

NEWS PICS REVIEWS
DAS NEWSLETTER
 TRIPS FANART FANFICTION



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LATEST DAS NEWS

Merging of Zentrancon, LLC with Kosaikon

Two cons, one dream.

Philadelphia's premiere anime festival, *KosaiKon*, has merged with Philadelphia's newest anime/sci-fi convention, *Zentrancon*, to form **Zenkaikon** -- what we hope will be the best anime and sci-fi convention in the Philadelphia area and revolutionize the convention scene.

Zenkaikon will be held on October 28, 2006 in Valley Forge, PA. There will be anime screenings, cosplay, panels, musical performances, special guests, a dealers room and much more. Pre-registration is now being accepted online. Register by October 1 and pay just \$15. (Registration at the door will be \$20.) For more information, check out the official Zenkaikon website: <http://www.zenkaikon.com>

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The DAS has been one busy club this year, and we're just past the halfway mark of 2006. On the con/trip front, DAS members carpooled and roomed together at AnimeUSA and Katsucon, and made the annual trip to the Washington, DC Cherry Blossom Festival.

The club has put on a number of events like The Asian Karaoke Invitational Ichiban (TAKII) along with PDNMZ CD Shoppe (January) and a Chinese New Year Party with the WCU Anime Club (February). Then we had the Miyazaki Anime and Cosplay Festival at the Brandywine Hundred Library (May), and a Cosplay Picnic/Faire at Talley Day Park in

Wilmington (June). Picnic/Faire at Talley Day Park in Wilmington (June). We have plans of putting on another program at the Brandywine Hundred this fall along with our usual mini-cons and tons of other events. We'd like to express our appreciation for all the hard work of the DAS staff and other volunteers in putting on some great events! The next time you see a staffer at your local chapter be sure to say "THANKS!"

We don't call ourselves "the most active anime club in DE" for nothing! Go here for pics of our cons, events and trips: <http://delawareanimesociety.com/gallery/>

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DAS RADIO

DJ Dan and Neochichiri are taking a broadcasting hiatus, but that doesn't mean the music and fun and have stopped. PDNMZ CD Shoppe (<http://d-chan.exaltedhosting.com>) continues to bring the best in Asian multimedia entertainment to DAS radio with DJ D-chan's Thursday night broadcast from 9:00 – 11:00 p.m. Listen in at: <http://d-chan.no-ip.org>

DAS also has a new radio show on Friday nights, hosted by our own CEO, Mattie. Broadcast from 8:00 – 10:00 p.m., it features a variety of anime/game/j-pop/k-pop/trance/karaoke music as well as DAS and other related news. You will need a WinAmp player to listen in: <http://dasradio.dnsdojo.net:8000/>

A live AIM chat room is always up and running during all broadcasts. Check the DAS site or the Yahoo list for the link or email your AIM screen name to delawareanimesociety@yahoo.com so the DJ can invite you into the chat.

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OTAKON 2006

Artist Alley

DAS has reserved two tables in Artist Alley this year where we'll be showcasing some of our members' awesome artwork for both display and sale. We'll also be selling club-related merchandise including t-shirts, buttons and more. If you have artwork that you would

like to contribute to the club's portfolio for display and/or sale, please contact CEO Mattie at dealwareanimesociety@yahoo.com

Need a ride or a room for Otakon 2006?

It may not be too late! Post to the mailing list to see who from your area is going and who might have room space. We have multiple members from all the DAS chapters in Dover, Wilmington and West Chester PA who are going to the convention. So there's a good likelihood of finding assistance.

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COSPLAY CORNER

Cosplay Tips For A Super Quick Costume
(or, How To Get Ready For A Con At The Last Minute!)
by Jenny

Goodwill and similar thrift stores are a budget-minded cosplayer's best friend. First off, try to pick a character with minimal or no props. Then take a picture with you when you go shopping (it's always good to have a visual reference), and look for the closest match clothing-wise that you can find. You may need to shorten a hem, add some trim or other decorations to get the right look. Then top it off with a wig (if needed) and you're good to go!

Some good quick character costumes: Shinji Ikari, Luffy and Radical Edward are examples of very basic costumes. Also most school girl uniforms, characters in suits (or suit pieces) such as Lupin III, random cat girls, and persocoms can wear just about anything with the right headgear. Do some research on your own to find your perfect character.

For specific cosplay questions, contact Jenny at Starlightkitty3@aol.com

(Editor's note: Jenny served as the cosplay coordinator and a judge at Zentrancon 2005)

Use of Everyday Objects In Cosplay

by Mattie

You would be surprised at how easy it is to use inexpensive everyday objects for your cosplay needs as opposed to commissioning or buying expensive pre-made props. Here are some of my favorites:

Pantyhose: Good for tights, tanned cat girl skin, tails, wig caps, and more.

