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## Feelings on the Auction

Posted by B4Subbs - 2006/07/27 11:34

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First let me start by saying that I will always support Y-con, continue going as I do enjoy the con. I've been going since it started all the way back at Japan town the first year. I think its fabulous...

But..one of the few things that has ever gotten me is the auction. Also now the blatent rule of bio-boys only. I know and understand that if the con decides on this, its their right to do so as they are the heads/owners/presidents of the convention. They can do as they please pretty much (I've been going to cons since 97', have been on staff and know many people that are runners of big name conventions).

I am saying this as both as a lesbian and a gender queer person. That rule is almost like a slap in the face. I personally would LOVE to see some good crossdressing girls go up for auction. Cause sorry, nothing against the boys..but. I have no intrest in them at all. I know I am not the only person that feels this way. To me its not the fact that its real boys..but the feel and the IDEAL of bishounen...not what sex you really happen to be.

I know this can be a can of worms to open up. That this thread may get locked/deleted/whatever. I have no qualms about that. As its something the mods can do if they wish.  
I just wanted to put in my two cents, let my voice be heard, and maybe let some others that may feel the same know they arn't the only one.  
Thanks for reading and attention..

-Old school yaoi fan

p.s.: I don't need any kind of con-personal response. Just wanted to get it out of my system. Thanks.

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## Re: Feelings on the Auction

Posted by Leha - 2006/07/29 04:52

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Yeah.. I'll go to the con and enjoy watching the auction, but I don't plan on participating in the actual purchasing part. I like girls.. I like boys.. I like girly boys.. but if a girl can look like a highly attractive bishie boy.. I don't see why our lack of external genitals should take us out of the running. But yeah.. looking will still be fun.. and playing.. and jumping, hopping, dancing, prancing and being happy with everything. ^\_^

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## Re: Feelings on the Auction

Posted by Fiouri - 2006/08/01 01:29

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That actually sounds like a good idea to me.  
It would be cool if the ycon people would give it a try and see how it goes.  
Who knows, it could end up being a good thing.

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## Re: Feelings on the Auction

Posted by Amaya - 2006/08/22 23:26

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thats no good! why can't you not purchase women? >< i cannot put myself t o auction?

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## Re: Feelings on the Auction

Posted by Gothkitti - 2006/08/23 12:17

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I guess, other than the obvious, that the biggest reason is that the one girl who was auctioned, in 2003, really didn't sell very well. One of the big factors of the auction, I believe, is that it is one of the big events that helps to make Y-con happen. This is why there's even a sort of 'Try-out' phase for the bishies in general. It brings in money that allows all of our favorite con to exist. It seems that the general sentiment is that if you know it's a girl, then a lot of the auction allure

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just isn't there and, for some, the moment disappears when it becomes something of a cosplay contest (which is held beforehand) as opposed to, well, an auction of beautiful boys.

I do have some sympathy for your point... it's just that those who have the auction as it has been since that one girl came up on stage, putting out many members of the audience also have a very valid stance from which to do what they are doing.

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### **\*nods slowly\***

Posted by Irvine - 2006/09/05 00:15

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I guess, other than the obvious, that the biggest reason is that the one girl who was auctioned, in 2003, really didn't sell very well. One of the big factors of the auction, I believe, is that it is one of the big events that helps to make Y-con happen. This is why there's even a sort of 'Try-out' phase for the bishies in general. It brings in money that allows all of our favorite con to exist. It seems that the general sentiment is that if you know it's a girl, then a lot of the auction allure just isn't there and, for some, the moment disappears when it becomes something of a cosplay contest (which is held beforehand) as opposed to, well, an auction of beautiful boys.

I do have some sympathy for your point... it's just that those who have the auction as it has been since that one girl came up on stage, putting out many members of the audience also have a very valid stance from which to do what they are doing.

Well put. I actually purchased that one girl way back when, too... and she identified as a male, which made perfect sense to me. I don't know how to take a stance on this issue, as I've never been able to come to a decision on it either way myself... but I most certainly respect the decision made by the Yaoi-Con staff to make it a truly "male only" auction.

