

FAR EAST

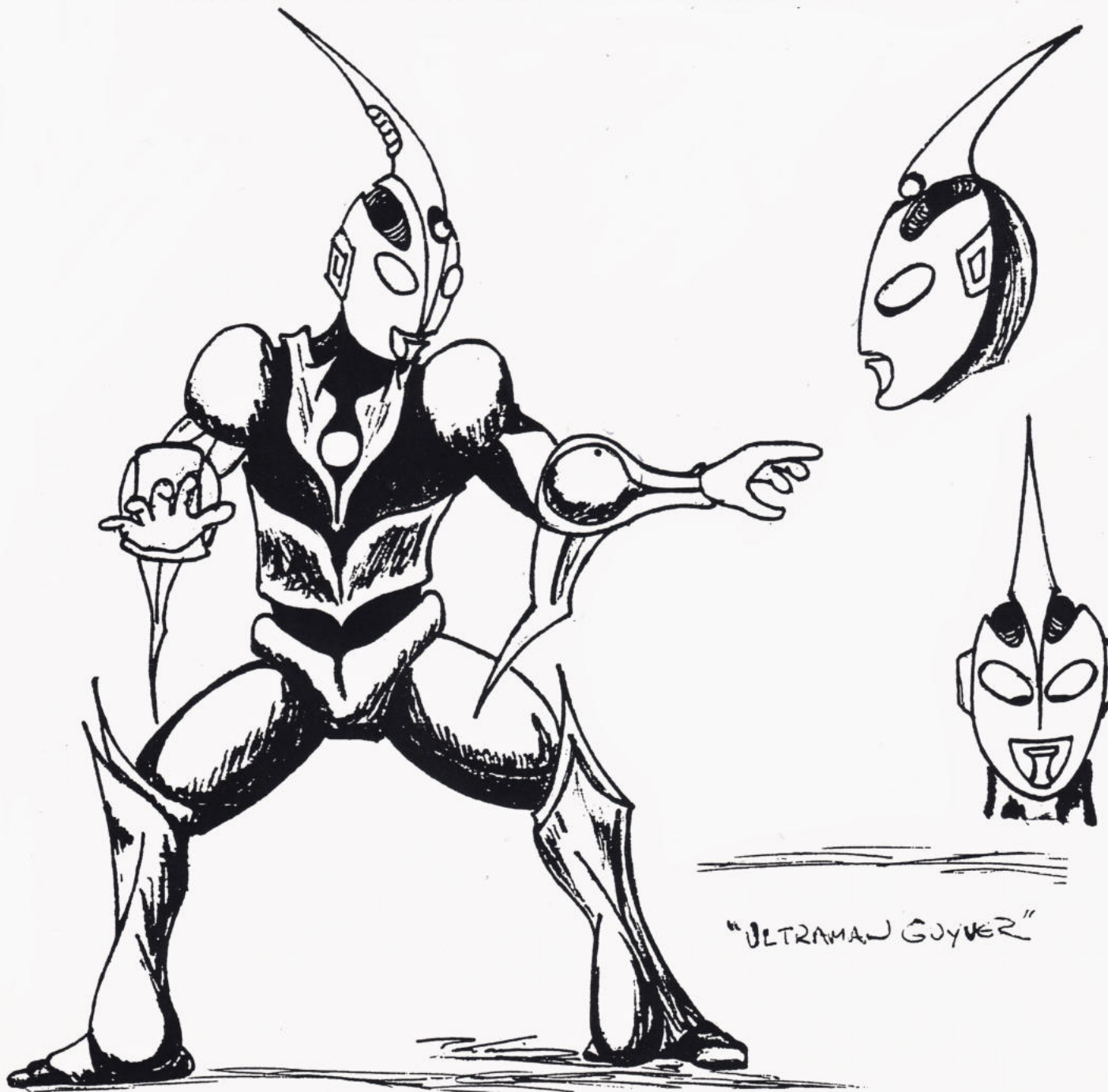
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HEROES

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"THE JOURNAL OF FAR EAST SCI-FI/FANTASY/ACTION MEDIA"

This issue: Ultraman Taigo, Godzilla news, Gamera news, reviews, and much, much more!!



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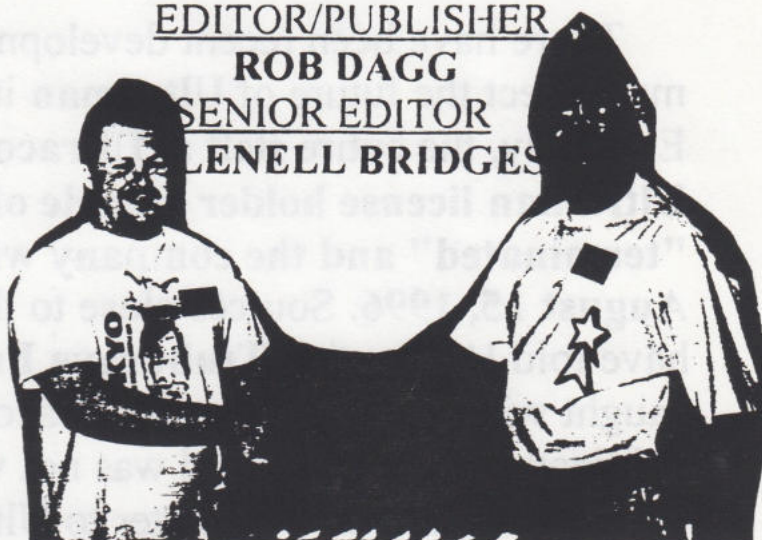
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Due to unforeseen events, I was unable to finish the "Ultraman Saga" article with episode listings and monster pictures. Hopefully, you'll agree that the rest of the issue is a marked improvement on my earlier "Far East Heroes" endeavors. I now have access to a computer instead of just typing up the zine on a typewriter!

Far East Heroes is published when I feel like it, so subscriptions are unavailable!

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Brought to you by **Godzilla model builder/backstabber Productions 1996.**

Far East Heroes Update:

Ultraman Taigo, Tristar Godzilla, Ultracom gets axed, Ultraman on home video and other news...

Ultraman news:

There have been recent developments in fandom that may effect the future of **Ultraman** in the United States. Evidently, the entire staff at **Ultracom, Inc., the official Ultraman license holder outside of Japan, has been "terminated" and the company will cease to exist on August 15, 1996.** Sources close to these developments have told Heroes that **Tsuburaya Productions of Japan** caught wind of the problems Ultracom gave fan-based publication **Ultra-Fan** and was not very happy at all! Ultracom sent a lawyer's letter to Ultra-Fan, telling them to "*cease all coverage of Ultraman*" including photos, articles and even mentioning the name "**Ultraman**" because it violated copyright/trademark laws! This letter was apparently sent to Ultra-Fan magazine after Ultracom allegedly promised not to "*pull a Toho*" i.e. bother the magazine! Sources say that **Tsuburaya of Japan loves Ultra-Fan** and that they were very upset that the fans were being treated badly by **Ultracom**. Ultracom had already been the target of numerous fan complaints when they ceased publishing their "**Questclub**" *newsletter* leaving many people hanging! Many in fandom became critical of Ultracom as the company did little if anything in trying to get Ultraman proper exposure in the United States. There's an old saying "*What comes around, goes around*". Sources say that Tsuburaya Productions of Japan has expressed interest in helping out with Ultra-Fan magazine. To what capacity this involvement would be is not known at this

time(official sanctioning? press releases? photos?).

Also, by now you probably know that a company called **"Excellance in Animation"** has bought the rights to the original "Ultraman" series for release to home video. They will be at G-Con 96' with a presentation on how they will handle our beloved hero and his return to American television!

Details are still early, but **Far East Heroes** has learned that the name of the new Ultraman show Tsuburaya is working on is called **"Ultraman Taigo" or "Ultraman Tiga"**. The show will begin airing on Japanese station TBS in September. Heroes hears that this new Ultraman may get his energy from the sun, like his fellow brother, Ultra 7! The storyline centers around previous "Ultra Monsters" returning to Earth, united in trying to conquer it along with **Ultraman Taigo** and his brothers for good! Monsters already mentioned for the series include the fan-favorite **BALTAN ALIENS** and **ZETON!** Details on cast and the number of episodes is being kept under wraps by Tsuburaya of Japan. Heroes can safely say that numerous cameo appearances by previous "Ultraman" actors can be expected. Heroes has also been informed that the reason that **ULTRAMAN NEOS** was scrapped was because the potential investors didn't like the storyline. It evidently strayed to far away from Tsuburaya's established "*Ultra Mythos*". The investors reasons seem to be "*Why create new monsters and characters when you already have numerous, fan-favorite, well known monsters and situations!?*" So it appears that Tsuburaya will be bringing back some old friends! *Here's hoping they bring back ZAREB, KERONIA, DA-DA and MEPHILAS! The*

Ultraman Wonderful World Movie has hit Japanese home video. The movie consists of *three segments* 1.) **Revive, Ultraman!** a compilation of "new" footage and stock footage using the monsters **Woo, Gango, Dodongo and Zeton**. 2.) **Ultraman Company**-an animated super-deformed Ultraman parody 3) **Ultraman Zearth**-the best segment of the movie featuring a new Ultraman-**Ultraman Zearth** battling the gold eating evil alien **Benzen** and his friend the evil **Kottenpoppe** monster! The special effects are excellent, the fight/battle scenes are done well and the original "Ultraman" cast makes cameo appearances-**Hayata, Fuji, Captain Mura, Ito and Arashi**, see if you can spot them! *Heroes* hears that **Ultraman Zearth** may be involved in further adventures. He is a popular new character and Tsuburaya has gotten a lot of positive feedback. It remains to be seen if he will appear again in "**Ultraman Taigo**" or have his own series.

Gamera news.

Feedback on the new "**Gamera vs. Legion**" movie is that the film is 100% better than the already good "**Gamera: Guardian of the Universe**"! The effects and story are said to surpass anything Toho has done with their recent Godzilla films. Gamera 2 is said to "*borrow*" scenes from the recent **Toho Godzilla** movies only these scenes are done better! Kind of like "*see Toho, we can beat you at your own game!*" The film is doing extremely well in Japanese theaters ensuring a Gamera 3 which *Heroes* hears planning has already begun. **Gamera 3** will hit Japanese theaters fall of 1997 with another new monster foe. *Heroes*

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PLUS IT CAME TO ROSWELL?

F. BURRIS '95

hears that **Daiei Company** wants to come up with new enemies for **Gamera** and not "remake" old foes, the direction that Toho took their recent Godzilla movies. In related news, **Dark Horse Comics** has secured the comic rights to **Gamera** and all his monster foes! Dark Horse will also cancel their Godzilla comic because off the record, they are upset with Toho's high price tag to license Godzilla. The "official" stance from **Dark Horse** is that sales were low.

