

## 쥐라기 월드컵 - “운명의 첫시합!” by Steev

I spent a lot of my childhood in a place where I didn't understand the language and experienced the culture as an outsider. I was incredibly fortunate to've had these experiences, but my naivete led me to constantly trying to introduce my American friends to things I discovered in Korea which always ended poorly. Always.

I once brought Nongshim shrimp flavored crackers to show and tell. That is how you isolate yourself as foreign and weird in second grade. I'm not sure I ever fully recovered. My bus driver would allow us to bring tapes to play on the bus' stereo system for the trip to school. Do not bring early 90s Korean rap artist Seo Taiji and Boys on your day. Do not try to convince your classmates that Strawberry Cheetos exist. Do not try to explain what Street Fighter II is or how it works to your friends before they see it with their own eyes. These things will make you seem like a liar.

I found myself for entire summers in a place that didn't quite feel like home. I found comfort in seasonal friendships, television and games.

The cartoon that I became enamored with was 쥐라기 월드컵, although I wouldn't know the title or translation "Dragon League" until over 20 years later when I finally Googled the correct combination of "Korean, Cartoon, 90s, Soccer, Dinosaurs, Bird Goalie, Energy Dragon Bicycle Kick..."

Every kid would sprint home after school, no time for chit-chat, new episode of Dragon League. In the states, I had never seen this kind of passion for a cartoon. American kids loved their cartoons, don't get me wrong, but missing an episode didn't have consequences. Dragon League was the first dramatic action cartoon I'd



It had all of the 90s media cracks that would actually land with me then. Particularly memorable, and in hindsight incredibly creepy, is Julie Bruin's (voiced by Julie Brown) lovingly drawn and animated anatomy. No me gusta. On the other hand, you've got Elmer Fudd's cone boobs in his Fuddonna persona. Stellar. Montana Max's James Brown pompadour during "Money?" I have a wig of it that I wear in the mirror when none of you are around.

Finally, to completely contradict what I said earlier, this episode heavily references the Maltese Falcon during the video for "Istanbul (Not Constantinople)." I went out and got that movie afterwards and made my parents watch it way too many times. Sometimes dusty musty references are baffling, and other times they turn you into an insufferable hipster baby.

## "Cartoon All-Stars to the Rescue" by Steve

There was a VHS at the local video rental store that I gravitated to most times that I had the opportunity to pick my own rental. It wasn't a particularly good film, I didn't even necessarily like the characters and it's not even my pick for this zine thing you're reading. The reason I found it so appealing was it's gimmicky hook: the crossover movie. The Jetsons meet the Flintstones blew my mind as a kid. That love of a good gimmick still resides within my soul and Instagram where you'll find endless photographs of limited edition cookies and chips that are flavored like things you wouldn't expect cookies and chips to be flavored like.

So now that you know my weakness, imagine my delight when I learned of an upcoming cartoon



talking heads punctuated by explosions. The recurring segments were silly to the point of absurdity. My favorite were Zorak's Horrorscopes, where a praying mantis said mean things about Gemini's, and Brak's School Daze, where an alien that looked like a lion wearing a luchador mask sang songs about missing the bus. Most of them would end with Space Ghost using his phasers to blow up the segment.

It was unlike anything I'd ever seen. I loved Doug and Pepper Ann and all the Disney Channel Original Movies, but they were pretty similar. Some "relatable kid" would run into a problem with bullies or homework or \*gasp\* even drugs on a Very Special Episode, but everything would work out and they would learn from the experience.

Cartoon Planet had nothing like that. It inherited a lot from the improv comedy, mixtapes, and anti-humor floating around in the late 90s - but I didn't know that. To me, it was me and the weirdos' secret, the cool thing that none of the normal kids knew about.

