



ISSUE
#0

Kaiju Productions'

HENSHIN NEWSLETTER

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

WELCOME TO OUR WORLD!

Thank you for joining the KAIJU PRODUCTIONS mailing list! For some of you it has been quite some time since any information has come your way. We apologise!! We have been looking into publishing options for our magazine or newsletter, titled *Henshin!* After a couple of deals didn't quite pan out, we became involved with participating in SF/Anime conventions, producing Japanese SPFX panel discussions. Most recently, we were at the Los Angeles Comic Book and Science Fiction Convention at the Shrine Auditorium where Bob Johnson dressed up in a promotional "Powered Baltan" suit and fought Ultraman Great in a stage show put on by us and ULTRACOM INC.

We have also done several lectures on Godzilla films in San Francisco, Portland, Virginia and Berkeley. Plans are currently being laid out for another Japanese Fantasy Convention and show, as well as a book project which is currently on the stove and may soon be cooking right along!


WHEW!! So as you can see, August Ragone, Bob Johnson and Patrick Macias have been pretty busy. The rumors circulating to the contrary have been greatly exaggerated (and sometimes downright humorous!). In addition to the above, we have also been contributing articles to other publications such as *V-Max*, *Asian Trash Cinema*,

G-Fan, *Kaiju Review*, *Yume Kaiju*, *Video Watchdog*, etc. Does this give us time to do our own 'zine? Unfortunately not, but we would like to thank all of you who helped support our previous magazine, *Markalite*, which led to the resurgence of interest in Japanese Fantasy and inspired fans to go out and put together some of the fine publications listed above (and later in this update). This does not mean that we won't be doing another mag in the future! You never know what will happen.

We would like to keep everyone updated on the projects going on out there, not only by ourselves, but by other fans! So here's how you can get the latest info and scoops! Send us a self addressed, stamped envelope and each time you get an update, send another for the next. We'll keep you posted on information involving conventions, books, mags, video and movie releases and whatever else is happening in the world of Japantasy. If you have information on any of the above you want fans to know about, just send it in to us and we'll pass it around!

Thanks again for all the past and future support, and keep your eyes open for us, we'll be around for a long time!!

AUGUST - BOB - PATRICK



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HENSHIN FLASH!

GUYFERD: FIGHTING-GOD OF THE 7 STARS

It is not a well known fact that Toho has produced a number of superhero teleseries over the years: **Rainbowman**, **Zone Fighter**, **Diamond Eye**, **Bankid**, **Megaloman** and **Cybercop**. Now Toho has returned with an all new entry, **Guyferd: Fighting-God of the 7 Stars** (Shinchi-Sei Toshin Gaifuado), produced in association with Capcom, Inc. and Kokusai Films.

Guyferd continues the tradition of the long line of Henshin Heroes mixed with the fighting games made popular by Capcom, such as the immensely popular phenomenon of **Street Fighter II**. Thus, the show is a hybrid: part all-out fighting, part monster series, a combination that has not been attempted since the early 1970s!

While searching martial arts schools throughout Japan for a missing friend, Go Kazama (Hiroyuki Kawai), a student of the ancient "Ken-Nou-Ryuu" style, is kidnapped by the evil organization "Crown." This subversive, secret society transforms him into a "Guyborg" (ala **Kamen Rider**), a battle cyborg to police their "Mutation" creations. These monsters were once human, but were injected with a sample of the Neo-Lifeform "Fharra," creating their mutation, until they are under Crown control. Little does Kazama know, that he himself has been injected with the Fharra, which allows the Guyborg to transmutify into the ultimate fighter: **Guyferd**! After defeating the mutant Jax, a renegade Crown scientist (Nobuoichiro Akaboshi) helps Kazama to escape the Crown HQ.

Unknown to society at large, Crown is a world-wide science organization, led by the villainous "Mr. Vykross" (Ken Okabe, known for his role as "Dr. Akunomiya" on **Denjin Zaboga**, 22 years ago), who with the assistance of his underlings Miro and Megumi Shion, have created an army of biogenetically manufactured mutant monsters, employed as footsoldiers in their efforts to conquer the world. Only Go Kazama stands in Crown's way.

