

# MORE THAN JUST A CARTOON

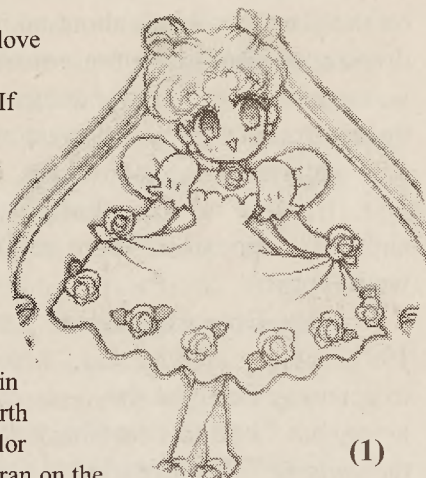
## (The ABC's of Anime)

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"In the name of love and justice..."

Recognize this? If so, you're one of many. Since Japan's "meatball"-headed, bubbly superhero first arrived on the scene, she was destined for stardom. Although immensely popular in Japan, her first arrival in the States was ...less-than welcome in America. The English/North American version of "Sailor Moon," adopted by DIC, ran on the FOX network for a short-lived while, and then was discontinued, to the dismay of many new fans. I remember ninth grade biology class composed mostly of doodles upon doodles of Sailor Moon and her four Sailor comrades. I was even part of the online fan network that sought to re-instate the "Sailor Moon" episodes where they had left off in the middle of the second season. However, nothing really came of that, and FOX never saw the Sailors again.

Meanwhile, I had graduated onto other anime. The interest in "Sailor Moon" had apparently hit a nerve, and I was eager to find out more on this subject some called



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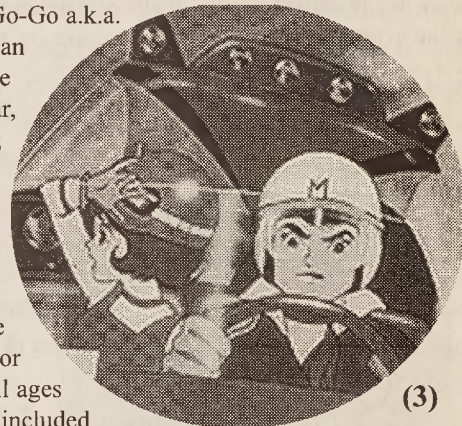


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"Japanese animation," while others called it "anecm" (in attempt to pronounce the Japanese vocabulary defining the unique style of animation). Other friends of mine had become interested through "Ronin Warriors" or even "Dragonball Z," which is still intensely popular. Still others grew up watching Miyazaki Hasao's famously endearing epics, such as "My Neighbor Totoro" and "Kiki's Delivery Service," or the unforgettable "Grave of the Fireflies," written and directed by Takahata Isao and based on the semi-autobiographical story by Nosaka Akiyuki.

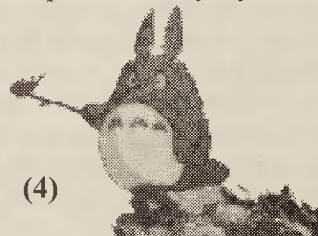
In any case, I quickly found companions for this anime obsession. It was completely new to me, though Japan's first anime is usually considered to be Astroboy, circa 1963. Mach Go-Go-Go a.k.a.

Speed Racer was an anime that became even more popular, imported in 1967; however, anime made even more of an impact in the '80s, via Robotech. The early '90s saw the addiction of "Sailor Moon" fans (of all ages and genders), me included.



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My obsession led to the internet, which was also becoming an important asset. And once I learned about fansubs... (For those of you who are still "newcomers" to the anime scene, fansubs are defined as anime in original Japanese, with subtitles provided by fellow fans. This form of nonprofit subbing benefits the anime-seeker since subbed anime can be bought for the cost of the tape and S&H. There is the dispute that fansubbing violates copyrights, since the Japanese animation companies or creators aren't getting compensated for their work; however, fansubbers argue that distribution of fansubs should help the Japanese industry. By spreading the popularity of anime at cost, more anime fans are "created." And once the market sees the growing demand for anime, supply in the form of due compensation and imports should follow.



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(1) Sailor Moon, courtesy of Bishoujo Senshi Sailor Moon for Neophytes at <http://congly.freesevers.com/anime/smoon/>;

(2) Dragonball Z, courtesy of Planet Namek at <http://www.planetnamek.com/>;

(3) Speed Racer, courtesy of the Unofficial Speed Racer website at <http://www.geocities.com/MotorCity/Speedway/2523/>;

(4) Totoro, courtesy of Suika's Totoro Page at <http://www.angelfire.com/anime/totoro/>