

**THE**

**VOL. 1**

**NO. 3**

# **MANGAVERSE:**

## **NEWS & FAN-TALK**





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## ART:

All art in this issue is by Ruth R. Davidson

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Find us online at <http://potato.xarph.net/~ruthiechan/mangaverse.html>

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## Editor's Corner

Yep, definitely a corner.

The little corner that has me on my knees with my face to the floor, arms forward, one hand over the other, palms down, crying, "Gomen nasai! Gomen nasai!" Oodles of drama ensued in my life and many of my fannish doings had to be put on the back burner. Then the same thing happened to Usagi, but she didn't tell me so here I am going, "where the hell is the stuff she normally sends me!?" ::fret fret::

So I suck it up and I call her. She freaks and hangs up on me. >.< <— squinch eyes

I call back, she apologizes, and explains everything to me. Me? I'm like, yeah, okay, I understand, we can put it all in the next issue, yadda yadda. I then tell her, but, dude, next time, tell me sooner and don't hang up on me! Bad Usagi! Bad!

And she is soooooo gonna kill me for this. She's gonna call me and say, "Ruthie, why'd you embarrass me? Don't you love me? Is this your revenge?" I can hear her voice in my head as I type this, getting all cutely flustered. I can envision her reading this, her cheeks going pink, eyes growing wide.

No, this is not revenge, this is my explanation attempting to be given in a humorous fashion. Is it working? I dunno, you tell me. Though I do promise to have the next ish out in December *before* I leave for vacation. So that means before Christmas. :) <— smiley

What? You don't believe it? I'm crushed! So crushed. Now how am I gonna type everything out? You crushed me. Like a roach. (Thinks of Farscape ep, I Shrink Therefore I Am – and no it's not an anime, or a manga, or a comic or anything that has to do with the MANGAVERSE specifically, but I thought of it anyway.)

Now you're probably thinking, dear god, what is wrong with this woman? She's babbling. She's gone totally psycho. Send her to the ward, quick! Before she starts filling this zine with nothing but nonsense! Nonsense? Never, not to those who are Fans. Though even you Fen are probably wondering what's up with my weird moody-mood. Just don't ask me. I have no answer. Maybe it's all self defense generated by horrible guilt. \*gleep\* No, really, I'm just babbling because I can get away with it. NYAH!

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## Fan-talk

*This section is for you, to rant, rave, chit chat, and babble, at and with your fellow anime/manga/comic fans. This is the uber-casual section.*

I have the coolest baby ever! You're now probably thinking, what the hell does that have to do with anything? Well, my daughter has Fans for parents! Her father and I don't let her watch regular TV. So, what she watches we put on for her. Hazel will be 18 months on November 1st. Her two favorite movies are *Spirited Away* and *Ah My Goddess*. She loves them. According to her *Princess Mononoke* is okay, and she doesn't like *Poco Roso* so much.

What I love the most though, is the fact that I'm not allowed to indulge in laziness when putting on her preferred DVD's. This means, I can't just push play, I actually have to go through the set up and change the audio to Japanese and subtitles to English. If I do not do this, she throws a fit and pushes the reset button on our Play Station 2 (which is our DVD player). That just makes me proud.

My husband and I joke that she'll start talking in Japanese and we won't have a clue what she's saying, or at first any idea at all that she's saying anything, that'd it'd just sound like "baby talk." HAHA! Maybe when we go visit my family, my sister, who is taking Japanese, will be able to see if Hazel is speaking any Japanese.

Though, there is one Japanese word she does say, and that's because her parents use it. Baka. In fact, she's called me Baka Mama before. She'll grow up thinking it's a term of endearment instead of an insult. She'll learn differently when she meets a Japanese kid and calls them an idiot. Hee hee hee.

What's also very nifty is that last night I heard Hazel singing and it was the song that Belldandy sang to make the trees feel better. I was so tickled. Before she wouldn't sing or hum anything in particular (like me).

She also laughs and squeals with delight during *Spirited Away* when Chihiro's father is driving far too fast in the beginning and almost hits the frog statue.

She's a fan already. ::Puffs with pride::

— Ruth R. Davidson, Las Vegas NV

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## MANGA – A Brief History

By Ron Tiner

on-line addenda of "The Encyclopedia of Fantasy" (1997) ed. John Clute and John Grant  
[http://www.dcs.gla.ac.uk/SF-Archives/Misc/fec\\_m2p.html#manga](http://www.dcs.gla.ac.uk/SF-Archives/Misc/fec_m2p.html#manga)

Japanese term first coined by the artist and teacher Hokusai (1760-1849) to describe the books of sketches and drawings which he produced for the use of his students. Translated as "irresponsible pictures", the term may also be used to refer to cartoons or comic strips, and in this latter meaning has gained currency in the West. In Japan the term *gekiga* ("drama pictures") is often used to refer to the more serious comic books, as is the hybrid word *komikksu*.

Cartoons and comic strips first appeared in Japan in the Meiji Era (late 1800s) in the form of single-frame, caricature-like cartoons, which evolved into the four-frame joke strips carried by almost every daily newspaper today. Comics with a storyline appeared before WWII, mostly featuring adventure stories for boys, but it was not until after the war, when Machiko Hasegawa's phenomenally popular *Sazaesan* first appeared, that comics really began to flourish. *Sazaesan* (the title is the name of a little girl) was a long series of amusing stories about the life of an ordinary family.

The true pioneer of the postwar comic book was Osamu Tezuka (1929-1989), who was the first cartoonist to apply cinematographic techniques to Japanese comics. This led to the advent in the 1960s of the *gekiga* style, using realistic pictures to tell stories dealing with topics of interest to a wide range of readers, with examples reaching into all areas of Japanese life. Once a substantial adult readership was established, numerous other creators began experimenting with a wide range of styles and techniques, producing not only comics that entertain but also works with considerable artistic and literary merit. Stories deal with a very wide range of subjects, including fantasy, sf, horror, humour, romance, business, economics, sociology, sport, crime, cookery and pornography. A seminal early series was *Tezuka's Tetsuwan Atomu* ["Atom, the Boy with Arms of Steel"] (from 1952), a humorous sf/fantasy about a robot child, which was the first comic book to be adapted into an animated tv series. Since then, an increasing number of M have been adapted into animated films (called ANIME) employing sometimes highly sophisticated techniques. One particularly popular long-running example which typifies this cross-media aspect of M is the humorous crime series *Lupin Sansei* ["Lupin the Third"] (from 1984) by a team working under the pseudonym Monkey Punch. Another is Momoko Sakura's semi-autobiographical *Chibi Marukochan*; the title is a little girl's nickname.

