



QuestNews

The Official Publication of QuestClub™

Volume 2
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SCHWAATCH!

Greetings Ultrafans! The response to Issue 1 of *QuestNews* has been nothing short of phenomenal. Thanks for all the great comments, some of which we've printed in this issue.

The new series, *ULTRAMAN: The Ultimate Hero*, is now in post-production and scheduled for completion in March of next year. We've got exclusive photos from the set and the monster shop in this issue.

The first issue of the new monthly *Nemesis™ ULTRAMAN* comic book series should be on newsstands by the time you finish this sentence. It features a great new character and storyline with a very Japanese flavor.

In other publishing news, Viz Communications will be releasing a *ULTRAMAN* graphic novel series starting next month. A French-language version of the three-part mini-series published this spring will be printed by Editions Falc in 1994.

New *ULTRAMAN* sweatshirts and t-shirts will be hitting stores next year from Swago, a company that specializes in shirts from classic TV properties. We've also added a new item to our mail order products: *ULTRACAPS*. They're milk caps from Hawaii, where these caps are a collecting craze.

We visited Tsuburaya Productions in Japan this summer. *QuestNews* readers can come along on the trip by reading the article on page 4.

You'll also notice that *QuestNews* has a new design this issue. Let us know what you think of our new look.

Happy 1994 from Nebula M78!



The WINR Team: Kenichi Kai (*ULTRAMAN*'s alter ego, played by Kane Kosugi), Theresa Beck (Sandra Guibord) Capt. Russell Edlund (Harrison Page), Carolyn Fontaine (Robyn Bliley) and Eric Sanders (Rob Roy Fitzgerald).

ULTRAMAN: The Ultimate Hero

In the blazing sun of Burbank, CA, *ULTRAMAN* filmed his tenth live action series this summer. The shows are currently in post-production (editing, effects, etc.) and will be completed in the spring of 1994. *QuestNews* will keep you posted on all the latest developments!



Last minute adjustments from costume creator Kevin Hudson and . . .

ACTION!



The new *ULTRAMAN*. The foam suit was created from a body mold of stunt man Scott Rogers. 15 suits and a half-dozen specially-equipped heads were used during filming.

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Monsters Galore!!

One of the coolest things about the new series is the return of classic monsters from the original show, all rendered in lovingly gruesome detail. Head creature creator Kevin Hudson (left) gives his buddy Baltan a big hug, while Bruce Spaulding Fuller (right) hams it up with Gomora. Kevin & Bruce met while working on *Predator 2* and Kevin also worked on *Batman Returns*. Both guys dig *ULTRAMAN* and Japanese monster movies and made these monsters as real as possible. They have blood-shot eyes, veined tongues, scaly toenails and plague-laden, yellowing teeth. Mrs. Red King (middle) was the belle of the ball...until she got thrown off a cliff!



Photo courtesy: Tsuburaya Prods.

New ULTRACAPS Available

The latest addition to our QuestClub merchandise is a new set of collectable caps called ULTRACAPS. Sounds good, right? Got to have a set of your own, right? Except, what the heck are these things, anyway?

Milk caps, which are often called "POGs," have taken Hawaii by storm, where millions of them have been avidly collected and are used to play a game similar to marbles. The round cardboard caps, which are about the size of a poker chip, are printed with a design, logo or other art. (The name POG is derived from the promotional caps made for a Passion-Orange-Guava juice produced by Haleakala Dairy in Hawaii.)

Caps have been distributed in Hawaii by Kentucky Fried Chicken, McDonalds, Eclipse Comics, Comic Images and created with popular images including *Jurassic Park* and the NFL. These caps are now expanding into the collectibles market in the rest of the U.S. as evidenced by their appearance at the San Diego Comic-Con and in numerous articles in the *Comics Buyer's Guide*, the top trade publication of the comic book industry. In short, some people think they're going to be the next big thing in collectibles.

Released in a limited edition of only

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ULTRAMAN graphic novel series in 1994

Viz Communications, Inc. of San Francisco is pleased to announce a January, 1994 publication date for the first volume of a new six-part series of graphic novels depicting the adventures of ULTRAMAN.

Published as part of the "Viz Manga Heroes" line, the title of the series is *ULTRAMAN Classic: The Battle of the Ultra Brothers*. Volumes 1-6 will be released on a monthly basis through June. The new series is an English-language version of a previous Japanese manga series published in Japan by Shogakukan Inc., the parent company of Viz Communications.

Each of the six volumes will be 64 pages long, with color covers and black & white interiors. The series will be sold in comic book stores in the U.S. and Canada, with a retail price of \$4.95 per volume.

