but ignores him. She enters the room to find two bodies with blood and faints.

Years later, an imprisoned alchemist, with only a few weeks left from his sentence, escapes from prison in Central City. The Elric brothers, Edward and Alphonse, try to recapture the fugitive alchemist and bring him back. The duo encounters the fugitive but he creates ice and lightning from the unique alchemy circles drawn on his hands. Even with Elrics' talents in alchemy, the fugitive escapes.

As there was an investigation about the fugitive, the Elric's were informed by their superior, Roy Mustang. The fugitive, Melvin Voyager, left some of belongings in his cell. The officers found a newspaper page with a part cut out. They compared the cut out with a copy of the same newspaper page and found the missing piece which was a photo of a young woman, Julia Crichton. Julia was arrested while illegally entering the remote Table City which is set in the border between Amestris and Creta. Astonished by the alchemy used by this criminal and some connection to Julia, the Elric brothers investigate and find a

shocking story.

This movie had so much action, a good storyline and was beautifully drawn in great detail. Even after the last showing that Lageon, my brother and myself caught, the other people who watched it were still excited about the movie. This movie was worth the drive and traffic to just watch it. The movie will be available on dvd or Blu-ray hopefully soon, maybe in the spring of 2012. If you have not seen either of the "Fullmetal Alchemist" series or the first movie, you will like this and may start the "Fullmetal Alchemist" series. ❖ Yukimura82





ANIME CHARACTER INFORMATION

APRIL BIRTHDAYS



1

Cyborg 007
Cyborg 009



Kurz Weber
Full Metal Panic!
Sakuma, Ryuichi
Gravitation



Kinomoto, Sakura
Card Captor Sakura



Usopp
One Piece

2

Ōtori, Kanae
Shōjo Kakumei Utena



Amami, Haruka
THE iDOLM@STER

4

Buzam A. Calessa
Vandread
Marie
Sister Princess
Shitennō, Uzuki
Happy Lesson



Washio, Ken/Eagle Ken
Kagaku Ninjatai Gatchaman

5

Iino Abba
Kidō Senshi Gundam ZZ



7

Kobayakawa, Miyuki
Taiho Shichauzo!



8

Panda-kun
Tottoko Hamtarou
Relena Peacecraft
Shin Kidō Senki Gundam W



Suō, Tamaki
Ōran Kōkō Host Club

10

Suō, Ginta
Marmalade Boy



11

Tolle Koenig
Kidō Senshi Gundam SEED
Ishida, Yamato
Digimon Adventure



Naruo, Yuuji
Burn-Up Excess

12

Sakurai, Rihoko
Amagami SS
Van Slanزار de Fanel
Tenkū no Escaflowne
Dào Lián (Ran Tao)
Shaman King



14

Saeki, Ena
Full Metal Panic!



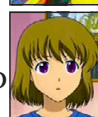
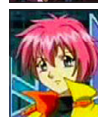
15

Alraune Queen
Saint Seiya



16

Shindō, Shūichi
Gravitation
Tia Noto Yoko
Bastard!



17

Kizaki, Tamayo
Angelic Layer



Vega
Street Fighter 2

Hino, Rei/Sailor Mars
Bishōjo Senshi Sailor Moon



19

Amano, Ginji
Getbackers



23

Fei Long
Street Fighter 2



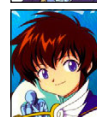
24

Masaki, Tenchi
Tenchi Muyō!



25

Suzuhara, Misaki
Angelic Layer



29

Ikari, Gendō
Shin Seiki Evangelion































30

Ōishi, Shūichirō
Tennis no Ōjīsama



















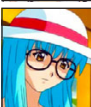


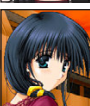


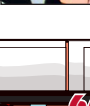




The information presented here is as accurate as much as humanly possible and is subject to change without notice.

MAY BIRTHDAYS

	2 Jun/Swan <i>Kagaku Ninjatai Gatchaman</i>		8 Mitokado, Homura <i>Naruto</i>		Asakura, Yō <i>Shaman King</i>		18 Cagalli Yula Athha <i>Kidō Senshi Gundam SEED</i>
	3 Kōshi-kun <i>Tottoko Hamtarō</i>		Akashiya, Moka <i>Rosario + Vampire</i>		15 Aiba, Takaya <i>Uchū no Kishi Tekkaman Blade</i>		Kira Yamato <i>Kidō Senshi Gundam SEED</i>
	4 Shin'ichi, Kudō <i>Meitantei Conan</i>		11 Kaidō, Kaoru <i>Tennis no Ōjisama</i>		Kankurō <i>Naruto</i>		22 Futami, Ami & Mami <i>THE iDOLM@STER</i>
	5 Monkey D. Luffy <i>One Piece</i>		Melissa Mao <i>Full Metal Panic!</i>		Shapiro Keats <i>Chōjū Kishin Dancougar</i>		26 Umino, Iruka <i>Naruto</i>
	Minase, Iori <i>THE iDOLM@STER</i>		Hotaru, Futaba <i>Garō: Mark of the Wolves</i>		16 Haruka <i>Sister Princess</i>		27 Priscilla S. Asagiri <i>Bubblegum Crisis</i>
	Morinozuka, Takashi <i>Ōran Kōkō Host Club</i>		12 Yūki, Miaka <i>Fushigi Yūgi</i>		Joe Shimamura <i>Cyborg 009</i>		28 Mihara, Chiharu <i>Cardcaptor Sakura</i>
	7 Makimura, Minami <i>Comic Party</i>		Takase, Mizuki <i>Comic Party</i>		17 Fujisaki, Akari <i>Hikaru no Go</i>		
			Jinnai, Nanami <i>Shinpi no Sekai El Hazard</i>				

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

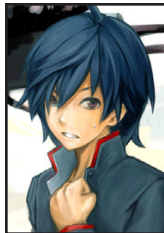
	1 Mano, Yōko <i>Mamono Hunter Yōko</i>		8 Koma, Toshitada <i>Yoroiden Samurai Troopers</i>		13 Jinpei/Swallow <i>Kagaku Ninjatai Gatchaman</i>		Ōmura, Yumi <i>Chobits</i>
	Zangief <i>Street Fighter 2</i>		Fujiwara, Shinobu <i>Chōjū Kishin Dancougar</i>		15 Kisaragi, Aki <i>Uchū no Kishi Tekkaman Blade</i>		Kurobane, Kaitō <i>Meitantei Conan</i>
	3 Inui, Sadaharu <i>Tennis no Ōjisama</i>		9 Hitachiin, Hikaru <i>Ōran Kōkō Host Club</i>		17 Kaji, Ryōji <i>Shin Seiki Evangelion</i>		Aono, Tsukune <i>Rosario + Vampire</i>
	Mutō, Yūgi <i>Yu-Gi-Oh</i>		Uchiha, Itachi <i>Naruto</i>		19 Sakurai, Asahi <i>Comic Party</i>		23 Akizuki, Ritsuko <i>THE iDOLM@STER</i>
	6 Rokumatsuri, Minazuki <i>Happy Lesson</i>		Agake, Mondo <i>Kidō Senshi Gundam ZZ</i>		20 Cyberdoll Kei <i>Hand Maid May</i>		26 Spike Spiegel <i>Cowboy Bebop</i>
	Ikari, Shinji <i>Shin Seiki Evangelion</i>		11 Yūhi, Kurenai <i>Naruto</i>		20 Himura, Kenshin <i>Rurōni Kenshin: Meiji Kenkaku Rōmantan</i>		26 Yamigumo, Nami <i>Silent Möbius</i>
	7 Chibodee Crocket <i>Kidō Butōden G Gundam</i>		12 Hasebe, Aya <i>Comic Party</i>				30 Tsukino, Usagi <i>Bishōjo Senshi Sailor Moon</i>

TOP MALE RANKING[†]



1

**Kotetsu T.
Kaburagi**
鎬木・T・虎徹
Tiger & Bunny



2

Araragi, Koyomi
阿良々木 暦
Nisemonogatari



3

Oma, Shū
桜満集
Guilty Crown



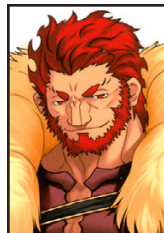
4

Barnaby Brooks Jr.
バーナビー・ブルック
クスJr.
Tiger & Bunny



5

Sakata, Gintoki
坂田銀時
Gintama



6

Rider
ライダー
Fate/Zero



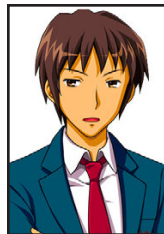
7

Kira Yamato
キラ・ヤマト
*Kidō Senshi Gundam
SEED*



8

Narukami, Yū
鳴上 悠
Persona 4



9

Kyon
キョン
*Suzumiya Haruhi no
Yūutsu*



10

Lelouch Lamperouge
ルルーシュ・ランペ
ルージ
*Code Geass:
Hangyaku no Lelouch*

TOP FEMALE RANKING[†]



1

**Saber Arturia
Pendragon**
セイバー・アルトリ
ア・ペンドラゴン
Fate/zero



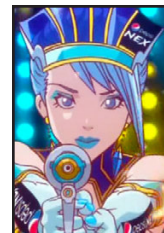
2

Yuzuriha, Inori
楪 いのり
Guilty Crown



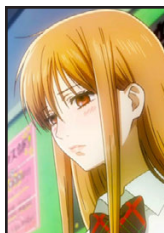
3

Hirasawa, Yui
平沢 唯
K-On!