The problem is in how you define a "male". If a woman has a sex change and is now a man, is that good enough? What if the person hasn't completed the entire sex change operation? What about the people in the auction who have male parts, but identify as a female? The lines are all blurry, and I have no way of making a decision on any of that.

Deep down, I see two major points of controversy here. First, I know that there's the concern that women being "purchased" may cause a man to get the wrong idea. Ironically, this also happens when women have purchased me and other guys... and they don't always listen when I say "no". However, that's not a problem for me... and I'm comfortable with it.

Imagine the reverse situation, though. A horny guy buys a young woman who's crossplaying, and wants his money's worth. While I can't even imagine this happening at Yaoi-Con, that's really not what we're looking for here... and I'd imagine that it's exactly what the people running Yaoi-Con are trying to avoid. I don't want to see this convention shut down, ever.

Also, opening the auction up to crossplaying females is truly a can of worms in some regards. Any young lady can throw on a boyish t-shirt and do up her hair in a male fashion, and suddenly be a crossplayer. This convention really is about boys loving boys, hence the original focus of the auction to begin with. I'm inclined to leave it all as it is now.

While I don't like the idea of anyone being excluded from the auction, I think that keeping it as it is may be the only "safe" and good idea. I apologize to any of you who may feel that my opinion is biased, as a male who has been auctioned off for many years in a row now... but I've been considering all of this for all of those years, hence my verbosity.

I do hope that you'll at least see my opinion as valid in this case. If you don't, I will always accept criticism on it.

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### **I take my final bow with a blow!**

Posted by B4Subbs - 2006/09/06 21:17

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Figure I will give it a shot at responding. First off..again these are MY views. I have nothing to do with the convention or anything. I am Just a con attendee. Beforwarned this is QUITE long...

I guess, other than the obvious, that the biggest reason is that the one girl who was auctioned, in 2003, really didn't sell very well. One of the big factors of the auction, I believe, is that it is one of the big events that helps to make Y-con happen. This is why there's even a sort of 'Try-out' phase for the bishies in general. It brings in money that allows all of our favorite con to exist. It seems that the general sentiment is that if you know it's a girl, then a lot of the auction allure

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just isn't there and, for some, the moment disappears when it becomes something of a cosplay contest (which is held beforehand) as opposed to, well, an auction of beautiful boys.

If we are going on a basis of the convention making money, and this is how its done. It truly makes me worry about the con continuing. Fees for entry, dealers, artist tables, convention goods (which until recently have been some of the highest fees by any young anime con) is what keeps a convention going. I have helped on start up staff on small conventions this is why those are in place. So how well or not well someone sells really..should NOT be a factor. As for speaking on putting out the audience. Do you know a lot of people DON'T go to the auction on the principle its all males? More and more lesbian women are going and while they like the idea of two men together they want nothing to do with a real one. so for just about every person that was put out that one time..there is probably one or more that would go now if they were an option. Also cosplay contest and the auction are NOTHING EVEN REMOTELY COMPARABLE. So please don't even try. I am not saying make the auction a cosplay contest. I am not saying let girls go in costume. They have to dress as boys..in normal clothes and do well.

Okie moving onto oposition #2  
we are gonna break this down cause its loooooong

Deep down, I see two major points of controversy here. First, I know that there's the concern that women being "purchased" may cause a man to get the wrong idea. Ironically, this also happens when women have purchased me and other guys... and they don't always listen when I say "no". However, that's not a problem for me... and I'm comfortable with it. Imagine the reverse situation, though. A horny guy buys a young woman who's crossplaying, and wants his money's worth. While I can't even imagine this happening at Yaoi-Con, that's really not what we're looking for here... and I'd imagine that it's exactly what the people running Yaoi-Con are trying to avoid. I don't want to see this convention shut down, ever.

Ummm..this worries me. While its a valid point. What you just said could get the convention in just as much trouble. Cause be it a boy or a girl be it the person who bought or was auctioned that is very much not ok. Even if YOU are ok with it..if they do that do someone that is very much not..cause that one time you let them. It is just as much of a liability.

