



The Sakura-Conduit

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Welcome!



ANCEA is proud to present the 10th annual **Sakura-Con** in beautiful downtown Seattle Washington at the Washington State Convention and Trade Center April 6-8th.

It's November already and how time flies! Time to start brushing off those costumes! At the dawn of this, our first electronic Sakura-Con newsletter, we are less than five months away from Sakura-Con 2007. Are you ready? We're working hard to get ready for you! In anticipation of our big 10th Anniversary celebration, we already have several guests booked and plenty of events in the works. Be sure to stop by our website (www.sakuracon.org) to get the latest news and updates as they're announced.

Pre-Registration

Why is member registration cheaper farther out from the convention?

We stagger registration costs not only to give our members a break, but also to encourage early registration. What many member attendees may not understand is that the better Sakura-Con's member pre-registration, the better Sakura-Con is in general. ANCEA uses pre-registration funds to put on the upcoming Sakura-Con along with funds collected at the previous year's convention. Please remember that Sakura-Con is a non-

profit, all volunteer, membership organization. Sakura-Con is truly "for the fans, by the fans." Your membership pre-registration isn't just your access to the convention, but also your opportunity to become more involved and informed about contemporary and traditional Asian media and culture. ANCEA welcomes you to join the celebration and to support ANCEA's mission: furthering understanding of Asian culture through the use of traditional and contemporary media.

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Until February 28th, 2007, membership pre-registration costs \$45 for all 3 days, so be sure to tell all your friends! After this date, only at-door member registrations will be accepted, at \$60 for all 3 days, \$35 for Friday, \$35 for Saturday, and \$30 for Sunday. You can find Member pre-registration information online, and also pay via PayPal. You can also mail domestic checks or Money Orders. Don't wait until the last minute. Get your registration in before the deadline!

Fall Season Anime for 2006

As Autumn settles upon us, so does a new anime season in Japan, be it on TV, straight to video, or even in theaters. We have sequels, remakes, continuations, manga and H-Game adaptations, and original stories. Some are projected to be long, popular series, while others remain in the shadows, hoping to attain that underground, cult status.

Now that Otaku can keep an eye out online for new shows as they hit the Land of the Rising Sun, US distributors also can keep up that edge and secure licenses for American distribution sooner than ever. Yesterday's new Japanese releases become today's US DVDs, so it's more prudent than ever to look at what's coming out now, as it may show you what will be hitting our shelves in the near future.

Throughout the Newsletter, you'll find small previews of some of the anime being released this season. Look for the [Anime Preview](#) sign!

Thanks to Anime News Network for it's ongoing coverage of what to see!



Hotels

Sakura-Con has discounted rates with several hotels in the surrounding area, but many of them fill up quickly. You don't actually pay for your stay until you arrive at the hotel to check in, so don't be afraid to book a hotel as soon as possible! Unless you plan on commuting or staying with a friend, it's always better to book a hotel earlier than later.

Sakura-Con has discounted rates with:

- ◆ [The Crowne Plaza](#)
- ◆ [The Sheraton](#)
- ◆ [The 6th Ave Hilton](#)
- ◆ [The 5th Ave Red Lion](#)

To obtain the discounted rates, you must visit the [Hotels](#) section of the Sakura-Con website and follow the links.

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Anime Preview

The Shounen Jump manga *D.Gray-Man* is now seeing its anime release in Japan. It is the tale of International Exorcists, led by Japan, fighting Akuma and their leader, Millennium Earl, in hopes of saving the human race. With the recent American popularity of other Shounen Jump titles, *D.Gray-Man* already has a large fan base in America awaiting its release. The show began showing on Japanese TV earlier this month.

Staff Openings

Sakura-Con is a fan-run organization, and, as such, we are always looking for volunteers. Staff at Sakura-Con get many privileges, including free badges and discounted hotels, but, undoubtedly, the best thing about working for the convention is knowing that you are helping the convention to succeed, and that your actions enable others to have the great convention experience that you enjoy! If you think that you have the knowledge and time to accept a Staff position, please read over these current openings:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| ◆ Live Programming Staff | ◆ Technical Services Staff |
| ◆ Fashion Show Coordinator | ◆ Exhibitors Hall Staff |
| ◆ Assistant Tech Manager | ◆ Merchandising Staff |
| ◆ Special Events Tech Coordinator | ◆ Videographer |
| ◆ Auxiliary Events Tech Coordinator | ◆ Information Booth Staff |
| ◆ Studio Recording Engineer | ◆ Press Room Staff |

The [Job Openings](#) page on the Sakura-Con website has the job descriptions and duties for all of these positions, as well as e-mails for who to contact with applications.