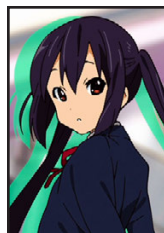
4

Blue Rose
ブルーローズ
Tiger & Bunny



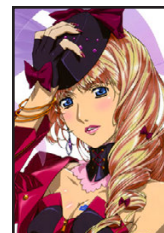
5

Ayase, Chihaya
綾瀬 千早
Chibayafuru



6

Nakano, Azusa
中野 梓
K-On!



7

Sheryl Nome
シェリル・ノーム
Gekijōban Macross F



8

Shirakiin, Ririchiyo
白鬼院 凛々蝶
InuxBoku SS



9

Suzumiya, Haruhi
涼宮ハルヒ
*Suzumiya Haruhi no
Yūutsu*



10

Tanigawa, Kanna
谷川 柑菜
*Ano Natsu de
Matteru*

The information presented here is as accurate as much as humanly possible and is subject to change without notice. †NewType The Motion Pictures Magazine

Upcoming Anime DVD/Blu-Ray

Spring 2012

March 20

Dragon Ball Z Kai, Part 7

FUNimation

DVD • MSRP \$29⁹⁸

Blu-ray • MSRP \$34⁹⁸

Fairy Tail, Part 4

FUNimation

Blu-ray/DVD Combo • MSRP \$54⁹⁸

ef - a tale of melodies.: Complete Collection

Sentai Filmworks

DVD • MSRP \$59⁹⁸

Blu-ray • MSRP \$69⁹⁸

March 27

Hello Kitty - Growing Up With, Vol. 1 (Dub)

AnimEigo

DVD • MSRP \$12⁹⁸

Hello Kitty - Growing Up With, Vol. 2 (Dub)

AnimEigo

DVD • MSRP \$12⁹⁸

Bobobo-Bo Bo-Bobo: The Complete Series, Part 1

S'more Entertainment

DVD • MSRP \$49⁹⁸

Dream Eater Merry: Complete Collection

Sentai Filmworks

DVD • MSRP \$59⁹⁸

Blu-ray • MSRP \$69⁹⁸

April 3

Beylblade: Fierce Battle (Movie - Dub)

Echo Bridge Home Entertainment

DVD • MSRP \$6⁹⁹

Pokémon Movies 4-7 Collection (Dub)

Echo Bridge Home Entertainment

Blu-ray • MSRP \$29⁹⁹

Black Butler: Season 1 Collection

FUNimation

Blu-ray/DVD Combo • MSRP \$69⁹⁸

Black Butler II: Complete Collection

FUNimation (First Press)

Blu-ray/DVD Combo LE • MSRP \$69⁹⁸

Okami-san & Her Seven Companions: Complete Collection (First Press)

FUNimation

Blu-ray/DVD Combo LE • MSRP \$69⁹⁸

Polyphonica Crimson S: Complete Collection (Sub)

Maiden Japan

DVD • MSRP \$49⁹⁸



ay Releases

Motto To Love Ru: Complete Collection (Sub)

Sentai Filmworks
DVD • MSRP \$49⁹⁸

Pokémon Movie 14: Black - Victini & Reshiram/White - Victini & Zekrom (Dub)

Viz Media
DVD • MSRP \$19⁹⁷

April 10

Puella Magi Madoka Magica, Vol.2

Aniplex of America
DVD • MSRP \$39⁹⁸
Blu-ray • MSRP \$49⁹⁸

Puella Magi Madoka Magica, Vol.2

Aniplex of America
Blu-ray/DVD Combo LE • MSRP \$94⁹⁸

Oh! Edo Rocket: Complete Collection

FUNimation
DVD • MSRP \$59⁹⁸

Sekirei: Season 1 Collection

FUNimation
Blu-ray/DVD Combo • MSRP \$49⁹⁸

kimi ni todoke -From Me to You-: Volume 2 Premium Edition (Sub)

NIS America
Blu-ray/DVD Combo • MSRP \$69⁹⁹

Infinite Stratos: Complete Collection (w/OVA + CD)

Sentai Filmworks
DVD • MSRP \$59⁹⁸
Blu-ray • MSRP \$69⁹⁸

Naruto Shippuden Boxset 10

Viz Media
DVD • MSRP \$49⁹⁵

April 17

Blue Exorcist, Vol.3 (Sub)

Aniplex of America
DVD • MSRP \$37⁴⁸

Panda! Go, Panda!

Discotek/Eastern Star
DVD • MSRP \$19⁹⁵

Heaven's Lost Property Forte: Complete Collection (LE - First Press)

FUNimation
DVD • MSRP \$64⁹⁸

The Legend of the Legendary Heroes, Part 1 (LE - First Press)

FUNimation
Blu-ray/DVD Combo • MSRP \$69⁹⁸

The Legend of the Legendary Heroes, Part 2

FUNimation
Blu-ray/DVD Combo • MSRP \$64⁹⁸

Tsubasa, RESERVoir CHRoNiCLE: OVA Collection (S.A.V.E. Edition)

FUNimation
DVD • MSRP \$19⁹⁸
Blu-ray • MSRP \$24⁹⁸

Someday's Dreamers: Complete Collection

Sentai Filmworks
DVD • MSRP \$49⁹⁸

April 24

Fullmetal Alchemist - Brotherhood: Collection 1

FUNimation
DVD • MSRP \$69⁹⁸
Blu-ray • MSRP \$69⁹⁸

Fullmetal Alchemist: The Sacred Star of Milos

FUNimation
DVD • MSRP \$29⁹⁸



The information presented here is as accurate as possible and is subject to change without notice.

Upcoming Anime DVD/Blu-Ray

Spring 2012 *Continued*

Fullmetal Alchemist: The Sacred Star of Milos

FUNimation

Blu-ray/DVD Combo • MSRP \$34⁹⁸

Jyu-Oh-Sei (Planet of the Beast King): Complete Collection (S.A.V.E. Edition) [Repackage]

FUNimation

DVD • MSRP \$29⁹⁸

Fushigi Yugi: Season 1 Boxset

Media Blasters

DVD • MSRP \$49⁹⁹

Kite [18+]

Media Blasters

Blu-ray • MSRP \$24⁹⁹

Golgo 13: Collection 3

Sentai Filmworks

DVD • MSRP \$59⁹⁸

Iron Man: Complete Collection (Marvel Anime)

Sony Pictures

DVD • MSRP \$19⁹⁹

X-Men: Complete Collection (Marvel Anime)

Sony Pictures

DVD • MSRP \$19⁹⁹

May 1

Psychic Squad (Zettai Karen Children): Collection 1 (Sub)

Sentai Filmworks

DVD • MSRP \$49⁹⁸

Transformers - Super-God Masterforce: The Japanese Collection (Sub)

Shout! Factory

DVD • MSRP \$29⁹³

Dirty Pair: Original Features Collection

TRSI/Nozomi Entertainment

DVD • MSRP \$29⁹⁹

Pokémon: Diamond and Pearl - Sinnoh League Victors: Boxset 2 (Dub)

Viz Media

DVD • MSRP \$19⁹⁷

May 8

Kanokon - The Girl Who Cried Fox: TV & OVA Collection

Media Blasters

DVD • MSRP \$39⁹⁹

Queen's Blade 2 - The Evil Eye: Complete Collection

Media Blasters

DVD • MSRP \$49⁹⁹

Occult Academy: Complete Series Premium Edition (Sub)

NIS America

Blu-ray • MSRP \$64⁹⁹

GetBackers: Complete Collection

Sentai Filmworks

DVD • MSRP \$59⁹⁸

Guin Saga: Complete Collection

Sentai Filmworks

DVD • MSRP \$79⁹⁸

Blu-ray • MSRP \$89⁹⁸

May 15

The Fantastic Adventures of Unico

Discotek/Eastern Star

DVD • MSRP \$19⁹⁵

Unico: In the Island of Magic

Discotek/Eastern Star

DVD • MSRP \$19⁹⁵

Cat Planet Cuties: Complete Collection (First Press)

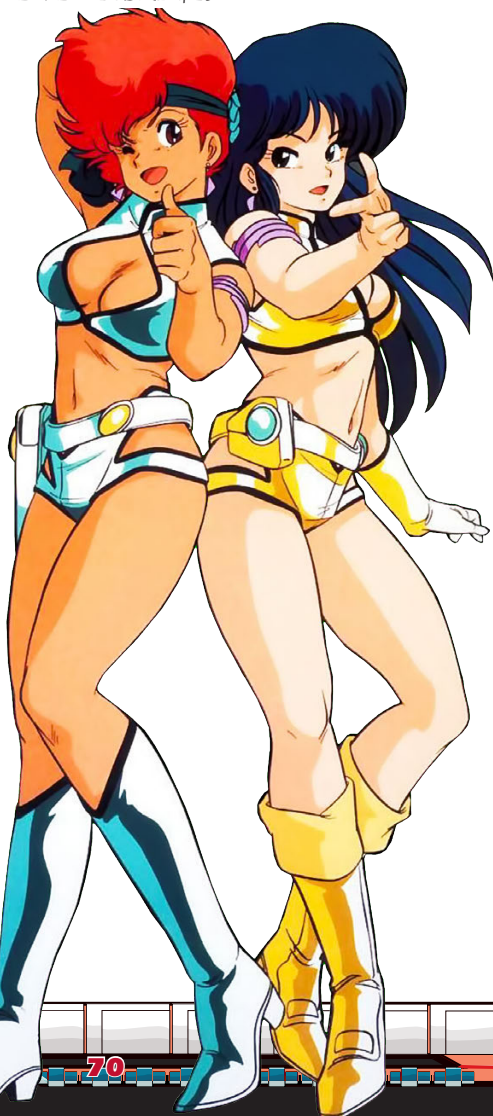
FUNimation

Blu-ray/DVD Combo LE • MSRP \$69⁹⁸

D.Gray-man: Season 2 Collection (S.A.V.E. Edition)