Trendmasters News.

Trendmasters Toys has secured the toy rights to **Gamera** and **Godzilla vs. Destroyer**! Trendmasters will release Gamera and Destroyer toys this fall. Trendmasters may be showing prototypes of these toys at **G-Con 96'**.

Tristar Godzilla news.

Roland Emmerich and **Dean Devlin** (**Independence Day, Stargate**) will do **Godzilla** for summer 1998. They are currently writing a script that will be a "re-make" of the first Godzilla film. *Heroes* thinks that the pair will try to get **Toho** to ease up on license rights to use **King Ghidorah** in the movie, otherwise the pair will come up with an all-new foe for Godzilla to face. A *brief in-joke* in the **Emmerich** directed "**Independence Day**" shows a young boy playing with a **King Ghidorah action figure**! Is this a clever clue to Godzilla's foe in the new movie or just a nod to Godzilla as they knew they would be making the movie? *Heroes* has heard **Emmerich** and **Devlin** are partial to **King Ghidorah**

hopefully, they will be able to use him!

Toho news.

The new "**Mothra**" movie is said to revert back to the mid 70's. It features two young brats and a good fairy they befriend and the evil fairy they must stop before it releases the terrible "**Death Ghidorah**" monster. Hopefully,

Kawakita and company will make up for the "kiddie" story with some good effects scenes. A source has said that "**Death Ghidorah**" resembles the creature "**Dodongo**" from **Ultraman**, *it has 4 legs and it's body resembles a horse and has 3 heads like King Ghidorah*. The source stated that it although the storyline may be more kiddie like, people will probably like **Death Ghidorah** as a character.

Heroes hears that from fan pressure, **Toho Studios** kept baby **Godzilla** alive at the end of **Godzilla vs. Destroyer**. Both **Godzilla** and baby **Godzilla** were to die in the movie, making it the very last **Godzilla** film ever. The end. No more. Forever. Nevermore. **Toho** had planned that **Tristar** would make the American **Godzilla** movie and that Toho would release that movie to Japanese theaters, still making money on **Godzilla**, but not actively filming the movies anymore. The plan was to have **Tristar** make sequel films to **Godzilla**, therefore keeping "**Godzilla**" alive and also making Toho lots of cash. Toho caved into fan pressure after receiving numerous fan complaints and petitions to keep **Godzilla** alive. *Now it appears that Toho will make another **Godzilla** movie around the year 2000.* *Heroes* would predict the **winter of 1999** would most likely be the release time for the proposed next Toho **Godzilla** film.

In related news, don't believe anything you read about a "**Doomsday King Ghidorah**" movie that will be released on *New Year's Eve 1999* by **Toho**. The *rumor is totally false* and was apparently started by some internet freak and was posted as some sort of "**Toho press release**". *Heroes* would give friendly advice that you shouldn't believe everything you read on the net!

Did anyone think that **Godzilla vs. Destroyer** should have been called **Godzilla vs. ALIENS!**? *I mean, Toho basically copied exact scenes from Twentieth Century Fox's popular "ALIENS" movie*, the Japanese self defense forces use guns that look exactly like "pulse rifles", they use "motion trackers", *the monsters have an inner set of teeth that they shoot out at their victims*, *the creatures bleed bright yellow blood like the Aliens*, *hell, the advance artwork for Destroyer on the poster looks like the damn Queen Alien!* And **Toho** *sues two American fans* for showing clips from **Destroyer** because it violates their copyright/trademarks!? If I worked at **Twentieth Century Fox**, I would be asking **Toho** for some hefty royalty payments right about now, they basically "borrowed" the entire "**Aliens**" movie!!

Quickies.

AD Vision will release **Gamera Guardian of the Universe** to a limited theatrical run in the States and then release it to home video this fall.

Twentieth Century Fox has said there will be a "**The Mighty Morphin Power Rangers: The Movie 2**". Did you really care?

Fox also owns the rights to a "Gigantor" movie but have done little else with the proposed film.

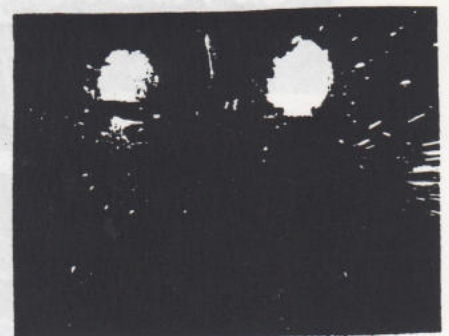
Orion Home Video has released "Johnny Sokko and his Flying Robot" to home video. Each tape has two-episodes for \$9.95 and is in SP mode.

Toei Co. has released a new hero show-**Changerion** to Japanese television. The show features a hero who wears shiny, see-thru armor who battles all sorts of cool monsters. The series is shot on professional home video, taking a clue from **Tsuburaya of Japan** and how they filmed **Gridman** and the two recent Ultra-7 mini movies.

Toho and Capcom Companies have released a joint production television show-**Guyferd**. It's a cross between *Ultraman*, *Gridman* and *Guyver*. Again, **Toho** seems content with "borrowing" other people's property and using it for their own purposes. It's the usual story of a guy who has a parasite attached to him that can cause him to change into a superhero to fight monsters.

The company "Excellance in Animation" is said to be looking into other Tsuburaya Ultraman properties to coincide with a potential "**Ultraman: 30th Anniversary Celebration**" video package for American release.

That's it for now! SEE YAAAA! SHOOOO-WAATTT!



GAMERA vs LEGION

G2

この夏、あなたの想像力も崩壊する。

その斬新なセンスで日本中のド肝を抜いた特撮映像と緻密な計算に裏打ちされたストーリー展開で
子供たちはもちろん、大人たちの眼をスクリーンに引きつけた「G1」こと「ガメラ 大怪獣空中決戦」
いまだにあの興奮さわやらの中、早くも待望の第2弾が登場します。

「ガメラ2 レギオン襲来」コードネームは「G2」

そのスケール、その迫力、その新しさ、そして、その面白さのすべてに
「G1」を超えることを義務づけられて誕生する空前の娯楽超大作。

未知の生命体レギオン襲来!!

「G2」は、明日始まるかもしれない高度情報化社会崩壊のリアル・シュミレーション映画だ!

もしも、今、日本の情報通信網が完全に麻痺したら?

「G2」に登場する新怪獣の名はレギオン。

宇宙から飛来した未知の生命体で、同じく飛来した異体と共生しながら爆発的に繁殖します。

レギオンは伝達手段に電磁波を用いるため、無線、ラジオ、テレビの機能は、完全に麻痺。また、シリコンを餌に
することから半導体や光ファイバーを手当たり次第に喰い尽くし、日本の高度情報化社会を崩壊へ追い込みます。

都市機能は大混乱、その状況すら把握できません。

果たしてガメラは人類が遭遇したとてつもないこの生命体から日本を守りきることができるのでしょうか?

もはや我々のイメージネーションは通用しない。手に汗握って公開を待て!!

GAMERA2

GUARDIAN OF THE UNIVERSE

ガメラ2
レギオン襲来

96年夏 全国東宝洋画系ロードショー。

特撮
映画
ガメラ2
レギオン襲来

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- 入場券ご購入の際、このチラシを劇場窓口にお出し下さい。
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- 尚、オールナイト上映にはご使用になれません。

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Created by Eiji Tsuburaya, the special effects wizard who also created Godzilla, ULTRAMAN is a protector of the Earth and the star of the 1966 TV series that bears his name.

ULTRAMAN is a 130 - foot - tall red and silver superhero who values human life above all else. Hayata summons him with the Beta Capsule when help is needed to fight monsters like Baltan, Zelon, and Red King. ULTRAMAN defeats those foes with his spacium beam and martial arts fighting. But ULTRAMAN can't survive in our atmosphere for more than three minutes at a time, or his chest timer starts blinking and he must return to his human form... until the next battle!

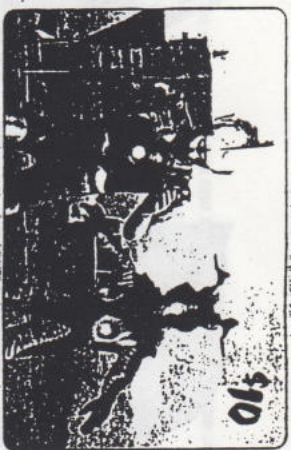
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ウルトラビデオコーナーなど、楽しさもりたくさん！

●ウルトラステージゾーン
ウルトラヒーローと怪獣たちが
くりひろげる
大迫力のステージショー！

●ウルトラクイズゾーン
自分だけのオリジナル
ウルトラマンを作ろう！

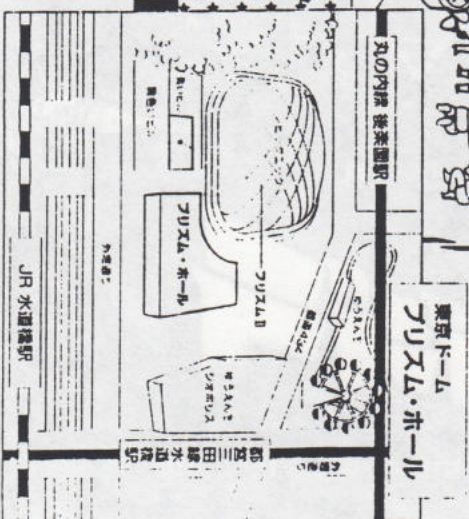
●ジオラマゾーンA
ウルトラヒーローたちの
活躍シーンを、
ダイナミックな
ジオラマで次々に再現！

●ウルトラ映画館
ウルトラシリーズの新作・名作が
めじるおし！

●エントランスゾーン
リアルスケールの巨大ウルトラマン・
メスのかみんをお出迎え！

●ウルトラチャレンジゾーン
からだ全体を使って、バラバラ
トキトキのゲームにチャレンジ！

●ウルトラマンデパート
ウルトラグッズが何でもそろう、
夢のデパート！



破壊神降臨

G細胞×ブラックホール 究極の戦闘生物が誕生した

スペースゴジラ

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製作●東宝映画 配給●東宝

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最強の敵は宇宙の果てからやって来る!

ビオランテ、キングギドラ、モスラ、メカゴジラ…

怪獣王「ゴジラ」の歴史は、強敵怪獣たちとの激戦の歴史でもあった。

シリーズ21作目の新作「ゴジラVVSスペースゴジラ」では、究極の強敵「スペースゴジラ」が宇宙の果てからやって来る!