Staffer Spotlight

"By the Fans for the Fans: Because we like what you like!"

Roy Duran got his start in anime watching televised episodes of Sailor Moon and Thundercats back in his original home, Colorado. He didn't make his way northwest (to the Seattle area) until he spent four years in the U.S. Army as a communications specialist. He came to study Japanese at the University of Washington.

This past year, just before Sakura-Con 2006, Roy was called back to the Army. With heavy hearts, his Sakura-Con family bid him farewell. But, unexpectedly, Uncle Sam decided to send him back to his Seattle home. He resides there to this day, trying to establish in-state residency so that he can go back to school. In addition to his full-time jobs as a GameWorks technician and convention coordinator, Roy is also a graphic artist. He designed a mascot for Sakura-Con 2006, winning 3rd place!

Roy attended Nan Desu Con in Denver and was ecstatic to find Sakura-Con in Seattle, even more so because he likes the name "Sakura." He attended a general meeting in 2005 and said that he was instantly welcomed into the fold with warmth and kindness. His work ethic is widely respected by his fellow staffers. He is known for putting in long hours

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Even if you can't afford the time to work as official Staff, we always need volunteers to help at the convention itself. More specifics about volunteering at this 2007 convention is on its way, but, for now, you can find general information under the [Volunteers](#) section of the website, or you can e-mail volunteers@sakuracon.org with questions. Or just register for the convention and go directly to the Volunteers Office on the second floor!

Roy Duran—
Message Board Admin, Karaoke Co-MC



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with grace, efficiency and genuine good humor. He assisted with multiple tasks and duties in both 2005 and 2006, winning both the "Sakura Award" (for best embodying the spirit of Sakura-Con) and "Best Staffer" awards. Roy is currently on staff for 2007 - look for him at the convention this April (and not just buying more gashapon)!

Panels

Panels are one of the greatest things about any convention. They provide a place for a group of dedicated fans to host a discussion; teaching others and learning in the process. We are proud of the Sakura-Con panels of the past and are looking forward to the creative and exciting mix our members cook up for this 2007 convention year! If you have an idea for a panel (whether you want to run it or would just like to attend it), please get in touch with us as soon as possible. It takes time to research and fill requests. Contact panels@sakuracon.org or programming@sakuracon.org.



Anyone feel up to discussing the symbolism in FLCL?

Cosplay

While Cosplay costumes don't have an official deadline, they are a serious goal to keep in mind! If you plan on designing your own costume, make sure to get your sewing plans in order and work on it while you have time, instead of rushing through the sewing at the last minute (unless you like that frenzied-up-all-night-still-sewing-in-the-car-the-day-of-feel). If you plan on ordering a costume from a commissioner, many require orders several months in advance to give them time for sewing and shipping.

If you want to find a costume commissioner, be sure to make a visit to our forums (scmb.sakuracon.org) and post in the "Cosplay" forum. It's also a great place to find fellow cosplayers for photoshoot and cosplay skit plans.

Keep an eye on the programming section of the website for cosplay contest details sure to come soon, and don't forget to stop by Aleeza's Cosplay photoshoot!

Anime Preview

Those anime fans old enough to remember Viz's Pulp may be excited to hear that Taiyo Matsumoto's manga Tekkon Kinkurito (translated as *Black & White*) is getting an animated movie. *Tekkon Kinkurito* is the story of two children, named Black and White, who live on the streets of Treasure Town, spending their days stealing money and fighting yakuza. The movie is set to be released this winter in Japanese theatres, but has not been licensed for international distribution yet.

Anime Music Videos

AMV artists are encouraged to submit AMV's for Sakura-Con, either for the Competition or general exhibition. You can either upload your entries via the convention FTP site or mail them directly on a disk. Either way, all entries must be received by **February 14, 2007**. You can find a full list of rules under the Contests heading on the Sakura-Con website.

Sakura-Con 2008 Mascot Contest

For the 4th year in a row, Sakura-Con is turning to you, the fans, to design the mascot for our convention. It's just another way that Sakura-Con is "for the fans, by the fans." The first place winner will have their mascot entry used on the Sakura-Con website, the Full Badge, and various promotional items.