New ULTRAMAN comic book in stores this month

Harvey Comics Entertainment has begun publishing a new monthly ULTRAMAN comic book series through its new Nemesis Comics™ division.

The first issue, *ULTRAMAN #1 (Negative One)*, was shipped to stores the week of Thanksgiving. The comic book will be available in two formats, an embossed card stock cover direct version for \$2.25 and a newsstand version for \$1.75. The second issue, *ULTRAMAN #1*, is currently scheduled to be shipped on December 28, and the third issue, *ULTRAMAN #2*, on January 25.

The series features Jack Shindo and introduces a new identity for ULTRAMAN—Ace Kimura, a Japanese-American who must struggle with his samurai roots, mysteries of his past and the strange mysticism that now fills his life. Artist Ernie Colon returns from the three-part *ULTRAMAN* mini-series published by Harvey last spring and is joined by writer Larry Yakata for this exciting new series.

Other titles in the Nemesis line include *seaQuest* (based on the TV series) and *Frank*, a graphic, modern update of *Frankenstein* for older readers.

New T-Shirts & Sweatshirts Available in 1994

Swago T-Shirts of Fort Lauderdale, Florida will begin manufacturing and distributing licensed ULTRAMAN t-shirts and sweatshirts in January.

Swago has been issued an exclusive license for screen-printed t-shirts and sweatshirts, excluding mass-market sales, for the U.S. and Canada.

Swago T-Shirts, founded in 1989, ships t-shirts to more than 300 specialty retail stores and had a sales volume of \$2.3 million this year. Other popular characters in the Swago line include the classic TV properties *Astro Boy™*, *Mighty Mouse™*, *Gigantor™*, *Underdog™*, and the *Banana Splits™*.

ULTRAMAN Wows Crowds at Comic-Con, WorldCon

ULTRAMAN posed for photos, autographed comic books and posters and otherwise thrilled thousands of his fans at the 24th annual San Diego Comic-Con, August 19-22 and at ConFrancisco, the 51st World Science Fiction Convention in San Francisco, September 2-6.

Spending 2-4 hours each day at the Nemesis Comics booth at the San Diego Comic-Con, the visitor from Nebula M78 was mobbed by curious ULTRA fans and QuestClub members, who came by to meet their hero. Many posed for photos with him, sometimes before he even made it into the exhibit hall! *Sci Fi Buzz*, the weekly news program of the Sci Fi Channel, also visited ULTRAMAN at the Nemesis Comics booth.

Nemesis Comics distributed a promotional "ashcan" mini-comic book preview of the upcoming ULTRAMAN monthly. QuestClub applications and copies of *QuestNews* were distributed to fans. The Comic-Con exhibit hall featured many vendors selling Japanese ULTRAMAN products, including LA Hero selling their UTTF and *ULTRAMAN: The Adventure Begins* videos.

ULTRAMAN attended WorldCon on September 5, where he greeted fans and was "interviewed" for San Jose Community Cable. QuestClub applications and copies of *QuestNews* were distributed to attendees, who were thrilled to hear about *ULTRAMAN: The Ultimate Hero*. ULTRAMAN's classic good looks also earned him a special "Hall Costume Award," complete with certificate and a large ribbon, and he had the rare opportunity to "network" with other alien life-forms among the more than 8,000 attendees at the Moscone Center.



QuestClub member Rajar Shy of Escondido, CA, attended the San Diego Comic-Con to meet his hero ULTRAMAN. Rajar has been an avid ULTRAMAN for years.

Autographed ULTRAMAN Comic Books Still Available

Cover artist Ken Steacy autographed 100 sets of the Harvey Comics *ULTRAMAN* mini-series exclusively for QuestClub members and we still have a few sets available. These three-book sets are available for the members-only price of only \$14.95 per set and are limited to no more than 3 sets per person, due to limited quantities. Postage and handling is \$2.50 for one set or \$3.50 for two or three sets (CA residents please add 8.25% sales tax). To order, send check or money order made out to Ultracom, Inc. for the appropriate amount, plus your name, address and the number of sets ordered to: ULTRAMAN COMICS, c/o QuestClub, 12440 Moorpark St., Suite 150, Studio City, CA 91604. Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.

Where (Outside of M78) Can you find ULTRAMAN Collectibles?

by Bob Johnson

I remember my first contact with ULTRAMAN. It was in the late 1960s, on my parents' old black and white TV, the kind with the tubes. For years I thought ULTRAMAN was silver and gray! Finally a new kid moved into the neighborhood and his parents had a color TV—the first on the block. Kids gathered around it every day like a shrine where we watched an afternoon's worth of kids shows, culminating with ULTRAMAN. Hey, he's silver and red!

