

a fascination with Japanimation



Delan Lonowski/DN

Club fills niche for lovers of alternative, more graphic cartoons

BY JACKIE BLAIR

If you're a cartoon nut and have seen every rerun of "Tom & Jerry" and "Looney Tunes," there's a club on campus that might fulfill your need for alternative cartoon entertainment.

Otaku Jinrui, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Anime Club, has been dedicated to bringing the newest Japanese animation for free student viewing since the fall of 1998.

But if you go to a meeting, don't be expecting the same toons you watched in your pajamas Saturday mornings when you were a child.

If you do, you're in for a shock comparable to going to the movie "The Cell" expecting to see "Autumn in New York."

The cartoons have violent content, which is one reason you don't see many of the shows on cable television. But that is not the only reason.

Michelle Myers, a senior English and history major, said Anime tends to be expensive in the United States. "That's why we show it, so people can decide whether or not they want to buy it," she said.

Many students had never heard of Anime until popu-

lar shows such as Pokemon came to the United States.

Now, Fox Kids is coming up with stuff that was shown in Japan 20-30 years ago, Myers said.

"Pokemon is low-quality Anime," said Josh Hesse, a senior electrical engineering major. "And when the U.S. does play Anime, it is highly edited."

Anime are popular cartoons made in Japan., Hesse said. They have awesome graphics and often play alternative or rock music for background.

Also, a lot of the shows have real messages instead of just fictional plots.

But the main difference is a lot of the Anime shown is very violent.

For example, "Berzerk" showed blood, graphic scenes, death and plots that would not be suitable for children.

Hesse said the reason Japan can show such graphic Anime, and the U.S. cannot, has to do with a code passed in the 1950s.

"The United States passed a code that said all comics shown in the U.S. had to relate to the kids market," Hesse said. "In Japan, that never happened."

Japanese Anime is not just graphic, mind-corrupting entertainment; there are different toons that can be

enjoyed by all ages.

But what sets Japanese Anime apart from U.S. cartoons is the fact that many of them do contain graphic content.

"In the U.S., most cartoons are for ages four to 11, but in Japan, you can find blood and guts cartoons for 21 and up," Myers said. "You can see grown men reading comics on the way home."

Anime is so popular in Japan that it held box-office records there for many years, Hesse said.

In the United States, the appeal is on a smaller scale, but a small group of fans is out there, which is the reason for the UNL Anime Club.

Most of the students who come to the Friday night viewings have either been Anime fans for years or are people who are interested in Science Fiction, said Hesse.

Nick Dinges was a member of an Anime club at Lincoln Southeast High School and joined UNL's club to see what it was like.

Dinges, a freshman computer science major, said: "This is for the hard-core people."

Meetings are held every Friday night from 7-10 p.m. in Ferguson Hall, room 217. They have short meetings followed by screenings of different cartoons.

Slobberbone tries new record label

BY KEN MORTON

The tag "alt.country" has the potential to haunt some bands. It can mean little exposure and getting shoved to the bottom of a label's priority list.

Slobberbone, a four-piece band from Denton, Texas, has avoided the disappointment experienced by many bands who attach themselves to the No Depression movement.

The band has done it in two ways.

First, Slobberbone rocks harder than most rock bands, and second, the band has stayed away from major labels and stuck with smaller, independent labels.

Slobberbone has also been touring relentlessly in support of their newest CD, "Everything You Thought Was Right Was Wrong Today," and pulls into Lincoln tonight to play Duffy's Tavern.

Performance Preview	
Slobberbone	
Where:	Duffy's Tavern 1412 O St.
When:	Tonight @ 10 p.m.
Cost:	\$3

Singer/guitarist Brent Best said the newest album was supposed to be mainly acoustic, but the band shifted directions about halfway through the recording.

"We had just come off recording and touring for

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Sojourner Truth's influence focus of lecture

Discussion delves into problems concerning rights of women and minorities.

BY MELANIE MENSCH

"People who make history know nothing about history. You can see that in the sort of history they make."

Gilbert Keith Chesterton (1874-1936) British writer, critic

Isabella, a former slave, didn't know how to read or write.

But the 6-foot-tall woman, strong-bodied and fiery in spirit, would be known to future generations as a legendary abolitionist and women's rights advocate.

Although Isabella might have thought her life an ordinary one, her extraordinary impact on American social values not only changed history, it changed her name. She would be known simply as Truth: Sojourner Truth.

Beginning Thursday, all are

invited to discover the truth about Sojourner and other famous historic heroes at the fifth annual Governor's Lecture in the Humanities.

Sponsored by the Nebraska Humanities Council and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the free lecture kicks off the UNL history department's three-day symposium on biography.

The keynote lecturer, Nell Irvin Painter, will present her speech, "Historical Biography and the Privilege of Unknowing" at 7:30 p.m. on Sept. 7 in Kimball Hall.

The Edwards Professor of American History at Princeton earned high praise for her book, "Sojourner Truth: A Truth, A Symbol," in which she explores Truth's influence on American women and blacks.

Jane Hood, Nebraska Humanities Council director, said Painter was a leading intellectual with an inspiring message of equality and freedom.

"We try to choose people

each year with something to say," she said. "Now in the 21st century, we are desperate for heroes and heroines. Some people might say there are none left in a self-centered, materialistic society, but I don't believe that."

"We can look at the past and see people like Truth, who achieved so much, rose to the occasion and renewed faith in people."

"What better way to look at someone else and to understand qualities in yourself, that issues of the past are still the issues of today?"

Along with Painter, five other speakers will lecture about important historical figures, like Anne Boleyn, Charles Darwin and Shen Dingyi.

All symposium lectures are free and held in the Nebraska Union on Friday and Saturday.

Kit Dimon, council treasurer, said biography and history impact today's society more than realized.

"History has everything to

do with the future," she said. "Without the humanities, like ethics, philosophy and history, we pass through life as boring and dry."

"But we learn everything we can about the people who settle this land, who defined values and changed the face of America."

Lloyd Ambrosius, UNL history professor, said he hoped the public would take advantage of meeting great historians and biographers.

"This is the first symposium in a series that will happen in future years," he said. "It's a major event that I hope people will attend and learn from the lives of other people."

Hood said she hoped students would attend the conference to meet and talk with experts afterwards.

"I think students would benefit from this opportunity to come in contact with such brilliant people," she said. "Don't miss it."