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Columnist Dave Depper has more than CDs
on his mind — how about movie reviews?
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20-year-old animation re-blasts off

Anime has been on American TV far longer than the "Pokemon" wave of the mid-1990s. In the 1960s, "Mach Go Go Go" was brought here as "Speed Racer." The 1970s saw the American release of the first of the Japanese "big three" sci-fi epics: "Uchuu Senkan (Space Battleship Yamato)" as "Star Blazers." "Robotech," in 1985, brought a new group of fans to anime.

Now, within six months of each other, the other two "big three" shows have made their official debuts in America: "Gundam" and "Macross." Yes, Macross was released back in 1985 as the first part of "Robotech," which was an attempt to meld three shows together into one. But until now, Americans have been denied the chance to see the series that helped begin the current interest in anime here in its original form.



Pat
Payne
Columnist

It is the year 2009. For 10 years, humanity had worked on repairing a mysterious alien warship, which crash-landed on a remote island south of Japan. Unbeknownst to Earth, the warship is just one vessel involved in a massive galactic war. During the gala launch celebration, including a demonstration of the "Valkyrie" mecha (a fighter plane capable of transforming into a humanoid robot), aliens attack Earth, intent on destroying the vessel. So begins the story of "Chou Jikuu Yousai (The Super Dimension Fortress) Macross," a classic, 20-year-old Japanese anime show.

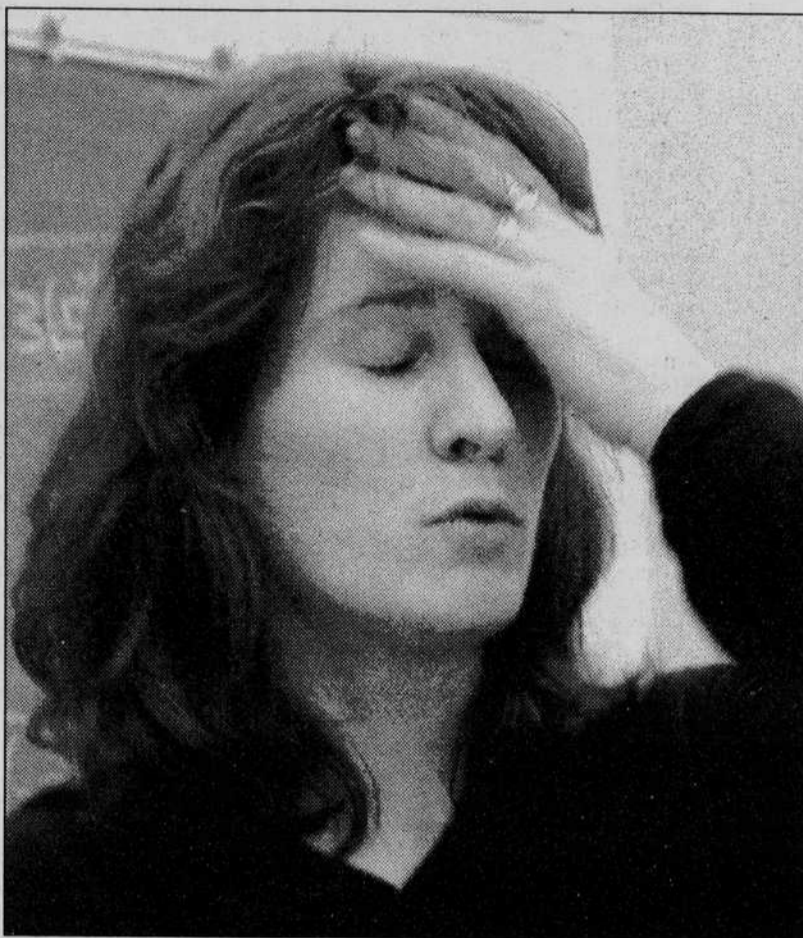
The show, plotted by Ken'ichi Matsuzaki and Shoji Kawamori, juxtaposes the gigantic scale of space warfare (pitting our heroes' one ship against a fleet of four million) with the intimacy of a love triangle.

