



**Shidoshi:** As I sit here writing this, it is the eve before the launch of the PS2. Tomorrow, many Americans will be finding out if all the hype was worth it or not, and others may be burning their local game shops as riots break out over lack of

available systems. I had planned to pick one up, but decided instead to use the money to get all of the sweet DC games coming out in the next few months. I do want a PS2, it'll just have to wait. What I don't want, however, is the Resident Evil movie. After reading what is sup-

posedly the casting call for the film, I predict that flicks such as Super Mario Bros. and Double Dragon will look like timeless classics compared to this abomination. Call me silly, but a "Resident Evil" movie should have more in common with the game than just zombies. Ugh.

## Goods Showcase

**Shidoshi:** You know 'em, you love 'em - Goods. [ [Goods >>](#) ] Anything you can buy, sell, collect, trade, or use to increase your worship of a series, idol, characters, or other such thing you might want to adore and dream about. Toys, posters, soundtracks, software - if it deals with things AnimeFan deals with, then the Goods Showcase is here to talk about them.

### Ayumi Hamasaki Concert Tour 2000 VCD

Among one of the many things I've heard from you out there when you write or e-mail me is, "If Ayumi is the new AnimeFan Idol, why aren't we seeing more of her?" That's a darn fine question, and this

month, I'm helping to change that a little. Here I give you the Ayumi Hamasaki Concert Tour 2000 VCD. Want all of the excitement, theatrics, and music of a live Ayumi show, but you weren't able to fly to Japan to see one? Here is the next best thing! This video proves that when Ayumi puts on a show, she really puts on a show - lots of effects, elaborate costumes, dance routines, the whole works. Spanning two VCDs, we get sixteen of Ayumi's more popular songs (including Shidoshi

favorite TO BE). This is a must for all Ayumi fans, as it really is a great concert video with a nice selection of music, and it is also cool to see Ayumi seem so appreciative of her fans (evident when it takes like ten MINUTES for her to thank her fans at the end of the concert). Also, I fully expect next month that I'll have a review of Ayumi-chan's most recent album, Duty. I've only had the chance to hear a few of the tracks, but let me tell you - the rock the house in all kinds of ways. In fact, one of the songs on said album may be my all-time favorite Ayumi track. But, that'll wait for the review.

### Wing Gundam

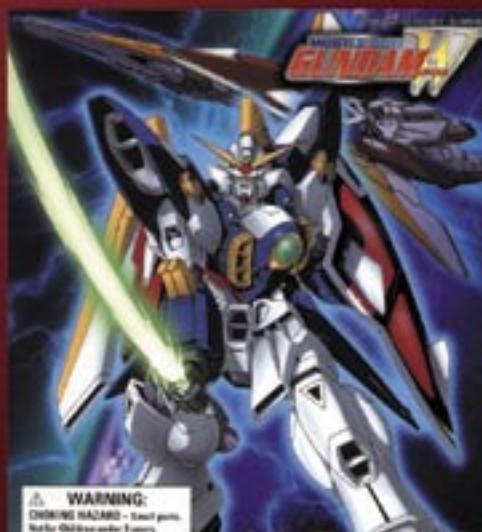
I've really caught the Gundam bug as of late, and I just couldn't help myself - I had to buy one of the Gundam kits. I'm a big Wing Gundam fan myself, so that was my choice out of the many kits. I picked up the 1/144th scale version (the smaller kits), and had an enjoyable experience watching the robot come to exist as I pieces him together. There's just something fun about building

your toys before you can play with them, and while these kits are small, they're top notch. Almost everything

on these bad boys articulate, and for a plastic figure that you had to put together without glue, they're also rather sturdy. I'm now hunting around to find the HG 1/100th scale Wing Gundam Zero Custom model to spend some quality "Gundam Dork" quality time with.

### Nuku

Nuku is the Mac application pictures above, crafted by x. Nuku is a program to help you learn (or brush up on) your Japanese Hiragana and Katakana reading skills. You have two main ways to use Nuku - the program can present you with a character, and you have to say which character it is, or it can hide the character until you ask for a certain one (for example, hit "tsu," and it will show the character for tsu). Nuku is great to help you learn the two different Japanese alphabets, or if you want to be sure you don't forget them once you've learned them.



### NekoKana

Shameless plug alert! While it isn't much, your very own Shidoshi made a Katakana flash card program for the Dreamcast VMU. I've actually gotten some great response to it, and if you have a VMU, why not check it out yourself?





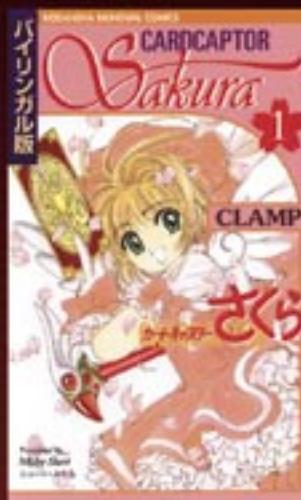
## Card Captor Sakura Volume 1

Review Graphic Novel • US Format • Action • CPM Manga • \$15.95 • 196

**Shidoshi:** This is the story of Ai Iijima, Japanese idol extraordinaire, who is going about her normal life one day on a photo shoot at the beach. Wanting to take a bit of a break, she notices a strange cave. She heads down to the cave to investigate it, as her three assistants follow behind, desperate to keep her out of trouble (so that they can keep their jobs). Inside the cave, Ai finds a talking skeleton who warns her not to mess with the strange artifact that has been hidden in the cave. Ai does anything, and comes across a beautiful neck-

lace. Not knowing what it is, Ai puts it on, and suddenly she and her four assistants are sent back in time for a host of adventures.

Okay, here is where things get a bit weird about this manga. From what I understand, *Time Traveler Ai* seems to have come about when artist Takeshi Takebayashi wanted to do a manga about a real-life person - Japanese idol Ai Iijima. Ai was then brought into the project, became the writer for the manga, and wrote a story based around herself about time travel (which was inspired by her love for the old anime series *Time Bokan*). So, in a way, think of it as something similar to all of those strange US comics based around people like



## Maxion Volume 1

Review Graphic Novel • Jpn Format • Adventure • Viz • price • length • 12+



**Maurice Williams:** For Son Goku, a young, naive monkey boy with an insatiable appetite, life is about to be forever changed. While on a fishing trip one fateful day, he's nearly flattened by a French sports car driven by a young girl by the name of Bulma. Bulma is on a quest to collect the seven "Dragon Balls." Once they are gathered together, the mighty Shinran will appear to grant the lucky gatherer their heart's desire.

Let me just start off by saying that I love Toriyama. I mean, not just a healthy admiration either, no... more like sitting in his bushes at three o'clock in the morning with binoculars. Er... did I say that out-loud? seriously, as an artist, I've always been a huge fan of Toriyama's technical skills. It is cool to see an artist who can make characters which evolve and age over time with the storyline. Unlike a number of other comics out there, you get to actually see Goku and



## Minna no Mail

Hey boys and girls, we have a new little feature here in the pages of AnimeFan starting this issue. This new little feature is called the "Quick Link." While reading an article, news story, review, or whatever else, tag

you may find a little pointing you back to the News Service page. What this is is a little label letting you know that an internet link with more information on that topic can be found on the News Service page. Okay, let's give an example. Let us say you are reading an article about Hayao

Miyazaki, and you see [ Miyazaki >> ] during the article. Turn back to the News Service, check out the Quick Links section, and under "Miyazaki" you'll find an internet address I recommend for more information. Hopefully you'll find the links useful.

