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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 the anime scene as I did for a while. An otaku in translation is a rabid enthusiast. The closest thing we have to the word is "animation nut." At the local Blockbuster (back when Blockbuster was new around here,) they even had a documentary of sorts called "Otaku No Video" which means 'otakus on video'... interviews with these mostly young professional men and their fantasy lives around the characters. The whole Japanese animation thing is fascinating. It'll probably give you cool points with your kids to know about it. In the last few years what Americans see reported about anime is usually some muckracking about extreme scenes in some of the... here's where I'll lose it.... there's a word for these naughty anime that I forgot. Anyway, at its best, what the anime does is explore many themes that, since World War II the Japanese people could not express in art because 1.) their country was destroyed and 2.) the Marshall Plan forbade any political or cultural statements in art about the bomb. So no film industry to speak of. What was left was animation. That's why the \_anime\_ are full length feature films with themes of nuclear destruction, saving the Earth, the horrors and beauty of 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.

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