By yelling "Gaikisou!", Kazama becomes empowered with the "Technique of the 7 Stars", seven deadly martial arts techniques representing the seven heavenly elements: "Retsuga-geki" (a plasma attack), "Kyoku Sei-Ken" (Chi-powered punch), "Geki-Ryu Shou" (Chi-powered karate chop) and the kicking techniques: "Bakurai-Wa" (Exploding Mine Wave), "Saigeki-Shu," "Fukaran-Bo" (Tempest Flower Raining Chaos) and the "Jirai-Shin" (Land-Mine Shock). **Guyferd**, the Fighting-God of the 7 Stars is born!

The series began April 8th, on TV Tokyo and is the brainchild of the man who brought you the innovative and aforementioned **Cybercop**, Hiromitsu Muraishi, who is also directing the series. After seeing the first several episodes, all this author has to say is, **Guyferd** is the BEST show of its kind in many a moon. With the majority of genre teleseries going serio-comic, **Guyferd** is a breath of fresh air: serious and violent! This is the program to watch out for, a hero series that is the closest thing to the 1970s' "Golden Age" of Japanese superheroes, a story uncluttered of endless vehicle and mecha merchandising dictated by the corporate giant Bandai.

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED!



Above, Toho's new hero GUYFERD.

Left, Kazama prepares to transform. Below left, Toei's third series of



SUPER-LIGHT WARRIOR: CHANGERION

Toei, enjoying the most success they have had since the "Golden Age," and without much fanfare, has produced a third superhero series for the 1996 season, **Super-Light Warrior: Changerion** (Cho-Ko Senshi Shiyanzonion), premiering on TV Tokyo, April 3rd (the same network as **Guyferd**) and was created by Saburo Hatte. Shot on video, **Changerion** features the exploits of happy-go-lucky private-eye Akira Suzumura, who stumbles into the middle of an attempted hijack of a truckload of "power crystals" by a monster from "The Darkside." As the truck crashes and explodes near him, Suzumura is bombarded with the particles. Soon afterwards, members of a scientific research organization find him out and bestow him with the "Chanvisor," allowing him to challenge the forces of The Darkside as "Changerion."

The Dark Dimension's Monster Army is led by the vile "Priest Mordoz." This evil, other-worldly organization is breaching into our plane (ala **Stargate**) and only Changerion can stop their "Darkness Monsters."

With the use of computer CDs, Changerion employs the assistance of three support robots, which transform into vehicles: "Houjinki" (a hover-cannon), "Rikushinki" (a motorcycle) and "Ku'uretsuki" (a flying unit), in order to halt the plans of Mordoz and his cohorts "General Zandar" and "Professor Vinsuuh."

This show seems promising. The first several segments were entertaining and seemed to be more tuned to the early 1980s in approach (light-hearted hero + serious setting), i.e. **Space Sheriff Sharivan**. The series' SPFX are being helmed by Toho/Tsuburaya alumnist Kazuo Sagawa (**The Last Dinosaur**) and boast some impressive CGI optical effects and slick production values. Definitely superior to Toei's current entries in its Sentai (**CarRanger**) and Metal-Hero (**Beetle-Fighter Kabuto**) categories this season, in that it is taking a different approach than the aforementioned series of the last several years. However, **CarRanger** is growing on me. It is an intentional comedy and I like that.

Changerion is being sponsored, like **Guyferd**, by a toy manufacturer other than Bandai: Sega Enterprises. This is a radical move, since all of Toei's shows are sponsored/controlled in part by Bandai and most other shows supported by underdog toy companies (i.e. Takara for **Cybercop**) flopped. Perhaps it is a time for change. Let's hope that **Guyferd** and **Changerion** lead that change...the Japanese superhero needs it!



EASTERN FRONT

A group in Japan claiming to be the friends of Japanese A-bomb survivors of World War II are obviously no friends of our's. Not only have they had episode #12 of **Ultra 7** banned for the last 25 years, they also had the mutant's scene from **Catastrophe: 1999 (Last Days of Planet Earth)** trimmed out of the film in Japan. Now, horror of horrors, they have banned a movie that saw its first release in theaters in 1963, Toho's **Matango**, better known here as **Attack of the Mushroom People**. About to be re-released on laser disc, the film was deemed as offensive to victims suffering side effects from nuclear radiation. What's next, **H-Man** or **The Mysterians**? This type of overreacting has got to stop! By condemning **Matango**, this group has deprived fantasy fans in Japan of one of Toho's finest films.