M accounts for 30% of the 7.7 billion books sold in Japan today and 10% of the 40,000 new titles published annually. The best selling M titles are those for women, containing touching stories about the lives of ordinary women and girls (like *Chibi Marukochan*) or raunchy, tragic love stories, such as *Haiteen Bugi* ["High Teen Boogie"] (1981-9), about a motorcycling rock musician, by the husband-and-wife team Kazuko Makino and Yukio Goto.

Many M creators employ a team of art assistants, including specialists in street scenes, architecture, cars, etc., so that the creator himself draws only the main figures; by this means he can produce substantial multivolume series. A prime example of this is *Golgo 13* (from 1969; part trans 1985 US) by Takao Saito, an international spy series which at present runs to almost 100 volumes of about 250 pages each. This series claims sales figures of about 80 million.

One of the first examples of M to be translated into English was *Hadashi no Gen* (1972-3; graph coll 1984; trans as *Barefoot Gen* (1987 US) by Keiji Nakazawa (1938- ), a story about the Hiroshima atom bomb. Most subsequent works to have been translated have had an sf bias; they include *Akira* (1982-6 and 1988 onwards; trans in 34 vols 1988-92 US) (>> AKIRA [1987]) by Katsuhiro OTOMO, *Mai, the Psychic Girl* (trans 1987-8 UK) by Kazuya Kudo and Ryoichi Ikegami, which recounts the adventures of a girl with remarkable psychic abilities and the attempts by various agencies to capture and exploit her, and *Appleseed* (trans 1988-94 US), a hard-sf series. M have gained greater and greater international popularity in the 1990s and this trend looks set to continue, with an increasing number of examples in the crime, sf and fantasy genres (often featuring gutsy, sexy nymphettes) appearing on US newsstands. One major factor enhancing their popularity is that they are often published in pocket-sized, squarebound volumes containing a substantial amount of reading matter in the form of novel-length stories.

As English-language M proliferate in both the UK and the USA, a Japanese influence has begun to appear in the indigenous comic book, with interesting examples of a hybrid drawing style becoming increasingly evident.

Further reading: "*Manga! Manga!: The World of Japanese Comics*" (1983 US) by Frederik L. Schodt.

[No, Ron isn't a Neffer, but I thought this was a good exception, and is used with permission –Ed]

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# English Words From Japanese Origin

Compiled by Ruth R. Davidson

## Miscellaneous

Akita, 秋田 (akitainu, 秋田犬), the Akita Inu, a breed of huge Japanese dog.

geisha, 芸者, traditional Japanese artist-entertainers.

ichiban, , number one - the first or the best.

rickshaw (from 人力車, jinrikisha), a human-pulled wagon.

sayonara, さようなら or さよなら the Japanese for "goodbye" or "farewell".

sensei, 先生, the Japanese term for "master", "teacher" or "doctor". It can be used to refer to any authority figure, such as a schoolteacher, professor, priest, or politician.

Shiba Inu, 柴犬, the smallest of the six original and distinct Japanese breeds of dog.

tsunami, 津波, literally "wave in port"; a tidal wave.

yakuza, やくざ, Japanese organized crime groups.

## Religion

kami, 神, the Japanese word for any sort of god or spirit.

Shinto, 神道, the native religion of Japan.

zazen, 座禅, sitting meditation; literally "seated concentration", often shorted by Americans to "zen" meaning getting to the next level. "Zenning it" is a common phrase in America.

Zen, 禅, a branch of Mahāyāna Buddhism.



## Government/Politics

daimyo, 大名, "great names"; the most powerful Japanese feudal rulers from the 12th century to the 19th century.

Mikado, 帝, a dated term for "emperor"; specifically for the Emperor of Japan.

Sessho, 摂政, a title given to a regent who is named to assist an emperor when the emperor is still a child, before the coming of age, or female.

Shogun, 将軍, the title of the practical ruler of Japan for most of the time from 1192 to the Meiji Era.

tycoon, 大君, "great prince", a title of the Shogun, later applied to wealthy business leaders.

## Culinary

bento, 弁当, a single-portion takeout meal, often homemade.

miso, 味噌, a thick paste made by fermenting soybeans with salt.

ramen, ラーメン, the Japanese version of Chinese noodle soup.

sake, 酒, an alcoholic beverage, brewed from rice.

sashimi, 刺身, a Japanese delicacy primarily consisting of the freshest raw seafoods thinly sliced served with only a dipping sauce.

shiitake mushroom, 椎茸, an edible mushroom typically cultivated on the shii tree.

soba, 蕎麦, thin brown buckwheat noodles.

sushi, 鮓 or 鮓 or 寿司, a dish consisting of vinegared rice combined with other ingredients such as raw fish, raw or cooked shellfish, or vegetables.

tempura, 天麩羅, classic Japanese deep fried batter-dipped seafood and vegetables.

teriyaki, 照焼き or テリヤキ, a cooking technique where fish or meat is being broiled in a sweet soy sauce marinade.

tofu, 豆腐, bean curd, is a food made by coagulating soy milk with calcium sulfate, nigari, or other agents, and then pressing into blocks, similar to the way cheese is made from milk.

udon, 饅頭, a type of thick wheat-based noodle.

unagi, 鰻 or 鰻, eel.

wasabi, 山葵 or わさび, strongly flavoured green condiment commonly known as Japanese horseradish.

### Clothing and Around the House

futon, 布団, a type of mattress that makes up a Japanese bed.

kimono, 着物, a traditional full-length robe-like garment still worn by women, men and children.

obi, 帯, a wide belt which is tied in the back to secure a kimono.

shoji, 障子, a translucent rice paper screen with a wooden frame, used as a room divider or door.

tatami, 畳, traditional Japanese flooring, made of woven straw.

yukata, 浴衣 or ゆかた, a kind of casual kimono, literally "bath clothing", consisting of one big piece of cloth with two wide sleeves.

### Writing System

furigana, ふりがな, kana printed next to a kanji or other character to indicate its pronunciation.

hiragana, 平仮名, a Japanese syllabary, one of the four Japanese writing systems.

kanji, 漢字, Chinese characters used in Japanese, one of the four Japanese writing systems.

kana, 仮名, a general term for hiragana and katakana.

katakana, 片仮名, a Japanese syllabary, one of four Japanese writing systems.

nippon-shiki romanization, 日本式, a romanization system that conforms strictly to the kana writing system and is easier for Japanese speakers to use.

romaji, ローマ字, the Roman alphabet: the writing of the Japanese language in Roman characters.