●対ゴジラプロジェクト1 Mプロジェクト●

G対策センターは、メカゴジラでも倒すことのできなかったゴジラに対して、新たに究極の対ゴジラ兵器「モゲラ」を開発した。モゲラを使ったゴジラを倒そうというのが「Mプロジェクト」だ。

●対ゴジラプロジェクト2 Tプロジェクト●

「Tプロジェクト」とは、テレパシーでゴジラをコントロールしようという計画だ。Gフォース隊員の新城功二と佐藤清志はTプロジェクト遂行のためにバース島に派遣された。島には、「リトルゴジラ」がいた。ゴジラも近くにひそんでいるはずだった。

●地球の存亡をかけた最終戦争が始まる!!●

人類が対ゴジラプロジェクトを進めている間に、宇宙からはスペースゴジラが地球に迫っていた。地球を守るため、モゲラがスペースゴジラに向けられた。Tプロジェクトに反対していた三枝未希は宇宙からといた「地球を守ってください。」というコスモスと「妖精

モスラ」からのメッセージを受けて、Tプロジェクトへの参加を決意する。同じG細胞をもつゴジラとスペースゴジラ、そして人類の切り札モゲラによって、地球の存亡をかけた最終戦争が始まる!

登場怪獣

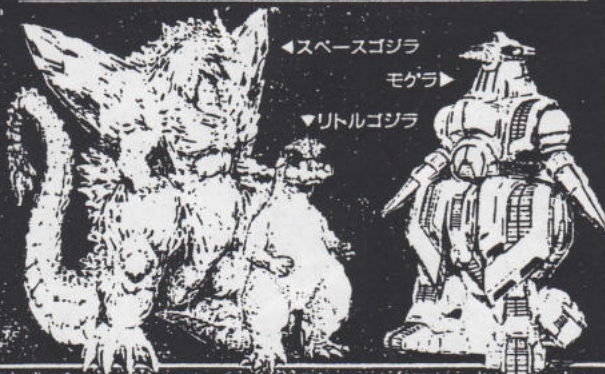
ゴジラ ……地球上では無敵の怪獣王。身長100メートル。

スペースゴジラ ……G細胞がブラックホールの中で急速に進化して生まれた究極の戦闘生物。ゴジラと同じ強い生命力とゴジラ以上の攻撃力をもつ。身長120メートル。核融合エネルギーにより宇宙空間を高速で飛行する。

モゲラ ……G対策センターの開発した対ゴジラ兵器。Mobile Operation G-Expert-Robot-Aero Typeの頭文字を取ってモゲラ。全長100メートル。大気圏内外で飛行能力をもつ「スターファルコン」と高速で地下を進む「ランドモゲラー」からなり、空中・地上・地下で、自在に分離・合体しながら戦う。

リトルゴジラ ……ゴジラとメカゴジラの激戦の後、南の海へ帰っていったベビーゴジラは、南太平洋のバース島で身長30メートルまで成長していた。

妖精モスラ ……スペースゴジラの襲来を告げるために妖精となつてあらわれた手のひらほどの大きさのモスラ。



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山崎が手紙、味方してと、人々公明を
 救世の力を、そして、血縁が良はな
 らぬとの誤解を正す。おそは、ふ

幼虫も登場するらしい。

てきは、ゴジラよりも強い

い怪物にたちむかうため、あの平和のつかいモスラがついにかえってくる！しかし、こんどのときは地球をほろぼすほどのパワーをもっているという。勝てるか？モスラ。

製クリアフ

G-CON 96': GODZILLA CONVENTION RETURNS TO CHICAGO!

(Fans of Godzilla . Ultraman, Gamera and Japanese Sci-Fi, Fantasy meet in Arlington Heights . ILL. for a weekend to honor their favorites from the land of the Rising Sun).

By Lenell "ULTRA" Bridges and Rob Dagg

A year ago in August 1995 history was made in Chigago in Arlington Heights, ILL. The Radisson Hotel was the site for the first ever in North America, **G-CON 1995: The GODZILLA CONVENTION!** It was thrown in honor of the world's favorite radioactive mutant dinosaur. As a result of last year's success and demand by fans who attended it, G-Con is back again for 1996! Over this weekend the Radisson Hotel in Arlington Heights will once again be ground zero for hundreds of fans of **GODZILLA**; along with other favorites like **ULTRAMAN**, the popular giant flying turtle **GAMERA**, the bug-eyed hero **KAMEN RIDER**, the **SUPER SENTAI** (task force) series, and other favorites of Japanese Fantasy who will come from all across the country and around the world to honor their favorite monsters and heroes of their favorite genres of Japanese Sci-Fi Fantasy! **"G-Con 96': A Celebration of Japanese Sci-Fantasy"**, will cover everything on the subject, which according to many fans is a big step and an achievement for their favorites of Japanese Sci-Fi and Fantasy. Despite the popularity in their native land of Japan, these shows still get little respect and dignity here in this country by television and movie communities.

G-Con is a fan run convention . According to **convention chairman and organizer John Rocco Roberto** *"G-Con is a convention by fans for fans"*. Roberto says his experience with Star Trek conventions was turned into horrible nightmares. *"Trek cons concentrate on mainly making money from the guests, dealers room, and also charge high admission fees. With G-Con our main focus that Trek Cons tend to forget, is on the fans!"*. Like last year's G-Con, Roberto says *"We will preserve the same friendly and informal atmosphere that characterized the last G-Con"*. He says *"If G-Con starts to even resemble a STAR TREK Con, even I will stay away"*

G-Con began it's roots two years ago when a group of fans of **GODZILLA** including Roberto, started writing for the fanzine **G-Fan**, a **bimonthly publication of THE GODZILLA SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA** , who decided to get together to talk , form friendships and discuss their hobby that they enjoy best, their love of **GODZILLA**! Many of these fans corresponded by mail,

phone, internet and most of all, through G-Fan. The publication originally began by a classified ad in **STARLOG** Magazine by editor, and publisher **J.D. Lees**. After the group had their meeting they voted to have the meeting again on a wider scale to invite more people who shared their hobby as well. The vote was overwhelming! Setting up the stage for the first ever G-Con! (Godzilla Convention). Roberto along with G-Fan editor J.D. Lees and a host of their closest G-friends set up at the Radisson Hotel in Arlington Heights in Chicago. Roberto explains that Chicago was a good choice for the con because it was central to everyone which was a great place to meet. When G-Con made it's debut last year on August 18, 1995 it became an overwhelming success! Originally, the con was only open to the people who purchased advanced registration thru G-Fan magazine and was a closed event, but when the con was publicized in the **CHICAGO TRIBUNE**, the response from people who became aware of it prompted Roberto to open it to the public on Sunday August 20, 1995. "G-Con 96" Roberto says, will be bigger and better with more programs, presentations, more dealers specializing on merchandise based on not just only Godzilla but all of our favorites of Japanese SF and fantasy such as **ULTRAMAN, GAMERA, KAMEN RIDER, DAI MAJIN, SUPER SENTAI** and more! **GODZILLA** will still be our main focus but we are covering many other famous legends of the genre because of the great demand of the fans who attended last years G-Con!"

It is not known if **Toho Co Ltd (the owners of Godzilla)** will support or endorse this year's con. Last year Toho refused to even acknowledge the con and even refused permission to let the G-Con staff screen their two latest Godzilla movies **GODZILLA VS MECHA-GODZILLA (93) & GODZILLA VS SPACE GODZILLA (94)** which both have not still been released here in the U.S. However, parallel to Toho's stern actions, **Daiei Co. LTD (the owners of the giant flying turtle known as GAMERA)**, had no objections whatsoever about the showing of their product's comeback film **GAMERA, THE GUARDIAN OF THE UNIVERSE** at G-Con 95' and that film quickly became the most talked about film for the G-Con 95' weekend. As a result of their films success, Daiei Co. LTD has made a sequel film **GAMERA 2-GAMERA VS LEGION**, which was just recently released nationwide in Japan. Just recently **A.D Vision**, a U.S video company, bought the rights to Gamera: The Guardian of the Universe which is slated to be released this fall in theaters all across the country! Fans have high hopes that GAMERA will do well here. The movie will be later released to video after its theater run. Hopefully the release of GAMERA will prod Toho into rethinking their strict stance about releasing their latest 90's G-movies (**Godzilla vs**

King Ghidorah, Godzilla vs Mothra, Godzilla vs. Mecha -Godzilla, Godzilla vs Space Godzilla and Godzilla vs Destroyer). One main reason Toho has not released their new movies in the U.S. is their deal with **Tri-Star Pictures** and their "American" Godzilla movie project. Recently Tri-Star has revealed that their production team for the film will be under the direction of **Roland Emmerich** and **Dean Devlin** (Stargate and just recently Independence Day). According to the team they are scapping all the script work of the recent old poposed story and will go back to the very first original Godzilla (1954) movie and remaking that movie. Devlin and Emmerich say " It will be a complete page on rewrite!". Emmerich will direct the epic with Devlin producing. According to reports the new GODZILLA will feature mostly model cities and suitmation (man in a suit) monster which will combine with computer generated imagery and animatronic models like in Jurassic Park. Tri- Star has reported they have scheduled GODZILLA for release in the summer of 1998. A discussion about the film is scheduled at G-Con 96.