The second of the new Gamera films has been released in Japan, this one called **Gamera 2: Advent of Legion**. Running against high expectations brought on by the first film, this one features an all new monster that arrives on Earth via a meteor. The name Legion refers to the swarm of otherworldly insects that swarm like locusts similar to the Biblical story. This swarm combines to become the final, giant monster. Living on glass and having a psychic link to a giant plant, this monster(s) will provide a formidable foe for the titanic turtle. See future issues of **Henshin** for more news and reviews on this reptilian slug fest.

Ultraman Neos has been scrapped due to lack of original ideas for the series and **Ultraman Wonderful World** is playing in theaters throughout Japan (see review in this issue). Look for an all new Ultraman on Japanese TV this Fall. The series is only in the planning stages as of this writing, so look for more information later on!

If you get the chance to see **Ultraman Zearth** (the third part of **Ultraman Wonderful World**), watch for Cleveland native Brad Warner with the film's only English lines. As a reporter on the scene, Brad stated, "The golden mask of King Tut is missing. Professors August Ragone and Bob Johnson of the Markalite Institute of Egyptology have been called in to investigate." Unfortunately, the line was cut.

Toei has been very busy lately with no less than three live action superhero shows on the air as of this writing. **Oh-Ranger** has concluded and spawned an original video release called **Super-Powered Task Force OH-Ranger - OH-Ranger vs. Kakuranger**. Back on the TV screen, the Sentai series are revving up and burning rubber with **Nitro-Fueled Task Force: Car-Ranger**. Could this be a follow up or rip off of Toei's earlier **Turbo-Ranger**? Only time and **Henshin** will tell. But, I'll do ya one better if you've got the nerve, let's race all the way to **Deadman's Curve**.

Beetlemania is still strong in Japan as **Heavy Armored Beetle-Fighter** (Jukou Befuaita) concluded in March with the heroes facing off



with and destroying the head villain, Gaoim. The series ended with a special two-parter teaming up **Beetle-Fighter** with **Blue Swat**, **Janperson** and their ally, **GunGibson**. Since the series was picked up by Saban (see **Western Front** below), a second season of **B-Fighter** will be aired in Japan, called **Beetle-Fighter Kabuto** (Befuaita Kabuto), with all new heroes, mecha and villains. The setting for **B-F Kabuto** is several years after the defeat of Gaoim. The Earth Academia is now called the Cosmo Academia and utilizes a much stronger **Beet-Armor** which is fifty times stronger than the original. Stay tuned for more as **Beetle-Fighter** hits US shores!

Godzilla may be dead, but Toho is still very much alive. In theaters, Toho is releasing a sequel to a movie that did very well in last summer's box-office. The new film is called **The School of Ghosts 2** (Gakko no Kaidan 2). It is directed by Hideyuki Hirayama. I'll let you guess the title of the first film.

Another film coming out this year is a remake of a late 1970s Shochiku film called **Village of the Eight Gravestones** (Yatsuhakka Mura). It is based on a story by Seishi Yokomizu and directed by Kon Ichikawa, who did **Princess From the Moon**.

Gaga Communications is back in the fantasy business with three releases of its own this year, **Otherworldly Evil** (Makai Tensho), a remake of a film that starred Sonny Chiba and Hiroyuki Sanada leads the way. **Blue Dragon** (Doragon Buru), which features a Gillman-type monster designed by Steve "The Guyver" Wang and **Wizard of Darkness 2** (Ekoeko Azaraku 2) follows as a sequel to guess what film.

Gaga is also releasing a video version of Go Nagai's comic strip called **The Shameless School** (Harenchi Gakuen). This one features a guest appearance by Daijiro Harada who played the G-Force pilot from **Godzilla vs. Mechagodzilla** and a character called "Hige-Gojira" which means "Bearded Godzilla." Maybe he's not dead, just old and gray.