FUNimation

DVD • MSRP \$29⁹⁸



May Releases

The Book of Bantorra: Complete Collection 1

Sentai Filmworks
DVD • MSRP \$59⁹⁸

May 22

Fullmetal Alchemist: Brotherhood OVA Collection

FUNimation
Blu-ray/DVD Combo • MSRP \$24⁹⁸

Dragon Ball Z Kai: Season 1 Collection (Re-release)

FUNimation
DVD • MSRP \$49⁹⁸
Blu-ray • MSRP \$54⁹⁸

Dragon Ball Z Kai: Season 2 Collection

FUNimation
DVD • MSRP \$49⁹⁸
Blu-ray • MSRP \$54⁹⁸

Cowboy Bebop: The Movie/American Pop (Double Feature)

Image Entertainment
DVD • MSRP \$9⁹⁸

Bakuman: Season 1, Part 1

Media Blasters
Blu-ray • MSRP \$59⁹⁹

Planzet

Sentai Filmworks
DVD • MSRP \$29⁹⁸
Blu-ray • MSRP \$39⁹⁸

May 29

Black Cat: Complete Collection (S.A.V.E. Edition)

FUNimation
DVD • MSRP \$29⁹⁸

Dragon Age: Dawn of the Seeker (Dub)

FUNimation
Blu-ray/DVD Combo • MSRP \$34⁹⁸

Kenichi - The Mightiest Disciple: Season 2 Collection (Classic Line)

FUNimation
DVD • MSRP \$49⁹⁸

Shiki, Part 1 (LE)

FUNimation
Blu-ray/DVD Combo • MSRP \$69⁹⁸

Shiki, Part 2

FUNimation
Blu-ray/DVD Combo • MSRP \$64⁹⁸

Gintama: The Movie

Sentai Filmworks
DVD • MSRP \$29⁹⁸
Blu-ray • MSRP \$39⁹⁸

Boogiepop Phantom: Complete Collection (Keepsake)

TRSI/Nozomi Entertainment
DVD • MSRP \$29⁹⁹

ThunderCats (2011): Season 1, Book 2 (Dub Non-Anime)

Warner Home Video
DVD • MSRP \$19⁹⁷

June 12

Puella Magi Madoka Magica, Vol.3

Aniplex of America
DVD • MSRP \$39⁹⁸
Blu-ray • MSRP \$49⁹⁸

Puella Magi Madoka Magica, Vol.3

Aniplex of America
Blu-ray/DVD Combo LE • MSRP \$94⁹⁸



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ITSUKI KOBAYASHI
LIMEBARB
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VOLTZ

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- FMV Showcase
- Anime Dating Game
- Iron Cosplay
- Iron Artist
- Fashion Show
- Ultima Idol
- Karaoke and Open Mic
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STAR WARS THE OLD REPUBLIC

First I must say I'm not normally very big on MMORPGs... normally because I grow bored very quickly from repetitive combat and I have a very low tolerance for ignorant players. I do however play games...*often-ish*. So here we go with my very first game review.

I must say *Star Wars™: The Old Republic™* is the new *WOW (World of Warcraft)* in my eyes. Many users have ditched *WOW* for *SWTOR* in the last few weeks. The top level for the game is 50 as it stands right now but the game play is so unique that you'd have much to still do even after you reach the top level.

At the start of the game you have a choice as to whether you wish to be pledge allegiance to the Empire (Evil Sith lords and such) or the Republic (Jedis and all of their glory). Each alligence comes with four classes right now. As a member of the republic you can choose Jedi Knight, Jedi Consular, Trooper, or Smuggler. Members of the Empire can choose Sith Inquisitor, Sith Warrior, Imperial Agent, Bounty Hunter.

As a player on the Lord Ieldis server, which is a RP-PvE server, I play a Jedi Consular named *Michiru Aoi* and a Sith Inquisitor named *Hitomi*. They are virtually the same class on different sides. Only difference between the Jedi classes and the Sith classes is that you level much faster as a sith than you do with a Jedi. My friend (who's game I play) and I discussed why this might occur, we arrived at the conclusion that Sith are forced to survive in hostile type of territory from the get go. The Jedi pretty much just spend a lot

of time traveling so whatever they run into is on the way to something else.

Every class has a storyline quest which is unique to the class chose at the start of the game. All players from there have a choice of running instances and side quests as they travel through the galaxy. You can also join groups to run side quests and instances for which you will recieve social points which at certain levels allows you to buy certain weapons and outfits that require a social level. Note the galaxy is some 500

years before the star wars movies taking place so chances are you will not run into Darth Vader or Obi-Wan.

As this is a BioWare wonder, almost all of your interactions have an effect on wether you are light or dark side influenced. You cannot really be neutral as to which side of the Force you lean towards. As the game goes on, you will recieve armor and weapons that reflect your force influence. My Sith is dark side and my Jedi is more light, but does have some dark side points. Throughout the



game, you will receive companions (maximum number of companions right now is five plus a C2 unit that stays on your ship). Every *Star Wars™* hero needs a companion. Han had Chewie, Luke had R2-D2 — even Jabba had the cackling monkey lizard Salacious B. Crumb. These characters complement a player's strengths or weaknesses, and provide company for the epic journey you will inevitably undertake. Whether they're combative, friendly, flirtatious, or even just good for a laugh, companions always contribute to your adventure.

Companions

In *Star Wars™: The Old Republic™*, a variety of these Companion Characters will join your cause. Some will join you for adventure, some for greed, and some for motivations that will remain hidden until much further along in your adventure. The Companions run the gamut from intelligent droids to bizarre aliens, from an honorable princess to a roguish pirate, and each class has a completely unique set of Companions.

While traveling the galaxy, your Companion Characters will provide commentary, information on plots and directions to points of interest—all from their own unique

perspectives. Companion Characters may act as your conscience, and try to influence your decisions. In turn, you will influence them, and change how they develop as the story progresses. Based on your choices, some Companions will become your closest friends, others may become your lovers, and a few may even become your enemies!

Your first companion will be received somewhere around level 10; you don't have to be level 10 but if you're a Sith, I highly recommend level 10 since you do battle your companion to gain their favor. Moving on your second companion will be the C2 unit that comes with your ship.

You gain your ship around level 14 or 15. Your ship's type is influenced by your class of character. Jedi Counslar receive the Corvette Class Corellian Defender, Sith Inquisitor receive Fury Class imperial interceptor. I can't really speak for the other classes seeing as I haven't played them and love my jedi and sith too much to stray into more characters.

Starships

Though starships have been traveling hyperspace for millennia, the technology propelling these ships is always evolving. Advanced shielding and weaponry must also be

outfitted for any starships venturing outside secured hyperlanes. In the years of the *Great War*, shipbuilders crafted a new generation of starships. Republic and the Imperial engineers developed a variety of unique designs for official use, but some of the most advanced models have surfaced on the black market, where Bounty Hunters, Smugglers, and pirates pay high prices to acquire the most advanced technologies available!

I hope more people enjoy the game play seeing as you have so many options and there isn't an expansion out yet. You can play up to eight chracters on any server and you can be on as many servers as you choose seeing as my friend and I play on two different servers on the same account. I actually am influenced to buy a new computer, the software and time cared just so that I can play with my friend at the same time. Seeing as we play at different times we do help each other a lot as to where to find all the parts of certain quest.

I can honestly say that this is game of the year and it came out right at the end of the 2011. Seeing it's emmense success in uch a short priod of time is amazing and I hope to see the game grow far far past WOW ever did. So from my I send my best wishes from my laptop to yours. Happy gaming~!! ♦ **Hinala Aoi**




epublic

Who's That Seiyū



Kamiya, Hiroshi
神谷 浩史
DOB: January 28, 1975
Matsudo, Chiba
Blood Type: A
Current Roles...



Inoue, Kazuhiko
井上 和彦
DOB: March 26, 1954
Yokohama, Kanagawa
Blood Type: O
Current Roles...



Hidaka, Rina
日高 里菜
DOB: June 15, 1994
Chiba Prefecture
Blood Type: A
Current Roles...



Takashi, Natsume
Natsume Yūjin Chō Shi



Koyomi, Araragi
Nisemonogatari



Nyanko-sensei
Natsume Yūjin Chō Shi



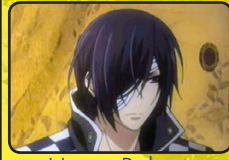
Azuma, Kouichi
Kimi to Boku



Shirakiin, Ririchiyo
Inu x Boku SS



Rinon
Ano Natsu de Matteru



Unno, Rokurō
Brave10



Zeheart Galette
Kidō Senshi Gundam AGE



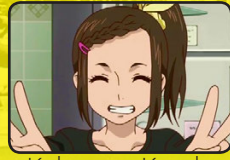
Gildarts Clive
Fairy Tail



Kakashi, Hatake
Naruto: Shippuden



Kashii, Airi
Ro-Kyu-Bu!




Kaburagi, Kaede
Tiger & Bunny



Shimazaki, Nobunaga
島崎 信長
DOB: December 6, 1988
Miyagi Prefecture
Blood Type: A
Current Roles...



Kugimiya, Rie
釘宮 理恵
DOB: May 30, 1979
Kumamoto, Kumamoto Prefecture
Blood Type: B
Current Roles...