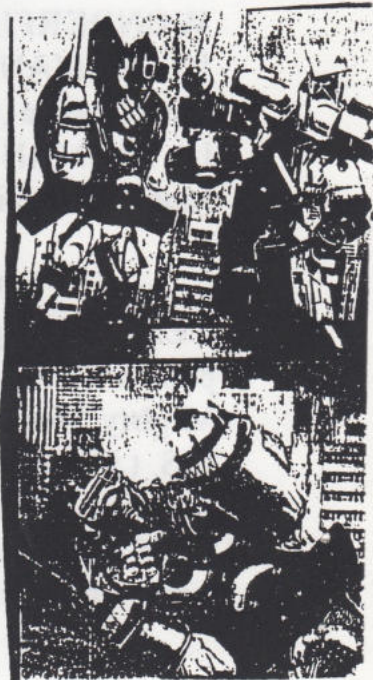
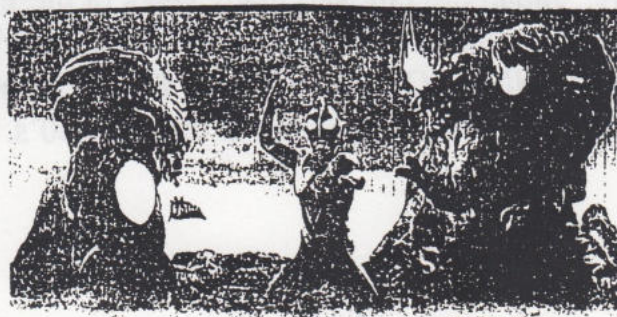
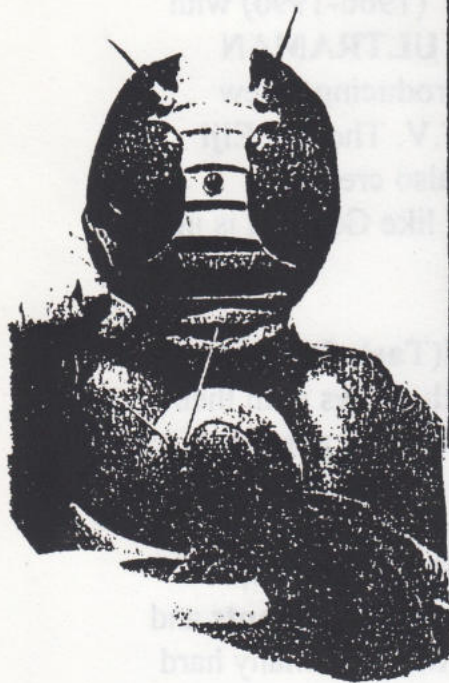
As well as **GODZILLA** and **GAMERA** being talked about at G-Con 96', others in Japanese SF fantasy will be present. **ULTRAMAN**: the giant red and silver super-hero from Nebula M78 who is very much beloved here in this country by fans who still remember him since watching his original series when it was syndicated on T.V. in the 70's and early 80's, will also be talked about.. Japan has enjoyed over 30 years of Ultraman. This year, **Tsuburaya Productions** (the owner of Ultraman) is celebrating ULTRAMAN'S 30th Anniversary (1966-1996) with events, merchandise and just recently released a theater movie **ULTRAMAN WONDERFUL WORLD FESTIVAL** and is hard at work producing a new ULTRAMAN series for the 96' and 97' season for Japanese T.V. The late **Eiji Tsuburarya** ,the special effects genius behind GODZILLA , also created ULTRAMAN who would be a popular icon for Japanese T.V. like Godzilla is in Japanese movies.

Others like **KAMEN RIDER, SUPER SENTAI(Task force) TEAMS** also popular in Japan, will be covered at the con. Such shows with their popularity in Japan were the inspirations for **Saban Entertainment's** popular **Mighty Morphin Power Rangers, Masked Rider and V. R Troopers** now on U.S. t.v. everywhere. Japan has enjoyed many years of these popular shows which America has just recently rediscovered after such shows like **ULTRAMAN, SPECTRAMAN, JOHNNY SOKKO and his Flying Robot, Space Giants** and many others disappeared off U.S. airwaves in the early 80's. Although many hard

core Japanese genre fans don't like companies such as Saban editing the Japanese shows for U.S. viewers.

This year's G-Con is very special because its making its way again in to history! For the first time ever, the two men who played the role of the King of the Monsters: GODZILLA A, will be at G-Con! In their first joint appearance outside Japan, Godzilla suitmation actors **Haruo Nakajima** and **Kenpachiro Satsuma** will attend their first ever convention visit to the U.S. ! **Haruo Nakajima** played Godzilla from the original **Godzilla (1954)** through 1974's **Godzilla on Monster Island** in twelve movies while **Kenpachiro Satsuma** played the Big G from **Godzilla 1985** through the recent **GODZILLA VS DESTROYAH (1995)** they will be at G-Con together to answer questions, tell their stories about their careers with Godzilla and sign autographs for the fans as the guests of honor.

G-Con 96' will open Friday at 11am (for advanced weekend passes only) and general admission to the public at 1pm. Many events are scheduled for G-Con 96'. The location of G-Con 96' is at the **Radisson Hotel in Arlington Heights, ILL. on 75 W. Algonguin Rd., Arlington Heights, ILL.** Tickets are \$30 for a weekend pass and \$12 for a one day pass. The event will go from Friday through Sunday.





GODZILLA ON VIDEO

(Current 90's series on Video
In Europe Beats America)

BY: Lenell Bridges

Special Thanks to Paul Haberman



I usually don't do articles concerning **GODZILLA**, **THE KING OF MONSTERS**. I mainly cover **ULTRAMAN** but there is a first time for everything and doing this article of **GODZILLA** is one of them.

To begin with something recently happened with **GODZILLA** that compelled me to do this review to get this problem off my chest, since I'm a good fan of the Big G; the old saying goes "just let it out" so I'm letting it out.

A few weeks ago I recently received a video from one of my friends in which he bought it in Europe and converted it NTSC format for me to watch. The video was **GOJIRA TAI MOSURA (GODZILLA VS. MOTHRA)**. The 1992 updated version and it was dubbed in *English*! I was stunned and couldn't believe that one of **GODZILLA'S** current movies had been dubbed and released on video (but in another country outside of Japan). *Manga Video*, a very popular video distributor well known in importing and distributing of Japanese Fantasy ranging from anime to movies in Europe had bought the rights to the current new **Godzilla** series from TOHO CO. to release the films there on video. As many fans know here in the U.S. **GODZILLA 'S** current films from **GODZILLA VS**

KING GHIDORAH up to GODZILLA VS.

DESTROYAH has not been released on video here yet.

However, the films are coming out in Europe. I hate to say this but I must because this event has caused me to be more than just unhappy its caused me to be upset and angry and hopefully it'll awaken video distributors.

The release of the new G films in English in Europe really slaps our video industry in the face. Plus it's embarrassing! Europe's won the race getting the new G films out on video. Well they deserved to win. **Manga Video** has done what American video companies have not done for years! Its disgusting and shameful. There is a saying "Where can the blame be put on?" It can be placed on three principle topics money, greed, and people in power which is why the Big G's new films haven't seen the light of day on video here as of yet. Let's take a look at these three topics and see why the current ongoing series of **GODZILLA** is still not out on video here.

MONEY: It boils down to money. American video companies just does not want to sink any money into **TOHO** to purchase the films. (Remember again the hassle with **GODZILLA VS BIOLLANTE**). After what happened with **Miramax Pictures and TOHO**, this caused other U.S. film companies with connections with the video distributing industry not to purchase the other G films for either theatrical or video release. If **Tristar's** proposed big budget **GODZILLA FILM** does well hopefully this will change. If they ever get started on filming their film which I doubt they ever will, the situation with video releases will change. However, don't get your hopes up. Money is the

key issue. Will they spend the money on **GODZILLA** to make money on **GODZILLA**?

GREED: This is **TOHO'S** department. Many companies who have dealt with **Toho** over the years have come to a conclusion that **Toho** is not very reasonable when licensing their products to companies who are interested in leasing them. **Toho** wants lots of money especially for video release and distribution of their films which has made U.S. distributors balk and turn away from getting any of the current films. If **Toho** would ease their high prices on the video distributors, they might buy the films and release them here, either dubbed or subtitled and people here would surely purchase them!

PEOPLE IN POWER: It boils down to this topic. The people in power. It's up to them if they want purchase the G-films and unfortunately they don't want to. Many think its too risky of an investment. Plus, they don't want to pursue any of the films not even **Henry Saperstein** and his company **UPA**, who 's had the licensing right to **GODZILLA**. For many years he has not touched any of them. I've been told Mr. Saperstein is not very fond of the Big G's current films. I wish the people up there realize **GODZILLA** can be even more successful if given the proper exposure. **Trendmaster's** has a popular **GODZILLA** toy line, **Dark Horse Comics** has a popular **Godzilla** comic, **Manga Video of Europe** has the rights to the new **G-series** movies, why can't the United States get these films?

To sum up **Manga Video** in Europe, they are beating

the U.S. in getting **GODZILLA'S** current series out on video and it is a reminder that their video distributing has seen the light. Their people wanted and demanded **GODZILLA'S 90'S** movie series and they got him. While here in the states we must wait for the people upstairs who control the video industry, the power, and the money to wake up and smell the coffee to get their act together which, unfortunately for them, are only missing out on the Big G's films. Maybe only **Tri-star's** proposed G-film will open the door for us if their film is a success. For now Europe's **Manga** video has won the race and deserves the praise, glory, and of course profit while our video distributors continue to stall and ignore the new G films. Hopefully, I really do hope this slapping in the face by **Europe's Manga Video** will awaken **Tri-star**, **UPA**, and others in our video distributing industry to start doing something in putting our favorite radioactive "you know who" on the small screen! **Manga Video in Europe** has proven "it" to all. It can be achieved! No question about it!





Where is **ULTRAMAN** ?!

By Robert A. Dagg



Many Kaiju fans have probably been wondering the same thing, just where is **ULTRAMAN**? After the classic original 1966 show left American airwaves in the early eighties, Ultraman has returned only once with the so-so **ULTRAMAN: TOWARDS THE FUTURE**, which ran in limited release on television in 1991.

Of all Japanese fantasy icons, **ULTRAMAN** is probably the most well known in America after the **King of Monsters: GODZILLA**! Devotion from American fans still runs deep for the hero from Nebula M-78, although to this date, no official release of the original series has been secured for home video. The only live-action **ULTRAMAN** series to find a home on legitimate home video is **ULTRAMAN: TOWARDS THE FUTURE** available from **L.A. HERO**.

Many **ULTRAMAN** fans also still don't realize that an "AMERICAN" **ULTRAMAN** show was produced in 1994 for us ! **ULTRAMAN: THE ULTIMATE HERO** was **Tsuburaya Productions** gift to American **ULTRAMAN** fans, as they know that **ULTRAMAN** is a beloved hero in America as well as Japan ! Unfortunately, the show thus far has failed to pick up any interest from American distributors. The series was eagerly awaited by **ULTRAMAN** fans in the U.S. as well as Japan, but didn't live up to the standards to which with fans hold **Tsuburaya's** giant hero. An American production staff was hired, who later admitted that some of them had never heard of **ULTRAMAN**! The 13 episode series was meant to appeal to fans of the original series by bringing back familiar foes like **BALTAN**, **RED KING**, **DA DA**, **ZETON** and **PYGMON**. **Tsuburaya** also thought that they would be "reworking" the original long time fans, as well as appealing to a new generation of "young" **ULTRAMAN** fans. It's destiny seems to be some type of home video release in America. **Tsuburaya** is to be commended though for addressing American fans, unlike another major Japanese studio where the big G resides, **Tsuburaya** seems to really care about it's American fans.

