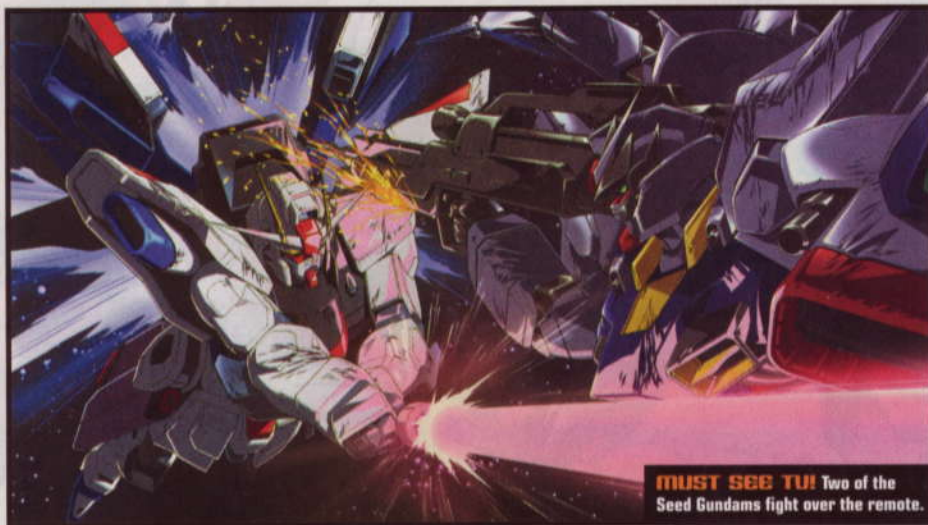




SUNDAY

APRIL'S COOL!

CARTOON NETWORK PREDICTS ANIME SHOWERS WITH FOUR NEW SHOWS



MUST SEE TV! Two of the Seed Gundams fight over the remote.

Screw sunshine and fresh air—this spring, stayed glued to your TV. Cartoon Network is premiering four—count 'em—four new anime series this April, including the newest Gundam series.

The 50-episode "Mobile Suit Gundam Seed" starts airing in April 2004, according to Bandai America, maker of the Gundam Seed toys. Premiering in October 2002 in Japan, "Seed" has arguably been the most popular Gundam series since the original, despite being an alternate universe series like "Gundam Wing."

"This new generation puts a fresh spin on the Gundam franchise," says Toonami creative director Sean Akins of the new show, "while retaining all of the elements that have made Gundam a household name around the world."

Akins isn't fibbing; the "Seed" plot parallels the original

"Mobile Suit Gundam" pretty closely. In Cosmic Era 71, the Earth Alliance and ZAFT are at war, and 16-year-old Kira Yamato lives on the neutral satellite Heliopolis. When ZAFT infiltrates the satellite and steals four secret Gundams, Kira gets drafted to pilot the remaining Gundam. Sound familiar?

While "Seed" seems a lock for Toonami, otaku will be staying up late for Adult Swim, which will premiere "Detective Conan," "Wolf's Rain" and "The Animatrix," the same month.

Debuting April 5, "Detective Conan" is one of the longest-running shows currently airing in Japan, with over 300 episodes so far. In it, criminals injected teen detective

Shinichi Kudo with an experimental drug, reverting him to childhood. Shinichi takes the name Conan and continues to solve crimes while looking for a cure.

The dystopian futuristic "Wolf's Rain" created by Keiko Nobumoto and Toshihiro Kawamoto ("Cowboy Bebop") begins April 24. Boasting music from Yoko Kanno ("Cowboy Bebop," "Escaflowne"), the show tells of a time when humans have devastated the earth, and wolves survive only by blending in with human society. Four wolves may have discovered a way to Paradise—but the humans want in as well.

Finally, segments from "The Animatrix," a collection of short anime stories from the world of The Matrix—and was the best selling anime DVD of 2003—premieres April 17. It's the capper on a virtual showering of anime in April; we'll update you on May flowers next issue. ■ **Caitlin Moriarity**

TUNE IN TOKYO

CHECK OUT THE LATEST ANIME THAT'S ONLY BEEN ON THE AIR IN JAPAN

ナナカ 6/17

Nanaka Kirisato is a normal 17-year-old schoolgirl in her second year of high school in Tokyo...except that in anime there is no such thing as an ordinary schoolgirl. To compensate for not having magical girl powers or a giant mecha, Nanaka becomes ambitious, driven, and downright mean toward her fellow classmates. Only her childhood friend Nenji Nagahara is willing to deal with her—but only up to a point. One day, he snaps and yells at Nanaka, who runs off in tears. Unfor-

tunately (or maybe not) Nanaka falls down the stairs and loses all memory after the age of 6! Now she's a 6-year-old trapped in a 17-year-old body—and worse, she's got to pretend that nothing's wrong! Nenji, feeling somewhat responsible, helps her regain her memories but finds that he prefers the sweet, innocent 6-year-old Nanaka to than her 17-year-old counterpart. To complicate things further, honor student Yuriko Amemiya, seems rather *interested* in Nanaka... ■ **CM**



CHILD'S PLAY Nenji (left) keeps Nanaka's inner child close...*too* close.