Also, opening the auction up to crossplaying females is truly a can of worms in some regards. Any young lady can throw on a boyish t-shirt and do up her hair in a male fashion, and suddenly be a crossplayer. This convention really is about boys loving boys, hence the original focus of the auction to begin with. I'm inclined to leave it all as it is now.

But don't you guys have to go through a "elimination" process to know if someone entering the auction is "bishy" enough to be in it? I am not saying let any girl you want in. They have to play by the same rules. I have had 3 of my friends who are biologically female be BEGGED but y-con staff in previous years to be in the auction cause they were believed to be men. I think if you can pull it off that well. You then you shouldn't be bared just cause you lack the external equipment. Yes, yaoi/shonen ai/BL is all about the aesthetics of boys loving boys...of PRETTY boys doing so. Its the Illusion..so if you can pull off the illusion why should you be bared?

While I don't like the idea of anyone being excluded from the auction, I think that keeping it as it is may be the only "safe" and good idea. I apologize to any of you who may feel that my opinion is biased, as a male who has been auctioned off for many years in a row now... but I've been considering all of this for all of those years, hence my verbosity.

Thing is if you truly sit down with a lot of the things that happen with the auction a lot of it is not safe. I believe a lot of the males that are auctioned are just as easily taken advantage of as any girl could be. While I think the auction is a good draw, while is a tradition that I am sure the con will always try to up hold and make a safe event. I believe it needs a LOT of work, and the bias toward having to be biologically male is incredibly offending for many people that do and always have gone to the convention. And to speak honestly and frankly, I believe the auction has become a semi-tacky event, that in the beginning was not so bad ,but now with added convention growth has started to turn down a bad path. I am sure I have now dug myself a nice hole to lay in. But thats ok. I am just one person speaking their mind. Hopefully it will do some good. Maybe it won't and thats ok too. Like the original post..if one or two..or more people feel the same way and know they aren't the only one thats great. If you disagree thats great too. Cause its different views that make this world go.

With that I bow out of this thread. I am sure I've made my views and feelings pretty clear. I hope everyone enjoys this coming Yaoi-con. Cause I know I am looking forward to having a lot of fun with my fellow friends and con-goers.

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## Re: Feelings on the Auction

Respectable views. I believe I will attempt to, um, respond.

If we are going on a basis of the convention making money, and this is how its done. It truly makes me worry about the con continueing. Fees for entry,dealers,artist tables,convention goods (which until recently have been some of the highest fees by any young anime con) is what keeps a convention going. I have helped on start up staff on small conventions this is why those are in place. So how well or not well someone sells really..should NOT be a factor.

While this may be correct for a larger con, Y-con is not one of those. To put this in perspective...

Fan tables, for example, at the Fan Market, are 25 dollars a table. That puts the combined income for the con for all of those tables for a day at about 450 dollars, pushed up a little just in case. That was around the -average- income per bishie last year, and there were what, 25 of us?

So yeah. The Auction does pull in a LOT of much-needed money for Y-con each year, and that money is a major concern of funding for the con.

Regardless of whether people do or do not go because the entire bishie lineup is male, the auction room fills up to the bursting point every year. Thats right. The auction CAPS attendance. Many people don't get in.

In general, Irvine's concern is already addressed by the con. While people may ask us to do things that we do not wish to do, EVERY bishie, without exception, has the perogative to say "No" if we are asked to do something outside of our contract by our buyer. This is in said contract and explicitly stated. As long as bishies are aware that we always have the ability to say no if things get rough then I personally don't see that as a concern either way.

On the rest of your statement: Uh. Well stated. I just don't really have comment. ^\_^ Sometimes, for what it's worth, tacky is good. :3

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## Re: Feelings on the Auction

Posted by Isis - 2006/09/08 07:13

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Hello. Isis here. I am the chair of the auction, and maybe I can answer some of your questions.

As Gothkitti mentioned, the auction is one of our major fund raisers. When a bishie can pull in on average 400 dollars, times that by 15. Thats 6000 right there. Keep in mind that many bishies go for more and some go for less. But when you start at 6000, that is a lot of money that goes straight back to the con.

The decision to not include women in the auction didn't have anything to do with how well she sold. In fact, I don't even remember off hand how much that was.