In terms of American "official" **ULTRAMAN** merchandise, only a small handful of products have seen store shelves. The **BANDAI** **ULTRAMAN: TOWARDS THE FUTURE** action figures, **PLACO**

ULTRAMAN stuffed dolls, T-LINE DESIGN'S ULTRAMAN T-shirts and the previously mentioned home video release of **ULTRAMAN: TOWARDS THE FUTURE** by L.A. HERO. There are also apparently **PEWTER** figures of **ULTRAMAN** and some of the **ULTRA** monsters like **BALTAN** and **RED KING**. While this may seem like a decent amount of **ULTRAMAN** merchandise, finding these items readily is almost impossible! The **ULTRAMAN: TOWARDS THE FUTURE BANDAI** figures are pretty much cleared off toy shelves (you may still be able to find them in mark down bargain bins), the **PLACO STUFFED ULTRAMAN DOLLS** have been spotted on some toy shelves but have been disregarded by most **ULTRAMAN** fans as "to childish", "overpriced", and "poorly rendered". The **T-LINE DESIGNS T-SHIRTS** are probably the easiest to find in terms of **ULTRAMAN** products (although there are reports of this company not returning information to interested consumers) and the "BREAK THROUGH" logo of **ULTRAMAN** in his "SPACIUM" pose is great. The shirts are also priced to buy. The **PEWTER** figures, although nice, seem a bit high in price and no one knows where to find them. The same can be said for **L.A. HERO'S** video release of **ULTRAMAN: TOWARDS THE FUTURE**, somewhat hard to find all 13 episodes and priced a bit steep at \$ 14.95 per episode. You may also still be able to find **ULTRAMAN : TOWARDS THE FUTURE SUPER NINTENDO** game based on the series. This game was also produced from **BANDAI VIDEO GAMES**.

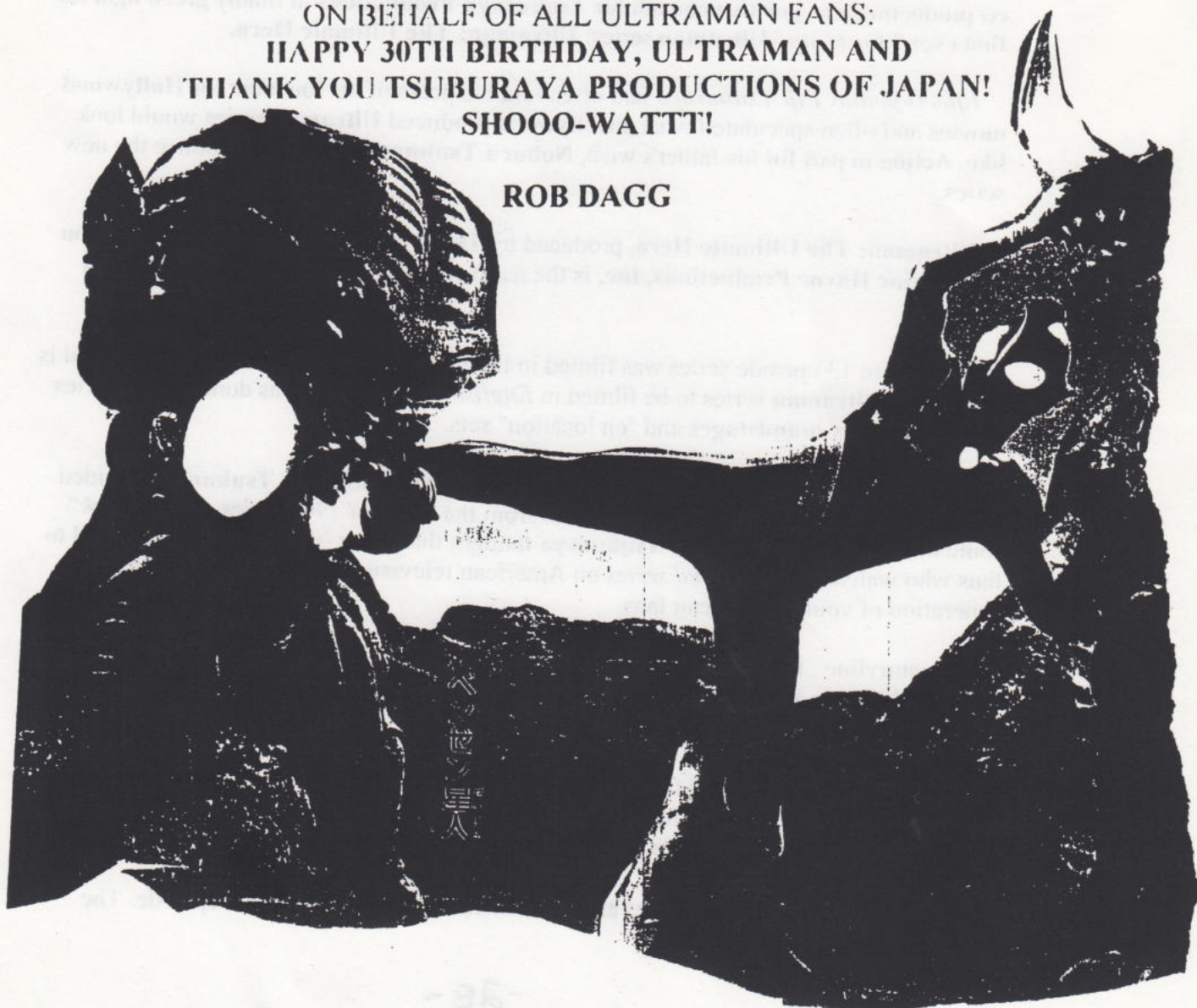
What many American **ULTRAMAN** fans seem to want are home video releases of all the **ULTRAMAN** series in the U.S., a huge line of **ULTRAMAN ACTION FIGURES** (comparable to **Bandai** of Japan's line), a decent **COMIC BOOK** series, *unlike the horrible NEMESIS series*, watches (announced but have yet to materialize), posters, video games, books, magazines, music c.d.'s, a *more diverse clothing* line like jogging pants, sweat shirts, tennis shoes, lunch boxes, hats, *more T-shirts featuring ULTRA* monsters, and laser discs to compliment the home video release of the entire **ULTRAMAN** series in the United States.

Tsuburaya Productions of Japan is celebrating **ULTRAMAN'S 30th ANNIVERSARY / BIRTHDAY** all year long, with special video releases, **THE ULTRAMAN WONDER WORLD FESTIVAL THEATRICAL MOVIE**, new toy releases along with a load of new "special 30th ANNIVERSARY" merchandise, and is working on a new **ULTRAMAN** series slated for release in 1997 that will surely be the best **ULTRAMAN** series to date!

As for American fans, we will most likely have to celebrate **ULTRAMAN'S 30th ANNIVERSARY** for ourselves. It appears that fans in America can only continue to hope that a certain "ULTRA" licensing agency will finally see fit to release **ULTRAMAN** to home video and to start realizing there is a huge market for **ULTRAMAN** in the United States. There is a rich 30 year history to **Tsuburaya Production's ULTRAMAN** and American fans for the most part, are missing out on it. It's a 30 year treasure chest of Tsuburaya goodies that has thus far only been slightly cracked open. *Hopefully, American fans won't have to wait much longer for our hero to return to a place where he is beloved by thousands and thousands of fans—the UNITED STATES!*

ON BEHALF OF ALL ULTRAMAN FANS:
HAPPY 30TH BIRTHDAY, ULTRAMAN AND
THANK YOU TSUBURAYA PRODUCTIONS OF JAPAN!
SHOOO-WATTT!

ROB DAGG





Ultraman: The Ultimate Hero

A.K.A. Ultraman Powered.

By Rob Dagg



It is no small secret that **Tsuburaya Productions** of Japan has been trying to break back into the lucrative American television market. Having had a successful run with their original **Ultraman** series in the 70's and early 80's, **Tsuburaya** decided once again to launch their hero **Ultraman** in the United States in the 1990's.

Starting with **Ultraman: Towards the Future**, **Tsuburaya Productions** decided to take a new direction with their hero and make the series more accessible to *Western fans*! The studio would film **Ultraman: Towards the Future** in *English*! The first **Ultraman** series ever to be filmed in a language other than Japanese! The result of the *Australian* co-production was positive enough for **Tsuburaya Productions** to finally green light the first ever "*American*" **Ultraman** series: **Ultraman: The Ultimate Hero**.

Effects genius Eiji Tsuburaya had often told his peers of his fondness for **Hollywood** movies and often speculated what a **Hollywood** produced **Ultraman** series would look like. Acting in part for his father's wish, **Noburu Tsuburaya** set out to produce the new series.

Ultraman: The Ultimate Hero, produced by **Tsuburaya Productions** in association with **Major Havoc Productions, Inc.** is the *tenth* entry in the long running **Ultraman** series.

The entire 13 episode series was filmed in the **United States** (the first time ever) and is the *second* **Ultraman** series to be filmed in *English*! The filming was done for the series on **Los Angeles** soundstages and "on location" sets.

In order to "re-introduce" **Ultraman** to the American audiences, **Tsuburaya** decided to bring back familiar **Ultraman** monsters from the *original* 1966 series and "rework" some of the original storylines. **Tsuburaya** thought that these "*changes*" would appeal to fans who watched the *original series* on American television and also appeal to a new generation of young American fans.

The storyline: the evil **Baltan Aliens** invade Earth, reviving evil monsters and aliens! The **World Wide Investigative Network Response Team** or **W.I.N.R.**, is created in order to combat the invasion!

Ultraman, having chased the **Baltans** to Earth, chooses **W.I.N.R.** member **Kenichi Kai** to become his human partner. He gives **Kai** the *new Beta-Capsule*, a device that will transform him into **Ultraman** in times of great danger!

The following are episode titles and the monsters that appear in each episode. The

original Japanese titles have been translated into English as closely as possible.

<u>Episode Title</u>	<u>Monster(s)</u>
1.) The Golden Pursuer.	Alien Baltan
2.) That name is Ultraman!	Kemular
3.) Fly to the forbidden Monster World.	Red King, Chandorah, Pignon
4.) Messenger from the Darkness.	Telesdon
5.) Lightning War Defense Mission.	Gabora
6.) Return from the Universe.	Jamila
7.) Red Heat Revenge.	Zambora
8.) Invasion Circuit.	Da-Da A.B.C.
9.) Revival: Two Bio Monsters.	Aboras, Banilla
10.) Two Human Heroes.	Pestar
11.) The brought to life giant monster.	Gahora
12.) Powered Assassination Plan.	Dorako, Red King
13.) Farewell, Ultraman.	Zeton, Psycho Baltan

Unfortunately, **Ultraman : The Ultimate Hero** is probably the weakest entry in the 30 year old **Ultraman** series. The show as of 1996 still has not found television syndication and is likely to be released straight to home video. The series has received very lukewarm, bad reviews and as much as I hate to admit it, deserves them.

The first problem with the series is the lack of episodes. With only 13 episodes, television syndication companies find that "strip running" or showing the show daily Monday-Friday is all but impossible. Shows like **Saban's Mighty Morphin Power Rangers** are popular because a vast number of episodes are available to run without having to repeat episodes every other week.