Ishihara, Kaori
石原 夏織
DOB: August 6, 1993
Chiba Prefecture
Blood Type: A
Current Roles...



Kirishima, Kaito
Ano Natsu de Matteru



Orobas
Shakugan no Shana III



Louise Françoise
Zero no Tsukaima F



Miyagawa, Atsumi
Recorder and Randsell



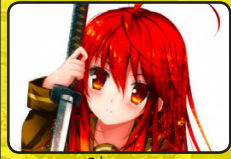
Kyôno, Madoka
Rinne no Lagrange



Tanigawa, Kanna
Ano Natsu de Matteru



Te no Me
Nurarihyon no Mago



Shana
Shakugan no Shana III



Kujikawa, Rise
Persona 4: The Animation



Reki
Hidan no Aria

Season of Winter 2012



Abe, Atsushi
阿部 敦
DOB: March 25, 1981
Ashikaga,
Tochigi Prefecture
Blood Type: O
Current Roles...



Kaji, Yūki
梶 裕貴
DOB: September 3, 1985
Tōkyō
Blood Type: O
Current Roles...



Hirano, Aya
平野 綾
DOB: October 8, 1987
Nagoya, Aichi Prefecture
Blood Type: O
Current Roles...



Sakakibara, Kōichi
Another



Tomofusa, Itsuki
Blood-C



Hyōdō, Issei
High School DxD



Amata, Sora
Aquarion EVOL



Sayo
Recorder and Randsell




Katja
Seikon no Qwaser II




Moritaka, Mashiro
Bakuman.



Mark Whiting
Cardfight!! Vanguard



Hasegawa, Subaru
Ro-Kyu-Bu!



Hope Estheim
Final Fantasy XIII-2



Shidō, Shizu
Maria†Holic Alive



Garnet
Jewelpet Sunshine



Okiayu, Ryōtarō
置鮎 龍太郎
DOB: November 17, 1969
Kitakyushu,
Fukuoka Prefecture
Blood Type: O
Current Roles...



Kana, Hanazawa
花澤 香菜
DOB: February 25, 1989
Tōkyō
Blood Type: AB
Current Roles...



Hatano, Wataru
羽多野 渉
DOB: March 13, 1982
Asahi, Nagano
Blood Type: O
Current Roles...



Miyagawa, Atsushi
Recorder and Randsell



Kashiwazaki, Tenma
Haganai



Kurihara, Chiaki
Mōretsu Pirates



Sengoku, Nadeko
Nisemonogatari



Segawa, Yūta
Papa no Iu Koto o Kikinasai!



Gajeel Redfox
Fairy Tail



Igor Neuhaus
Ao no Exorcist



Toriko
Toriko



Kuroi, Mato
Black★Rock Shooter



Hasegawa, Kobato
Haganai



Minamikokubaru, Daigo
Hoshizora e Kakaru Hashi



Yuj
Final Fantasy XIII

School Rumble

スクールランブル

Anyone interested in an anime that has major battles on school grounds between different classes? See the delinquent class ruling the school and fighting other schools to show who is the best? Well, if you are looking for this anime, the title “SCHOOL RUMBLE” is not literally what you think it is but the opposite.

This is a romantic comedy that is revolved around the class of 2-C. The main female character is Tenma Tsukamoto, a very energetic and clumsy romantic, who has a crush on Oji Karasuma, a character that is hard to figure out. Tenma always tries to confess her love to Karasuma but she tends to over think her plans and ruin every chance she has to telling him. On the other hand Karasuma is clueless about Tenma’s interest in him and always tries to get his fill of spicy curry. The main male role is Kenji Harima, the biggest delinquent on school grounds who has a crush on Tenma. Harima acts in the same way as Tenma when it comes to confessing his love to her. He truly wants to tell Tenma how he feels but there is a secret which is preventing him to show his true self.


This story does not only revolve around this love triangle of Tenma, Karasuma and Harima but also the supporting characters. Tenma has a younger sister, Yakumo Tsukamoto, who is taller, responsible, popular with the boys unlike her older sister and has a secret that she has not told anyone. In this series Yakumo is despised by Eri Sawachiko, a spoiled rich girl and one of Tenma’s best friends, who sees her as a disrespecting younger classmen because she appears to not acknowledge her elders. There is a weird triangle in which Harima is involved that may lead to assumptions but are hilarious.

Another weird triangle is between, Harima, Yakumo and Haruki Hanai.

Hanai is the class rep of 2-C who is overly pushing high morals to his classmates, has a black belt in kenpō, and is hopelessly in love with Yakumo. Whenever Yakumo is around, Hanai is there trying to impress her but fails. As his love for Yakumo is great, Tenma and her friends use him in situations that are hilarious. The story between Hanai and Harima is a great comedy in which it becomes a competition of manliness.

The last two characters that help out in the story are





Tenma's other best friends Mikoto Suō and Akira Takano. Mikoto is the tomboy who is developing into the girl next door. Even though Mikoto is a black belt at kenpō at the same dojo with Hanai, she tries to help out as much as she can with Tenma's and Harima's love life. Akira, president of the Tea Club, bookworm and always prepared for things, is a truthful person who speaks her mind. Although Akira looks intimidating, she knows what is really going on between each character and amuses herself by getting involved and suggesting things for them.

I knew about this anime a long while back but only saw the first season and forgot about the story. It was just recently that I found it and just watched again. I could not stop watching it and finished it off with the OVA and Season 2 which is also hilarious. If you do come across it and want a good laugh, "School Rumble" is a great series to watch. Trust me on this anime; it is something you don't want to miss out on. ❖ Yukimura82

Background by SanMominoke

ANIME - MAID DINER - NIGHT CLUB - COSPLAY CONTEST - HARAHOKE - VIDEO GAMES - LIVE PERFORMANCES - VENDORS - ARTIST ALLEY - PANELS

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Console & Desktop Gaming

Spring 2012

March 20

Armored Core V

Namco Bandai
Simulation - PS3, X360

Rayman Origins

Ubisoft
Platformer - 3DS

Resident Evil: Operation Raccoon City

Capcom
Action Adventure - PS3, X360

Silent Hill HD Collection

Konami
Adventure Compilation - PS3, X360

Ridge Racer

Namco Bandai
Racing - Vita

Sumioni: Demon Arts

Xseed Games
Action - Vita

Kinect Rush: A Disney Pixar Adventure

Microsoft
Action - X360



Gogo's Crazy Bones

Game Mill Entertainment
Action - NDS

Ninja Gaiden III (Collector's Edition)

