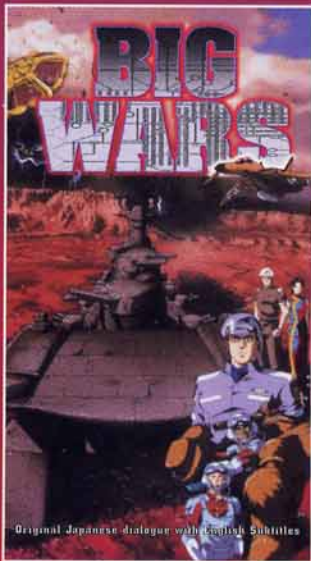


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Borders Of The Mind

I was recently told about a fan expressing his surprise to see reports of Californian anime conventions (like Animerica or FanimeCon) in PROTOCOLCULTURE ADDICTS, a **Canadian** magazine. It is strange how people like to put labels on things. It reminds me of this editorial in another “anime” magazine three years ago, saying that PA could not make impartial coverage of the anime news because it was a Canadian magazine and it was not targeted at an American audience. *Au contraire!* PA is trying to cover the largest range of subjects and to reach the largest audience possible. And we don’t bother with labels.

Are we really doing a different magazine because we are Canadian? I don’t think so. We might be a little culturally different (after all, people are always amazed to see French people publishing in English about Japanese stuff and some even called us the “crazy Frenchmen” at conventions), but if I consider myself BOTH *Quebecois* (some would say French Canadian, but I hate this term; I don’t believe in artificial countries: I believe in culture and geo-economics — but that’s another story) and North American. As far as belonging is concern, I’d rather consider myself a Human or an Earthling. Our difference lies in the richness of our culture which bridges both North American and European cultures.

When we make the magazine, we do not think about those meaningless borders, but ~~about our~~ **readers**. They are the ones who dictate what kind of magazine we do. And they are all over the world. We have subscribers on every continent. We must also think about the American audience, since ninety percent of our sales are in the United States. In fact, the place we sell the least is in... Canada. **G** figure.

So, are we a Canadian magazine? Maybe our mailing address is in Canada. Maybe we are officially a Canadian company. Besides that, who cares? We cover the anime news wherever we can find it (and it is sometime in California). Also, the magazine, if Canadian, is not necessarily written only by Canadians. Aside from the minimal in-house staff, there are, of course, a few local contributors, but many contributors are American and some of them are from Norway, England, France, Germany, etc. The human world is getting smaller everyday. It began with satellite television (yes, we get CNN in Canada — and more) and has now quite accelerated with the Internet. Almost every part of the world is within our reach.

We **are** a North American magazine and are trying to be as international as we can. We are surely not the best magazine (some look better or have more exposure), but we are giving our best to serve our readers. We have done so for nearly ten years and, after this 40th issue, we intend to continue for as long as fate allows us.

Don’t listen to those rumors saying that we are dead. We just changed the name of our publishing company. We are still the same. And if we seems to be published “God knows when,” as some people complained, it is simply because we are a bimonthly magazine (we are published every **two** months). With the recent down-sizing of the company, we had to postpone for a while our plans to go monthly. We promise to improve otherwise. We are already trying very hard to improve the quality of the magazine, as well as the schedule, and we might be able to add some more pages soon. I hope that our efforts are showing.

In this 40th issue, we offer you our usual diversity: oldies and memorabilia with those “Heroic Robots of the Seventies,” recent animation with “Blue Seed,” which began in February from A.D. Vision (surely the anime releaser of the year), and a touch of Japanese culture with “The Tale of Genji.” All this seasoned with a good load of anime news and reviews.

Enjoy and keep your mind borderless!

Claude J. Pelletier

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DREAMLAND JAPAN UPDATE

Frederik Schodt's latest book on Japanese manga is getting bigger! The number of pages has increased to 340 and the price is now \$16.95. Look for it in June. Also, Streamline Pictures will celebrate the book's launch at their booth at the San Diego Comic-Con from Thursday to Sunday, 4-7 July. Frederik L. Schodt will sign his book Sunday July 7 from noon to 2:00 pm. (<http://www.stonebridge.com>)

J-FAN

Another anime magazine ceased publication. J-FAN published its last issue with number 2 because it was not selling well enough, but might eventually restart.