Once the television station stopped showing ULTRAMAN, he lived on only in our minds for years. Although you could go to the local toy stores and buy toys from just about any show on, there was nothing from ULTRAMAN.

Years later, we began discovering pockets of Japanese stores in larger cities (such as "Little Tokyo" in Los Angeles and "Japantown" in San Francisco) which also included toy, book and record (remember vinyl?) stores. From each of these stores over time came an abundance of ULTRAMAN merchandise. (I don't even want to think how much money I would have now if I didn't start this expensive habit!)

For those who are just now getting into ULTRAMAN or who have following the exploits of this monster fighter for years, finding Japanese neighborhoods or malls in the larger cities in your area is still a good, though at times expensive, way to start your collecting. For example, Pony Toy Go-Round stores are Japanese toy stores located in five Yaohan Plazas in the U.S. in Los Angeles, Chicago, San Jose, Torrance, CA and Edgewater, NJ. Yaohan Plazas consist of groups of Japanese stores in a mall-like setting, so if you like a variety of Japanese products you'd probably make some interesting finds in every price range.

As the Japanese animation boom started to hit the U.S., some ULTRAMAN merchandise made its way over with "anime" items found at comic and specialty stores. However, these items are often very overpriced in these types of outlets.

The best way to get Ultra-paraphernalia is to get yourself a Japanese contact

(continued on p.6)



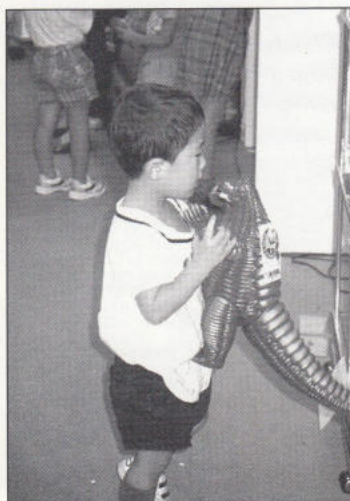
QuestClub members Greg Barr and Aleta Jackson of Washington, D.C. helped ULTRAMAN fend off invaders at ConFrancisco, the 51st World Science Fiction Convention. Greg and Aleta are both space activists and big anime fans.

How I Spent My Summer, or If It's Tuesday, This Must Be Kanazawa

by Kate McMains



It's your humble QuestNews editor (above) checking out the prop shop at Tsuburaya Productions. We had plenty of reinforcements (below), in case any monsters came to life!



I was honored with a personal invitation from Mr. Noboru Tsuburaya to visit Tsuburaya Productions Co., Ltd. in Tokyo this July. Besides seeing the home of ULTRAMAN, I was able to visit several of the annual ULTRAMAN festivals held in Japan every summer, and to attend a symphony concert at Tokyo's Suntory Hall commemorating the 30th anniversary of Tsuburaya Productions. QuestNews readers are invited to come along on my first trip to Japan:

I departed from Los Angeles, where I live, at around 2 pm on Friday, July 23 and arrived at Narita International Airport at 5 pm on Saturday evening (long flight, plus an intense time difference of 16 hours).

I stayed at the Capitol Tokyu Hotel, which was built in 1963 for the Tokyo Olympics. It's located in the Akasaka section of Tokyo, which is comparable to my old Capitol Hill neighborhood in Washington, DC. I could see the Diet Building and the then-unoccupied Prime Minister's house from my window. (Japan was in the midst of historic changes in its government this summer.)

Summers in Tokyo are generally wet—either with rain or intense humidity. When I got up on Sunday it was raining. I got rained on all day, at the Hie and Meiji Jingu shrines, at the ULTRAMAN Shot M78 store in Harajuku and received a royal drenching at the Imperial Palace grounds. I finally dried off at our ultimate destination, the ironically named Sunshine City, home of Tokyo's ULTRAMAN festival.

Sunshine City is an immense high-rise shopping mall which advertised the July 23-August 31 festival with posters in subway stations. Housed in a large exhibit area, the festival featured displays of human-sized ULTRAMAN characters from all the series, props, masks, production photos, full-sized monsters and a 20-foot-tall Zetton, whose thunderous footfalls could be heard throughout the hall (and felt when standing on a special panel in front of him).

There was a stage show where several ULTRAMAN characters appeared and the children in the audience sang along to the theme songs and answered Ultra-questions for prizes. Audience members got to come up and shake ULTRAMAN's hand.

The crowning glory of the festival came in the last room, a motherlode of ULTRAMAN merchandise. There must have been at least 1,500 items available (75 monster figures alone). Coming from the U.S., it was astonishing to me to see that much ULTRAMAN merchandise in one room and gave me perspective about just how popular he is in Japan.