Tecmo
Action - PS3, X360

Ninja Gaiden III

Tecmo
Action - PS3, X360

Kingdoms of Amalur: Reckoning — The Legend of Dead Kel

Electronic Arts
RPG - PC, PS3, X360

March 21

Sine Mora

Digital Reality
Shooter - PS3, X360

March 23

Total War: Shogun 2 — Fall of The Samurai

SEGA
Strategy - PC

Kid Icarus Uprising

Nintendo
Action - NDS

March 27

Alien Chaos 3D

GMG Play
Action - 3DS



Mahjong 3D: Warriors of the Emperor

GMG Play
Board - 3DS

Petz Horsez

Ubisoft
Virtual Pet - 3DS

Combat Wings: The Great Battles of WWII

City Interactive
Flight Simulation - X360

Reality Fighters

Sony Computer Entertainment
Fighting - Vita

Silent Hill: Book of Memories

Konami
Adventure - Vita

Supremacy MMA: Unrestricted

505 Games
Fighting - Vita

Tiger Woods PGA Tour 13

Electronic Arts
Sports - PS3, X360

Myst

Maximum Family Games
Adventure - 3DS

Test Drive: Ferrari Racing Legends

Atari
Racing - PC, PS3, X360

Capcom Digital Collection

Capcom
Compilation - X360

Console & Desktop Gaming

Spring 2012

Deer Drive Legends

Maximum Family Games
Hunting - 3DS

March 30

Crusader Kings II

Paradox Interactive
Strategy - PC

Skullgirls

Autumn Games
Fighting - X360

Doctor Who: The Eternity Clock

BBC Multimedia
Action - PS3, Vita

Tropico 4: Modern Times

Kalypso Media
Strategy - X360

March 31

La-Mulana

Nicalis
Platformer - Wii

Nexuiz

THQ
Shooter - PS3

Devil's Third

THQ
Action - X360

Dota 2

Valve
RPG - Mac, PC

Professional Fisherman's Tour: Big Bass Open

UFO Interactive
Hunting - 3DS

Gemini Wars

Camel 101
Strategy - Mac, PC

Raiderz

Perfect World International
RPG - PC

Tribes: Ascend

Hi-Rez Studios
Action - PC, X360

Rainbow Moon

EastAsiaSoft
Strategy RPG - PS3

Rotastic

Focus Home Interactive
Puzzle Action - PS3

Zumba Fitness Rush

Majesco
Sports - X360

Core Blaze

Gamania Digital
Entertainment Co., Ltd.
RPG - PC

Defenders of Ardania

Paradox Interactive
Strategy - PC

Skullgirls

Autumn Games
Fighting - PS3

A Valley Without Wind

Arcen Games
Adventure - Mac, PC

Pro Angler Moves

Interworks
Sports - PS3

Gettysburg: Armored Warfare

Paradox
Interactive
Strategy - PC

Twilight Zone

Legacy Interactive
Adventure - Mac, PC

Trials Evolution

Microsoft
Racing - X360

Ninja Gaiden III: Razor's Edge

Tecmo
Action - WiiU, X360

Realms Of Ancient War

Focus Home Interactive
Action - PC, PS3, X360

March 31

ICO HD

Sony Computer Entertainment
Adventure PS3

Shadow of the Colossus HD

Sony Computer Entertainment
Adventure - PS3



Sharla — Xenoblade Chronicles



Super Monkey Ball: Banana Splitz

SEGA
Puzzle Action - Vita

Outdoors Unleashed: Africa 3D
Mastiff
Hunting - 3DS

Diablo III (Collector's Edition)
Blizzard Entertainment
Action RPG - Mac, PC

Colors! 3D
Collecting Smiles
Productivity - 3DS

The Pinball Arcade
FarSight Studios
Pinball - 3DS, PS3, Vita, X360

Sonic CD
SEGA
Platformer - PC

Funky Barn 3D
Ubisoft
Simulation - 3DS

Absolute Supercars
Eutechnyx
Racing - PS3

Unstoppable Gorg
Futuremark
Strategy - X360

Nexu3
THQ
Shooter - PC

Law & Order: Legacies
Telltale Games
Adventure - Mac, PC

Jett Rocket: Super Surf
Shin'en
Action - 3DS

Kirby's Block Ball
Nintendo
Action - GB, 3DS

Nicktoons MLB
2K Play
Sports - 3DS

Squids
The Game Bakers
RPG - Mac, PC

Twisted Metal: Black
Sony Computer Entertainment
Shooter - PS3

The Little Mermaid II
THQ
Action - PS3, PSP

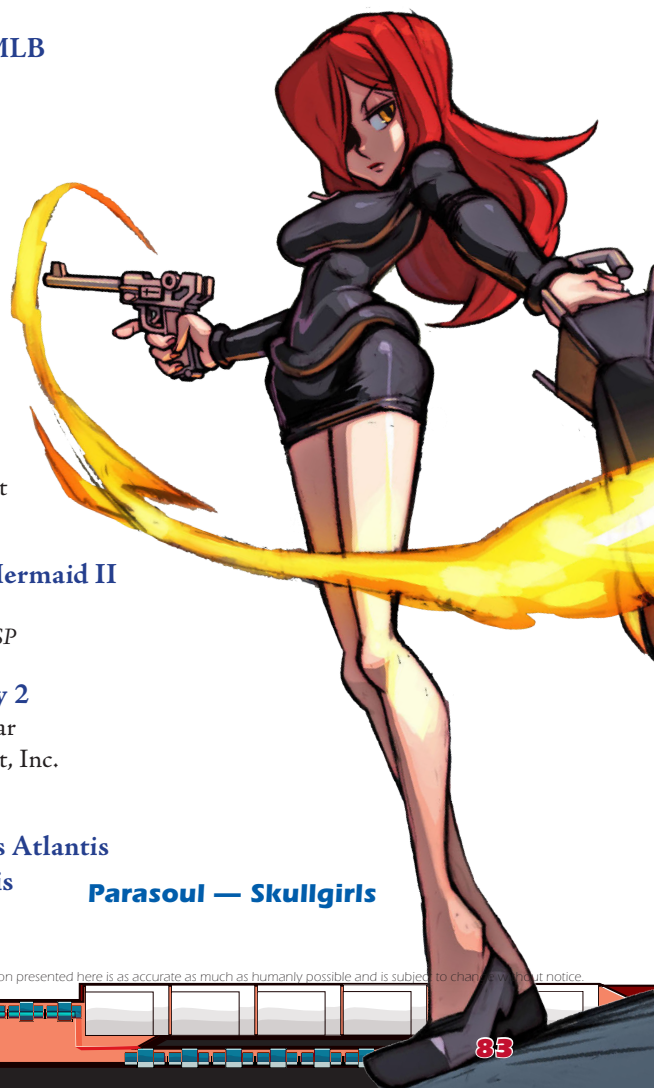
Farm Frenzy 2
About - Alawar Entertainment, Inc.
Strategy - PSP

SpongeBob's Atlantis SquarePantis
THQ
Action - PS3

Zombie Slayer Diox
UFO Interactive
Music Action - 3DS

Yesterday
Focus Home Interactive
Adventure - PC

Diablo III
Blizzard Entertainment
Action RPG - Mac, PC, PS3, X360



Parasoul — Skullgirls

The information presented here is as accurate as much as humanly possible and is subject to change without notice.

Console & Desktop Gaming

Spring 2012



Alan Wake
Nordic Games
Action - PC

Collapse: Devastated World
UTV True Games
Action - PC

I Am Alive
Ubisoft
Action - PS3

Karaoke Joysound
Konami
Music - Wii

Otherland
DTP (Digital Entertainment Pool)
RPG - PC

Mortal Kombat
Warner Bros. Interactive
Fighting - Vita

April 3
Kinect: Star Wars
Microsoft
Action - X360

Heroes of Ruin
Square Enix
Adventure - 3DS

Devil May Cry HD Collection
Capcom
Compilation - PS3, X360

April 13
Spirit Camera: The Cursed Memoir
Nintendo
Adventure - 3DS

April 17
The Witcher 2: Assassins of Kings (Enhanced Edition)
Atari
RPG - PC, X360

The Witcher 2: Assassins of Kings (Dark Edition)
Atari
RPG - X360

April 24
Risen 2: Dark Waters
Deep Silver
RPG - PC, X360

Prototype 2
Activision
Action - PC, PS3, X360

Risen 2: Dark Waters
Deep Silver
RPG - PS3

April 30
Xenoblade Chronicles
Nintendo
RPG - Wii

May 1
Tera
En Masse Entertainment
RPG - PC

May 6
Game of Thrones
Atlus
RPG - X360

May 8
Starhawk (Limited Edition)
Sony Computer Entertainment
Shooter - PS3

Starhawk
Sony Computer Entertainment
Shooter - PS3

May 15
Max Payne 3 (Special Edition)
Rockstar Games
Shooter - PS3, X360

Max Payne 3
Rockstar Games
Shooter - PS3, X360

Battleship
Activision
Action - NDS

Game of Thrones
Atlus
RPG - PC, PS3

May 16
Sonic the Hedgehog 4: Episode II
SEGA
Platformer - X360

May 20
Mario Tennis Open
Nintendo
Sports Action - 3DS

May 22
Sorcery
Sony Computer Entertainment
Adventure - PS3

Dragon's Dogma

Capcom
RPG - PS3, X360

RollerCoaster Tycoon 3D

Atari
Simulation - 3DS

Men in Black: The Videogame

Activision
Action - 3DS, PS3, Wii, X360

Tom Clancy's Ghost Recon: Future Soldier (Signature Edition)

Ubisoft
Shooter - PS3, X360

Tom Clancy's Ghost Recon: Future Soldier

Ubisoft
Shooter - PS3, X360

May 28

Damage Inc. Pacific Squadron WWII

Mad Catz
Flight - X360

May 29

Max Payne 3 (Special Edition)

Rockstar Games
Shooter - PC

Max Payne 3

Rockstar Games
Shooter - PC

Resistance: Burning Skies

Sony Computer Entertainment
Shooter - Vita

May 30

Retro City Rampage

Vblank Entertainment
Action Adventure - PC, PS3, Vita,
Wii, X360

Atelier Meruru: The Apprentice of Arland

NIS
RPG - PS3

Sniper Elite V2

Rebellion
Action - PC, PS3, X360

Sonic the Hedgehog 4: Episode II

SEGA
Platformer - PC, PS3

Battleship

Activision
Shooter - 3DS, PS3, Wii, X360

June 5

Inversion

Namco Bandai
Shooter - PC, PS3, X360

June 12

End of Nations (Collector's Edition)

Trion Worlds
Shooter - PC

End of Nations

Trion Worlds
Shooter - PC

Gravity Rush

Sony Computer Entertainment
Action - Vita

Gungnir

Atlus
Strategy RPG - PSP

June 19

Steel Battalion: Heavy Armor

Capcom
Action Simulation - X360

The Secret World

Electronic Arts
RPG - PC, X360



Fiona — Xenoblade Chronicles

The information presented here is as accurate as much as humanly possible and is subject to change without notice.

May 4-6
2012



Anime • Manga • Comic • Japanese culture • Gaming & Gameshows • Special Guests • Dealers' Room & Exhibits • Artist Alley • Panels & Workshops • AMV Contest • Costume Contest • Art Show • Japanese creators of anime and manga • Voice actors from anime series • Japanese musical acts



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Quinni-Con 2012

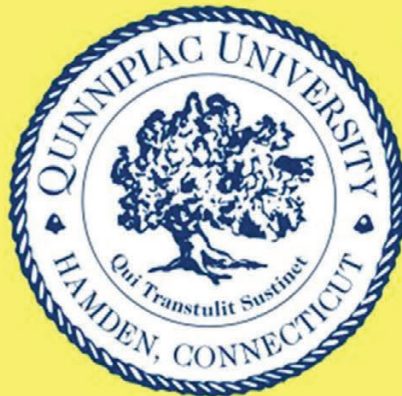
Dealers!
Dancing!
Maid Café!
Screenings!



Video Games!
Events!
DDR & Karaoke!

Join us for a **FREE** anime convention in **CT!**

Quinni-Con is a brand new, family friendly anime convention in Hamden, CT, that will have video game, steampunk, cosplay, and musical elements to it. It is a guaranteed fun time for all!



The Convention is located at:

Quinnipiac University's
Rocky Top Student Center
York Hill Campus
305 Sherman Ave
Hamden, CT 06518

PRIVACY AND

NET CAFES

A TALE OF TWO CITIES



Most Japanese internet cafes are open 24 hours.