As for the biological question, well, the admins have discussed it. See, it's not that we are trying to exclude anyone. It's more that Yaoi con is about the fantasy of boys. We realize that a good sized segment of attendance is lesbian females. We also realize that while they like the idea of boys together, in Real Life they aren't interested in them. It doesn't change the premise of the convention though. Many gay men tell us that yaoi doesn't reflect the reality of gay life. We realize that too. We aren't going for realism. Yaoi and by extention, YaoiCon is about the aestheticism of beautiful men. That's pretty much what we're celebrating. Men from the womans point of view. A male friend of mine keeps insisting that we would make more money if we did include women, and I tell him that we would, but that's not what the con is about.

We aren't here to stretch political boundries, or to push the gender envelope. We are here to have fun and to bond over a common interest. Yaoi Con was created with a specific vision, and that has never changed. It is a very niche market. That isn't to say there is no place for an auction like the one you suggest, it's just to say that it isn't at Yaoi Con.

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## Re: Feelings on the Auction

Posted by Bishounen\_Hideto - 2006/09/08 11:13

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Well if women aren't welcome in the bishounen auction, and you want the con focus to be about MEN, why do we have

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that Cafe Furvehrenwhateverit'scalled? The players/actors in that are not men, yet fans will have to PAY for that as well. What if the Cafe does really well and makes the con lots of money? Will you have to tell them to change the cast to all men? Would you close it down?

It's really quite segregating. It says that even though yaoi is typically written BY women FOR women, and staff JUST ABOVE stated this is meant not to be REAL gay but a FANTASY, it seems it's not really the FANS' fantasy, but only STAFF'S fantasy.

Why not take a poll to see what most of the attendees think? Why not ask what THOSE PEOPLE WHO PAY TO KEEP THIS CON GOING think instead of deciding for them?

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## Re: Feelings on the Auction

Posted by Eeeee - 2006/09/08 18:52

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The butler Cafe and the auction aren't comparable. The Cafe is run by a fan group outside of the con staff, and it is run off a Japanese buisness premise, namely host clubs and the like. Also, to go to the cafe you're paying a smallish cover charge for food and entertainment, and the people being auctioned are going for something like \$400, and you don't have to pay to get into the auction itself. To have the cafe exclude women would go against the original principle and premise of the butler cafe, whereas the auction is just some funny addition to a convention, and is seemingly more based off American bachelor auctions.

I agree there should be some say on behalf of the attendees as a whole, and should be addressed at the con itself, with everyone there able to speak there mind with tone and gesticulation. I don't think the whole thing should be decided by exhibtionist women, men going to auction, and the administration (<-but the punk anarchist in me is the one saying that.).

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## Is Stripping a requirement?

Posted by Jlightstar - 2006/09/12 09:52

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Hi there,

This is my first con and my first time cosplaying. I have entered the Bishonen auction but I am not if I am wanting to go through with it. I just want to know if stripping a requirement in the auction? I really don't have the body image to do that and I really feel like I don't want to be pressured into something I really can't handle. I'm curious if past bishonens done sort of a tease, Like baring a flash of skin like what did way back in the day. I think leaving the mystery of what is under those robes is so what a good way to help drive the auction up.

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## Re: Feelings on the Auction

Posted by Gothkitti - 2006/09/12 11:38

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Nah. Stripping's not a requirement at all. Just do what you're good at and have fun up there if you get picked. :D

I think that there is a thread on this already in misc. Feel free to chime in and stuff. There are a few of us Auction folk around and we'll dispense whatever advice we can. ^\_^

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## Re: Feelings on the Auction

Posted by vampireanneke - 2006/09/14 11:55

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I look at the auction from another point of view...

One of the 'reasons' for buying a bishy is for the bishy to pose for pictures or drawings. A guest of honor one year, did an extensive drawing session with the bishis she bought.

Some times these pictures/drawings are shirtless (or more depending on the bishi's comfort). Blame society where it's

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okay for a male to go around shirtless on a beach and not a female.

-Anneke

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## Re: Feelings on the Auction

Posted by tpod - 2006/09/15 18:06

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Well if women aren't welcome in the bishounen auction, and you want the con focus to be about MEN, why do we have that Cafe Furvehrenwhateverit'scalled? The players/actors in that are not men, yet fans will have to PAY for that as well. What if the Cafe does really well and makes the con lots of money? Will you have to tell them to change the cast to all men? Would you close it down?