### Military and Martial Arts

banzai, 万歳 "ten thousand years" -- a blessing for Emperors, often used to cheer someone on.

bo, 棒, a long stick usually made out of wood or bamboo, used as a weapon

bokken, 木剣, a wooden sword used a training weapon

bushido, 武士道, "way of the warrior"

dojo, 道場, a training hall for the martial arts.

Gendai Budo, 現代 武道, "Modern martial arts"; those which were established after the 1868 Meiji Restoration.

Aikido, 合気道, a form of self defense which does not necessitate in physical injury to the aggressor.

laido, 居合道, the art of drawing a sword, cutting down the opponent, and then re-sheathing the sword in one fluid movement.

Judo, 柔道, a martial art, a sport and a philosophy developed from Jujutsu

Karate-do, 空手道, a Japanese martial art which emphasises striking techniques (i.e. punching and kicking).

Kendo, 剣道, the martial art of Japanese swordsmanship.

Kyudo, 弓道, the Japanese art of archery.

Sumo, 相撲, a form of wrestling.

jujutsu (Jiu jitsu), 柔術, a variety of close combat fighting systems (see article).

kamikaze, 神風, English usage: World War II suicide pilots (Japanese usage is different).

kata, 型, detailed patterns of defense-and-attack movements used by many traditional martial arts.

katana, 刀, the Japanese longsword (or Japanese swords in general).

ronin, 浪人, a name given to masterless samurai during the feudal period of Japan.

sai, a dagger, with two long, unsharpened projections attached to the handle.

samurai, 侍, a common term for a warrior in pre-industrial Japan.  
seppuku, 切腹, ritual suicide by disembowelment.  
vojimbo, 用心棒, a bodyguard, security person or sometimes assassin.

### Arts

anime, アニメ, Japanese animation.  
bonsai, 盆栽, "tray gardening"; the art of tending miniature trees.  
choka, 長歌, "long poem" a genre of Japanese poetry.  
haiku, 俳句, a very short poem consisting of three lines of 5, 7, and 5 syllables each.  
hentai, 変態, explicit sexual or pornographic artwork (hentai anime/manga), also the word for "pervert".  
ikebana, 生花, flower arrangement.  
kabuki, 歌舞伎, a traditional form of Japanese theatre.  
karaoke, カラオケ, entertainment where an amateur singer accompanies recorded music.  
manga, 漫画, comic book.  
noh, 能, a major form of classical Japanese musical drama.  
origami, 折り紙, artistic paper folding.  
otaku, オタク or おたく or ヲタク, a geeky enthusiast, unhealthy obsession.  
seiyuu, 声優, a voice actor/actress.  
senryu, 川柳, a form of short poetry similar to haiku.  
sumi-e, 墨絵, Japanese black ink painting.  
taiko, 太鼓, a big drum.  
tanka, 短歌, an older form of Japanese poetry than haiku.

Note: This is not a complete list. Some of these were taken from Wikipedia.com. All characters are from Wikipedia.

### Personal Experience with the word, otaku

I remember a couple years ago at FanimeCon being in the Anime Music Video (AMV) room. One AMV started out with the words, "the audience is otaku." Everyone in the room cheered, myself included. We anime fans seem to use the term as a badge of pride; but I've had some experiences that tell me that being known as an otaku in Japan isn't necessarily a good thing.

I was in Barnes & Noble wearing my Tenchi Muyo t-shirt. On my way up to the cashier counter an older Japanese man came up to me and asked me if I liked anime, pointing to my shirt. I said yes (of course) and he says, "You know the word otaku?" I said I did. Then he proceeds to tell me that if I go to Japan to never say that you are otaku, because that would be bad. He was quite adamant about it.

I joined a Gackt (Japanese singer) message board, and introduced myself. I mentioned that was an anime otaku and I was told that it's a bad thing to introduce myself as an otaku of anything. I thought that was interesting. Some people on the boards were Japanese.

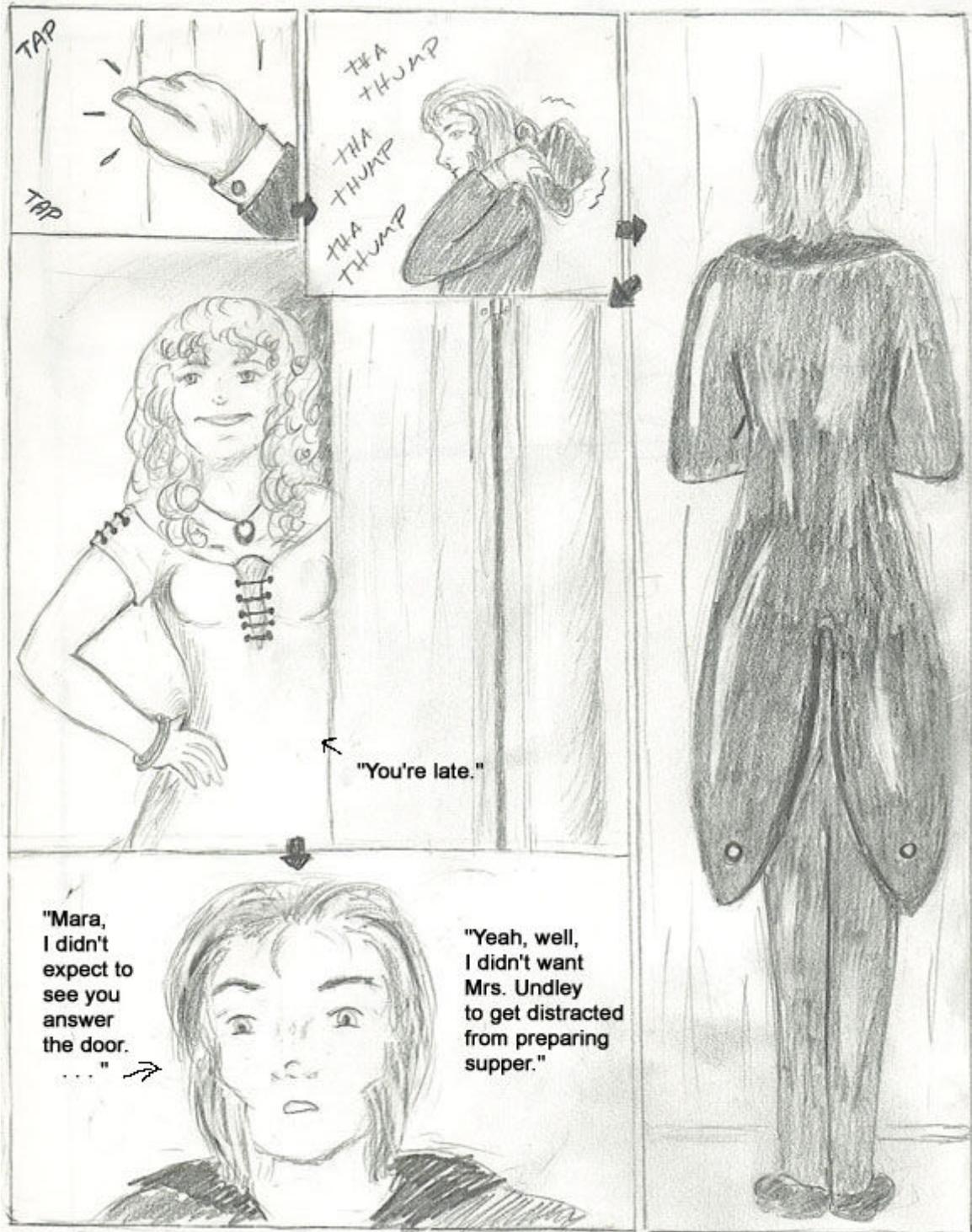
I did some google searches and apparently in Japan otaku seems to mean more, crazy hyper-focused obsession, while in America it's no big deal (unless you're one of those cosplayers who have no shame). ::Otaku: use with caution:: ^\_^