Second, and probably most important, is the fact that a director was hired who didn't know anything about **Ultraman! King Wilder**, director of **Ultimate Hero**, has stated that he had to watch the original **Ultraman** series to find out who he was! He had no idea *who or what Ultraman was!* Evidently, **Tsuburaya Productions of Japan** saw of King's work with low-budget film company **Full Moon Entertainment** and was impressed with his handling of movies with small budgets and extensive special effects. While his actual directing of **Ultraman : The Ultimate Hero** wasn't that bad, it was how he filmed the "*battle fight scenes*" that got fans infuriated! Simply put, the fight scenes were poorly choreographed and filmed in *slow motion!* Fans who are used to the way that **Tsuburaya Productions of Japan** films it's fight scenes were throwing bricks at their televisions watching **King Wilder's Ultraman fight scenes!** Even fans in Japan have voiced the same complaints as their American friends-the action and fight scenes are too *slow and dull!*

However, there are some positive things about **Ultimate Hero**. The redesigned monster costumes are for the most part excellent! **Kevin Hudson** (**Predator**, **Batman**) really shows he took the series to heart. The **Kemular**, **Red King**, **Telesdon**, **Gabora**, **Aboras** and **Banilla** costumes all deserve mention for the extreme *detailing and craftsmanship*! Many of the monsters feature *blood shot eyes, pulsating veins, sharp claws and fangs and plaque covered teeth*!

Also nice are the pyrotechnic effects by **Hollywood pyrotechnic effects master- Joseph Viscusi** (**Star Wars**, **Empire Strikes Back**). Joe practically waived his fees for **Ultimate Hero** because he had always loved **Ultraman**!

The **Mecha** designs are also great. Vehicles for the series were designed by **Mahiro Maeda**, **Shinji Higuchi** (**Gamera: Guardian of the Universe**) and **Toshio Miike**.

In conclusion, **Ultraman: The Ultimate Hero** failed to live up to the high expectations that fans hold the "**Ultra**" series to. While the people hired to make the series tried their best, they simply had no idea what they were getting themselves into. They didn't know the material and it shows in the final product. **Tsuburaya Productions** is to be commended though, as they addressed the American fans with the series. Why they didn't hire **Steve Wang** (**Guyver 2: Dark Hero**) to direct is beyond me! Here's a guy who can direct and do the special effects all in one! Oh well! As the old saying goes- "*If you want something done right, you have to do it yourself!*", it looks like **Tsuburaya Productions** will do just that with **Ultraman: 1996** to start broadcasting on Japan's **TBS NETWORK** in September of this year!

Special thanks to **Jill Sylvan** for episode translations.



THE ULTRAMAN SAGA

CELEBRATING 30 FANTASTIC YEARS OF TSUBURAYA'S GIANT
RED AND SILVER HERO!!

BY PORTUGALARD
LEWIS BRIDGES

For the first time ever, a comprehensive guide to TSUBURAYA
PRODUCTION'S "ULTRA" shows with *story synopsis, episode listings,*
monster listings with pictures, cast credits and more! A handy guide for
Ultraman fans! And if we didn't mention it already.....

HAPPY 30TH BIRTHDAY, ULTRAMAN!



ULTRA Q

28 Half hour black and white episodes

Air dates: January 2, 1966-July 3, 1967 (Japan only)

Creator: Eiji Tsuburaya

Cast: Jun Manjome (Kenji Sahara)

Ippei Togawa (Yasuhiko Nishijo)

Yuriko Ebogawa (Hiroko Sakurai)

Probably one of Tsuburaya's most overlooked "Ultra" series, *Ultra Q* was the first series in the long running "*Ultraman*" series that dealt with mostly giant monsters and strange occurrences.

Oddly enough, the show didn't feature any giant superheroes, just three regular people - **Jun Manjome, Ippei Togawa and Yuriko Ebogawa** who constantly came in contact with all sorts of weird creatures and strange events!

Not having any superheroes to bail them out, *Jun, Ippei and Yuriko* often used mankind's own technology to battle any aliens, monsters or other undesirable events.

The series is probably one of my favorite Tsuburaya produced

television series. All the episodes are well written, the special effects are great, the actors all turn in believable performances and the show reeks of atmosphere! To refer to the series as a cross between *X-Files*, *The Outer Limits* and *The Twilight Zone* wouldn't be far off, although *Ultra Q* hit the airwaves long before any of these shows!!

It's a shame that this series along with just about every other *Ultraman* series has failed to find a home on legitimate home video either dubbed or sub-titled. Hopefully, this situation will be corrected in the future. There is a 30 year treasure chest full of **Tsuburaya** goodies that American fans for the most part, are missing out on!

Ultra Q Episode Listings*

*Please note that episode titles and monsters are translated as closely as possible and may be open to alternative interpretations

Episode Title	Monsters
1.) The Downfall of Gomess.	Gomess, Litra
2.) Goro and Goro.	Goro
3.) A Present from Space.	Namegon
4.) The Mammoth Flower.	Juran
5.) Peguila	Peguila
6.) The Turtle Breeder.	Gameron, The Dragon
7.) S.O.S. Mt. Fuji	Gorgos
8.) Baron Spider.	Tarantula
9.) The Underground Express.	M-1
10.) The Horror of Sweet Honey.	Mongula
11.) Baloonga.	Baloonga
12.) I Saw the Bird	Larucus
13.) Garadama	Garamon
14.) Tokyo On Ice.	Peguila II
15.) The Cocoon of Kanegon.	Kanegon
16.) The Revenge of Garamon.	Garamon II, Cicadaman
17.) Project 1/8.*	*No Monster Listed
18.) Egg of the Rainbow.	Pagos
19.) Challenge of the Year 2020.	Kemur
20.) Ragon: The Marine Primitive.	Ragon
21.) Space Command M774.	Bostang
22.) Metamorphosis	Morpho

- 23.) Wrath of the South Seas.
- 24.) The Statue of Gohga.
- 25.) A little Fiend.
- 26.) The Burning Victory.
- 27.) The Disappearance of Flight 206.
- 28.) Open Up.* *Final Episode*

Sudar
Goga
Lili
Peter
Todola
*No Monster Listed



ULTRAMAN

39 Half Hour Color Episodes

Airdates: July 10, 1966 to April 9, 1967 (Japan Airdates, U.S. airdates vary)

Creator Eiji Tsuburaya

Cast: Hayata (Susumu Kurobe)

Captain Muramatsu(Mura) (Shoji Kobayashi)

Arashi (Iyoshi Ishii)

Fuji (Hiroko Sakurai)

Ito (Ide) (Masaya Nihei)

Professor Imamoto (Akihiko Hirata)

One nice night in the sky of the country of Japan, two sphere like objects (*one blue, the other red*) emerge from the great unknown reaches of outer space.

One object is chasing after the other and they are being followed by *Officer Hayata*, who is a member of the *Science Patrol* in his *Delta VTOL airship*. Note that the *Science Patrol* name is used in the English language version of the series, the Japanese name was the *Special Science Search Party*. The patrol is a special organization set up world wide which specializes in dealing with any threat to the peace of the Earth!

Of the two sphere objects, one of them is carrying intergalactic policeman- *Ultraman*, who resides on the *Planet Ultra in the M-78 galaxy, a.k.a. "The Land of Light"*. He is transporting the space monster *Bemular*

for disposal when it escapes and heads into Earth's atmosphere.

As *Bemular's* sphere disappears beneath the nearby *Gomori Lake*, Hayata's ship accidentally collides with *Ultraman's* ship and Hayata is killed instantly. *Ultraman*, feeling guilty for what he has done, decides to share his life essence with Hayata. He gives Hayata the *Beta-Capsule*, a device that will transform Hayata into Ultraman in times of great danger! They vow to fight for the peace of the Earth for all time!

Needless to say, many evil monsters and aliens decide it's the right time to try and invade Earth! What else do giant monsters and aliens have to do!!? Only the *Science Patrol and Ultraman* can save the day!

Hailed by most in fandom as the "**series that started it all**", *Ultraman* went on to become one of Japan's most beloved heroes. The expertise of *Eiji Tsuburaya* was present as the show captivated audiences with excellent special effects, excellent scripts and storylines, loads of memorable monsters and aliens and an excellent cast that *put the icing on the cake!*

The show was so popular, it spawned numerous toys, books, posters, lunchboxes, tennis shoes, clothes-you name it, the Ultraman series probably was a part of it! The show even played on *American television* in the mid 70's to early 80's and quickly won the hearts of school kids and young adults all over America!

To this day, *Tsuburaya Productions of Japan* has kept the "Ultra" mythos alive with new specials, movies like the *30th Anniversary Ultraman Wonderful World Festival*, *Ultraman: The Ultimate Hero*, *Ultraman Neos*, new products, toys, merchandise and not to mention the devotion of Japanese and American fans!

* Please note that titles and monster names are open to alternative interpretation!

Episode Title *

- 1.) The First Ultra Operation
- 2.) Shoot the Invaders!
- 3.) The Science Patrol in Action.
- 4.) Five seconds to the Explosion.
- 5.) The Secret of Mirogonda.
- 6.) Operation: Coast Guard.
- 7.) The Blue Stone of Barahdi.
- 8.) Lawless Zone of Monsters.
- 9.) Operation Greased Lightning.
- 10.) Dinosaur Base Mystery.

Monster(s)

Bemular
Alien Baltan
Neronga
Ragon
Green Monse
Guesra
Antlar

Red King, Chadorah, Magella, Pignon

Gabora
Jirass A.K.A.

Godzilla!

11.) The Rogue and the magic stone from Space.

12.) Cries of the Mummy.

Dodongo

13.) Petroleum S.O.S.

14.) Operation Pearl Oyster.

15.) The Cosmic Wave of Horror.

16.) The Science Patrol in Space.

17.) Passport to Infinity.

18.) Brother from another World.

19.) Devils Come Again.

20.) Route 87 of Terror.

21.) Beneath the Smoking Mountain.

22.) Underground Manuever.

Men

23.) Earth is Home.

24.) The Submarine Lab.

25.) Typhoon, the Weird Comet.

26.) Prince Monster. Part 1.

27.) Prince Monster. Part 2.

28.) Human Speciamans 5&6.

29.) The Underground Challenge.

30.) The Legend of Snowy Mountain.

31.) Who has Come?

32.) The Endless Revenge.

33.) The Forbidden Word.

34.) A Gift from the Sky.

35.) Graveyard of Monsters.

36.) Don't Shoot, Arashi!

37.) A Tiny Hero.

38.) The Spaceship Rescue.