Other fantasy entries to watch for are Bandai Visual's film version of Osamu Tezuka's **Blackjack**, an other-worldly surgeon, starring **Kamen Rider** hero Hiroshi Fujioka and a made for video series called **Blackout** (Burakuauto) which is billed as a cross between **Tsuburaya's Operation: Mystery** (Kaiki Dai-Sakusen, 1968) and the **X-Files**.

This year's **Godzilla** entry (sorry—it's hard to accept he's dead) is a film featuring **Mothra**. Look for a film featuring a solo story of **King Ghidorah**, based on a prophecy by Nostradamus that a dragon will decimate the Earth in 1999. Guess he didn't know it would be Toho's three headed wonder.

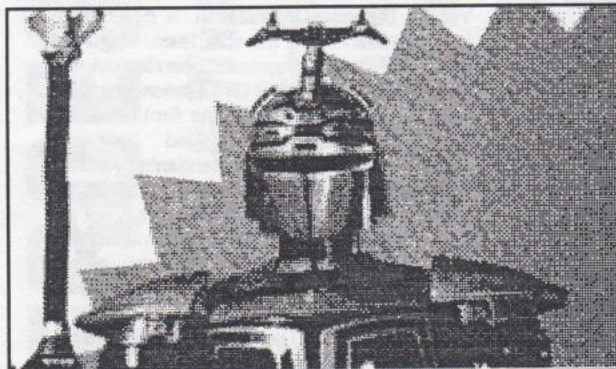
On to the other side of the Ocean...

WESTERN FRONT

There is almost as much news in the West as in the East these days. Is a Japanese invasion of the US in the works? Judge for yourself!

Leading the way to the US market are those chop-suey specialists, Saban with three series running in the fall. **Power Rangers** has been renewed for another sixty episodes next season under the new name of **Power Rangers Zeo**. Those who keep an eye on local toy stores already know that the Rangers are finally changing their costumes for the new and improved **OH-Ranger** models. Some color changes will be made. Tommy goes from White to Red, Adam from Black to Green and Rocky from Red to Blue. David Yost, originally intending to leave the series, has had a change of heart (probably noticing how well the other deserters have done) and will probably be King Ranger, known in Zeo circles as either the Black or Gold Ranger.

As mentioned in the *Eastern Front*, **Heavy Armored Beetle-**



Fighter will be coming over here as **Big, Bad Beetle Borgs**. Not much info as of this writing, but we will have more next ish!

Everyone's favorite Saturday morning bug is also back. No, not Spider-man, but **Masked Rider**. Look for more of the same as last season.

For those of you who like your Japanese Fantasy in a classic vein, look for Orion Video's release of **Johnny Sokko and His Flying Robot**. The first four volumes cover the first eight episodes with two each at SP speed. You can't go wrong with this, especially at a suggested retail price of under ten bucks!

The big news though is the acquisition of **Gamera Guardian of the Universe** by A.D. Vision! It is slated for video, but look for a limited theatrical release in at least ten cities first. This is the best Japanese monster movie since the

1960s, so get out there and support it! If it comes to your town, let us know here at **Henshin**, and we'll see if we can compile a list of where it was shown.

It doesn't get any better than that, so we'll end it here. Look for more great news next issue!

ULTRAMAN WONDERFUL WORLD

By Richard Phillips

After filming an eight minute pilot for a proposed series called *Ultraman Neos*, Tsuburaya Productions scrapped the idea in favor of a theatrical release called *Ultraman Wonderful World*. This film is made up of three parts and was released in Japan in March of this year. Following is a review of each part of the film.

Part 1: Ultraman Lives. This part is edited together from episodes of the 1966 *Ultraman* series with a new soundtrack featuring the voices of the original cast and new music. Brief new footage is added, along with computer graphics added to the old scenes. This thirty minute short feature attempts to re-resolve the original series on a more upbeat note. As you remember, the final episode of the original *Ultraman* (episode 39) ended with our hero defeated by the "Space Dinosaur" Zetton and being guided back home by his commander, Zophy.

This film begins with Ultraman's defeat after which Arashi destroys Zetton. Zophy does not appear. Instead, Ultraman returns to human form as Hayata. The Science Patrol discusses how Ultraman has fallen into a "slump" and Ito begins work on an Ultra "Stamina Drink" which will bring Ultraman back to normal. The monster Dodonga appears and the Patrol goes out to fight it. Dodonga kills the friendly monster Pigmon after which Hiyata becomes Ultraman and destroys it. Meanwhile, an army of monsters including Gahora, Jiras, Gango, and Woo appear at various places in Japan. Ultraman uses a new found ability to split into several identical Ultramen in order to battle all the beasts.