This is what the CafÃ© VerfÃ¼hren is modeled after; if not precisely, then in spirit:

<http://www.b-lilyrose.com/>

All of the "butler" staff, to the best of my knowledge, are female. It is a fantasy setting in which women are served by "beautiful boys" who are, in fact, other women.

It's really quite segregating. It says that even though yaoi is typically written BY women FOR women, and staff JUST ABOVE stated this is meant not to be REAL gay but a FANTASY, it seems it's not really the FANS' fantasy, but only STAFF'S fantasy.

Whoa. As Eeeee said, the group running the butler cafe is an outside group who asked to do it, just as some attendees ask to hold a panel or a track of programming.

And so far, the Bishounen Auction, as it is, has been our most popular, most attended event. I'd say, based on those facts, that the fantasy is pretty much the same across the board, Staff AND Fans.

Why not take a poll to see what most of the attendees think? Why not ask what THOSE PEOPLE WHO PAY TO KEEP THIS CON GOING think instead of deciding for them?

If you would like to help run a block of programming that conforms more to your own tastes and idea of what you think the convention should have, then by all means -- volunteer to do so.

We do the best we can do, try to satisfy as many folks as we can, but as we've learned over the past 6 years -- there's simply no way to satisfy everyone. We work extraordinarily hard all year long to create the best possible environment and activities for Yaoi-Con's attendees, and are not paid for it. In fact, some of us shell out our own money to get things done. It's mostly thankless; most of us you wouldn't know from Adam (except that we tend to be the ones that walk at a Very Fast Pace through the convention areas looking wild-eyed, overworked and under-caffeinated).

Yaoi-Con is a fan-run, fan-powered event -- while we have to make decisions about what we feel best serves the con, we're not the Yaoi Gestapo. We value the input and work of all the attendees. After all, when we get a few minutes, we're attendees, too. ^^

Tracy  
Intrepid Staffer

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## Re: Feelings on the Auction

Posted by Ayame - 2006/09/15 20:17

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We do the best we can do, try to satisfy as many folks as we can, but as we've learned over the past 6 years -- there's simply no way to satisfy everyone. We work extraordinarily hard all year long to create the best possible environment and activities for Yaoi-Con's attendees, and are not paid for it. In fact, some of us shell out our own money to get things done. It's mostly thankless; most of us you wouldn't know from Adam (except that we tend to be the ones that walk at a Very Fast Pace through the convention areas looking wild-eyed, overworked and under-caffeinated).

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I am so excited to see everyone at the con, bishie auction or not...To Everyone: there are tons of great things happening at the con, and Watanabe-Sensei and Kawai-Sensei will be there!!!! YEAH!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

I would love to see some female "bishies" running around the con.

.... So you can't be auctioned off, that doesn't mean you won't be just as popular at the con as the "auction bishies"....) The yaoi con staff are working their asses off, so that we will have a good time, and they are doing a great job, so here's to the staff:

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

And Tracy, if you or any of the other staffers find yourself undercaffeinated during the con, track my ass down, I will personally buy you a heavily caffeinated drink.....:) (or a heavily alcoholic drink..haha) :P

\*luvandhugsandpeaceandbishiesandyaoi!!!\*

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## Re: Feelings on the Auction

Posted by tpod - 2006/09/15 20:34

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And Tracy, if you or any of the other staffers find yourself undercaffeinated during the con, track my ass down, I will personally buy you a heavily caffeinated drink.....:) (or a heavily alcoholic drink..haha) :P

Heck, these days, BOTH will do nicely.

Hell -- just hand me a fine Irish Coffee and we'll all be good. ^\_^

::hugs::

Miss you, kiddo. How's your wee tot? And your dancin' man? :wink:

Tracy

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## Re: Feelings on the Auction

Posted by Ayame - 2006/09/16 07:04

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Heck, these days, BOTH will do nicely.

Hell -- just hand me a fine Irish Coffee and we'll all be good. ^\_^

::hugs::

Miss you, kiddo. How's your wee tot? And your dancin' man?