Private internet cafe booths in Ōsaka.



Kazushi Takahashi, a 22-year-old student in Tōkyō, likes the privacy provided by closed individual rooms in internet cafes, where he can surf the Web, play online games and read manga.

“I wouldn’t be able to relax if people peek in a room I am in,” he said.

What Takahashi doesn’t know is that since last April people like him in Ōsaka and a few other prefectures don’t have the privacy he enjoys in Tōkyō’s internet cafes.

Privacy is out of reach for Ōsaka internet cafe fans because operators had to make the rooms viewable from the outside, for example by changing door materials from wood to transparent acrylic or altering the doors so they can’t be closed.

This was at the instruction of the Ōsaka Prefectural Police, who view the individual rooms as likely sites of serious crimes, including sexual assault. Industry observers say the police in Ōsaka are excessive in their enforcement of existing restrictions compared with most other prefectures, but the reason remains unclear.

What is clear is that the pressure is affecting the industry, and internet cafe operators are trying to come up with ways to avoid

further control by authorities. Sales at Ōsaka internet cafes dropped 20 percent last year, compared with a 2.6 percent decrease nationwide, according to Osamu Wakamatsu, an adviser to the *Japan Complex Cafe Association*, an industry group for internet cafes.

“Lack of privacy is definitely the reason for Ōsaka’s slump,” he said. “Pretty much from their inception, internet cafes drew fire as potential hotbeds for crime. But the situation improved after cafes in 2008 began requiring customers to register as members and started making photocopies of their identification cards in compliance with prefectural ordinances and the rules adopted by the industry association.”

Cafe operators can also now identify people who use a specific computer at a specific time. Such information is very useful for police in pinpointing criminal suspects. However, last April the *National Police Agency*, which still views the private rooms in internet cafes with suspicion, sent out instructions to prefectural police forces across the country to determine if the internet cafes with closed rooms in their jurisdictions should be regulated by the law controlling the sex industry, pachinko parlors and similar entertainment establishments.

A restaurant or a bar that has a room measuring five or less square meters that is difficult to look into from the outside should be regulated under this law. Police regard most internet cafes with private rooms as such an establishment, because at the very least they serve free soft drinks. Some also offer free milk and ice cream and have vending machines selling cup noodles and snacks.

But having to register as a restaurant under this law would prohibit them from operating 24 hours. For the internet cafe operators, this would mean losing lots of customers, who use the space as a cheap hotel with free access to the internet and manga. Thus, most operators in Ōsaka have opted to make the rooms less private, said Wakamatsu, who travels across Japan advising cafe operators on how to deal with local police.

Mitsuhiro Tada, an official in the Ōsaka Prefectural Police’s public safety department, told *The Japan Times* that Ōsaka’s “translation of the NPA’s instruction is that we need to make internet cafe operators fix a situation in which shop employees patrolling the floor have to stop and try really hard in order to look inside individual rooms.”

The walls of the rooms generally don’t go all the way to the ceiling. Therefore the height of the walls, and the ease with which staff can peer over them to see what’s going on inside is a factor. Despite the strong pressure, seven internet cafes in Ōsaka refused to modify their rooms. The local police responded by turning

their cases over to prosecutors, alleging failure to register as businesses regulated by the law controlling the sex industry and pachinko parlors, Tada said.

“There were many reports of sexual assaults and theft in internet cafes and we received many requests from Ōsaka residents to tighten restrictions,” he said.

Internet cafes in Aichi Prefecture have meanwhile installed glass windows at eye level in their doors at the instruction of the prefectural police. But the police in Tōkyō have a different take on the NPA’s instructions.

“We sometimes go into internet cafes as part of general patrolling, but we didn’t find any of them that should be regulated by the law controlling the sex industry and other entertainment establishments,” a Metropolitan Police Department spokesman said.

Industry adviser Wakamatsu said because of this difference in the perception of internet cafes between police departments, those establishments in Tōkyō and other prefectures get away with having establishments in Tōkyō and other prefectures get away with having individual rooms that wouldn’t be allowed in Ōsaka.

For example, an internet cafe in Shibuya Ward, Tōkyō, has dozens of individual rooms partitioned by black plastic doors and walls as tall as 160 to 170 cm. The doors can also be locked from the inside.

Runsystem Co., which runs 188 outlets of the Jiyū Kūkan internet cafe chain in 42 prefectures, has changed the doors from wood or plastic to transparent acrylic or made them unable to close in prefectures where police instructed it to do so, spokesman Tsuyoshi Watanabe said. No such order has come from Tōkyō police, he said.

“Customers complain, but we have no choice,” he said of opening up the individual rooms.

A spokeswoman for Diamond Dining Co., operator of the Bagus internet cafe chain, declined comment on how the company deals with police instructions. Wakamatsu

observed that only a few other prefectural police forces have approached the level of enforcement in Ōsaka, where the police are by far the most aggressive in restricting internet cafes. Their rationale for the clampdown is that sex crimes are committed in the individual rooms.

There is, however, scant evidence to prove sexual crimes have been increasing. There were 11 reported sexual assaults in internet cafes in the first half of last year, compared with eight in 2010 and 18 in 2009, according to NPA statistics. The agency did not compile such statistics before 2009.

“However, Ōsaka police are saying sexual assaults don’t happen in regular cafes, and therefore internet cafes are bad,” Wakamatsu said. “They also say internet cafes have turned into ‘love hotels’ for kids.”

The attitudes between the different police



Typical internet cafe booth in Tōkyō.

forces toward internet cafes may stand in sharp contrast now, but there is no guarantee that Tōkyō police will never be as strict as Ōsaka police, according to Wakamatsu.

“Not just Tōkyō, but other prefectures may follow Ōsaka’s lead. There is no concrete standard as to what makes private individual rooms too private,” he said.

Internet cafes raked in ¥226.6 billion at their peak in 2008, up from ¥120 billion in 2001, the first year such statistics were compiled, according to the industry association. Sales started falling in 2009 due to the recession, dropping to ¥198.6 billion last year. There were 2,481 internet cafes nationwide as of last June. By prefecture, Tōkyō had the most, at 407, followed by Aichi with 318 and Ōsaka with 185, according to the association.

❖ **Minoru Matsutani**

Anime-zing!

Clarion Convention Center and Hotel • June 1-3 • Davenport, Iowa

Bringing Fans Together To Celebrate Fandom

About The Convention

Anime-zing! is a three-day celebration of Japanese animation that includes tons of unique events and activities. The weekend brings together voice actors and industry members with fans to participate in autograph signings, discussions, tutorials, and more.

The weekend stands out among conventions and other events for bringing fans together to celebrate fandom unlike any other event. There's an emphasis on group photoshoots, cosplaying and, beyond anything else, making new friends.

Over the three days fans make friends starting with opening ceremonies all the way through closing ceremonies, with attendees encouraged to gather Facebook profiles and phone numbers from their new friends. All kinds of events during the convention encourage making friends, including "Dante's Fabulous Date Auction" through "A Harem and How To Handle 'em," attendees are building new friendships.

"It's awesome to see so many new friendships form every year," said senior organizer Ryan Kopf. "There's few other places like this where anime fans can celebrate and forge so many new friendships."

This year's event will be held at the Clarion Convention Center in Davenport, Iowa from June 1-3, 2012. Over a thousand people are expected to show up to participate in panels, screenings, and guest sessions.

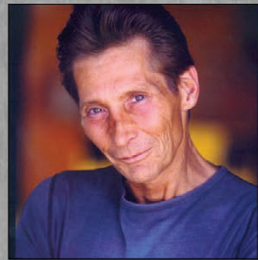
Registration is just \$25 per person online, or as little as \$35 per person at the door for the entire weekend.

Featured Guests



Johnny Yong Bosch

Johnny Yong Bosch got his start a power ranger and has since been Vash (Trigun), Ichigo (Bleach), Renton (Eureka Seven), Kiba (Wolf's Rain), and Itsuki (The Melancholy of Haurhi Suzumiya).



Robert Axelrod

Robert Axelrod is most well-known and loved for his voice as Lord Zedd in the Power Rangers. Robert has also voiced characters in Digimon and many other shows, while also being featured in movies and beyond.



Sonny Strait

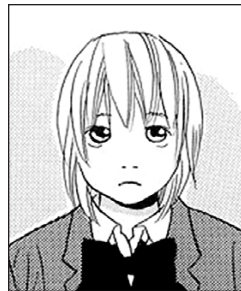
Sonny Strait is the very voice of Lupin the III, while also being the voice of Lt. Hughes in FMA, and Krillin from DBZ.



Christina Vee

Christina Vee has done voices ranging from Mio Akiyama in K-On! to Nanoha Takamachi in Magical Girl Lyrical Nanoha. She's also video game characters Alisa Bosconovitch (Tekken: Blood Vengeance) and even Lian Shi (Dynasty Warriors 7).

www.QCAnimeZing.com



Shirakawa, Tsubomi
"Bon-chan"

Tsubomi just graduated from an all-girls high school. Depressed about being looked down upon her weight, she decides to change after working part time at a local video rental store.



Shiroshita, Ayumu
"Shiro"

He is Tsubomi's co-worker at the video rental store and become good friends after a while. Ayumu has a girlfriend that went to Tsubomi's high school.



Katakura, Eiko

She is a childhood friend of Tsubomi who happens to live nearby her. Although her friend, she had changed over the years to having a harsh personality.