39.) Farewell, Ultraman. **Final Episode**

Gango

Mummy Man,

Pestar

Gamakujira

Gavadon

Alien Baltan II

Bullton

Zarub

Aboras, Banilla

Hydra

Kemular

Telesdon, Mole

Jamila

Gubira

Red King II, Golgass, Dorako

Gahora

Gahora

DA-DA A, B, C

Goldon

Woo

Keronia

Zambora

Mefilas

Skydon

Seebuzo

Zaragas

Geronimon, Pignon II, Dorakoll, TelesdonII

Keylla, Saigo

Zeton, Ultraman Zoffy,

in flashbacks-Jinss and Gabora

ULTRAMAN IS NO ORDINARY HERO!



BY GABRIEL S. TUBA Layout by Rob Dagg

As a child, I remember waking up early Saturday morning, (6 a.m. to be exact!) and quietly tip toeing into the living room. With great anticipation, I would turn on my television set, with the volume at a low setting so that I would not wake my parents. Before the t.v. picture tube could present a picture, I would have the channel already set to the station that was about to broadcast a show that had caught by imagination and awe, and unbeknownst to me, would hold it forever! That show was **ULTRAMAN**! Every week was a new adventure and every week it just kept getting better!

Now as an adult, I find it hard pressed to be able to remember exact details of the original 39 episodes, but with what I remember, I know to this day it is the most original and impressive show of it's time. That silver and red giant that we know as **ULTRAMAN**, changed the way I looked at superheroes. The most impressive feat I do recall is the two part episode (**PRINCE MONSTER 1&2**) in which **ULTRAMAN** battles **GOMORA**. It was the topic of heated discussion with kids all over the neighborhood. I can't remember ever being disappointed with any monster battle, it's just that **GOMORA** stands out in my mind. Even with that said, the one thing I always waited anxiously for was the **BETA CAPSULE** scene in every episode. Next to the visual appeal of the **ULTRAMAN** costume, the **BETA CAPSULE** was the *most exciting* part of the show! The scene was a *masterpiece* of dramatic film work. The *sound* of the **BETA CAPSULE** would cause me to well up with excitement! The transformation scene that accompanied it, has left a permanent impression on my childhood memories. I can even remember the music that was played every time **ULTRAMAN** fought a monster!

When my eldest son was 5 years old, he brought up the topic of superheroes and asked me which of them was my favorite. It took me all but 2 seconds to respond with the name **ULTRAMAN**! He sat in awe as I

described what I had remembered about **ULTRAMAN**. His first exposure to **ULTRAMAN** came a few years back when I found "**ULTRAMAN: TOWARDS THE FUTURE**" at my local video store. After watching the video my son was hooked just as I had been in my childhood. Before we knew it, we had the **ULTRAMAN: TOWARDS THE FUTURE** video game for the **SUPER NINTENDO**, the **TOWARDS THE FUTURE** **BANDAI TOY FIGURES**, we even collected the **ULTRAMAN COMIC BOOK** series that was released at the time as well. It was through these comics that we learned of the **ULTRAMAN QUESTCLUB**, an **ULTRAMAN FAN CLUB** organized by **ULTRACOM**, who were at the time in the midst of preparing to market a new **ULTRAMAN** series tentatively entitled "**ULTRAMAN: THE ULTIMATE HERO**". The **QUESTCLUB NEWLETTERS** (2 in total) kept us up to date as to how the production was going along then suddenly, nothing! It was if **QUESTCLUB** rolled over and died! (It turned out to be what happened) Almost two years passed, still no word from the source of info there was on our hero. I wanted my son to experience the power of the original **ULTRAMAN** series, so I went to work. **ULTRACOM** informed me that it was not available on video anywhere in the United States. After quite a bit of digging, I finally wrote to a Japanese Live Action Monster Fan Club (**FAR EAST HEROES t.m**) in Dearborn, MI and through the generous work of that club's founder/publisher, I was referred to someone who was able to provide me with tapes of the original **ULTRAMAN** series! Needless to say, not only did the series bring back memories, my whole family enjoyed the experience. Along with myself, my wife and child, we still don't understand how a show like the **POWER RANGERS** could get picked up by networks, and have a series like **ULTRAMAN** passed by. The only reason I could think of is simple. No one knows what they are missing! If people could be exposed to the **ULTRAMAN SERIES**, they would want more!!!

Anyone who has ever been exposed to any of the **ULTRAMAN** series, has the same opinion. They belong to a small but growing group of people who know about the *world's best kept SUPERHERO SECRET*: **ULTRAMAN**! It is sad to think that the t.v. networks (Along with **ULTRACOM, INC.-ROB**) alone can decide if we get to see a show like **ULTRAMAN** or not. With the proper exposure of the **ULTRAMAN** shows, these series would be where the **POWER RANGERS** are *right now*! In any case, I know the time will come when **ULTRAMAN** will take his rightful place on **NORTH AMERICAN** television screens. It all depends though, on how much **WE AS FANS ARE WILLING TO WORK TO HAVE OUR**

VOICE HEARD BY BIG COMPANIES. If we don't express a "strong" demand, they won't supply the demand. Unfortunately, money is what it is all about. For now that formula has worked extremely well in Japan for over 30 years, and **ULTRAMAN IS ALIVE AND WELL!** It almost seems as if **BIG COMPANIES** are always looking for certain action shows from Japan like **POWER RANGERS** OR **GRIDMAN**. (Yeah, just ask *Lenell Bridges* about it!-Rob). They insist shows like these are their money makers. Well, if they took a little time to look just a little bit closer, they would find that all these shows are based on **ULTRAMAN!** Without the influence of the **ULTRA** series, these shows would not be popular as they are now.



Saban's MASKED RIDER

Review by LENELL BRIDGES



It seems **Saban Entertainment** has did it again. Just as they made **Mighty Morphin Power Rangers** and **V.R. Troopers** now they have made a new series called **Masked Rider** for the U.S. small screen T.V. The series made its debut last fall on **Fox T.V.** in the Saturday morning time slot. **Masked Rider** utilizes footage from **TOEI** Company's famed **Kamen Rider** long running T.V. series (**Kamen Rider Black** and **Kamen Rider RX** to be exact) and splices new footage of American actors to the fight scenes (Like *Rangers* and *VR Troopers*). It seems **Saban** hasn't learned anything yet. Alas, I can't give **Masked Rider** a good review. In fact its the most uninspiring series I've ever seen! It is *bastardization of a Japanese work at it's worst!* Let's face it, **Saban** nor other U.S. companies try as hard as they might, they can't duplicate a Japanese work and this series says it all. **Masked Rider** is the shame to the popular **Kamen Rider** series. The Japanese series is thousands of times better! **Masked Rider** combines a serious Japanese series with comedy. Like the comedy of *Roseanne*. A deadly combination, which comes out into a confusing mess which could make long times fans of the Japanese genre *violently ILL!*

The series tells of the adventures of a young prince from the **PLANET EDENOI** named **Dex** (*T.J. Roberts*) who by his grandfather is king of the Planet and is given powers to go to the *Planet Earth* to defend it against the

evil of **Count Dregon** and his army of **EVIL INSECTZOIDS** who want to conquer it. (*What else did you think?!-Rob*) **Dex** is adopted by a kind family and is taught to live like a Earthling. When **Count Dregon** and his army strikes, **Dex** uses his powers to become **Masked Rider** to battle **Dregon** and the insectzoids he sends. The stories depicts **Dex's** battles despite the added (less violent) "*American*" scenes, however, it doesn't help this show! Not one bit. *In fact it's not even a good laugh either!* The acting is *terrible* by both the hero's and villians in the series. The acting in the "**Small wonder**" T.V. series is better, and that's *really scary*. The stories are *totally stupid*. The music is *pathetic* and even the new villians they added to replace the Japanese ones aren't impressive. Plus, even their design of the **Masked Rider** costume looks cheap (*The Japanese version is 100% better*). Lastly, they severely cut down on the action content which is in most **Kamen Rider** series. **Saban** is bowing down to pressure from parents to cut down in the violence in their programming. The fighting scenes and SPX is badly edited. Plus, I can't take that funny furball **Febus** creature. He reminds me of the **Ewoks in Star Wars** and he makes a jackass of himself just like the actors do.

In short **Masked Rider** is a good laugh of a show geared for the kiddies as usual. Like I mentioned, I have not seen as of yet one example where an Americanized show is better than its Japanese counter part. Why **TOEI Company** is selling out to **Saban** is beyond me. Why **TOEI** is letting **Saban** turn their popular shows into monstrous bastardizations is beyond me (*Maybe it's this-\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$-Rob*). I wonder what Japanese fans would think if they saw

this show! Don't even ask! (*Yeah, but I'm sure TNT loves this show!-Rob*) There's a saying " If it ain't broke don't fix it". **Saban** wanted to fix **Kamen Rider** for the U.S. viewers, instead they turned it into something worse. It would have been easier to just dub it and release the original Japanese series as it was originally. It would've been time and money saving but alas, **Saban** is only after the money these shows can bring from the ratings from T.V. and from merchandising, what else is new! (*Preach on, brother!-Rob*). While **Kamen Rider** (in Japan) rises to the heights with **GODZILLA**, **ULTRAMAN** and **GAMERA** in the aspects of *good stories, acting, SPX* and of course popularity, **MASKED RIDER** sinks down to the awfullness and silliness you would find in **Barney the Dinosaur**. In fact I hate to admit it but **DYNAMAN** (of Night Flight) and **ULTRAMAN: THE ULTIMATE HERO** is better than this show of **MASKED RIDER**. The Japanese **Toei** show -**Kamen Rider** is available on import video (*If you know where to look*). Watch **Kamen Rider** and compare to **Masked Rider** you'll notice the difference and I'm sure you'll pick **Kamen Rider**. When will **Saban** ever see the light? (*When TNT shows unedited and re-dubbed Ultra-7 episodes in chronological order, letterboxed in prime time-Well, maybe not-Rob*). Probably never! **MASKED RIDER REALLY STINKS!!!** I would rather watch a 12 hour non-stop marathon of **SEA HUNT**, **Gilligan's Island**, **Emergency** or **Little House on the Prairie** than to sit through 30 minutes of this trash. Like **MASKED RIDER**. Rating 1/2 zero/Lenell Bridges

Title : **MASKED RIDER**

Production Company: SABAN ENT.