The next day I visited Tsuburaya Productions (TPC). The birthplace of the ULTRAMAN series is in the Setagaya section of Tokyo, a largely residential part of the city that also houses Toho Studios, home of Godzilla. Taking the subway, then a commuter train away from downtown to get to TPC, I was able to avoid the infamous crush of commuting in Tokyo.

Once at TPC, I was asked to report on the activities of the QuestClub to Mr. Tsuburaya and the top executives at TPC. They were pleased to hear that there are many loyal ULTRAMAN fans in the U.S. who have joined the QuestClub.

I took a tour of TPC and was surprised by how compact it was. Land is so expensive in Tokyo that every available inch of space must be put to productive use, TPC being no exception. I visited the monster shop with all its gruesome inhabitants, which is housed in the eaves of the main building. Some of the monsters and ULTRAMAN figures were being repaired by craftsmen at TPC before being shipped to other festival sites. GRIDMAN, a new TV series from

Sunshine City, home of the ULTRAMAN Festival. Nothing could be sweeter than a boy with his first monster (left), one of the many sights in the huge merchandise area (right). This store had more than 75 monsters for sale, several available in many forms.



TPC about a hero who lives inside a computer, was filming in one of the conference rooms, which had been converted to a teenager's bedroom for the shoot.

It was a busy week at TPC, with much of the activity centered on the 30th anniversary concert scheduled for July 28. The Tokyo Symphony Orchestra played ULTRAMAN music, guest-conducted for a portion of the show by Australian conductor Patrick Thomas. Mr. Thomas was the original conductor of the music composed by Shinsuke Kazato and recorded by the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra for *UTTF*. The concert also featured performances by noted jazz saxophonist Teramasu Hino, and singing by Mr. Tsuburaya, who's a famous recording artist in Japan, besides his many other accomplishments.

On the morning of July 30, I flew to Kanazawa, which is a coastal town on the Sea of Japan about 350 miles west of Tokyo. I toured "ULTRAMAN World," the huge Kanazawa festival. As great as the Sunshine City festival was, the layout



The ULTRAMAN Post Office at ULTRAMAN World in Kanazawa. All mail is forwarded to Nebula M78 for reply!

and exhibits in Kanazawa were even more impressive. There were displays of an all-ULTRAMAN bedroom and bathroom featuring many licensed ULTRAMAN items available for the home. An "ULTRA Post" station was set up for kids to send mail to their hero at Nebula M78. You could also buy custom t-shirts made from photos of you with ULTRAMAN.

I topped off my brief stay in Kanazawa with a wonderful meal in a traditional restaurant including sashimi (raw fish), cooked fish, and steak so tender we ate it

with chopsticks, all consumed at a low table in our own soji screened room. Dinner was followed by mandatory karaoke at a tiny local bar run by a woman called "Mama." ULTRAMAN themes and Mr. Tsuburaya's hit songs were available for us to sing-along to. Since they were in Japanese, I could only join in on the choruses, chanting "Leo, Leo" or "Taro, Taro" when appropriate.

I was obliged to sing two of the few English songs available, managing a passable "Stand by Me" and a nightmarishly off-key "California Dreaming."

I left Kanazawa the next day and took the Shinkansen or "bullet" train, back to Tokyo. I spent Sunday shopping for gifts at ULTRAMAN Shot M78 and other stores in Harajuku, an area near Olympic Stadium where young people (and Elvis impersonators) gather at on Sundays.

On Monday afternoon, I returned to Los Angeles. I was so exhausted I felt as if I'd been to Nebula M78 instead of Japan, but it was a great feeling to visit the birthplace of ULTRAMAN!

Impressions of Japan

I came back to the U.S. with many impressions of Japan, some expected, some unexpected. My biggest handicap was not knowing the language. I felt like a small child, unable to verbally communicate even basic ideas with others. This gave the trip a surreal quality, because I'm a very verbal person.

I felt safe everywhere in Tokyo and experienced culture shock when I returned to Los Angeles and had to resume my posture of urban vigilance. I've also noticed that I now have a tendency to reflexively bow my head whenever I hear people speaking Japanese—even if it's in a movie!

Japan offers a true service economy, where shops and restaurants consider it a matter of honor to properly serve their customers. I visited a department store where my glassware purchases were thoroughly inspected for flaws before each item was individually wrapped by hand. Your change is always presented to you on a tray and spotless taxi cabs are driven by men wearing white gloves. And, all this service is in a country where tipping is not customary.