Animeigo, Inc., dyed-in-the-wool otaku (anime fanatics) and a company which specializes in anime classics, including "Bubble Gum Crisis," "Uru-sei Yatsura (Those Obnoxious Aliens)" and "Waga Seishun no Arcadia (Arcadia of My Youth)," took the best part of two years to work on the TV series, and it definitely shows. Harmony Gold (the prime offenders in Robotech) supplied Animeigo with the original TV broadcast film for "Macross" that it still had in a Los Angeles film vault. The first task that the set's producer, Shin Kurokawa, set himself to was to clean the original stock of the grime and dirt that every film accumulates over time.

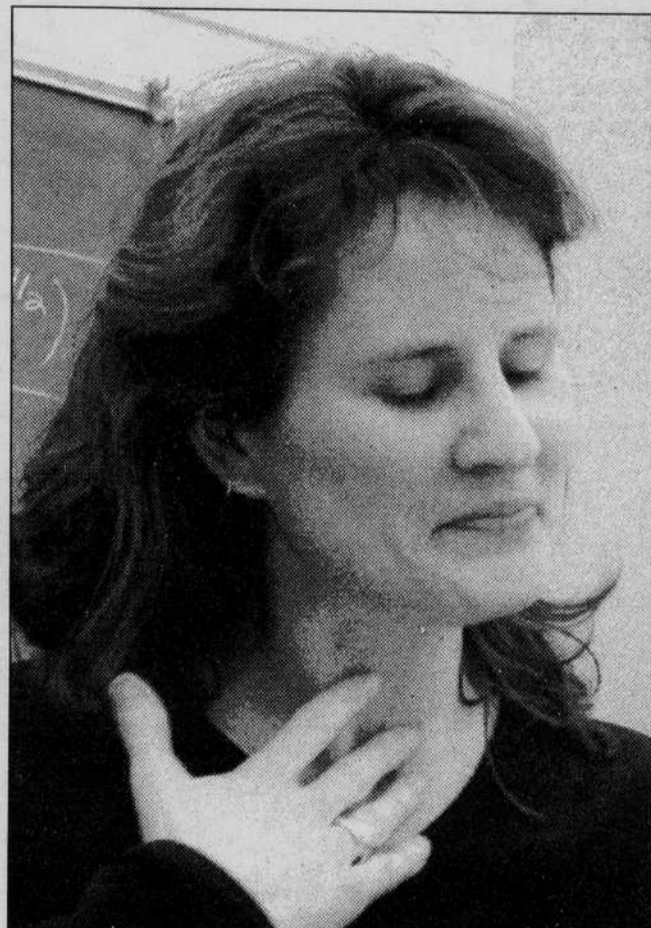
Not only are the colors of the show more vibrant than ever before, but the restoration team also eliminated most frame jitter and all splice lines.

The dialogue in "Macross" is light years away from what it was in "Robotech" and should give a whole new dimension to the characters for those who have seen only "Robotech." The

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Actress Maggie Tryk steams up the rehearsal room while performing a very frank soliloquy from "The Vagina Monologues."



Thomas Patterson Emerald

These lips are made for talkin'

■ Profits from "The Vagina Monologues" will benefit local women's organizations

By Mason West
Oregon Daily Emerald

Feb. 14 is no longer just Valentine's Day. It is "V-Day" — standing for victory, valentine and vagina.

The reinvention of Valentine's Day is thanks to playwright Eve Ensler's revolutionary play, "The Vagina Monologues." First performed in 1996, the play had gathered so much attention by 1998 that Ensler decided to establish a day to bring attention to ending violence against women.

Windy Borman, performing arts coordinator for the UO Cultural Forum, is directing "The Vagina Monologues," in its third year at the University.