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# Witch Seed

By Ruth R. Davidson



**Author's Note:** I must say that I am not too happy with this page. I had wanted to put in three pages this time around but for some reason everything I put out was utter crap. Yeah, worse than what you are seeing right now. Amazing huh? I dunno what's up with this writer/artist's block. Yes, I had/have both, I couldn't draw a thing or write dialog. It was that bad. \*sigh\* Well, I hope you can find some redeeming value in this strip.

# The Japanese School System

## A Brief Guide: To Help You Understand Anime and Manga Better

By Ruth R. Davidson

One thought led to another which led me to be curious about the Japanese School System. I did lots of google searches on it, and this is by no means complete; definitely a brief guide. There's so much to learn about it, it was amazing. I feel that it's important to at least know the basics so that when you watch anime or read manga you'll have an idea of what the heck is going on beyond the main plot.

The Japanese school year begins April 1st and ends in March. School days last from 8:30am – 3pm with a lunch break in the middle. They have a homeroom classroom and only leave that classroom for classes that require them to, like lab and PE. Students often eat lunch brought from home called “bento”, meaning boxed lunch, in their homeroom, although some schools do have cafeterias. Teachers are the ones that go from room to room when needed, but often teachers are able to teach more than one subject.

Most students stay after school for extra curricular activities and clubs until 5pm. It is unusual for someone to be a member of more than one club since most clubs have two hour meetings every day after school. Some even have meetings during school breaks. There are teachers who sponsor these clubs, but the interesting thing is that mostly the students are the ones running them. The senior students (senpai) are the ones in charge and the junior students (kohai) watch, learn and do as their senpai tell them to. That's not as horrible as it sounds, there's a lot of respect involved.

School uniforms are worn, and each school's uniform is unique so that when you see a student walking down the street you can tell what school they are from. Most students also travel to school using public transportation or by walking. Some will use the time to study, but usually it's a good time to be social with your fellow students. Many students leave as early as 6:30am to get to school on time.

There are three breaks during the school year. Summer break, that starts in July, usually lasts for about 6 weeks. There's also Winter break which is the last week of December and the first week of January. There's also a Spring break, known as “Golden Week”, which is April 29th to May 5th. What makes this week so “golden” is that there are four holidays that week. All schools and most businesses are closed, and many families decide to use this week to go on vacation since it's so difficult to get time off during the year.

Education programs start at an early age. Sometimes as young as 18 months called preschool till 3 years old. This is similar to a play group to help develop social skills. Japanese Kindergarten is from age 3 through age 5. During this time they learn the arts, such as music, painting and crafts. They also begin learning hiragana, then katakana, and a bit of kanji. At first this may sound extreme, but in reality it's not all that extreme. There's a lot of fun involved.

After Kindergarten is nine years Compulsory Education (what's mandatory by law), which is as follows: Six years of Elementary school from ages 6 to 11, and three years Junior High school from ages 12 to 14. Most students then go on to three years of High School from ages 15-17. Almost 50% of students go on to either Junior college, lasting two years – this option is most popular with girls – or University, lasting four years – most popular with boys.

There's a lot of competitiveness between students and schools. Exams take place just to get into a good high school as well as college. There are public schools, though many parents wish for their children to go to a private school.

Japan is the only country that has cram schools. Most students love them since the teachers tend to be more animated and interesting than those in their regular schooling. Cram school takes place after school in the evening. There are also special cram schools for specific universities which you have to pass an exam to get into! It gets a little crazy.

The average student usually has about three to four hours of homework every night. They usually have a couple of hours of personal time before going to bed for some much deserved sleep. I mention this because contrary to popular belief, students aren't studying every waking moment.

Even though there's only nine years of Compulsory Education it's a big deal to move on in your schooling if you want to get a good job. It's also essential to start early. If you don't enroll your kids in Kindergarten then they'll be behind their fellow students when they start going to Elementary school. It used to be that children with special needs were exempted from Compulsory Education, but this is no longer so. They too are required to complete nine years of schooling. Instead of going to a regular class-

classroom a teacher visits them at home.

Dating is discouraged. Most students don't start dating until after high school. Before that completing high school your time is better spent learning and studying so that you can get a good job.

Being a teachers is a highly respected position and the students show them respect.

The curriculum in all of Japan is determined by the Ministry of Education so every school teaches the same subject. Everyone has the opportunity to learn the same things. There are of course more prestigious schools, but this seems to be based on the success ratings of each school. Unlike in America you can go from one school to another and have entirely different requirements for graduation, everything is the same in Japan throughout all of Japan.

Anime often depicts the unrealistic student with bad grades and is always late; and teenage love stories. Even so, whatever character type you are watching having this basic information should be helpful to you.

To help you get it all straight in your head I've created the graph below to help you visualize what I've been talking about. I didn't go into some parts of the school system since they didn't seem to be necessary, at least not right now. I feel that I've already given you loads of information to ingest and I don't want to over load your brain. If you're dying to know more in depth information feel free to do your own google searches on the subject.