Food and drinks were available on train

platforms without the corresponding trash problem you'd have in the U.S. Vending machines are common, stocked full of caffeine-laden beverages, or sometimes even with beer. Although it's strange to get used to thinking of sushi as fast food, it's downright scary to see U.S. grease emporiums such as Kentucky Fried Chicken and McDonalds serving as our emissaries to the world. Cigarette smoking is much more prevalent in Japan, compared to the legislatively smoke-free environment I'm used to here in California.



English words are not uncommon in Tokyo, since English is taught in schools and it is an international city. But its usage is

strange and misapplied—a clothing store in Harajuku called "Teenage Poisoning," for instance. Some people enjoyed practicing English with me, like the owner of a Beatles memorabilia shop called "Get Back." He told me he was making his first trip to the U.S. to attend a Beatles convention in Chicago, but planned to stay in his locked hotel room at night because he feared for his safety in the U.S.

Sad to say, he wasn't the only person I met on my trip who viewed the U.S. as a place where everyone owns guns and uses them on each other. The best I could do was to tell them that I didn't own a gun, nor have I ever been the victim of a violent crime (knock wood). I felt ashamed of my country seeing it from this new perspective.

My advice to travelers heading East would be to study Japanese language, culture and customs. Frommer's Travel Guide provided me with tons of information about Japan. Although your transgressions will be generally overlooked, it is always wise to get an idea of what is and isn't acceptable behavior (bowing and politeness are always a good idea). And bring lots of money to stock up on ULTRAMAN goods!—KM

COLLECTIBLES (continued from p.3)

and trade. But, this is not always the easiest route to take. If you are still searching the U.S., but don't live near areas of large Japanese population, mail order is probably your best bet (see insert in this newsletter for info on Horizon/Pony Toy Go-Round).

But, what is there to collect? What can you buy and how do you know what's out there?

ULTRAMAN merchandise has been around as long as ULTRAMAN himself and floods of items have come out over the years based on the Ultra-series running at the time. From *ULTRA Q* to the coming flood of merchandise from *ULTRAMAN: The Ultimate Hero* (known in Japan as *ULTRAMAN POWERED*), Tsuburaya Productions has never been shy about promoting their shows with a wide range of products.

The most detailed of the toys are "garage kits," models made of resin or vinyl (so that's what they did with all those records!). These kits are manufactured by Billiken, Horizon, Kaiyodo, Max Factory and other Japanese companies and you can find a wide variation of ULTRAMAN poses and styles as well as plenty of monsters. Keep in mind, though, that you have to build and paint these yourself.

For those of you without the time or aptitude for models, Bandai has been releasing it's plastic ULTRAMAN toy line for almost 10 years now and has covered all the ULTRAMAN heroes and a vast majority of the monsters.

From some smaller Japanese companies (and from other Asian countries) you can find masks, pencil sharpeners, buttons, pajamas, puzzles, rubber stamps, candy or other small items. Don't forget about books, CDs, posters, tapes, etc. Large music/video stores such as Tower or Virgin Superstores are sometimes willing to special order items if you have enough information about the item for them to look it up.

Since I live in California, the list below includes stores I know of here that sell ULTRAMAN items. If you know of any stores in your area that stock ULTRAMAN goodies, write to the Editor of *QuestNews* and we'll publish periodic collecting updates. Let's get shopping!

Pony Toy Go-Round stores are located in Yaohan Plazas in Los Angeles, Chicago, San Jose, Torrance, CA and Edgewater, NJ (just outside New York City). Mail order items are available from Pony Toy Go-Round, 912 E. 3rd St., Los Angeles, CA 90013, (213) 617-0058. A wide variety of monsters and ULTRAMAN figures are available (see enclosed order form) and calls are encouraged for information about other items. For books, try Books Nippan, 532 West 6th St., Los Angeles, CA 90014, and Kinokuniya Book Stores, 1581 Webster St., San Francisco, CA 94115. These stores also have branches in New York, as well as other cities. CDs & Laserdiscs can be found at Laser Perceptions, 3300 Judah St., San Francisco, CA, 94112

ULTRACAPS (continued from p.2)

20,000 sets, the 10-piece ULTRACAPS set includes nine different ULTRAMAN characters from the various series produced since the show's debut in 1966. The tenth cap is a special "25th Anniversary" logo created by Tsuburaya Productions in 1991 to commemorate ULTRAMAN's first quarter-century of production. The sets feature high-quality color printing and foil on cardboard stock and will retail for around \$10. QuestClub members can purchase one or two sets for only \$7.95 per set plus \$1.50 postage and handling for one set, \$2.50 for two. Members who order three or more sets pay only \$6.95 per set plus \$3.00 postage and handling. Send your orders to: ULTRACAPS, c/o QuestClub, 12440 Moorpark St., Suite 150, Studio City, CA 91604.