NEW TV SERIES

There are several new series in Japan this spring. We've heard about a new LAMUNE & 40, a new SLAYERS and something called B't X. We don't have much to say about those. However, there are three series that are definitely worth mentioning:

DRAGONBALL GT: Ten years after the end of Dragonball Z, Pilaf finds the seven balls again and is finally able to make a wish... Only to wish that Songoku become a kid again. The balls are scattered... around the galaxy this time. It is the same story all over again. Chibi-Goku will go from planet to planet looking for the balls to regain his appearance. It is disappointing and Toriyama is not working on the show. (<http://haas.berkeley.edu/~chennav/dbgt>)

ESCAFLOWNE OF THE SKY: *Tenkuu no Escafloorne* is a mecha fantasy series by Sunrise based on a Shonen Ace manga. Shinzaki Hitomi is a high school student that will be brought by Ban Farnel to Gaia to defend his homeworld, along with Farneria's guardian god, Escafloorne, against the Zaibahha Empire. Directed by Kawamori Shoji (MACROSS) and character designs by Yuki Nobuteru (LODOSS WARS, GUNNM, ANGEL COP, WEATHERING CONTINENT, etc.). (<http://susanooh.anime.net/Newsfla...>)



MOBILE NEW CENTURY GUNDAM X: Another Gundam and another alternate time line! It is set fifteen years after the Seventh Space War, which destroyed much of Earth. The 15-year old Garoad Ran is the hero and pilot the ultimate weapon of the great war, the GX-9900 Gundam X. The newtypes are back! Written by Hiroyuki Kawasaki, directed by Shinji Takamatsu; mecha designs by Kunio Okawara and Junya Ishigaki. (The Gundam Project web page: <http://gundam.anime.net>)



A FEW SUGGESTED WWW ADDRESSES

- Anime Connect: http://www.bloodshot.com/Anime_Connect
- Bandai: <http://www.fjt.co.jp/TOYS/BANDAI/index.htm>
- Dream Pod 9: <http://www.dp9.com/>
- FPS: <http://www.cam.org/~paw/fps.html>
- Gainax: <http://www.stellar.co.jp/GAINAX/menu-e.html>
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- Mangajin: <http://www.mangajin.com>
- Nikaku Animart: <http://www2.best.com/~nikaku>
- Protoculture Addicts: <http://www.odyssee.net/~flip/PA>
- Streamline Pictures: <http://www.insv.com/streamline>



EVENTS

ANIME WEEKEND ATLANTA

The next Anime Weekend Atlanta will be held November 1-3 1996 at the Holiday Inn Atlanta Airport South (5010 Old National Highway, College Park, GA 30349. Reservations: (404) 761-4000. Hotel rates: \$70 per night). Membership rates: \$20 before 5-1-96, \$25 before 10-1-96 and \$30 at the door. Guests will be announced in future updates. Information: Anime Weekend Atlanta, P.O. Box 13544, Atlanta GA 30324-30544. E-mail: gwaters@crl.com; Web Site: <http://www.anime.net/~awa/>

FANT-ASIA UPDATE

Montreal Asian Movie Festival will be held at the Imperial Theater from July 14 to August 15 (new dates). It will show Japanese monster movies (Godzilla, Gamera, Ultraman, etc.) and animation, as well as Chinese martial art movies (Jackie Chan — who might attend it himself!).

OTAKON '96

The Convention of the Otaku Generation will be held August 9-11 1996 at the Marriott's Hunt Valley Inn, Baltimore. Room rates: \$79 per night. Reservation: (410) 785-7000. For information: Otakon 1996, 661-A Waupelani Drive, State College PA 16801. Web: <http://www.netaxs.com/~sleet/otakon/>

NENE RESIN KIT

AniMail, Anime Project's official merchandise range, announced a new resin kit: Nene of the popular BUBBLEGUM CRISIS anime series. Sculpted by Aiden Anderson, this kit authentically captures the formidable presence of artist-creator Kenichi Sonoda's character. Designed for use by experienced model kit users, the kit is 1/6 scale in resin and comes complete with an assembly guide with a price of £59.95. The original BUBBLEGUM CRISIS videos are the best reference for painting the character. For orders & trade inquiries please contact Nigel Fisher (in England) at this phone number 011. 44. 1248. 370044.