Here are a few examples of some anime with a school setting:

Elementary: *Card Captor Sakura*, *Kodomo no Omocha* (aka: *Child's Toy*)

Junior High: *Sailor Moon*, *Serial Experiments Lain*

Senior High: *Ranma 1/2*, *Inu Yasha*

College: *Maison Ikkoku*, *Ah My Goddess*

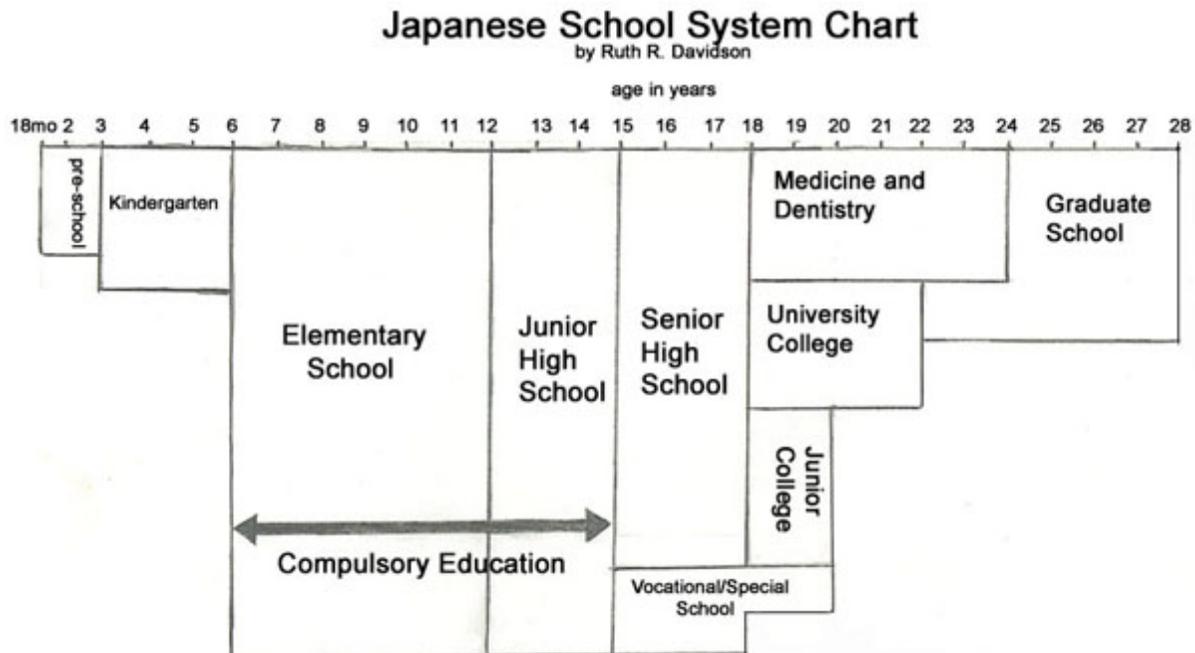
#### Disclaimer!

I got my information from various websites. I did a lot of reading and talking to Usagi. After all of this I wrote things down as I remembered them. If I was unsure about something I would go back and review that concept before writing about it.

This is the Japanese system as I understand it. If I have made any errors or misunderstood any concepts please feel free to let me know. I would be happy to correct them and let my readers know about it.

Questions and clarifications are welcome.

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## Logo Contest

You only have 6 weeks left to send in your logo's!

### Rules:

- 1: Logo must reflect the whole of The MANGAVERSE.
  - a: anime/manga/comic related.
  - b: sci-fi/fantasy based. (Rule one isn't as difficult as it seems, I trust you artists!)
- 2: Logo must be submitted to me by **November 25th, 2004**  
Preferably via email, ruthiechan@xarph.net, in .PNG format, .JPG is okay too.  
Hard copies are accepted. 3540 Swenson St. #172, Las Vegas, NV 89109
- 3: \$2 fee must accompany logo. Checks, cash, and money orders are acceptable.  
You may pay via paypal; ruthiechan@xarph.net.
- 4: Your full name, address, and date are to also accompany logo.
- 5: Must be a current member of N3F to participate (see "how to join us" for more info).
- 6: By entering you give permission to The MANGAVERSE to use your logo without reservation. Your logo will **not** be sold or used for non-MANGAVERSE purposes.
- 7: Color logos are a-ok.

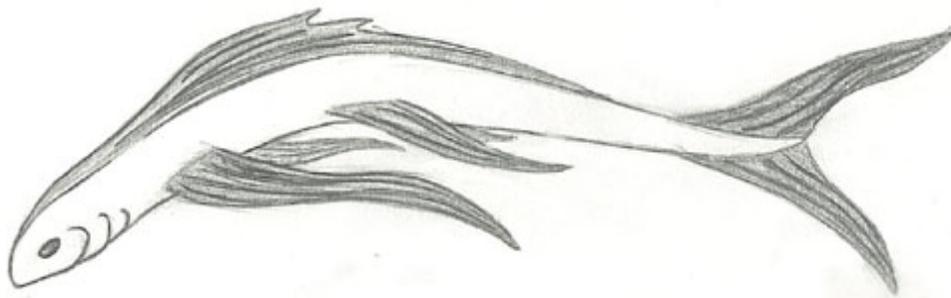
### Prizes:

- 1: One year N3F membership FREE.
- 2: A manga of your choice (\$15 limit) or \$15 cash.
- 3: A winning certificate with logo featured.

### Uses:

- 1: Logo will be put up on The MANGAVERSE website.
- 2: Logo will be featured on all The MANGAVERSE publications.  
Other logo uses for The MANGAVERSE are not yet known.

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## Fanzine of Doom

**The MANGAVERSE's Fanzine of DOOM is now scheduled to be released in the summer of 2005.** This zine will make for great summer reading. I also feel that the change in release will help writers give us their best work!

### Publishing Format:

Primarily in .PDF. (URL will be sent to your email address.)

For hard copies a modest fee will apply though the amount will depend on size. TBA.

### Submissions:

Fan-art and fan-fiction of your favorite anime, manga, or comic.

### Word/Page Limits:

NONE.

### Deadline:

Currently **May 1, 2005.**

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## Reviews

### Manga

“Ceres: Celestial Legend” vol. 1-8  
By Ruth R. Davidson

On their 16th birthday, Aya Mikage and her twin brother Aki discover that life has dealt them a cruel hand. They are descendants of a celestial maiden named, Ceres who was prevented from returning to heaven when a man stole her celestial robes. Ceres married the man (not realizing that he was lying about the whereabouts of her robes) and bore his children. Aya is her reincarnation. Aki is the reincarnation of the man who tricked Ceres.

After fleeing from the family who would murder her, Aya tries to find a way to help Ceres (whom she transforms into) and stop the Mikage’s, whose goal is to find all those descended from a celestial maiden – called C-Genomes. They want to jump start evolution by creating a superior human race.