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He or she will also get preferential seating at all main events, a custom guest badge to the convention, and a complimentary spot in the Artist's Alley! For entry guidelines and more information on the 2008 Contest, please visit Sakura-Con's website, under the [Contests](#) heading. All entries are due in our hands by January 31st, 2007, so get drawing!



The winning 2007 Mascot entry, as featured on the front of this newsletter



3rd place winner

2nd place winner



Sakura Chibi

Sakura Chibi is an event for attendee members between the ages of 6 and 12. It's a contest that lasts all three days of the convention and involves talent performances, questions, and costuming. It's a lot of fun for everyone and, while all events are judged, everyone leaves with a small prize. The final winner is crowned "Sakura Chibi" and receives a sash. He or she also receives the option to officially sponsor Sakura-Con at local area events and parades - should he or she choose - for a full year, and then passes the title on to next year's winner. Parents and guardians are encouraged to help their children prepare for the contest and are required to attend the event with their children.

Because this is a contest that takes place during the convention, there are no deadline dates prior to the convention, but all parents or guardians must attend a meeting held on the Friday of the convention (April 6th), and both contestants and their guardians must be present for all three days of the convention.

Anime Preview

The wildly popular manga, *Death Note*, has gotten an anime adaptation this fall. In *Death Note*, a young man named Light acquires the powerful Death Note, a notebook used by Shinigami to control when people die. Light tries to use this power for good, and, in doing so, catches the attention of famous Detective L, who is determined to stop him. The *Death Note* manga is being released in America by Viz, but the anime, which began showing on TV in Japan early this October, has yet to be licensed.

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Guests of Honor

Sakura-Con 2007 is proud to announce the following guests for its 10th anniversary celebration!



Doug Smith

Doug is a professional graphic artist who also does voice acting work in America, mostly through ADV Films. He has voiced roles in many different anime, including *Golden Boy*, *Steam Detectives*, *Bubblegum Crisis 2040*, and *Cutie Honey*. He also designed the Sakura-Con logo that you see at the top of this newsletter!

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



Anime Preview

The animated incarnation of *Ghost in the Shell* continues to grow, this time with the televised movie *Ghost in the Shell: Stand Alone Complex - Solid State Society*. This movie takes place a few years after the end of *2nd Gig*; Major Motoko Kusanagi has left Section 9, and Togusa is now in charge, leading the group against a powerful hacker known as "Puppet Master." *Solid State Society* aired in Japan on the 1st of September and will see an American DVD release later this year.



Vic Mignogna

Vic is a very well known voice actor for English-dubbed anime in America. His most popular role is, undoubtedly, Edward Elric of *Full Metal Alchemist*, but he also played roles in *Full Metal Panic*, *Macross*, *RahXephon*, *Princess Nine*, *Nadesico*, *Dragon Ball Z*, and many other anime. He is also a professional singer and musician, and has done several on-stage performances.

<http://www.vicsworld.net/>



Monica Rial

Monica Rial has been working in the anime voice over industry for over 7 years. As an actress for ADV Films and FUNimation Entertainment she has appeared in many anime including: *Angelic Layer*, *Azumanga Daioh*, *DN Angel*, *Excel Saga*, *Full Metal Panic*, *Gunslinger Girl*, *Hello Kitty's Animation Theater*, *Kiddy Grade*, *Kodocha*, *Rahxephon*, and many more. In addition, she is an ADR script writer and has worked on scripts for several shows, including *Madlax* and *DN Angel*. She also writes a monthly article, "Monica's Reality Check", for *Newtype USA* magazine.



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Kyle Jones

Kyle is an ADR Director/Producer/Writer at ADV Films and The Anime Network in Houston, Texas. Some of his titles include *Madlax*, *Kino's Journey*, *Papuwa*, *Saint Seiya*, *Diamond Daydreams*, *Kaleido Star* (pilot episode), *Samurai Gun* and *Nadesico: Prince of Darkness*. Kyle has his name on several live-action features as well, including *Dark Water*, *Guns & Talks*, *Conduct Zero*, the *Shinobi* series, and of course, *Gamera - Attack of Legion* and *Gamera - Revenge of Iris*.