Leftover plastic bottles: I used leftover Noxzema

containers to make a crown for my Princess Zukin for DDR. I saw one girl who used a leftover gallon jug of some sort which she painted and used for the jet tanks for her Space Channel 9 (or other character) costume.

Dr. Scholls Shoe Arch Inserts: Does anybody else see the similarity to certain cat girl ears? I used brown ones for Merulu ears and attached them to a cheap headband. Then I painted them and attached sticky felt for "fur".

Hangers: Metal hangers can be used for wings, tails, bunny ears, antennae, whatever! Just make sure not to cut yourself and that you have a good pair of wire-cutters handy. If you can't find metal hangers, try cheap metal clothesline from Wal-Mart.

Cosplay Q & A

Q: "I'm trying to make some basic clothes of feudal Japan for a skirt I am working on, but with my experience I think it might be a hopeless cause. I was wondering if you could help me." Brandon, DAS Kanameiji (PA)

A: If you've never done clothes of this type before, I recommend first finding a good pattern. Here are some useful links to traditional Asian clothing:

How to sew a simple Yukata (unlined kimono)
<http://luxnova.home.mindspring.com/samuraigame/yukata.html>

Sewing patterns for Martial Arts/Anime/Traditional:
<http://store.yahoo.com/roundearth/patterns.html>

Q: How do you re-size a pattern?

A: Most patterns have measurements on the back for bust, waist, chest, inseam, length, etc. Buy a cheap measuring tape then measure yourself and keep the numbers for fitting the patterns to the size you want.

Most patterns come in multiple sizes so just make sure you're cutting the size that fits you. It's a good idea, especially with stiffer fabrics, to cut a little wider/bigger than you need. **Remember, you can always make an outfit smaller easily, but you can't create more fabric from nothing if you need to go bigger!**

Want more cosplay tips? Check out the next DAS newsletter or drop by the DAS Dover "Otakon Cosplay Panic" Omake meeting on Saturday, July 29 from 4:00-8:00 p.m. (Superior Comics, Loockerman St.)

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ASIAN MUSIC

A handful of popular Asian music stars will be touring the United States this summer. Here is just a sampling:

Puffy AmiYumi:

<http://www.tofurecords.com/artists.php?artistid=puffy>

Hyde @ Anime Expo

<http://www.tofurecords.com/artists.php?artistid=hyde>

Yoshiki (of L'arc en Ciel) @ Otakon 2006:

http://www.otakon.com/guests_music.asp

Dir En Grey (with the Family Values Tour 2006)

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

New Music Review

"Ultra Blue" - Utada Hikaru

by Chris Salvatore

Bouncing back from her "Exodus" album, Utada Hikaru proves yet again why she has been called the Queen of Pop. Hikaru's 4th album "Ultra Blue" is an outstanding work of 13 brilliantly crafted songs. Standout new tracks are the intense and chaotic "This Is Love", the melancholy and fierce "BLUE", and the uplifting "Making Love".

This album just makes me feel good when I listen to it and I have to say it's brighter in tone than "Deep River" and "Exodus", yet still has its dark moments on tracks such as "Be My Last" and "Dareka no Negai ga Kanau Koro".

If you're looking for the R&B Hikki from back in the "First Love" and "Distance" days, she is not to be found here. The only track that is a throwback to those days is perhaps "Nichiyoi no Asa", which is a smooth, laid-back R&B tune. But if you're looking for something refreshing, order "Ultra Blue" today.

Utada Hikaru is well known among anime and gaming fans alike for performing the themes for both Kingdom Hearts games, as well as a host of other projects.

(<http://www.toshiba-emi.co.jp/hikki/>)

Looking for more Asian music? Then don't miss the DAS Dover August 26 Omake meeting which will feature an Asian Music Panel presented by our own DJ and Asian music performer D-chan and his PDNMZ CD Shoppe. (<http://d-chan.exaltedhosting.com>)

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RANDOM HOBBY CORNER

Playing with Dolls

by Rachael Carothers

Here is an excerpt from Rachael's article on this popular otaku hobby that was originally published in *Protoculture Addicts*:

"Dolls aren't just for kids, no matter what anyone says. All across the world, adults are spending thousands of dollars on their doll collections. Not just dolls, but on clothes, accessories, body parts and wigs. They spend hours customizing their little friends to be one of a kind."

Here are some of the most popular:

Jenny: started in 1982 with an alliance between Takara Co, Ltd and Mattel. Resembles Barbie at 11.5 inches, with over 5,000 styles to her name, around \$12.

Licca: similar to Jenny, made by Takara, 9 inch doll, wire armature arms and legs, price range from \$7-\$23.

Pullip: made by Korea's Chunsang Chunha, fully articulated doll, larger than Jenny, with a large head and blinking eyes. These dolls were monthly limited editions released by Jun Planning of Japan in 2003. Pullip also has Mini versions called Little Pullip. Prices range from \$70 (newer dolls) to over \$150 (older dolls) with Little Pullips around \$20. Pullip has a boyfriend companion named Namu.