Aya lives with the Aogiri’s. The lady of the house is a c-genome. The brother of her late-husband, Yuhi, is in love with Aya. Unfortunately, Aya is smitten with Toya, a man who works for the Mikage’s and has no memory of himself.

Now that we have the basic concept for the story, let me first tell you a few things that I don’t like. It seems to me that the relationship between Aya and Toya is too abrupt (though the 8th volume hints at a reason behind that). Some of the lines are a bit cheesy. There are a few panel layouts that could have been done better, especially with long vertical panels.

There’s one particular scene in Vol. 8 with Ceres and Yuhi that was serious and sweet, but the scene was ended with Mrs. Q (the comic relief) instead. I think that was a mistake. There’s lots of comic relief and normally, I don’t mind them and they’re quite amusing.

Intermittently there are little sidebars from Yu Watase (the author and artist who also write Fushigi Yugi). Sometimes what she says is interesting and fun, though I find that with a few of them I’ll just skim instead.

What I really like about this story is that Aya isn’t a female-manga-character-cliché. She’s trendy, with dyed hair, likes pop music, and karaoke. She also actually *backs off* when necessary instead of being one of those character stereotypes that bulldoze forward when it would have been better to just back off for a while.

Yuhi is a nice teenager, who is sexually frustrated and confused (doesn’t help that the object of his desires is under the same roof which provides for interesting encounters) like any other teenage male.

I like how the love scenes aren’t tacky or just tossed in there. There’s a lot of emotion. The overall story is also good and quite interesting. After all, I’ve bought all the volumes out in America so far and will continue to do so (there are only 8 volumes out). If that’s not a positive statement, then I don’t know what is. If you like Shojo manga, you’ll probably like this.

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### Anime

“Ah! My Goddess: the Movie”  
By Ruth R. Davidson

#### **::Warning, this review contains serious spoilers!::**

Imagine heaven filled with Gods and Goddesses of different ranks and classes, and a “computer” system unlike any other. Yggdrasil, what they call the System, is what allows God (you know the head hanzo – whom you never actually see) to be omniscient. This System can be vulnerable to viruses, but only to ones made by those with the same sort of power class.

Beldandy is a Goddess First Class with no restrictions. This means she’s as powerful as they get. She’s incredibly sweet and thoughtful and worked in the Goddess Relief Office in Heaven. She went to earth to grant a young college boy’s wish (he wished for her to stay with him). After the wish was approved she and Keiichi came to live together. Her two sisters Urd (Goddess of “Love”) and Skuld (Machine geek) became curious as to why she didn’t return home so now they live with them. All of this doesn’t happen in the movie, but is background that occurs three years before the time the movie is set.

The information though is provided in the movie so it's not a requirement to have watched the series or read the manga to be able to enjoy and understand what is going on. Helpful maybe, but certainly not a hindrance.

Belldandy and Keiichi are, of course, in love with one another. Both participate in the Motor Sports Club at the college Keiichi goes to. The problem comes in during a new members welcome party while they're outside. Celestin, Belldandy's childhood mentor, returns, after being freed from incarcerated on the moon for many generations, to make contact with her to use her connection to Yggdrasil to plant a virus. This makes Belldandy lose her memories of Keiichi and anyone associated with him.

Celestin's plot almost succeeds when he's finally able to access the secret program. This brought forth a tree that looks like a DNA strand. He protests the current establishment in Heaven, saying that it allows too much suffering. Though his intentions are good, his methods are not.

What I found interesting is that Celestin's powers were frozen and lost his corporeal form. He's been borrowing the powers of Morgan, a fairy princess, who willingly helps him (and who also freed him). So whenever you see Celestin outside of a memory, you are seeing Morgan. The voice you hear is his, spoken through a mask that you don't see. They seem to have an unseen link going on. Celestin uses Belldandy's connection to the System to implant the virus, which is linked to her emotional wave lengths. He then uses her link to Keiichi to gain a corporeal form. Once that was completed his powers were unfrozen.

Why am I telling you all this? Because it's not spelled out for you. I didn't catch it the first time. In fact, I just noticed it during my last viewing of it. This will clarify things when Keiichi ends up borrowing Celestin's powers to help Belldandy. I obviously wasn't paying enough attention to the subtle nuances.

Of course, everything gets worked out in the end.

I found this movie to be very enjoyable. It doesn't take a lot of brain power to understand what's going on, you just have to pay attention to the subtleties. It's very emotional and made very well. There's action, romance, and sweetness present. You can't help but smile. This is one of those "romance" movies even the guys can enjoy!



# Upcoming Anime/Manga Conventions

By Ruth R. Davidson

## November

Nov. 5-7, 2004

Nekocon, Chesapeake, Virginia

<http://www.nekocon.org/>

*Guests of honor:*

Actors:

Tiffany Grant, Monica Rial, Greg Ayres,  
Carrie Savage;

Artists:

Michael "Mookie" Terracciano, Tim Buckley, Robert  
and Emily DeJesus, Fred Perry, Thor Thorvaldson,  
Jr. Dizziness, Novablade Studios;

Animators: Shawn the Touched, Jan Scott Frazier;

Producers: Trish Ledoux, Toshi Yoshida

Nov. 5-7, 2004

J-Popcon, Copenhagen, Denmark

<http://www.j-popcon.dk/>

Nov. 6, 2004

AC Cubed, Ottawa, Ontario

<http://www.ac-cubed.ca/>

Nov. 6, 2004

Providence Anime Masked Ball, Providence, R.I.

<http://www.gothichamlet.com/cosplayball/>

Nov. 6, 2004

Akibiyori, Fullerton, Calif.

<http://www.egosyste.org/aki/>

Nov. 6-7, 2004

Mack-Weekend, Kempten, Germany

<http://www.mack-world.org/>

Nov. 6-7, 2004

Ronin Con, Norman, Oklahoma

<http://www.softassteel.com/RoninCon/>

Nov. 13-14, 2004

Anime Weekend at Lakewood Public Library,  
Lakewood, Ohio

<http://www.lkwdpl.org/anime/>

Nov. 14, 2004

Anime Destiny, Berkeley, Calif.

<http://animaged.berkeley.edu/animed/>

Nov. 14-15, 2004

Avex, São Paulo, Brazil

<http://www.cosplayx.com/site/v1/surpresas/index.php>

Nov. 19-20, 2004

Anime Sound & Vision, Rosemont, Ill.