After Ultraman defeats all the monsters, Zetton reappears. Ultraman re-integrates and goes after Zetton. Just as the powerful beast seems on the verge of defeating our hero once more, Ito appears with

his new "Stamina Drink" missile, fires it at Ultraman's Color Timer thereby reviving him. Ultraman defeats Zetton and the day is saved.

While the editing work is seamless and the voice matching is mostly good (only Arashi's voice seems to have changed considerably with age) the story is not worthy of the Ultraman tradition. It's embarrassingly silly and far more reminiscent of Ultraman Taro than the original series. The battle scenes look great in wide screen with new, brighter, sparklier computer graphics for the laser beams and explosions, but the new scenes are glaringly obvious and cheap. With a better story, this could have been great. As it is, it is a let down. Who really needed an upbeat ending anyway?

Part 2: Ultraman Company does not fare much better. It is sort of *Ultraman Kids* for grown-ups, with a cute gang of animated Ultraman characters cast as office workers in a company on Planet Kinuta (Kinuta is the district where Tsuburaya Productions is located in Tokyo). The story tries hard with villains and chases and plenty of action. But ultimately it is nearly impossible to follow and the characters are uninvolved.

Part 3: Ultraman Zearth (Zay-us) is something altogether different. Director Shinya Nakashima is well known in Japan for his hilarious commercials, particularly a "Stamina Drink" (?) series starring Arnold Schwarzenegger and some wonderful clay-mation commercials for Cup Noodle. On his first feature film he delivers. The action never lets up for a second and though the jokes sometimes fall flat in this parody of the Ultra legend, the story sweeps the viewer along too fast to notice.

Gold is vanishing all over the world. Statues melt, gilded buildings crumble to dust and tons of gold bullion mysteriously turn liquid and get sucked through the floor of Japan's version of Fort Knox. MYDO, the Mysterious Yonder Defense Organization, is called in to investigate. The five member team, disguised as service station attendants, operates out of a normal looking Idemitsu Gas Station (Idemitsu were the main investors in the film). Inside is hidden a super-sophisticated base of operations. One of the attendants, Katsuto Asahi, is in reality Ultraman Zearth. Unlike Hiyata, Dan Moroboshi, et al, Katsuto is not the heroic type. He is sort of the team's mascot and has a paralyzing fear of dirt and grime, spending much of his day washing his hands again and again.

The gold-eating monster, Kotenpo, makes an appearance. Controlled by the evil alien from planet Benzen, the beast kidnaps Katsuto's love interest and three children, holding them hostage on an island in the middle of a filthy lake on top of a mountain.

Realizing that Zearth and Katsuto are one in the same, the Benzen alien knows Zearth will never set foot in the lake. What is more, if Zearth uses his mighty Speshoo-shoola beam on Kotenpo the resulting explosion will destroy the Earth. The only option is hand to hand combat.

This is what Ultraman should be. The effects are spectacular and the suits, while obviously costumes, are some of the best yet seen in the Ultra series. The action is fast and furious and the story is strong. This is what we always knew Ultraman could be. Like Daiei with their new Gamera series, it seems Tsuburaya Productions is ready to re-invent its thirty year old character in a new and exciting way for the twenty-first century.

Next issue, the Ultraman that almost was, *Ultraman Neos*!



Above, Tsuburaya's newest hero, ULTRAMAN ZEARTH!
Left, Ultraman Zearth takes on the monster Kotenpo.

Photos & Characters
© Tsuburaya Productions 1996

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ULTRA 7

By August Ragone



It has been noted in many Japanese publications concerning Tsuburaya Productions' Ultra-Series, that when it comes to the third entry, 1967's **Ultra Seven**, Americans find it curious that episode #12 is never listed. No photos, no explanation, nothing. Only rumors persist, concerning a certain "banning" of a segment, but not what the circumstances were or what is more important, why?