Gabe and Tycho

Tycho and Gabe are the writing and art duo to Penny Arcade. In addition to the site, the pair also host PAX (The Penny Arcade Exposition), the largest videogame show in North America, Child's Play, an organization dedicated to providing game consoles for hospitalized children across the globe and the Penny Arcade Scholarship, an annual grant providing financial aid to those wishing to enter the game industry.

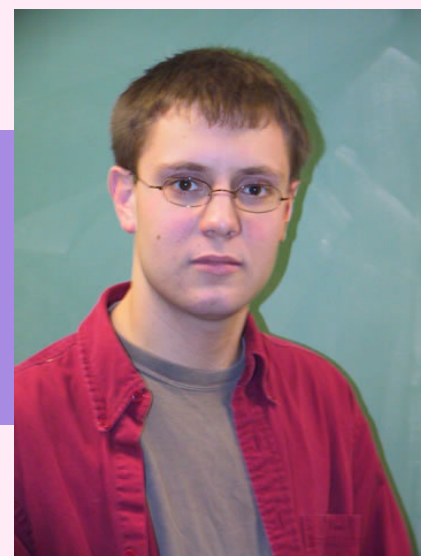
<http://www.penny-arcade.com>



Sam Logan

Sam is the artist and author of the eccentric webcomic *Sam & Fuzzy*, the story of a man named Sam, who works some very interesting jobs, and his friend Fuzzy, a sadistic "bear-like creature." The comic is quite silly and a lot of fun. Sam also does commission artwork and designs two magazines for children: *Know* and *Yes Mag*.

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



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John Swasey

John started down the road of anime in 1997, when he landed his first role in Golden Boy with a company called AD Vision. Since then, John has gone on to voice numerous shows and characters including roles in Orphen, Kaleido Star, Hakugei The Legend of Moby Dick, and Full Metal Alchemist. He also has roles in many live action films, and has since moved onto directing anime, and has also done voice work for many commercials on both radio and television.

John Swasey Interview

by Elmira Utz, Director of Publicity

I had the pleasure of speaking to John Swasey-one of our newest Guests for Sakura-Con 2007 and picked his brain a bit about his thoughts on anime, dubs vs. subs and more.

◆ Tell me us a little about yourself?

Well, I'm a native of Houston, I have 20 years of acting experience and 9 years ago I interviewed with AD vision and began my anime career. About 2 1/2 years ago I started ADR directing. I also have film work to my credit including parts in *Dazed and Confused* and *Ray*.

◆ How did you get into working in anime?

A friend and I had a comedy country band and at a show a man named Jason Lee was opening. He and his wife Amanda Winn recommended that I audition for AD vision.

◆ What were your first impressions of Anime and what do you think of it now?

At first it was "What is this?" Then it was "interesting". What fascinates me about anime is how the Japanese use animation. In the US most animation is geared towards children. But in Japan things span from Hello Kitty to Gantz. I find that fascinating. Of course, some things I don't necessarily care for but that's just the normal difference in everyone's opinion.

◆ His first Anime Voice Interview:

A. I bombed. B. Realized I'd never get hired unless I tried

again. C. Went back and asked for another shot and pulled out all the stops. That's when they said "wow".

◆ About the large number of series he's been associated with:

I have a very changeable voice. For this reason I've done a lot of supporting and smaller roles. I'm just known as someone that's a "go to" guy.

◆ On the age old subs vs. dubs question:

Some folks think dubs suck. That's their right and I respect that they love it that much-if they are purists like that. But there is a large group that don't feel that way. There is a large group of American fans that like this stuff but want to watch it in English or won't watch it to start with if it's not in English. What we try to do in making dubs is to do it so well that the audience isn't distracted...(we want) it to seem as if the show was done in English to begin with (so the story is told). For that reason we have to fit the mouth movements even more seamlessly than even the original Japanese. From there someone can say "Hey, that was cool. What else is there to this Anime thing?"

◆ Do you think anime has changed American animation?

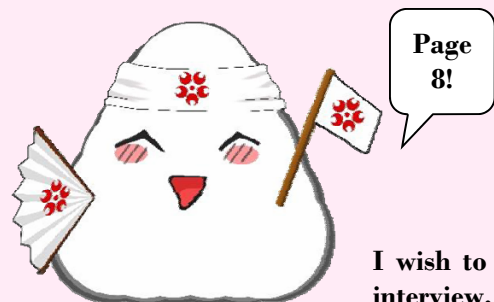
Absolutely. So much different anime is available now that you see the face of American animation changing to match it. You don't just see Hanna Barbara and Warner Brothers anymore. What AD Vision and our friends at other companies do is to bring anime to the US and ensure it's represented. We are separate companies but in a way we are in this together.