MONSTER
PROFILE

by Kevin Grays



The Ancient Monster
GOMORA

Height: 40 meters Weight: 20,000 tons

Place of Origin: South Pacific, Johnson Island

This awesome creature of incredible strength and physical endurance was introduced in episodes 26 & 27 ("Kaiju Denka," The Royal Monster) of the original 1966 *ULTRAMAN* TV series. This was a double-episode story in which Gomora almost succeeds in slaying our hero in its desperation for survival.

When first discovered, Gomora became the subject of great scientific curiosity as a living relic from Earth's prehistoric age. Scientists classified it as a "Gomorasaurus," and the species was estimated to have survived for over 150 million years. Attempts to sedate and capture the creature for study proved disastrous when the uncontrollable monster broke free to unleash its devastating might against modern civilization.

Gomora can burrow deep into the Earth and maneuver underground for long periods of time. The monster's diamond-hard horns, massive hide and powerful tail are among its strongest defenses and weapons.

Gomora resurfaced to lead several resurrections of other latter Ultra-series monsters in battle against the Ultra Brothers and Hanuman, the Hindu white monkey god, in the 1974 Japanese-Thai co-production titled *The 6 Ultra Brothers vs. The Monster Army*. In this film, Gomora exhibits the ability to fire energy rays from his horns.

Gomora II, with an additional set of horns protruding from the sides of his neck, emerged from the central mountains area of Ogadake in episode 22 of *ULTRAMAN 80*, entitled "Wakusei ga Narabu Hi Nanika ga Okoru" ("When the Planets come into Alignment"). In the animated children's series *ULTRAMAN Kids*, Gomotan, a Gomora child caricature appears, wearing a cowboy hat and vest.

Wow! Did we ever get a lot of letters in response to Issue 1 of *Quest News*! Many thanks to all those who wrote in with comments and suggestions and we're sorry we don't have room to print them all. If you have something you'd like to ask us, send your letter to: Editor, *QuestNews*, 12440 Moorpark St., Suite 150, Studio City, CA 91604.

As a member and a growing fan of ULTRAMAN and the entire "ultra-mythos," I am very interested in seeing the original ULTRAMAN TV shows that aired in the 1960s. Is there any possibility of those old episodes being released on home video? I'd like to comment on your informative first issue of *QuestNews*. Would you consider adding written stories or even comic strip shorts from readers? I can't wait to see *ULTRAMAN: The Ultimate Hero*! I was bummed when *ULTRAMAN: Towards the Future* stopped running, but I have faith in the upcoming series and in your newsletter!

Derek Lipscomb
Anaheim, CA

We get more letters from QuestClub members asking about the availability of older series on video than any other question. We're looking into releasing episodes from the original series in 1994 and QuestClub members will be notified as soon as tapes are available. We'd be glad to add stories and/or comic strips from readers. Feel free to send them in!

I just received my first issue of *QuestNews* and it was worth the wait—my favorite superhero is finally getting the attention he deserves! I grew up watching the original 1966 series and it will always have a special place in my heart. In the final episode, I had a lump in my throat when Zeton killed ULTRAMAN. I am excited to hear that ULTRAMAN and Zeton will have a rematch in *ULTRAMAN: The Ultimate Hero*. This time I hope a certain red and silver giant will prevail. I'm also excited to see that Baltan and Dada will be back—they were some of my favorite Ultra-enemies.

I have a couple of questions I hope you can answer. I'm having trouble remembering what some of the original Ultra-enemies look like. Can you print pictures of them? Is there any chance of the original series being remade? Will the Beta Capsule return?

Robert "Beta Capsule" Dagg
Dearborn, MI

We'll be running "monster profiles" as a regular feature (see p. 6) in *QuestNews*, so I'm sure you'll get a chance to catch up with your monster-viewing. The original series will not be remade exactly, but *ULTRAMAN: The Ultimate Hero* will feature the return of the Beta Capsule.

I think QuestClub is the best thing to come to the world and I'm glad I joined it. I just have a couple of questions I need to get off my chest. Which series (besides the new one) features the monster Red King and who is he? Do you know which channels the new *ULTRAMAN: The Ultimate Hero* is going to be shown on? Any chance ULTRAMAN is going to make an appearance in Ohio? Any chance for an ULTRAMAN vs. Godzilla movie?