According to Japanese sources, the episode in question was run several times in original reruns of the series in the late 1960s and into 1970. It was about this time, that a children's book containing an entry on the now-infamous episode came to the attention of a woman involved in an organization representing victims of the A-Bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. She was shocked by a story concerning interplanetary nuclear war survivors in search of fresh blood to cleanse their contaminated race.

Notifying her organization, she rallied them together to halt further airings, or publishing materials of the offending episode. Their argument was that the story made A-bomb victims out to be monsters (even though none of them are related to a single victim of either bombings!) and they won. Fortunately this injunction could not effect Tsuburaya Productions' overseas sales of the show, and so, #12 "From Another Planet With Love" (Yusei-yori Ai-o Komete) was run during the 1974-75 broadcasts in Hawaii. But, the show did not make it to the mainland as planned and #12 went into limbo again.

Directed by Akio Jissoji (famous for the more eccentric episodes of **Ultraman** and the recent film **Tokyo: The Last Megalopolis**) and written by his scribe of choice, Mamoru Sasaki (Oshima's **Death By Hanging**), **Ultra Seven** episode #12 was originally broadcast 12/17/67 and was the third highest-rated segment, garnering a 32.8% share of the Japanese viewing audience.

A friend of the Ultra Garrison's Anne Yuri, Sanae (played by Hiroko Sakurai, Fuji from **Ultraman**), receives a call from her brother's school, informing her that the young Shin has collapsed under mysterious circumstances. When it is discovered that he is all right, she scolds him for wearing her watch to school without asking. The watch was given to her by her new boyfriend, Saburo. A watch that is now all the rage with young women, a watch that is a common thread in a rash of mysterious deaths, where the victims have been drained of all their blood!

Ultra Garrison agents Dan Moroboshi (the secret identity of Ultra Seven) and Anne Yuri begin tailing Sanae in hopes that "Saburo" will reveal information to them. Later, Saburo enters a building where it is revealed that he and his fellow Spehl are not fond of courting young Earth women and need to take more aggressive measures to preserve their race...to cleanse the radioactive poisoning from their bodies. When Shin's crystallized blood is analyzed, the aliens discover that it has a much higher and stronger content than young women. Now they decide that they will just spread the popularity of the "vampire watches" among children, by giving them out as part of a drawing contest.

The Ultra Garrison is able to thwart the Spehl's plans, so one of them increases his size to challenge the interlopers and a desperate battle ensues between the humans and the dying race. At last, Dan Moroboshi transforms into Ultra Seven and enters the fray. Soon the combined efforts of the Ultra Garrison and the hero from the stars are able to stop the aliens in their tracks.

After the smoke clears, Dan Moroboshi hopes that one day,

beings from other worlds will be able to try to ask for help first, instead of using aggression as a means to an end and that all beings will join hands as brothers.

It is a shame that such a well-done segment of the **Ultra Seven** series, one of the show's finer examples, has come under such fire by a group that is so misdirected that it is blinded by its own righteousness. Unchecked and unchallenged, this group has gone on to ban **Catastrophe: 1999** and now **Matango**. They may be just films, and unimportant to "real life"...but what's next? **Fahrenheit 451** anybody?

● ふだんは地球人と同じ大きさに化けている。放射能におかされ、四〇メートルに巨大化できる。重さ一万吨。

● 地球人が打ち上げた核爆弾のために、ケロイド状のすがたになっている。新鮮な地球の子どもの血をとるため。

● マッハ二〇で大空をとびまわる。

被爆星人
スペル星人

スペル星人メモ

地球防衛軍は、凶悪な宇宙人侵略に対抗するひみつ兵器「スペルウム爆弾」を完成し、宇宙で実験した。この放射能が、たまたま近くにあったスペル星にふりそそいだ。怒ったスペル星人が、地球になぐりこみをかけてきたのだ。

August Ragone's Watching!



"Just the Facts Ma'am!"

Sometimes I feel just like one of my heroes, Sergeant Joe Friday. I ask people for the facts (or help them with them), and they treat me with the same venom criminals reserve for the police. Remember what you were taught as a child: "If you're lost or in trouble, find a policeman; he'll help you." My name's Ragone. I carry a badge.