Syndicated by: FOX BROADCASTING

Original Footage: TOEI CO. LTD, JAPAN

Starring: T.J. ROBERTS AS DEX/MASK
RIDER

RHEANNON J. SLOVER AS
MOLLY

ASHTON MCARN II AS ALBEE

DAVID STENSTROM AS HAL

CANDACE BENDER AS

BARBARA

KEN RING AS COUNT DREGON

JENNIFER TUNG AS NEFARIA

INTRODUCING: FURBUS

CO-PRODUCER : ANN KNAPP

SUPERVISING PRODUCERS:

MIKE MONTGOMERY

TONY OLIVER

SCOT PAGE-PAGTER

PRODUCED BY: ROBERT HUGHES

WRITTEN BY : SHUKI LEVY

SHELL DANIELSON

DIRECTED BY : SHUKI LEVY

SUPER HUMAN SAMURAI SYBER SQUAD

BY LENELL BRIDGES

When one company, **Saban** in general, has a huge hit show like the **Mighty Morphin Power Rangers**, another company has to jump on the bandwagon. **D.I.C. Entertainment** decided to do just that. They did it with **Super Human Samurai Syber Squad**. **D.I.C.** made this show using Japanese footage from **Tsuburaya's Denko Cho Jin Gridman** television series. Out of all the shows to get imported these days, **Syber Squad** in my opinion is the worst! It's so bad it's even lamer than that **Power Rangers** crap! I've seen the original **Gridman** show and it's *far better* than this "**Syber Squad**" series! The scripting and story ideas in **Gridman** were pretty bad, but **Syber Squad** is even worse! After I watched the first episode, I nearly *puked*! **D.I.C.** and the boys really screwed this show up! Here's the facts to back up my opinion on this show's review. Don't say I didn't warn you!

The stories of the episodes don't make sense and are stupid. The music which they use is also terrible. Even the music in the original series of **Gridman** was far better (especially in the battle scenes). The actors and actresses in **Syber Squad** don't even give good performances. In fact, they make fools of themselves! The acting looks like it was done by amateurs, even the villain of the series, **Kilokahn** (**Khandejifer** from the original series) is treated like a joke in this series! Also the intended humor is not even remotely funny. Why did they even change **Gridman's** name to **Servo**? It's bad enough they cut the show to pieces, but calling **Gridman**, **Servo** was uncalled for!

The only thing good about the series is the **Special Effects** by **Tsuburaya Productions of Japan**! They are excellent! **Tsuburaya** has proved once again they are the *masters*! Unfortunately, the bad dubbing in those parts downgrades the battle scenes as well!

In short, **Super Human Samurai Syber Squad** is so bad it's worse than the flawed *original* series! It's one of the worst offenses to American fans of Japanese sci-fi-fantasy that this show was hacked to pieces! I have not seen a show as terrible as **Syber Squad**! (*Rob here-At least until he saw Saban's Masked Rider!*) If you have not seen the original series, try to find episodes on import video uncut! You can compare for yourself the hack job between **Gridman** and **Super Human Samurai Syber Squad**! You'll see the difference! However, if you like **Syber Squad**, go for it!

Super Human Samurai Syber Squad is a perfect example of an original show from Japan that could have actually been improved upon, but is instead hacked to pieces! I have not seen one example of an American show that is *better* than the original Japanese version! If you haven't seen **Syber Squad**, don't even bother trying! It's so screwed up, it stinks! **You haven't missed a thing!!**

Rating Out of 4 Stars- Zero

TRENDMASTERS GODZILLA TOY LINE REVIEW

BY PAUL GAVINS



It was refreshing to see more positive commentary on the **Trendmasters Godzilla line** in **G-Fan #20**. I am not ashamed to say that they have done an *excellant* job and that I own quite a few of the little rascals! *Okay*, they're not 100% successful in all things but they succeed in ways the **Bandai** versions don't seem to.

First, they're solid. Literally so in the 4 and 6 " figures. They achieve exactly the "*play value*" they claim to. A friend of mine who also owns the large Bandai collection, calls them "*stunt figures*". They're the ones he let's his kids play with. Since the 10" **Space Godzilla** and **Gigan** came out they're the only ones they play with anyway. These figures are *built* and *painted* to go where no **Bandai** has gone before and return home intact!

Second, they're *cheap*. Generally quite well rendered and **REPLACEABLE!** I say generally well rendered, as some are either decidedly more *faithful* to their film appearance or are more interestingly interpreted than others.

Current aces in the whole are:

- * **10" MechaGodzilla**. Nicely done with lights and sound for about \$10 less than the smaller plain Bandai version.
- * **10" and 6" Space Godzilla**. Great sculpt especially the *near perfect 6"*!

*6" Mogera. Also worthy of note for good sculpt/appearance.

* Pop Up Rodan. Unusual but a great sculpt of Rodan with the Gargoyle flavor.

* Godzilla vs. Biollante in Washington D.C. What can I say?

It's an election year!

Upcoming releases include **Anguilas** and **Mogera** in 10" form and possibly **Biollante**, all late next fall. Those who missed the first wave of figures in 1995, now largely unobtainable, fear not! They will be re-released in the **Godzilla Wars** line. The plush toys have not been picked up as yet by stores due to concerns that their *electronic* roars would be too scary for their young owners! New 2-packs will feature the big guy in four different poses fighting a new 4" foe from the **Godzilla Wars** line. The new pose is worthy of much praise.

Now....the rest of the story(apologies to Paul Harvey).

Strongly finishing in the **WHAT WERE YOU THINKING?** category is the 10" **Gigan**. The sculpt on the box is *excellant* so why the *radical change*? He started out far better than the **Bandai** version.

*Walking Godzilla. Non option. Skin too loose, detail poor, head to soft. **NEXT!**

*40th Anniversary set II. I'm not coughing up \$25 for 3 new figures. **Anguilas** looks good by the way, different but good.

Having said this I must thank **Trendmasters**. They have created a *wonderful* line of toys you can *buy right here and now!* The range of products is *broad and interesting*. Ask yourself this- "*If this product came from Japan, would I view it differently?*". I never knew I needed a growing **Godzilla** until I saw it at a local **Toys- R- Us!**

To **Trendmasters** I would say- *Dump Spiga and Kamakiras, they're bugs. Do Titanosaurus and beat Bandai to the winner's circle!* If you do **Destroyer** (*They are-Rob*) avoid the *final stage*, (*Why, it's cool, Paul!-Rob*) the *flying stage* is more interesting. Don't worry about **Bandai figures** sold here in the **United States** (*Pontiac doesn't worry about Jaguar*). Different market share. To the fans: We are a small slice of the intended market. Despite what we may want to believe, it's the *kids who bug their parents* for the Super Deluxe Goji with the Kung Fu Grip that drive the market. *This has never happened before, it may never happen again, let's enjoy it for the great event it is.*

Word has it **Trendmasters** is after the **GAMERA** license. (*They have it!-Rob*)



Plug Section:

Henshin! Newsletter. Free publication. **Bob Johnson** and **August Ragone** are back after a long hiatus! Their **Henshin! newsletter** gives updates and reviews of the latest Japanese sci-fi/fantasy rumblings. Issue one features a look at the "**banned Ultra 7 episode 12**", all the latest news and a rant by August Ragone at the back of the issue about how he is mistreated by people he constantly corrects about "their facts" regarding articles they submit to fanzines



Kaiju Productions'

ISSUE #0

HENSHEIN

NEWSLETTER

A NEWSLETTER BY FANS, FOR FANS DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF JAPANESE FANTASY MEDIA

Write to Kaiju Productions, 1726 Divisadero, SF,
CA 94115

Creepsville Magazine. \$4.95 an issue. Published by totally cool dudes **Frank Kurtz** and **Roy Ware**. **Creepsville**

CREEPSVILLE

covers everything from u.f.o.'s, weird videos and comics to the latest news and stories from Japan in Roy Ware's Black Sun column, including *Ultraman*, *Godzilla*, *Kamen Rider* and such. Creepsville is currently available on comic book shop newstands and will soon be available on national retail bookstore shelves in late October! In October, the magazine will be a "flip over" style magazine, with one half being Creepsville and the other half being Roy Ware's Black Sun magazine! Be on the look out for my very own column, Rob Dagg's Asian Action Scene in *Black Sun*! You'll get the best news, reviews and articles covering the likes of *Jackie Chan*, *Jet Li*, *Bruce Lee*, *Chow-Yun-Fat* and others! Don't miss it! For subscription info write to: Laughing Reindeer Press, 1045 E. Wilson Ave, Lombard, Illinois, 60148

G-FAN

ULTRA-FAN

Ultra-Fan/G-Fan. \$2.95 an issue for Ultra-Fan, \$3.95 an issue for G-Fan. Both published by **Daikaiju Enterprises**. If you don't read these two mags already, you should be!

Oriental Cinema. \$4.95 an issue. **Damon Foster** is #\$\$\$^ing cool o.k.! Covering everything from Japanese superheroes to the latest low budget offerings from India! Get off your butt and pick up Oriental Cinema fast!

Damon has been around for a while and deserves your support! His writing style has offended just about every anime watching, zit-faced, overweight, internet cruising nerd, just what I love hearing! Write to Damon at : Damon Foster, P.O. Box 576, Fremont, CA 94537-0576. Damon, thanks for the plugs.

ORIENTAL CINEMA

Giant Robot. \$4 an issue. Published by **Eric Nakamura**, an Asian guy who finally started his own zine after probably reading too many American fanzines ranting about **Godzilla** and **Ultraman**(like me)! I found the spring 1996 issue at a recent comic book geek convention. The zine is very well done with articles including: "**China from A-Z**", "**I was Ultraman**" and "**Asian soft drinks**"! There's even a cool letters column with a wide array of people writing in, including some guy who wants to party with a fat sumo wrestler! How much better can you get! Write to: Eric Nakamura, P.O. Box 2053, Los Angeles, CA 90064 for more info on availability.

Club Daikaiju. The *source for Japanese sci-fi/fantasy toys, books, magazines, laser discs* and anything else you can think of! **Jim Cirronella** is the most *knowledgeable, friendly, honest and fast dealer there is out there!* Everything you order comes quickly and is packaged carefully, insuring your goods will get to you unscathed! Don't bother with the other guys! Write to Club Daikaiju, P.O. Box 1614, Fort Lee, NJ 07024 or call 1-201-587-8112.

Far East Heroes has plugged these zines and companies in order to promote and advance the Japanese sci-fi/fantasy media in the United States for **American fans**. These zines don't have hidden agendas or rant about bootleggers (they use these "bootlegs" for review in their fanzines anyway, go figure!) on every page. American fans need to support each other and we need to remember that this is all for fun. We don't need hypocrite fanzine editors

who promote Godzilla movies but then have the attitude that no one is supposed to have copies of them except for themselves because they "know someone" at the studio. Fans, let's stick together and have fun! Hope you enjoyed the issue.

FAR EAST HEROES is brought to you by
Godzilla model builder/backstabber productions. 1996.



ATTENTION CHAN FANS!

*"To jump through glass,
to jump off buildings, to be
dragged behind buses
...and handle it all...one of
the best filmmakers that
the world has ever known,
JACKIE CHAN."*



— Quentin Tarantino, introducing Jackie Chan

AT LAST, JACKIE CHAN HAS A FAN CLUB
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available. Join today! More
info? Write (SASE please),
e-mail or call.

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