<http://www.animesoundvision.com/>

*Guests of honor:*

Martial Artists: Kamui, Angie Yeoh, Ken Pitchford;

Producer: Hiroaki Inoue;

Musician: Tatsu Aoki;

Actor: Christopher Patton;

Dancers: Kazume Mizuki, Yusuke Wakamisho

Nov. 19-21, 2004

Tsubasacon, Charleston, West Virginia

<http://www.tsubasacon.org/>

*Guests of honor:*

Actor: Tiffany Grant;

Producers: Matt Greenfield, Mariela Ortiz;

Writer: Gerry Poulos

Nov. 19-21, 2004

SugoiCon, Covington, Ky.

<http://www.sugoicon.org/>

*Guests of honor:*

Director: Ichiroh Itano;

Artist: Kazuko Tadano;

Screenwriter: Takao Koyama;

Actors: Monica Rial, Greg Ayres, Doug Smith;

Animator: Jan Scott-Frazier;

Translator: Neil Nadelman;

Artists: Robert and Emily DeJesus

Nov. 27-28, 2004

Japan Expo, Los Angeles, Calif.

<http://www.japanexpo.org/>

Nov. 27-28, 2004

Hon-Con, Aschaffenburg, Germany

<http://www.hon-con.de/>

## December

Dec. 3-4, 2004

East Meets South, Anniston, Ala.

<http://www.eastmeetssouth.com/>

East Meets South is giving a one-week trip to Japan to a fan who pre-registers for the convention.

Dec. 4, 2004

Shukujitsu No Atsumari, Cerritos, Calif.

<http://www.honnou.com/shukujitsu/>

Dec. 10-12, 2004

Animatsuri, Curitiba, Brazil

<http://www.animatsuri.com/>

Dec. 11-12, 2004

Wai-Con, Perth, Australia

<http://www.panic-wa.org/>

Dec. 17-19, 2004  
OtakuCon, Miami Beach, Fla.  
<http://www.otakucon.com/>

*Guests of honor:*

Actors:

Carrie Savage, Mandy Bonhomme, Johnny Yong  
Bosch, Joshua Seth, Kirby Morrow, Scott McNeil,  
David Kaye;

Artists: Doug Smith, Steve Bennett

Dec. 18-19, 2004  
Yuki Convention, Stuttgart, Germany  
<http://www.animexx-stuttgart.de/>

Dec. 29-30, 2004  
Comic Market, Tokyo, Japan  
<http://www.comiket.co.jp/>



## Upcoming Comics Conventions

By Ruth R. Davidson

### November

November 5-7  
Wizard World Texas, Arlington, TX  
<http://www.wizarduniverse.com/conventions/texas.cfm>

November 5-7  
NecroComicon, Woodland Hills, CA  
<http://www.necrocomicon.com/>

November 6-7  
Screamfest 2004, Plantation, FL  
<http://www.spookyempire.com/screamfest2004/index.html>

November 6-7  
Comic Expo, Bristol - England  
<http://comicexpo.mysite.wanadoo-members.co.uk/>

November 7  
Saturday's Child Nostalgia  
Convention Cleveland, OH  
<http://www.harpercomics.com/conventions.html>

November 7  
Nerd Con 2004, Philadelphia, PA  
<http://www.house-of-mysterious-secrets.com/nerdcon.html>

November 7-14  
Miami Book Fair International, Miami, FL  
<http://www.miamibookfair.com/>

November 12-13  
Fall 2004 Pre-Holiday Spectacular, Secaucus, NJ  
[http://www.deescards1.com/convention\\_info.htm](http://www.deescards1.com/convention_info.htm)

November 12-14  
Fiddler's Green 2004  
A Sandman Convention, Minneapolis, MN  
<http://www.fiddlersgreencon.org/>

November 13  
Daytona Beach Comic Convention,  
Daytona Beach, FL  
<http://midwestcomix.com/>

November 13-14  
Chicago ComicFest, Rosemont, IL  
<http://motorcityconventions.com/>

November 13-14  
Concept 2004 Montreal, QB - Can.  
<http://www.conceptsf.ca/>

November 14  
Tampa Comic & Toy Convention, Tampa, FL  
<http://www.comicbookconventions.com/tampaconvention/index.htm>

November 14  
Philadelphia Comic-Con, Philadelphia, PA  
<http://www.philadelphiacomic-con.com/>

November 14  
Charlotte ComiCon , Charlotte, NC  
<http://www.davescomicsonline.com/Scripts/coninfo.asp>

November 14  
Vancouver Comicon, Vancouver, BC - Can.  
<http://users.uniserve.com/~lswong/Comicon.html>

November 14  
MajestiCon, Denver, CO  
<http://www.majesticon.com/>

November 19-21  
Big Apple National Expo, New York City, NY  
<http://www.bigapplecon.com/>

November 19-21  
Area 51 Midwest Comic Con '04Tulsa, OK  
<http://www.area51con.com/>

November 20  
DreamCon Presents:  
The Nightmare Before Thanksgiving  
Jacksonville, FL  
<http://www.dreamcon.net/>

November 20-21  
Boston Super Mega Fest, Framingham, MA  
<http://supermegafest.com/>

November 21  
DragonFestGlendale, CA  
<http://www.dragonfest.com/>

November 21  
Atlanta Comic Convention, Atlanta, GA  
<http://www.atlantacomicconvention.com/>

November 26-28  
Chicago TARDIS - 2004  
Doctor Who Convention, Rosemont, IL  
<http://www.chicagotardis.com/>

November 27-28  
Mid-Ohio-Con, Columbus, OH  
<http://www.midohiocon.com/>

November 28  
Montreal Comic Con Montreal, QB - Can.  
[http://www.geocities.com/major\\_comics/](http://www.geocities.com/major_comics/)

MONTREAL\_COMIC\_CON.html

December 4  
Orlando Collectible Show, Orlando, FL  
[http://www.cccpromotions.com/news.php?article\\_id=6&section=site\\_news&action=read](http://www.cccpromotions.com/news.php?article_id=6&section=site_news&action=read)

December 4  
San Jose Super Toy & Collectible Show  
San Jose, CA  
<http://timetunneltoys.com/toyshow.html>

December

December 4-5  
Pittsburgh Toy, Comic Show, Monroeville, PA  
<http://www.pittsburghtoyshow.com/>

December 5  
X-Trava-Con, Livonia, MI  
<http://motorcityconventions.com/>

December 5  
Delaware Con, Wilmington, DE  
<http://www.comicbookconventions.com/delawarecon.htm>

December 5  
Boston Comic Book & Toy Spectacular,  
Boston, MA  
<http://primatepromotions.com/>

December 5  
Central Texas Comic Book Show, Temple, TX  
<http://www.jmventertainment.com/comicbooks.html>

December 11  
Lehigh Valley Comic Con, Allentown, PA  
<http://www.enter.net/~magicman/comiccon.html>

December 12  
Capital Associates - Comic, Toy & CCG Show-  
Washington, DC area  
<http://www.capicons.com/>

December 12  
Sacramento Comic Book and Collectible Show  
Sacramento, CA  
<http://www.sacramentocomics.com/pages/index2.html>

December 17-19  
OtakuCon Miami Beach, Miami Beach, Florida  
<http://www.otakucon.com/>

## Submission Guidelines

By Ruth R. Davidson

**Publishing Schedule:** *The MANGAVERSE: News & Fan-talk* is currently scheduled to be published bi-monthly, February, April, June, August, October, and December.