Several people in the Japantasy 'zine business have been somewhat or greatly offended by Officer Ragone, simply for sending in letters of corrections--albeit without the formalities of *sucking up*: "your mag is so great, etc., etc., but....ahem....I don't want to bother you, but, there was this one...*um*....little thing wrong with...." Whatever. On the flipside of the coin, which I always seem to be on, I am not rude or mean-spirited. I just want to get the facts. Period. It seems to bruise people's egos--oh well. Now, you say, "I bet you're never wrong, Officer Ragone." or "If the same thing was done to you..."

Well, sorry my detractors (all five of you), it HAPPENS--even in the letters section of *Markalite* (my own magazine, where I could easily have omitted it), and you know what? I accepted the information gracefully, punctuating my response with a "You got me!" Was that hard? NO! It was the natural reflex of a journalist/editor, and a barer of the torch of facts. My mistake was corrected, the true facts prevailing in the matter, all done for the sake of the readership and the curtailment of inaccuracies in film history.

That's right, film history! Therefore, we all have a responsibility to the Facts, not egos--no, that doesn't mean you can't write for, and/or publish your 'zines. What it means is, you now have a responsibility as **journalists**, a responsibility to the **facts**; if something you have printed is untrue or "slightly inaccurate" and you're called on it, accept the correction graciously (the person correcting you is taking time out to HELP you); if they didn't care about your publication, you would never have heard from them in the first place.

Unfortunately, the '90s are a sensitive P.C. era, where everyone, everywhere whines about how they are not getting what they deserve, or how you can't criticize them because they've labored so hard on their work. Boo

Hoo! Now, go cry to Mama, because she's the only one who'll wipe your bottom. A good job should make you feel proud from within yourself, not from people kissing your boots. If you're putting yourself in a public forum (i.e. printing a zine/having an article published), you're setting yourself up. Like it or not. You do not deserve applause, unless you have done your job "Above and beyond the call of duty." Only your readership knows when you've reached that lofty plateau. Don't pat yourself on the back: a historian's job is never done.

Fifteen years ago, the scene was vastly different. The publishers, writers, editors, contributors and readers of various fanzines all strived to help each other out. Criticism was a "positive" thing and big egos were out of the question (and were generally left to sit alone). There were at least a dozen 'zines happening in the mid-to-late '70s, and amazingly little fighting. This is building up to another story, which I'll save for later...

A journalist has only two responsibilities: 1) to his Readership and 2) to the Facts. If you are not sure about a point or two in your article, essay, etc., do some fact checking (which is an art even lost on mainstream journalists today). And, by all means, DO NOT stack your chips on a single source: check through more than one reference book or publication. Ask several experts, but remember, more than one person/article could be wrong. Even Japanese sources have been wrong, they make mistakes too!

If you writers/editors out there don't think much of my diatribe, good luck, I may have to stick to re-reading the journalistic excellence found in my old *Japanese Fantasy Film Journals*, or back issues of *The Monster Times*.

In closing, I'd like to quote another hero of mine, Harlan Ellison-- "The only opinion you're allowed to have is an *informed opinion*."

Godzilla Bless You,

Facts Officer August "I don't make 'em, I only enforce 'em" Ragone.

P.S. Get a sense of humor!

RECOMMENDED READING!

These are publications currently in print, directly relating to Japanese film and TV which are highly recommended.

✂ **ORIENTAL CINEMA & HEROES ON FILM** (Magazine)
Draculina Publishing, PO Box 587, Glen Carbon, ILL. 62034

✂ **KAIJU REVIEW** (Digest sized Fanzine)
301 East 64th Str. New York, NY 10021

✂ **G-FAN & ULTRA-FAN** (Magazine - primarily Godzilla and related)
DaiKaiju Enterprises, Box 3468, Steinbach, Manitoba, Canada R0A 2A0

✂ **ASIAN CULT CINEMA** (Digest sized Magazine)
PO Box 16-1917, Miami, FL 33116

✂ **FAMOUS MONSTERS OF JAPANLAND; aka YUME-KAIJU** (Fanzine)
Montag Enterprises, 1151 Raymond Av. #205, Glendale, CA 91201

**Send an SASE to the above in regards to availability and prices. If any of you know of any other 'zines out there, write us!! We'll print them in a future update, thanks!

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