Subject: Otaku [was] Re: Monty Alexander
Posted by lon on Sun, 12 Jun 2005 18:24:35 GMT
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I am a former Otaku only because I am not keeping up with theanime scene as I did for a while. An otaku in transalation is a rabid enthusiast. The closestthing we have to the word is "animation nut."At the local Blockbuster (back when blockbuster was new aroundhere,) they even had a documentary of sorts called "Otaku No Video"which means 'otakus on video'... interviews with these mostlyyoung professional men and their fantasy lives around the characters.The whole Japanese animation thing is fascinating. It'll probablygive you cool points with your kids to know about it.In the last few years what Americans see reported about animeis usually some muckracking about extreme scenes in some of the... here's where I'll lose it.... theres a word for these naughty anime that I forgot.Anyway, at it's best, what the anime does is explore manythemes that, since Woreld War II the japanese people could notexpress in art because !.) their country was destroyed and 2.)the Marshall Plan forbade any political or cultural statemenets in artabout the bomb.So no film industry to speak of. What was left was animation. That'swhythe _anime_ are full length feature films with themes of nuclear destruction, saving the Earth, the the horrors and beautyof technology and what that technology does to a people. The clearest expression of that is a film called "Akira". And there's another called "Ghost In The Shell" which has recently had a sequel.For a direction as to where anime might be going, look for "Final Fantasy." It's in most video stores.