Cousin カズン

by

Ikuemi, Ryô (いくえみ綾)

Tsubomi Shirakawa, 18 years old, has graduated from high school, but while her circle of friends have already found jobs or started college, she has decided to become a "Freeter," and begins part-timing at a local rental video store. Meanwhile, she finds out that her cousin Noni, whom she has not met from as long as she can remember, has debuted in show business as an entertainer.

Tsubomi may have a chubby figure but was uninterested in beauty of figure or form. However that is about to change when, a coworker, Shiro, brings her to visit a bar where she falls in love with the owner, Nasukawa.

Here's the first two chapters for your preview.

Start with top right and end with bottom left. Reading is done the same direction.

WHO SAID WE WERE GOING OUT WITH PEOPLE FROM CLASS? NO, NO. EH? I DON'T WANNA GO.

DON'T WANT TO! I REALLY REALLY ... NOT INTERESTED.

I'VE PLANNED A GRADUATION PARTY WITH MY BOYFRIEND AND HIS FRIENDS! I'll introduce you to somebody!

KATAKUBA EIKO. SHE LIVES CLOSE TO ME. WE'D BEEN CLOSE FRIENDS SINCE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.

BUT, AT SOME POINT DURING OUR FIRST YEAR IN HIGH SCHOOL, SHE DYED HER HAIR BROWN AND SLOWLY STARTED TO CHANGE.

WAS THAT THE SO CALLED "HIGH SCHOOL DEBUT"?

... UGLY!
SUPER UGLY!
FAT AND UGLY!

ARE YOU SURE...?
ARE YOU REALLY REALLY SURE?
YOU'RE GOING TO BE IN DANGER, BON-CHAN...
IT'S OK.
IF YOU TAKE A GIRL LIKE ME, YOU'LL ONLY BE HAVE FUN OF ANYWAY, RIGHT?
WHAT?

WE WERE NEVER IN THE SAME HOMEROOM... BUT DURING OUR ELECTIVE CLASSES, SHE WOULD ALWAYS COME AND SIT NEXT TO ME.

IT SEEMS SHE LIKED ME.

ALL... YOU SAID YOU'RE GOING TO A UNIVERSITY IN TOKYO, RIGHT?

YEAH, I'M REALLY SAD I WON'T BE ABLE TO SEE YOU THAT OFTEN, BON-CHAN!

WE DEFINITELY NEED TO GET TOGETHER WHEN I COME VISIT, OK?

KEEP IN TOUCH, OK? PROMISE!

Bye, bye
I'll call you!
Let's meet again some time!

I DON'T REALLY CARE IF SHE HEARD ME OR WHATEVER!
IT'S OK, IT'S OK!
SHE PROBABLY HEARD YOU...
PAT

C'MON, LET'S GO DRINK, BON-CHAN!

GO HOME!

Cousin

BYE, BYE!
LATER!
BYE, BYE, BON-CHAN!

HIRA HARA.
HITOMI.
MITSU-CHAN.

ASAHINA GIRL'S HIGH SCHOOL

...HIGH SCHOOL LIFE.
...MY OH-SO-NORMAL...
BYE, BYE...

SFX: BUMP

...
AH!
I CAN VAGUELY REMEMBER THE FIRST FOUR BOY-FRIENDS SHE HAD OUT OF ALL THE OTHERS.

...
SORRY.

IT'S A SECRET.
KANAI-CHAN, WHERE ARE YOU GOING TO APPLY FOR WORK?

EH...
...WELL...

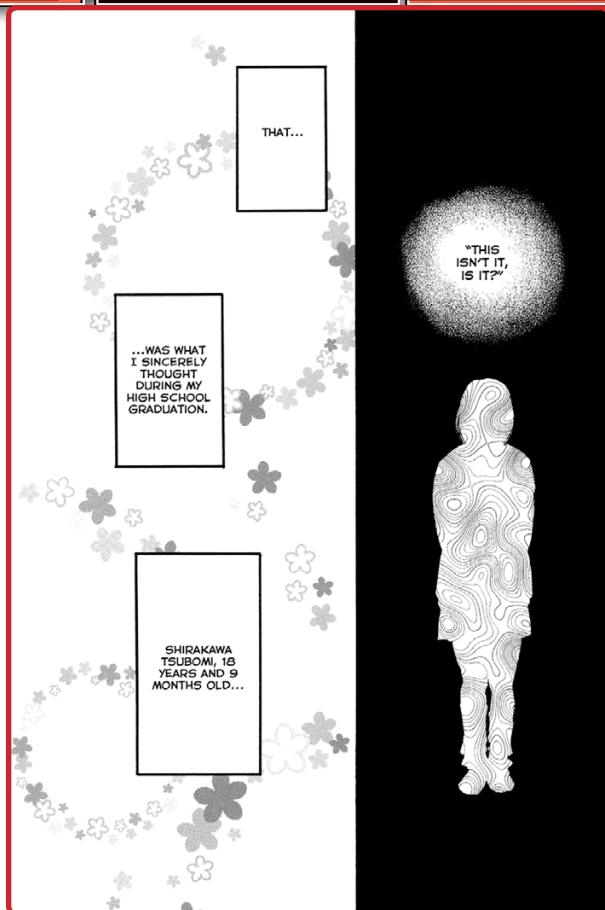
KANAI RITSUKO ...

TODAY WAS THE FIRST TIME I SPOKE TO HER...

Stop Reading Here

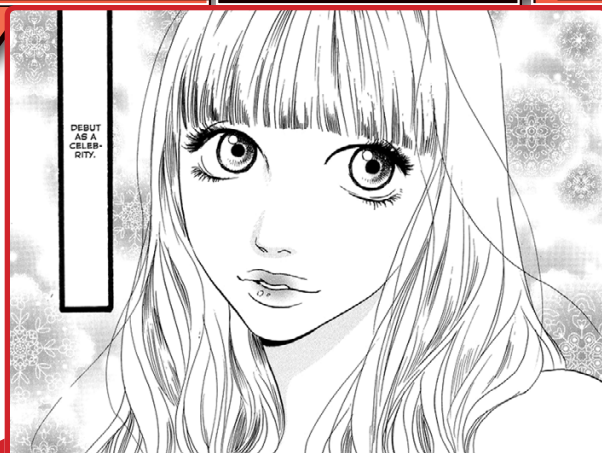
Start Reading Here

Start with top right and end with bottom left. Reading is done the same direction.



Cousin

Start with top right and end with bottom left. Reading is done the same direction.



Cousin



Stop Reading Here

Start Reading Here

Start with top right and end with bottom left. Reading is done the same direction.



SUSHI!



THANKS.

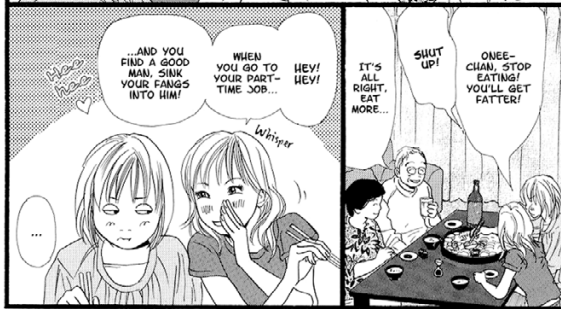
CONGRATS, CONGRATS!

WELL, CONGRATULATIONS!

CONGRATULATIONS!

THANKS.

Slurp



...AND YOU FIND A GOOD MAN, SHIKU YOUR FANGS INTO HIM!

WHEN YOU GO TO YOUR PART-TIME JOB...

HEY! HEY!

HEY!

IT'S ALL RIGHT, EAT MORE...

SHUT UP!

ONEECHAN, STOP EATING! YOU'LL GET FATTER!

Whisper

12



SPK: STUFF STUFF



SEE NOW... TODAY WAS YOUR GRADUATION AND FIRST THINGS YOU DO IS THROW AWAY YOUR UNIFORM?

Aren't all these things memories, too?

I WON'T BE NEEDING THESE TEXTBOOKS NOR THOSE UNIFORMS ANYMORE.

ARE YOU GOING TO COSPLAY WITH IT, MOM?

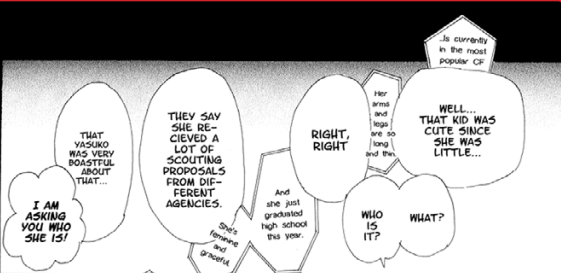
SPK: PLOP

MOM!



WHAT DO YOU WANT FOR DINNER?

WHAT DAY DO YOU PUT OUT THE RECYCLABLE TRASH?



I AM ASKING YOU WHO SHE IS!

THAT YASUKO WAS VERY BEAUTIFUL ABOUT THAT...

THEY SAY SHE RECEIVED A LOT OF SCOUTING PROPOSALS FROM DIFFERENT AGENCIES.

RIGHT, RIGHT.

WELL... THAT KID WAS CUTE SINCE SHE WAS LITTLE...

WHO IS IT?

DO YOU REMEMBER HER, TSUBOMI?

SHE'S VASUKO-BACHUAN'S DAUGHTER...

AND SHE'S REALLY RELATED TO US?

A CELEBRITY? REALLY?!

...

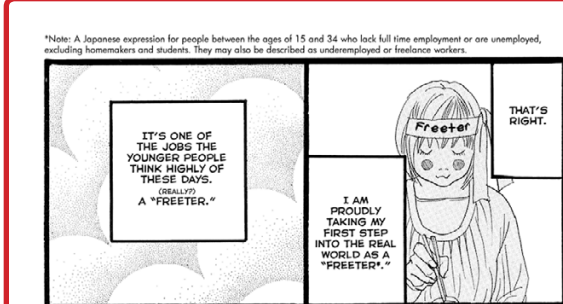
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...