◆ What are you looking forward to most about this year's Sakura-Con?

I'm looking forward to visiting Seattle-I've never been there before. I'm also looking forward to experiencing another convention-this will be my third. And I'm looking forward to meeting new people and hopefully talking to fans about the shows I've done if there are any.

◆ I think that's a given John-you've got so many series under your belt!

I wish to extend a warm thanks to Mr. Swasey for his time and attention in completing this interview. Please be sure to look for him at Sakura-Con 2007!



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Special Performance

A-Key Kyo

"A-Key Kyo Band was founded in early 2003 in Portland Oregon by five Japanese girls. We play Japanese pop, rock, and so on. After two girls left, three guys joined to the band. We play at several festivals that relate to Japan, such as Japanese Festival, Sakura Festival, Mochitsuki Festival, and so on. People love us because we play Japanese songs, and our motto, be happy & be healthy! I believe we are rare anti-drug band ha-ha!"

- Band Member Daikoku

A-Key Kyo is scheduled to perform on Friday, April 6th

<http://ztmx.web.infoseek.co.jp/band/>



Anime Preview



Popular visual novel *Kanon* is getting a second animation adaptation this fall, colloquially referred to as "Kanon 2006". In *Kanon*, Yuichi Aizawa returns to a town he knew as a child and he starts to recall memories he had long ago lost. In this incarnation of the story, the artwork and animation are being produced by Kyoto Animation, a studio known for it's gorgeous artwork, and anime fans who don't finding themselves interested in the *Kanon* story may want to at least sneak a peak at the beautiful art.

As we get closer to the date of the convention, more guests will be announced, as we continue to prepare. As always, our website has all the latest information as soon as it is released!

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Convention Events

All our annual convention programming will be carrying over to next year, from the masquerade, to the game room, to the various contests and panels. However, a lot of that information is still in the works, and specifics have yet to be set in stone. If you plan on participating in a specific event, make sure to plan things out and contact Sakura-Con staff, if necessary. You can find out how by visiting our website's "contact" section. Keep an eye open for announcements on the website and also in the next Sakura-Conduit Members' Newsletter!

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Team Sakura

Team Sakura is a publicity team for Sakura that helps promote the convention, both in the Seattle area and all around the country. For the rest of the year, they have several events planned in the area, and would love your help with volunteering or just showing up for support. Their schedule for the rest of the 2006 year is as follows:

November

Best of the Northwest - Seattle Fall Craft Fair

November 17-19, 2006

Friday 10am to 8pm

Saturday and Sunday 10am to 6pm

Magnuson Park, Bldg 27

7400 Sand Point Way

Seattle, WA 98115

\$6 admission with free re-entry, free parking

Annual Ayame Kai Holiday Craft Fair

Saturday, November 18th 2006

Blaine Memorial United Methodist Church

3001 24th Avenue South Seattle

Homebaked apple pies, assorted Asian food, booths of crafts and artists from Washington, Oregon, California and Canada.

For more info, call 425-827-4930 or 425-255-8723

Japan-America Society Holiday Dinner and Auction

November 28th 5-9 Westin Hotel, Downtown Seattle.

Please contact JAS for available sponsorship opportunities and reservation information: 206-374-0180 or tmiwa@us-japan.org

December

Best of the Northwest - Portland Craft Fair

December 9&10, 2006 - 10am to 6pm

Oregon Convention Center

777 NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd

Portland, OR 97232

\$6 admission with free re-entry

Anime Preview

Tenpou Iban Ayakashi Ayashi is a historical fantasy anime about Bansha Aratemsho, an organization in the Tenpou era of Japan that studies foreign books, at least in the public eye. In reality, they are a dedicated team of warriors, the Ayakashi, who fight a group of monsters known as the Yoi. Because of its popular time slot, many anime fans are predicting *Ayakashi Ayashi* to be a very prominent show. It started airing on TV in Japan this October.

