jgf19

JGFL - The Japanese Giants Fan Letter, #9, is published by Brad Boyle, PO Box 8168, Salt Lake City, Utah 84108. Contributing editor is Dave Milner. Only one back issue for sale, #8, and its a quarter. JGFL will fold with #12, and the last three issues will be combined to form one giant issue. Price- $1.00. Art this issue by Jeff Gusky, Greg Ewald and Bill Gudmundson. Cover: Rodak and Goldar from THE SPACE GIANTS. David Summers, and Brad Warner. Written contributions:

EDITORIAL
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Hello and welcome to the last regular sized issue of JGFL. Next issue, as noted above, will be my last, and a giant-sized one at that. Price will be $1.00, postage paid. Those who have subs that don't end before #10 will receive it at no extra cost. I'd also like to say I'm sorry about how bad the printing is. This shitty typewriter (borrowed) has a lot to do with it, I would suppose. I'll try to type up some of the pages on a different one. Japanese Giants #5 is out, and is it beautiful! I hope you will all order an issue. See the ad somewhere in this issue. I urge you all to support this worthy endevor.

Next issue will have no editorial by me, so I'd like to thank you all now. I realize that JGFL has gone downhill during the last few issues, and I'm sorry. Next issue may look some what like a scrapbook, because of all the art I have, I want to fit in. Also in it will be the conclusion of Kappa, and all the other articles that I have lying around that haven't been printed.

But I'm just retiring from the printing aspect of Japanese fandom. Hopefully I'll still be seen in other fanzines. And to you who have been interested in my personal life (God only knows why!) I'll reveal a little about myself. My hobbies include basketball (I plan to play in college, but so far I've only got offers from small colleges), frisbee (I'm working on becoming a Master), movies (of course), Kurt Vonnegut Jr, and various other meaningless activites. I plan to major in biological science. I'm rather tall (6 foot 6), and weigh about 190. So if you see me walking in your town, say hello.

Brad

JAPANESE GIANTS

Long thought extinct, JAPANESE GIANTS has once again surfaced in the vast ocean of fanzines, now under new editorship.

JAPANESE GIANTS #5 continues to bring its reader high quality material and articles dealing with the Japanese fantasy cinema.

#5 features, among other things, an in-depth review of REVENGE OF MECHAGODZILLA, information and photographs from Toho's THE WAR IN SPACE, a filmbook on the little known LATITUDE ZERO, blueprints from Mecha-Godzilla, and much more. All for $1.25 + 25¢ postage.

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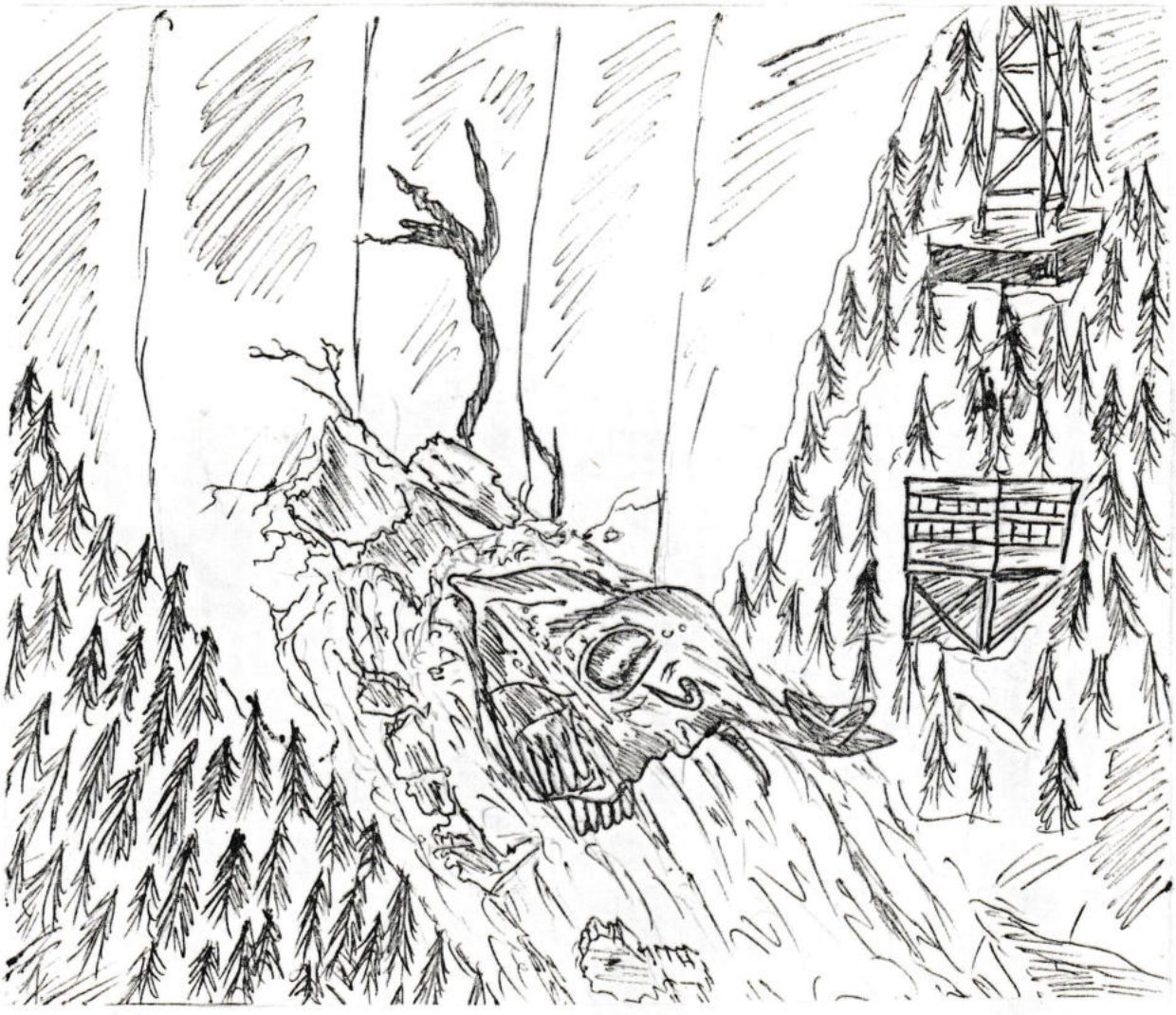