SHE'S YOUR COUSIN.

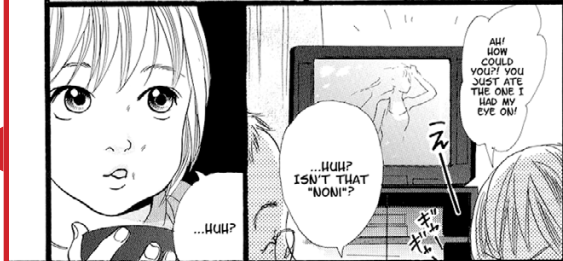
14



IT'S ONE OF THE JOBS THE YOUNGER PEOPLE THINK HIGHLY OF THESE DAYS. (GREATLY?) A "FREETER."

THAT'S RIGHT.

I AM PROUDLY TAKING MY FIRST STEP INTO THE REAL WORLD AS A "FREETER."



...HUH?

...HUH?

...HUH?

...HUH?

...HUH?



EH?

NONI?

THAT'S NONI, THE GIRL WHO'S LIVING AT YASUKO'S IN FUYUSAWA, RIGHT?

WHERE..?

IN THE JUICE COMMERCIAL ON TV RIGHT NOW.

THERE!

...HUH? IT REALLY IS HER.

*Note: A Japanese expression for people between the ages of 15 and 34 who lack full time employment or are unemployed, excluding homemakers and students. They may also be described as underemployed or freelance workers.

Cousin

Start with top right and end with bottom left. Reading is done the same direction.

WHEN DID I BECOME LIKE THIS?

Sign: Karakura

...BECAME PRETTIER AND SUDDENLY GAINED POPULARITY...

EIKO...

WHEN DID SHE BECOME SO DIFFERENT FROM ME?

...NO. IT WAS EVEN BEFORE THAT.

...AND I ALWAYS THOUGHT SHE WAS RIGHT NEXT TO ME...

MY CHILDHOOD FRIEND, EIKO, DYED HER HAIR BROWN UPON ENTERING HIGH SCHOOL...

24

A PICTURE OF ME AND NONI WHEN WE WERE YOUNG!

TADA!

AFTER SEARCHING THE PHOTO ALBUM FROM TOP TO BOTTOM LAST NIGHT, I FINALLY FOUND IT!

WHAT IS IT?

I WENT TO SHOW THIS OFF TO MY FRIENDS TODAY!

IT IS! EVEN MOM SAID IT WAS. WE TOOK THIS PICTURE WHEN YASUKO-BAA-CHAN CAME TO VISIT US!

...IS THIS REALLY NONI?

I'M TELLING YOU, IT REALLY IS NONI!!!

IT'S TOO SMALL. I CAN'T EVEN TELL WHO'S WHO.

WHAT'S HER PROBLEM...?

IT'S JUST BECAUSE NONI BECAME A HUGE CELEBRITY... HOW PITIFUL...

I'LL BE BACK...

Cousin

69K: CRASH

69K: BUMP

69K: CRASH

It's not that I'm too small, it's that you're too big!

STRAGLE

...SORRY!

500...

ARE YOU ALRIGHT, OJOU-CHAN?

I COULDN'T SEE YOU SINCE YOU'RE SO SMALL!

YES.

Ojou chan?

69K: CRASH

Stop Reading Here

...I COULDN'T EVEN THINK ABOUT TALKING TO THE SENPAI I LIKED, LET ALONE TALK TO HIM...

I COULDN'T EVEN...

I COULD TELL THAT EVERY GUY THAT CAME TO TALK TO US IGNORED ME.

IN MIDDLE SCHOOL WE WENT TO THE BEACH WITH A SMALL GROUP OF FRIENDS.

...BUT IN THE END... I CHOSE TO LEAD THAT MEDIOCRE LIFE...

I AVOIDED ALL THE THINGS I THOUGHT WERE DIFFICULT, AND LED A MEDIOCRE LIFE...

AFTER ENTERING AN ALL-GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL, I MADE SOME FRIENDS.

I BECAME SOMEONE WHO COULD ONLY GET AVERAGE RESULTS NO MATTER HOW HARD I TRIED.

OH, OH!

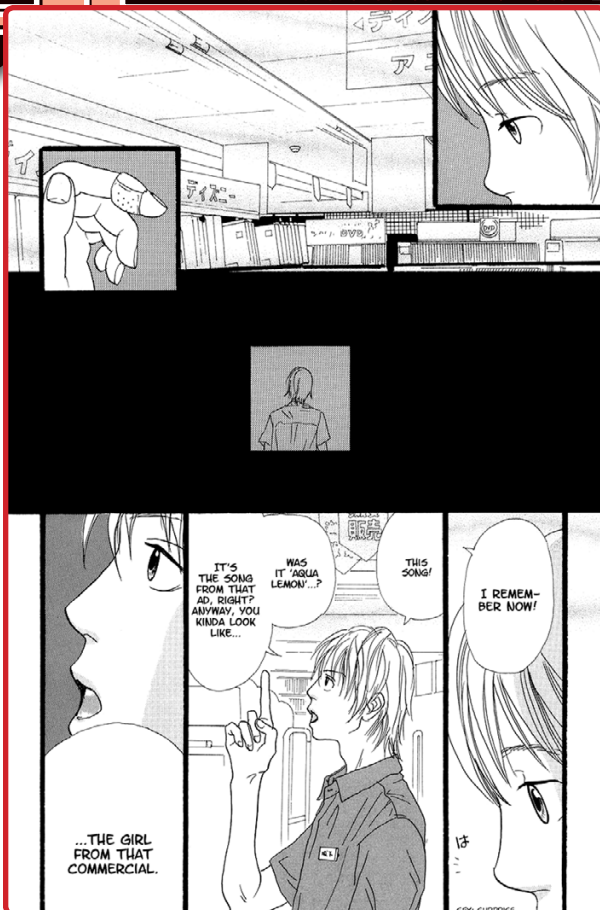
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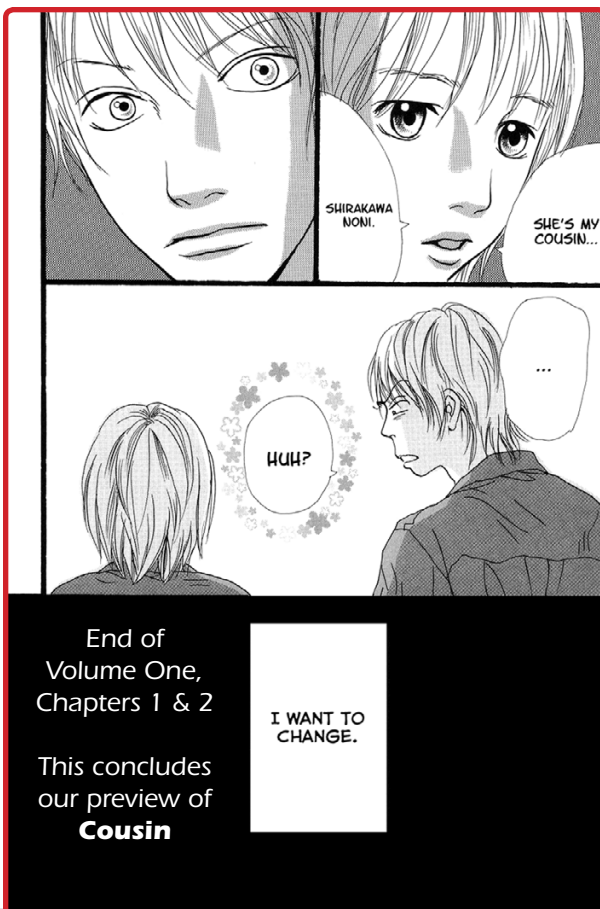


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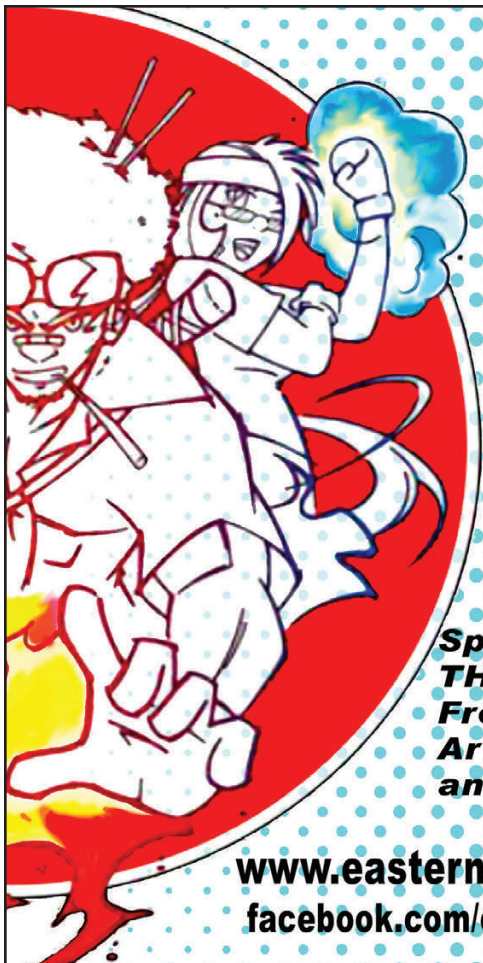
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