Tracy

HA! ok, Irish coffee it is...I'm also bringing a bottle of sake I picked up in Kyoto this summer, let's hit that too....:) Everyone here is doing fine, I'm still working feverishly to get all my stuff together for the con...I can't imagine how busy you must be....:) hope you and yours are doing great, I saw the pics from Dragon con, awesome!!!

\*huggies!!\*

see you soon!!!!

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## Simmer down, now.....

Posted by BWAngel - 2006/09/18 23:53

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What if the Cafe does really well and makes the con lots of money? Will you have to tell them to change the cast to all

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men? Would you close it down?

Actually, Bishounen\_Hideto, Cafe Verfuhren is being hosted by YaoiCon, but is not affiliated with it. It is an independent project that has been graciously granted a venue in this convention, and the cover charge goes to help the Cafe staff make back their own costume and supply costs. It's an event that's there for people to attend if they want to, just like every panel and event at the con -- and those who disagree with it are by no means obligated to attend. It's a cast of girls because this particular group of female cosplayers feels more comfortable acting out their events with one another rather than strangers, and given the subject matter being portrayed, I think anyone would call that more than fair.

And to everyone else who feels like using Cafe Verfuhren as an arguing block for their Bishonen Auction complaints.....

The casting has nothing to do with Yaoi-Con policy at all, much less \*anything\* to do with the Bishonen Auction. The people who are planning the Cafe are working very hard to make this a good project -- your views on the Bishonen Auction are valid, but don't use the Cafe as an example. We want everyone to enjoy every part of YaoiCon, both the planners and the attendees alike, so let's not discourage the people who are trying to help create a fun, entertaining weekend.

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## Re: Feelings on the Auction

Posted by Atrius - 2006/09/19 01:14

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Personally, I'd be all for women who identify as men along with women cosplaying as bishis in the auction if they were really good and really knew what they were in for. There would have to be an announcement before her performance stating that she is in fact, a female, and such and sounds like an interesting idea to me. The only problem I can foresee is of course, the constant objectification placed upon women and because of that, her safety would be at a far greater risk.

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## Re: Feelings on the Auction

Posted by Bishounen\_Hideto - 2006/11/09 02:22

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I know I'm hideously late in replying. First of all, let me say I'm proud to hear YCon did so well this year in a lot of ways. YCon gets better and better each year. You have TOP NOTCH staff.

Second of all, I meant no disrespect to the Cafe people. Your idea looks terribly fun and I hope it was a success. I'm looking for con reports about it as we speak.

In short, I meant no disrespect to anyone nor was I trying to put the poor Cafe people in the middle of this argument or use them as a weapon. My apologies for very much appearing to do so.

I still do not feel this issue has been adequately resolved. I personally find it a bit sad and almost insulting to be told, "Nobody wants to pay for you so you're not welcome." simply because I don't have the right plumbing. The one point that has been hammered out again and again has made it through, though.

Whether I think I'm right or wrong, I know this isn't my con, and I'm sorry if I seemed rude about it. I simply feel strongly about the issue.

Seeing as someone poked me with the idea of, "You think you can do better? You come do it." What if I DID ask to organize a "Bishie Auction" but stipulated it could include crossplay? What would people say to that? This is not me putting a bid in to DO so so much as me asking if it would be a waste of time to try. Living on the east coast, me travelling to YCon just to pitch a fit or tantrum is unreasonable. (And more so even if I lived locally!) Coming to enjoy what's so GREAT about YCon, however, is every bit worth it. If I can add to that with an enjoyable event, that makes it all the sweeter.

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## Re: Feelings on the Auction

Posted by Gothkitti - 2006/11/09 14:16

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I find that to be an interesting idea, I guess, but I think it'd have to be absolutely certain that said event does not compete

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with the Bishie auction (for the sake of both events, splitting the audience would be a very, VERY bad thing)... and I don't really imagine how that could be done.

Good foundation idea, nonetheless, though. I'd actually take it a step further and stipulate that your event should be ONLY crossplaying biological females, making it a more specialized event, even as the bishie auction itself is. :]

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