

COMIKET 73

TEXT & IMAGES ASA EKSTROM

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Comiket is Japan's biggest amateur comic market. It is held twice a year at Tokyo big site, an enormous exhibition hall in Tokyo. The market goes on for two days and is the biggest in the world of its kind.



lost Swedish
manga artists'
unpaid assistant

lost Swedish
manga artist

WELL?
WHAT DOES IT
SAY IN THE
APPLICATION
CATALOGUE?

...

As a foreigner entering
Comiket was not the
easiest thing. The road
there can be described
as different stages of
panic.

Application
panic...

And communic-
ation panic.

LET ME
GET THIS
RIGHT...
YOU CAN'T
EXPLAIN HOW
NOR WHY...

BUT YOU
WANT
US TO PRINT
THIS IN LESS
THAN FIVE
DAYS?

NOD
NOD

AARGH!!

WHAT THE...!!!
I HAVE A MASTERS
IN JAPANESE
AND EVEN I CAN'T
UNDERSTAND
THESE
INSTRUCTIONS!!

cut
cut

Trans-
lation
panic...

SO I'M NOT
SURE OF THESE
KAJI...

EITHER THEY
ARE CORRECT
OR THEY MEAN
SOMETHING
RATHER DIRTY...

WE DON'T
HAVE TIME FOR
CHANGES!
DIRTY IS GOOD
FOR BUISNESS!!

HONEY, I
KNOW NOTHING
ABOUT COMICS
BUT AREN'T YOU
SUPPOSED TO
GET RID OF THEM?

ANYONE
WANT TO
BUY A
MAGAZINE?
MAGAZINE
ANYONE?

All this for
the joy of
selling your
work together
with 25000
other exhibitors!

Comics are traded and lent out between the shoppers...



Comiket is more than just a comic market though, the circles (exhibitioners) sell everything from handmade dolls to hand drawn postcards.



And on the roof there is a gigantic cosplay arena where one can attempt to take pictures.



And the result? It showed itself soon enough...



DON'T BE SUCH WHIMPS! THIS WAS MERELY THE BEGINNING OF MY JAPANESE EMPIRE!! SOON THE PUBLISHERS WILL COME CRAWLING!!

NEVER AGAIN!!

IT WAS COOL, BUT KIND OF A NEAR DEATH EXPERIENCE...