The two following reviews were sent to me by Brad Warner and David Summers.

THE GODZILLA RECORD by Brad Warner

The cover of the record album is deceiving as it is a reprint of the cover of the GODZILLA comic #1. Let me tell you that the record is in no way connected to the Marvel comic. The story lines and sound effects hold very closely to the real Godzilla. The record contains two Godzilla stories- "Godzilla vs. Amphibion" and "Godzilla vs. the Alien Invasion." Both stories deal with giants monsters other than the Big G. Godzilla vs. Amphibion deals with a giant lobster off the coast of Florida (in the Burmuda Triangle, no less). In it, Godzilla is an established good guy. And they do mention that Godzilla was in Japan in 1954. They describe the Big G as a 400 foot Pelosaur (pronounced Play-o-sore) and the non-scientific people call it a giant lizard that spits fire. The sound effects come from the 'theme song' of Godzilla, etc. /Editor here- What? And by the way, this review does not reflect the editors views/ And they alternate between the familiar Big G roar and a raor that was used in only the first Godzilla movie, but both are authentic. The second story deals with two mutated aliens which attack Chicago. The only major flaw is that both storys are shortm but this is necessary as the producers only had one record. It's in stereo and it's inexpensive ($2.40)

VOYAGE INTO SPACE 8mm film review by DAVID SUMMERS

This film contains scenes from various episodes of Johnny Sokko and his Flying Robot. It begins with Johnny and companion being chased through a building by enemy Guillotine agents. They meet up with a professor who introduces them to the Giant Robot. He hands Johnny the watch that controls it, and tells him that the robot will only listen to the first voice it hears. The professor leads Johnny and companion out of the building but gets shot doing so. He manages to pull a destruct lever which kills almost everyone and destroys everything but the giant robot. Johnny talks to the Robot and it responds. He now has control of the robot. Suddenly, they meet up with Guillotine's monster Drokulon. The robot defeats the monster but then meets up with Guillotine in person. He manages to grab him and heads off into space where he kills himself by flying directly into a meteor.

CONTEST
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The ten drawings below are of Godzilla, from ten of his movies. To win, all you have to do is guess which Godzilla head goes to which movies. Winner will recieve $3.00 worth of material off my list. Second place is $1.50 worth of items, and third is $..50. All drawings by Bill Gudmundson. You need not get all right to win, so send in your guess even if you don't know. Deadline: 30 days after the date that this issue is mailed. Go to it!

#1

#2

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#4

#5

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#7

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#10

JAPANESE CARTOONS THAT REACHED AMERICA.

If your in your high school years now, chances are you grew up watching cartoon shows like SPEED RACER, ASTRO BOY, and GIGANTOR. And if you are really into the Japanese film fantasy culture, you probably still watch reruns of these cartoon shows today, if you are lucky enough to live in an area that repeats them. In the 1960's,the Japanese cartoon boom reached the shores of America. The series's that were shown here were all on syndicated television, which means that the networks(ABC,NBC,CBS) did not purchase the shows.

The first Japanese cartoon show that came to American syndicated TV that we have listed is ASTRO BOY. This series dealt with a Doctor Boynton, a scientist, who loses his wife and son in a car crash.This tragedy left the doctor lonely, so he created Astro Boy, a robot.(Just why a robot is named "boy" is never made clear). Astro Boy, the indestructable, super-powered robot, serves as Dr. Boynton's companion. The episodes depicted Astro Boy fighting crime and battling evil everywhere. Another supporting character in this series was Dr. Elefun. This black and white series ran in 1963.30 minutes each episode.

THE EIGHTH MAN,produced in 1965,featured the adventures of the Metro International Police, a secret crime-fighting organization that was located in Metro City. One of their agents, Peter Brady,is killed by a villain named Saucer Lip. Professor Genius, who also works for Metro, embodies the life force of Brady into that of a robot. Thus, Tobor the Eighth Man, the indestructable robot, lived. This show used the old Superman routine: Tobor appeared in the image of the mild-mannered Brady. Episodes told how Brady, as 8 Man, fought evil and of his search for Saucer Lip, who had killed him. In the final episode, Eighth Man kills Saucer Lip, ending the series. Black and White;30 minutes each episode.