"The Vagina Monologues" will be performed at 8 p.m. Feb. 13-15 in the Robinson Theatre. Tickets are \$7 for students and \$10 general admission and can be purchased at the UO Ticket Office. Borman said the University has been able to produce the show because of a 1999 "V-Day" expansion program that allows "The Vagina Monologues" to be performed on college campuses during February without royalties as long as all profits are donated to local organizations to end violence against women.

According to the Web site, www.vday.org, more than 65 campuses participated in the first year. That number has now grown to more than 540.

"This is such a great gift because Ensler realizes the message is so important," Borman said.

Proceeds from this year's production will go to benefit Sexual Assault Support Services, Womenspace, Saferide and Night Ride.

Borman said "The Vagina Monologues" and "V-Day" are important ways to empower women by breaking the stigma surrounding the word "vagina."

"She (Ensler) has experienced acts of violence in her life and just got tired of the shame, guilt and disconnection women have with their vaginas," Borman said. "She wanted to break open the mystery."

Ensler began work on "The Vagina Monologues" by interviewing more than 200 women about their vaginas and issues surrounding them, Borman said.

As the play says, "Women secretly love to talk about their vaginas. They get very

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String quartet turns classical music on its ear

■ Turtle Island String Quartet mixes genres to create its own Latin-flavored musical style

By Jen West
Oregon Daily Emerald

String instruments are usually placed in the classical music category. But by infusing classical music with Latin jazz, pop, R&B and folk styles, the Turtle Island String Quartet produces a sound that breaks with the conventional uses of its instruments.

The Turtle Island String Quartet will perform at 7 p.m. Feb. 10 at the Hult Center for the Performing Arts. Tickets are \$18 to \$26 for the general public and \$14 for youth and students, and they are available at the Hult Center Box Office or on the Internet at www.hultcenter.org.

Cellist Mark Summer and violinist David Balakrishnan founded the quartet in 1986, and soon after, they added

violinists Danny Seidenberg and Evan Price. The name of the quartet comes from an ancient Native American term for the North American continent, Summer said.

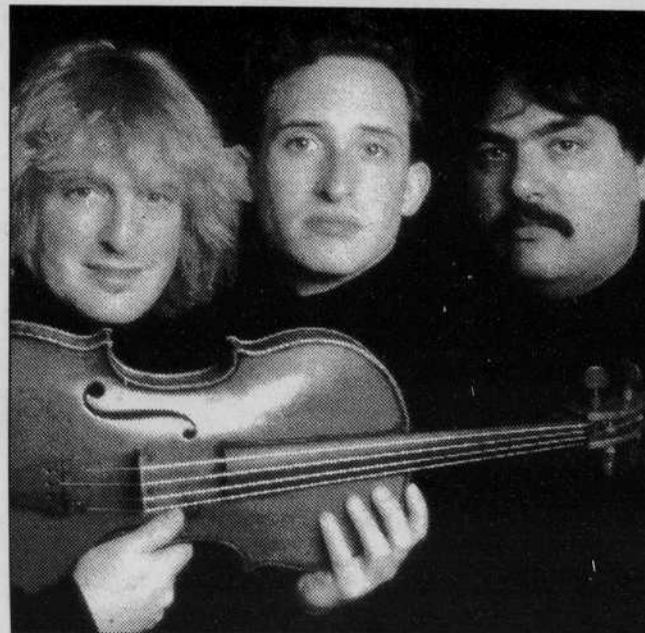
"It was David's brainchild," Summer said. Balakrishnan composed the music for his masters thesis at Antioch University West, but there wasn't a group to play the music, he said, and "I was looking for a way to express myself."

He said Turtle Island is creating its own style of music using the musicians' favorite styles.

"It's something totally different than what you've heard in either jazz or classical music," said tour manager Christopher Joy.

He said the string quartet's form, which was originally rigid and classic, has been turned into something new.

"There are different ways of playing



Courtesy photo

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