Dollfie: made by a company called Volks, started out around 12 inches tall as jointed or non jointed with eyes that had to be painted. In 1998 they came up with the Super Dollfie (SD) which were designed to look like 10 year olds at a height of 22 inches tall. Heads and eyes are easily customizable and SDs come in many types. MiniSuperDollfies are around 16 inches tall and younger sibs to the Dollfies, while SD13's have more adult looking bodies and high heel style feet. Prices range from \$250 to around \$500.

Pinky Street (ST): Made by Vance Project, Pinkys are 4 inch hard figurines with interchangeable hair, hats, tops and bottoms. More serious collectors even paint and customize their own. These dolls range from \$6 to \$20 each.

"Many folks get very devoted to their dolls and carry them around like friends or children. At conventions

you will often see people hanging out in groups with their dolls or attending doll photoshoots or panels. There are even conventions dedicated to dolls, too. On the even more extreme side, in Japan there's a growing group of hardcore doll enthusiasts called 'Dollers' who prefer dolls as their ideal women. These folks sometimes dress their life sized dolls up in regular women's clothing and take them on dates."

Want to read more on this and other articles relating to anime? Check out www.protocolculture-mag.com

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CULTURAL CONVERGENCE

Want to know how it is for anime fans around the world? Then this is the place to read all about it.

Recently an anime fan named Ana from Brazil joined our mailing list and asked some questions regarding US anime fans. In return, we asked her some questions about anime fans in Brazil and this is what she had to said:

Q: What does the word "otaku" mean to you? Do you take the Japanese meaning or would you say that an otaku is just a general anime fan?

A: For ME, which isn't the general Brazilian opinion: The word otaku first got here meaning just "a person who watches anime/reads manga". So pretty much every child was an otaku xD~ But things started to get serious, for the first events were organized... and there were LOTS of people who did nothing but live for it.

The main difference from the Brazilian to the Japanese otaku is that they go out a lot... but ONLY to anime/manga related events! People failed college and school, because they could only pay attention to anime! They're not violent, and most of them like the dub versions. Everyone here hates to watch anime in English too xD~ We'd rather watch Portuguese or Japanese, of course ^^ But we love our voice actors... to adore them is a main part of liking anime, no matter if you are otaku or not!

Lately we've been discussing that for in the region I live, too many events are being set, and the "I do (some freaky thing) because I'm an otaku" line came quiet often... but we haven't really got anywhere u_u"

Q: What do you think of the Japanese otaku?

A: Here, it's often said they are mentals ^^" We can't

see their point, we're not able to understand them, why they're so afraid of the world, and why they lock in themselves like that.

Q: What about the "MOE" wave?

A: Moe is the word for cute girls, that won't complain about anything. I don't know the precise word in English, but in Portuguese, it would be "submissa" - a girl that has no will and depends on guys. There was this TV show in Japan that I can't remember the name, where the girls were all like this, and they dated otakus.

So, lots of non-otaku teenage boys started acting like otakus, searching for moe in the animes, mangas and games (mostly hentai), and they scream it out loud. This caused a huge change on the image of the otaku in Japan. Now, they're considered perverts in every single way. The mangaka Mimei Sakamoto, who started the rage against the moe-addicts, say that the real otaku should go back to their lonely worlds, and leave the reality for those guys. She said there's no such thing as "otaku pride", they shouldn't even let anyone knows about it... it's been a very complicated matter there.

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MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

July 2006 - Princess Kiwi

DAS Position/Role: Royal Member (Duh! I'm a princess!), UNO Master Ninja

Location: North Wilmington, DE

What theme or institution in anime should be decreased or increased and why? I'm tired of all the female characters having big breasts. Don't get me wrong, I have them, too (and they're great! I might add), but it's absolutely ridiculous. They should even it out by giving all the male characters strong, buff bodies, ample shoulders, nice hair, dreamy eyes, large...oh, never mind. As I was saying, in general, I need more beefcake!! Your Princess has spoken. Good day!!

In addition to being featured on the DAS website and ML, Kiwi also received either a box of Pocky or other Asian candy of her choice! To apply for the monthly spotlight, go here and fill out an application: <http://www.delawareanimesociety.com/dasmemberspotlight.html>



Kiwi (right) with fellow DAS member Nailah

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Otakon, August 4 – 6, 2006
Baltimore Convention Center
Baltimore, Maryland
<http://otakon.com>

Zenkaikon, October 28, 2006
Valley Forge Scanticon Hotel
Valley Forge, Pennsylvania
www.zenkaikon.com



DAS Mascot Momo getting her karaoke groove on
by Kel

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FAN ART



DAS Mascot Taro
by Tim Pierpont

DAS Kanameiji mascots, Kana and Meiji
by Sara



*DAS Newsletter is published quarterly. Layout by Mish.
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Thanks to Vanessa for the yukata resource.*

*Have an idea for a column? Contact Mish at
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info.*