*The MANGAVERSE's Fanzine of DOOM* is currently scheduled for publication annually around Thanksgiving time. This status may change in the future.

**Deadlines:** For *The MANGAVERSE: News & Fan-talk* submissions are due on the 25th day of the month preceding the publication month. As an example, material intended for the August issue should be submitted to me by July 25. *If it doesn't get to me – the Editor – in time, it goes in the next issue.* Watch for updates on this information. I may change the deadline on you. \*wink\*

For *The MANGAVERSE's Fanzine of DOOM* submissions are currently due on November 1st. Watch for updates since this information is likely to change.

**What's Published:** *The MANGAVERSE: News & Fan-talk* is the official bi-monthly publication of The MANGAVERSE. Art, comics (original serial and one-shots), discussions/articles of your favorite anime/manga/comics (story lines, characters, writers, artists, etc.), con-reports, con-announcements, reviews, and any other fannish material related to anime/manga/comics are accepted publishing material.

*The MANGAVERSE's Fanzine of DOOM* is the official large zine for The MANGAVERSE. This will not only have original comics and stories, but it will be mostly filled with **fan art** and **fan fiction** from your favorite anime/manga/comic.

**Accepted Formats:** Paper copies are always welcome (must be legible) If emailing me attachments, please ask if the format you'd be sending me is acceptable. A few samples of what I can accept are: .doc, .rtf, .txt, .jpg, .png, .pdf, .xls, etc . Unexpected formats will be deleted. I will not accept disks or cds.

**Publishing Formats:** *The MANGAVERSE: News & Fan-talk* is published in .PDF format and sent to you via your email address. Paper printed versions are available upon request and will cost \$5 for one year (6 issues). Please be sure that your N3F membership dues are paid and up to date.

*The MANGAVERSE's Fanzine of DOOM* will be published in .PDF format and sent to you via your email address. Paper printed versions may be available. More info TBA.

**Not Sure What to Send?** Read the "What's Published" section. What's listed there is what you can send in to me for publishing. Any and all fannish material pertaining to anime/manga/comics. *Don't be afraid to send something in!* **The only thing I will not accept is hentai (pornographic) material.** If you are unsure if something is hentai, please feel free to ask me.

If you have any questions email me at [ruthiechan@xarph.net](mailto:ruthiechan@xarph.net) or snail mail me.

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## How to join The MANGAVERSE

By Ruth R. Davidson

Two steps are required when joining The MANGAVERSE.

*Step one: Join The National Fantasy Fan Federation (N3F).*

A membership form is available to you on the last page of this issue and on the web at <http://nfff.org>. The MANGAVERSE is run in affiliation with N3F, a science fiction and fantasy club founded in 1941.

*Step two: email me after you complete step one.*

After you email me, I will then confirm with the N3F secretary that you indeed accomplished step one. This is because depending on when you join it may be a while before you see the official publication of the N3F (which is quarterly), and you could miss out on stuff otherwise.

*Step three: join in the fun!*

After step one and two are completed, feel free to join right on in and submit some anime/manga/comic fannish material to me for publication.

Happy reading! \*big smile\*

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# The National Fantasy Fan (N3F) Membership Application

New Member  Reinstatement  Joint Membership  Gift Membership

Name (Please Print): \_\_\_\_\_ Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_  
Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Country: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_  
Male: \_\_\_\_\_ Female: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate (for the Birthday Bureau): \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

Please check your current SF/F related interests.

<input type="checkbox"/> APA's	<input type="checkbox"/> Comics/Manga	<input type="checkbox"/> Reading
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Fanzines	<input type="checkbox"/> Reviewing
<input type="checkbox"/> Cartooning	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:	<input type="checkbox"/> Round Robins (group letters)
<input type="checkbox"/> Computers	<input type="checkbox"/> Editing	<input type="checkbox"/> Taping
<input type="checkbox"/> Conventions	<input type="checkbox"/> Filksinging	<input type="checkbox"/> Audio
<input type="checkbox"/> Correspondence (penpals)	<input type="checkbox"/> Games	<input type="checkbox"/> DVD/Video
<input type="checkbox"/> Collecting	<input type="checkbox"/> Movies/T.V.	<input type="checkbox"/> Teaching Science Fiction
<input type="checkbox"/> Artwork	<input type="checkbox"/> Online Activities	<input type="checkbox"/> Writing
<input type="checkbox"/> Books	<input type="checkbox"/> Publishing	

- Which would you prefer?:

A: *The e-Fan* in .PDF format sent to your email address? \_\_\_\_\_

B: *The Fan* printed and mailed to your home address or PO Box? \_\_\_\_\_

- How long have you been interested in Science Fiction and Fantasy?: \_\_\_\_\_

- How long have you been involved in Fandom?: \_\_\_\_\_

- List any other clubs you are or have been a member of: \_\_\_\_\_

- List any conventions you've attended: \_\_\_\_\_

- What Prozines and Fanzines do you read if any?: \_\_\_\_\_

- What is your favorite type of SF/F?: \_\_\_\_\_

- Who are your favorite SF/F Authors: \_\_\_\_\_

- Are you interested in online activities? If yes, what type?: \_\_\_\_\_

- Which (if any) of the following would you be willing to help the Club with?

Artwork  Corresponding  Publishing  Recruiting at Conventions  Writing for club publications

Organizing Activities  Other(s): \_\_\_\_\_

- Name of Sponsoring Member (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

Dues are \$18 per year (\$22 for Joint Memberships) which includes subscriptions to the club's fanzine as well as other activities and benefits. Make checks or money orders payable to William Center (the treasurer).

All payments must be made in U.S. funds. Mail dues and application to club secretary

Dennis Davis, 25549 Byron St., San Bernadino, CA 92404-6403.

Please allow 8 weeks for your first zine to arrive.

You can also sign up online at <http://nfff.org>

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