GIGANTOR showed the battles against interplanetary evil as Gigantor, another robot, fought to preserve the universe. His 12 year old master, a rather obnoxious child named Jimmy Sparks, and Police Inspector Blooper were the supporting cast. Syndicated in America in 1966. Black and White. 30 minutes each episode.

MARINE BOY was a secret agent for The Ocean Patrol, an international defense organization established beneath the sea of Japan. Joining Marine Boy in his crusade against evil were Splasher, his pet dolphin; a professor named Fumble; Mr. Beacon, a fellow agent;and Doctor Mariner,Marine Boy's father, who was also the head of the Ocean Patrol outfit. Other agents seen from time to time were Corrie, Piper, and Voltan. This black and white series ran in syndication in 1966. 30 minutes each episode.

PRINCE PLANET came from the Galactic Council Of Radion. He was a boy sent to the Earth to protect it. He was quite a thinker-an I.Q. of 300. But he was also a fighter, and he battled crimes of all kind to help clean up the Earth. If he suceeds in this task, the Earth would be accepted into the Galactic Control Of The Solar System. Prince Planet reached Earth and took the secret identity of Bobby. His earthly girl friend was Diana Worthy; Dan Dynamo, an ex-wrestler, was the Prince's allie; Pop Worthy, Diana's father, was the owner of the Worthy Ranch, were Bobby lived. In the fourth episode of PRINCE PLANET, a magician named Ajababa joined the cast as the Prince's helper in fighting evil. He also provided comedy relief. Considered by many as the best of all the Japanese cartoon series's that reached the States, PRINCE PLANET made 52 episodes. In the final one, entitled THE STAR AT HOME, the Prince destroys Krag of Kragmire, his main foe,and returns

to Radion to give his verdict of the Earth to the Supreme Council on wiether our humble planet should be voted in to The Galactic Union or not. Will the Earth be allowed to join? We may never know for sure, as the series ends. Black and White. Syndicated. 30 minutes each episode.

SPEED RACER was neither a robot or a space prince;he was just a good, old fashioned earth boy for a change. This was the first series to be shot in color. Pops Worthy invented the Special Formula Mark 5, the fastest car in the world. His son, who had the unlikely name of Speed Racer, drove the car in races all over the world to become known as the greatest racer ever. Speed had a large supporting cast. First, there was his father, Pops, who bore a striking resemblance to Dynamo Dan of PRINCE PLANET; Racer X, who was Rex Racer, Speed's brother, who had ran away from home years ago to become a Secret Agent Man; Trixie, Speed's girl friend; Spridal Racer, Speed's younger brother; Chim Chim, Spridal's pet monkey; and Inspector Detector, a police chief. In the episode entitled THE TRICK CAR, Speed finally learned that Racer X was really his brother Rex. Color;1967. 30 minutes each episode. Featured the many voices of Corrine Orre. This series was spawn from a movie, THE MOST DANGEROUS RACE (1967), that was later incorporated into the TV series.

The last of these shows was KIMBA, which achieved great fame in both 1966 and 1967. It began in Egypt, 4,000 years past. The evil pharoah, King Tut Tut, causes Egypt to lose its prosperity. Fradies, the King's minister, gives his pet white lion a special wisdom formula. Fradies then sends the animal into the Village, where the people believe him to be the spirit of the Sphinx, and follow its leadership. The lion is so wise that Egypt becomes a wealthy nation again. One day The Kickapeels, an African Nation Tribe, visits Egypt. They trade their treasures for the white lion. Returning to Africa, the lion becomes their leader, and shows the Kickapeels prosperity. So for the next 4,000 years the white lion has ruled Africa. In 1960 Africa, Ceaser, the current ruler, old and dying, bestows upon his son, Kimba the White Lion, the sacred throne of the African Jungle. Episodes told of the trials that young Kimba has in protecting his jungle. Some of his friends included Dan'l Baboon; Samson; Pauly Crackers; and Roger Ranger, among others. Claw was Kimba's main foe. Color. 30 minutes each episode. Billy Lou Watt as the voice of Kimba.

As any one who has seen any of the following series's can tell you, these were made for children. After all, with names like Inspector Detector, Speed Racer, and Dan'l Baboon, you pretty much know what to expect.

But they also provide for good camp - that is, there so bad, they're good. And, if your old enough to tell the difference between camp and a 'good cartoon', these are fun to watch because you can look back and say,"Man, to think I used to WATCH these...!" Another comical aspect of all these shows, especially SPEED RACER, is the incredibly fast way each character talks! Spridal can say about ten run-on sentences in about 10 seconds!

If nothing else, these are another part of the Japanese fantasy film culture. Wiether you hate them or love them, watch them or ignore them,you must admit that they do exist--and you can't ignore that.

So next time you see one listed in the TV Guide, give a try. You have nothing to lose except 30 minutes.....

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