Eddy Woodson
Akron, OH

Red King made his debut in the original ULTRAMAN series in 1966 and was also in ULTRAMAN 80. An animated Red King also appeared in THE ULTRAMAN, the only animated Ultra series. ULTRAMAN and Godzilla are unlikely to meet in a movie, due to the complexity of legal rights with the two properties (Godzilla is owned by Toho). We'll let QuestClub members know when and where the new series will be shown, but since post-production on the series won't be completed until next spring, don't expect it to be shown before then. If ULTRAMAN has plans to visit Ohio, we'll let you know.

RED KING
by Kevin Grays



The wait for your newsletter was paid off in an outstanding publication. The content was informative and well-organized and presented in a polished format. As an adult who remembers watching ULTRAMAN in the early 1970s, I hoped for something like this, and here it is. I would like to offer a few suggestions as follows: publish lists of companies in the U.S. that distribute ULTRAMAN-related products; publish more photos (the first issue had some great

ones, let's see more per issue); publish monster profiles with pictures (episodes featured in, origins, fates, etc.) and profile the Ultrabeings similarly; and show production scenes or publish articles relevant to creating the series. If you can do these things, you'll have a publication I'd pay for!

Paul K. Gavins
Akron, OH

It's nice to know that great minds still think alike. Send your money in anytime, Paul.

Your club is one of the better fan clubs to come along. For years, I've dreamed about a club dedicated only to ULTRAMAN stuff, not *Star Trek*, *The Avengers* or any other shows. Now that the QuestClub exists, let's overload on ULTRAMAN! Inundate us with information on this show. For starters, what does the "Q" stand for in ULTRA Q? And why did ULTRAMAN used to have an open mouth on his first series?

Larry Hollie
Watertown, MA

The "Q" doesn't stand for anything. It was chosen for phonetic reasons. ULTRAMAN had an open mouth for the first 13 episodes of the original series, but this was changed to the current, closed mouth because of the difficulties of getting the mouth to look & move realistically. No doubt this could be accomplished with today's special effects technology, but ULTRAMAN's static face is also a distinctive, stylized look not unlike like Noh theater in Japan.

Thank you! Thank you! When I got home from a bad day of work, the waiting first issue of *QuestNews* made my day. Now I have a place where I can get all my ULTRAMAN questions answered.

I first discovered ULTRAMAN from his Nintendo™ game, then *UTTF*, then the comic book series and action figure from *UTTF*. And now, thanks to you wonderful folks, I have the very first issue of *QuestNews*.

I haven't ordered any of the UltraWear items because I've been burned when ordering clothes through the mail before. Could you have your clothes modeled by people, maybe in color?

Patrick Powell
Collins, GA

The design for our T-shirts features the round ULTRAMAN head logo complimented by colored layers of triangles symbolizing the chest timer and the word ULTRAMAN in red. The pattern is in red, white, black, green and orange. The shirts are preshrunk white 100% cotton Beefy T's in adult sizes that run large. The baseball caps are one-size-fits-all black cotton with the head logo in red stitching. We feel our UltraWear items are a good value for \$11.95. Glad we made your day!

QuestNews is published quarterly by Ultracom, Inc., the official licensor and distributor of ULTRAMAN shows and products.

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Contributors: **Bob Johnson, Kevin Grays, August Ragone**

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ULTRAMAN™ and related characters
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MAT Moves. Far East Heroes Formed

The Monster Attack Team, reported on in the last issue of *QuestNews*, has moved from its base in Dallas. You can now write to this Japanese live-action fan club at: Route 5, Box 1373, Sanger, TX 76266.

A new club, called Far East Heroes, has been formed by Michigan QuestClub member Robert "Beta Capsule" Daggs. Dedicated to anime, Japanese TV shows & movies and martial arts films, the club plans to publish a free bi-monthly newsletter. You can join by writing to: Far East Heroes, 6503 Barrie, Dearborn, MI 48126.

QuestClub™

12440 Moorpark Street, Suite 150
Studio City, CA 91604

Now on home video

ULTRAMAN: *Towards the Future* and ULTRAMAN: *The Adventure Begins*

Fans of the *UTTF* series can now get episodes on home video, plus the animated feature *ULTRAMAN: The Adventure Begins*. The first eight volumes of the 13-episode *UTTF* series are currently available and the set will be completed soon. Distributed by Books Nippan USA and produced by LA Hero, Inc., the *UTTF* episodes retail for \$14.95 each, and *ULTRAMAN: The Adventure Begins* goes for \$24.95. These videos are available at Tower Video, Sam Goody, the Wherehouse and other major video retailers in the U.S. and Canada. (Many video stores will be happy to special order them for you.)

The tapes are also available on a mail-order basis from Books Nippan, 1123 Dominguez St., Unit K, Carson, CA 90746.