Aki Matsuri

"Nihon Matsuri" means "Japanese Festival" in Japanese. This year Team Sakura attended the 9th annual Aki Matsuri (Fall Festival), a 2-day program of

Japanese cultural, educational, and fun events at the Bellevue Community College Campus, which was held on September 9th and 10th. The matsuri is an excellent opportunity to experience the rich culture of Japan right here at home. Eastside Nihon Matsuri Association (ENMA) puts on the Aki Matsuri and is a non-profit organization staffed by a team of community minded volunteers-much like our own ANCEA/Sakura-Con group!

This year's Aki Matsuri Featured Guest Artists from Japan:

Sosaku Ningyo (Original Doll) Art and Tsugaru Shamisen Artists. Attendees were treated to Taiko performances, Bonsai workshops and even some tasty traditionally prepared green tea and Sake blessed by the Tsubaki Grand Shrine! If you live in the Puget Sound area be sure to watch the Team Sakura Calendar to find similar cultural events to attend. If you don't live in the Puget Sound area there are still plenty of resources for finding great Japanese cultural events-just consult the Consulate General of Japan's Office for your area or visit <http://www.embjapan.org> for more information.

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Cosplay Showcase with Aleeza McCant

Aleeza McCant's Cosplay Photoshoot is a fun Sakura-Con tradition. Con goers can get their photos taken and printed instantly or request a separate, private photo shoot! This year, she will also offer t-shirts printed with your photos on them. Here we have some of the cosplayers photographed by Aleeza at Sakura-Con '06. See if you can spot anyone you recognize...



In addition to her convention work, Aleeza is also opening up a website shop and storefront for local artists to form a community and sell their work. Anyone interested can contact her at anglcreations@yahoo.com, or by joining the Sakura-Con forums or her own forum at [www.anglcon.com](http://www anglcon.com).

Currently, Aleeza sells artwork of her own (including many cute onigiri like the ones you can see to the right announcing our page numbers) on t-shirts, pillows, notebooks, and much more at <http://www.cafepress.com/sushishirtscx>. Be sure to check it out!

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★ Anime Preview ★

Code Geass - Lelouch of the Rebellion is the mecha show of the season. It takes place in a futuristic world where the Britannic Empire has conquered Japan and transformed it into Area 11. One of the most interesting things about this show, however, is that the character designs are all done by CLAMP, the well-known manga-ka group. *Code Geass* started airing on TV over in Japan earlier in October.



Tacoma Cosplay Cafe

One of the coolest things to open in the area recently is the Tacoma Cosplay Café, owned and operated by local anime fan Teresa Potter. They offer an anime and Asian movie rental service, as well as a fully stocked store of all things anime and Japan, including toys, weapons, food, and much more!

The shop is located on the corner of Pacific Avenue and Military, in Spanaway. The shop's hours and phone number, as well as more information about products and services, can be found on Teresa's website: <http://www.tacomacosplaycafe.com/>.

Robotech: Shadow Chronicles

In some exciting news, Harmony Gold and FUNimation announced that they are releasing the next installment of Robotech, *Robotech: Shadow Chronicles*, in US theatres for a short time before it is released on DVD!

If you would like to see this anime in a theatre near you, please call and write your local movie theaters, asking them to show it. The following theaters all have the digital projectors needed to show this film:



◆ AMC Cinerama 1

2100 4th Ave, Seattle WA 98121
(206)441-3080

◆ Bellevue Galleria Stadium 11

550 106th Ave NE, Bellevue WA
98004
(425)451-7161

◆ Galaxy Theaters Tacoma

3102 S 23rd St, Tacoma WA 98402
(253)383-5995

◆ Galaxy Theaters Monroe

One Galaxy Way, Monroe WA 98...
(360)863-0909

◆ Landmark Neptune Theatre

1303 NE 45th, Seattle WA 98105
(206)781-5755



Page 12, last page. Look for the next newsletter right before the convention! ^_^



Alright folks, show's over. You can go on with your lives now. I hope our little newsletter gave you something to think about, and helped bring you back into the convention spirit! If you have questions, comments, or ideas for the newsletter, feel free to drop us a line at newsletter@sakuracon.org. We'd be more than happy to hear from you!

All articles were written and edited by Elizabeth Burt-Schultz (Newsletter Coordinator), Elmira Utz (Director of Publicity), and Marques Domask (Newsletter Staff). The text and layout of this newsletter are © ANCEA, 2006, unless otherwise stated. Much thanks to the Anime News Network (www.animenewsnetwork.com) for information on the new fall anime shows. All images used with permission. Printing permission is granted for personal use only. This newsletter may not be sold or distributed.