KENJI KAWAI • BRIAN ENO • POKéMON

MANGA MAX®

TITAN

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Number 20 Oct/Nov 2000
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INCOMING UK VIDEO RELEASES: AUGUST

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MANGA VIDEO

X the Movie; $19.95
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Odin DVD; $34.95. Mmm, we've been waiting for that one.

CENTRAL PARK MEDIA (inc. Software Sculptors/Anime 18)

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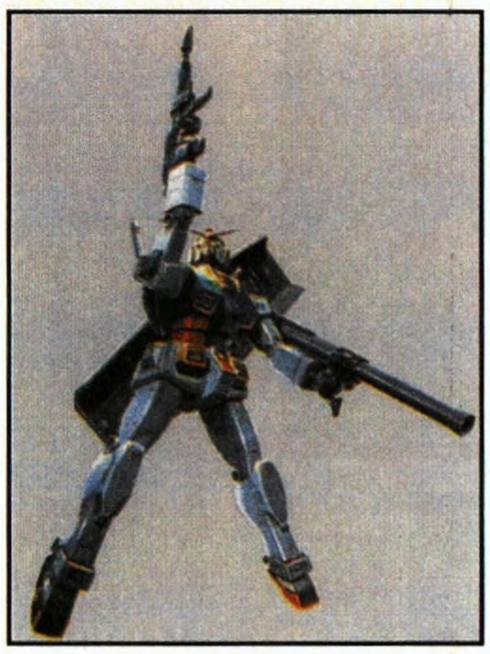
VIZ VIDEO

Dragon Ball Z (number unknown); $14.95
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Tylor 1; $19.95

BARREL SCRAPING?



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Macross designer Haruhiko Mikimoto has been drawing new characters for a *Gundam*-themed ride, unveiled at Japan's Fuji Express Highland amusement park. The five-minute ride takes 60 passengers a time, and features new animation from chief director Yoshiyuki Tomino, assisted by Nobuhiro Kindo. Set in the *Gundam* year 0079, the passengers get to ride along with Jack Baird and Adam Stingray, two pilots fighting over the A Boa Ku space station.

And talking of 79, after months of speculation, Bandai have announced that they intend to release the original *Gundam* series in its entirety in the US. So far, they have only released the compilation movies edition, but the success of *Gundam Wing* on the Cartoon Network is thought to have led to a re-think. Now the whole antique series will be coming to America sometime in 2001, though Manga Max suspects that this is a decision made by someone with only half the facts – sure, it looks great to have "more of the same" on paper, but the original *Gundam* series is 21 years old..." ●



ARMITAGE SEQUEL

Pioneer Executive Producer Hideki Goto has confirmed the rumour that his company is working on a sequel to the acclaimed *Armitage III* video series. Though few further details are available at present, the new story is thought to be another video series, featuring a return of *Armitage III* script-writer Chiaki Konaka, currently promoting his newest work *Malice Doll* in the Japanese magazines. Earlier reports, spread by an over-eager news feed on the US Sci-Fi Channel, that *Serial Experiments Lain* was going to get a sequel, were hotly denied. *[Note to US Sci-Fi: there's more than one show with a girl and a computer in it – Ed.]* ●



SNAZZY PAPARAZZI

Saki Kitazawa is a photographer for a gossip magazine, the daughter of a famous war cameraman, who is missing in action. With nobody else to care for, she lives to chase after hot stories. Saki thinks she's onto a cover story when she snaps a rock star in a compromising position at a party, but discovers that South East Asian gun-runners are keen on "persuading" her to give up her film.

But you won't see *Scandal* on video or TV – it's a game. With the straight-to-video industry falling apart and low budgets crippling TV, the biggest money-spinner for anime is gaming. *Scandal* uses 30,000 cels (*Spriggan* had 50,000, but that was a movie!) and if it looks familiar, that may be because it's from Production IG, the studio behind *Ghost in the Shell*, *Jin-roh* and *Blood*. Featuring car chases inspired by *The Italian Job* and over three hours of animation, this is one to watch for. **www.scei.jp** ●