Markalite Update

According to co-editors Bob Johnsons and August Ragone, *Markalite*, the magazine of Japanese fantasy, is currently negotiating with a new publisher/distributor for Issue #4 and beyond. The editors will be mailing out an announcement as soon as everything is finalized. To put your name on their mailing list, send your name and address to *Markalite*, P.O. Box 6846, Oakland, CA 94603. Issue #4 (which is ready to print now) will feature *Kamen Rider* and Issue #5 will be devoted to the history of Tsuburaya Productions, with articles about *ULTRAMAN: The Ultimate Hero* and *GRIDMAN*, a new TPC show airing in Japan.

Make the scene with UltraWear

Tired of wearing the same old clothes? Looking to make an "Ultra" fashion statement? Dress up your wardrobe with the power of ULTRAMAN and his alien foes Barrangas, Bogun, Gerukadon, Kilazee and Majaba. Six different 4-color designs (one for each monster, plus one for ULTRAMAN) are available in generous adult sizes S, M, L and XL printed on white 100% cotton pre-shrunk T-shirts. ULTRAMAN baseball caps are also available, made with high-quality black canvas with red embroidery and an adjustable strap. These T-shirts and caps sell for \$11.95 each, plus \$3.00 shipping & handling per item. (CA residents please add 8.25% sales tax.) Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery (but it's usually less). To order, mail your name and address, a list of items and sizes ordered with a check or money order for the amount due (including shipping costs and applicable tax) made out to Ultracom, Inc. to: **UltraWear, c/o QuestClub, 12440 Moorpark St., Suite 150, Studio City, CA 91604.**

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Editor

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--ATTENTION ALL ULTRAMAN FANS. We at PONY TOY GO-ROUND would like to become your number one source for ULTRAMAN figures, monsters, and all other Ultraman related items. Please stop by one of our retail stores and see the huge variety of Ultraman items we have to offer. For those who are unable to travel to our store, we offer full mail order service on the same products as in our stores. On the reverse side, we have listed Ultraman figures and monsters that we carry. For all other Ultraman related items that you may be interested in, please call our mail order number listed below to find out if we have what your looking for. (Sorry, no other ultraman catalog is available.)



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U L T R A P R O D U C T S

UltraWear

ULTRACAPS

Catch the latest wave from Hawaii: ULTRAMAN milk caps. This 10-cap collectible set features 9 different ULTRAMAN characters plus a special anniversary logo made with quality color printing & foil on cardboard stock. Retailing in stores for \$10, you can order your set for only **\$7.95**. Order 3 or more sets and pay only **\$6.95** per set!



Our quality ULTRAMAN t-shirts and caps feature this logo.

Hey Ultrafans!

Get that Nebula M78 feeling with licensed ULTRAMAN merchandise. Six great t-shirt designs plus a cap will dress up your wardrobe with the power of ULTRAMAN and his alien foes. Decorate your room with a ULTRAMAN quality art poster. Start collecting ULTRACAPS. Order your merchandise today!

ULTRAMAN FantasyArt Poster

Set in a futuristic cityscape, the scene depicts ULTRAMAN in a fierce battle with winged, reptilian invaders. Quality color printing on heavy paper make this beautiful 18" x 24" poster suitable for framing. Retailing for \$15 in stores, you can order your poster for only **\$12.95**. Additional posters are only **\$9.95** each!

ULTRAMAN & related characters TM
and copyright 1993, 1994
Tsuburaya Productions Co., Ltd.



Our t-shirts feature full color designs printed on 100% preshrunk white cotton in generous adult sizes of Small, Medium, Large & "Ultra" Large! Choose ULTRAMAN or one of his five foes pictured at left.

Send your order form with check or money order to:

ULTRACOM, INC.
c/o QUESTCLUB
12440 MOORPARK ST.
SUITE 150
STUDIO CITY, CA
91604.

Shipping & Handling fees

Please allow 6 weeks for delivery.

T-SHIRTS & CAPS: \$3.00 per item

POSTERS: \$3.00 for 1

\$4.50 for 2 or more

ULTRACAPS: \$1.50 for 1 set

\$2.50 for 2 sets

\$3.00 for 3 or more sets

Shirts: Adult sizes S M L XL. Caps: Red on black, one size fits all. Posters 18" x 24."
ULTRACAPS: 10 individual milk caps per set.

Qty	Description	Size	Amount
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	BARRANGAS shirt		
	BOGUN shirt		
	GERUKADON shirt		
	KILAZEE shirt		
	MAJABA shirt		
	ULTRAMAN cap		
	Single ULTRAMAN poster	n/a	\$12.95
	Additional posters	n/a	
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CA residents add 8.25% sales tax			
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