

## Comic Book Urban Legends Revealed 128

COMIC URBAN LEGEND: Marvel was planning a Ghost Rider/Casper the Friendly Ghost crossover

STATUS: True

While hard to believe, at one point, Marvel was actually planning a crossover between these two characters!!

It is a little less surprising when you take into consideration the 1994 crossover between Marvel and Archie Comics, where Archie and the Punisher met up.

If two such disparate characters as Archie and the Punisher could team-up, why not Ghost Rider and Casper?

This must have been going through writer Ivan Velez, Jr.'s mind when the Ghost Rider writer pitched the story idea a few years after the Archie/Punisher crossover.

The basic gist of the story is that a bad guy has replaced Richie Rich's father and is hell-bent on taking over control of the Harvey Universe, forcing Casper and Wendy the Witch to come up with a way to fight him. Wendy casts a spell to make Casper stronger, and the end result is that Casper is replaced by the Ghost Rider!!

Meanwhile, back on the Marvel Universe, when Dan Ketch transforms into the Ghost Rider, he instead finds himself transformed into Casper!!!

Ghost Rider becomes a hero in the Harvey Universe while Casper becomes a wanted man in the Marvel Universe. After Ghost Rider saves the day, though, things are put back in their place.

It's definitely a cute pitch by Velez. Here are two sample chapters from his pitch (the pitch was for a 38-page, 9-chapter comic:

SIX:

Cut back to the void, as Casper appears.

He then takes the velvet ropes from the line dividers and proceeds to tie them all up together. When the police come in, they find the super robbers tied up.

When the police captain asks questions about who did all this fine work, Casper appears in front of him. The police captain then proceeds to let out the most shrill, high-pitched scream of fright ever heard in a comic book. Casper has to cover his ears.

They start shooting at him, and Casper flies out of the bank, into the Marvel Universe, a wanted man.

SEVEN:

The Ghost Rider stands in the forest. Wendy is very scared of him.

Pause. Then, GR asks what place this is. Wendy explains the situation. GR takes a look around. He senses the purity of this place, the goodness

\*\*\*GR laughs. (This is part of his shtick, now the menacing laugh) His laugh bellows through the forest. The machines stop work for a second, it was even scary to them.

This place is well worth defending. GR creates his bike out of hellfire and proceeds to go against the machines. He does a good job of flattening the

first few dozen, but they seem to be self regenerating.

The evil Mr. Rich shows up and begins to laugh. He presses a special button on a remote control, and the robots start jumping on top of each other, connecting like Lego pieces.

Wendy whips up a lightning bolt and knocks the robot Mr. Rich down. He grabs her, and laughs as he starts to squeeze.

Neat, huh?

I'd share more, but to be honest, I feel a bit weird sharing as much as I did. Velez has been very gracious in the past in sharing his unused script for Ghost Rider #93 (which ultimately WAS used), so maybe he'll be willing to post the pitch somewhere! That'd be awesome!

Anyhow, Marvel purchased the pitch from Velez, but Harvey was a little too hesitant in making the project, so ultimately the project was scuttled (Velez was paid a kill-fee).

It's too bad, really, as it seems like a really neat project, and one that (hint, hint, Marvel and Harvey) would still easily work today, just with Johnny Blaze in the place of Dan Ketch.

A gazillion thanks to Ivan Velez, Jr. for going above and beyond the call of duty by both locating, then giving me access to, his original pitch for the project. Thanks so much, Ivan!

COMIC URBAN LEGEND: Peter David was planning on turning Supergirl into a team book.

When I first embarked on the storyline, I was told by the powers-that-be that I could use Kara for six issues. That was it. Six issues, no more.

I hoped to change their minds. Because I was positive the addition of Kara would bring in readers in droves.

What I was hoping was that support and interest for the series would be so major, so undeniable, so impossible to ignore, that I could use it as ammo to convince the PTB to change their mind and allow me to keep the character around. If that had happened, my intention was to turn the book into, effectively, a team book. The S equivalent of Birds of Prey. Linda would have been Superwoman (for want of a better name), Kara would have been officially Supergirl, and I would have brought in Power Girl to boot. The tone of the book would have been straight up fun three super blondes getting into adventures. In my truly demented best-case scenario, I would have subtitled the book Blonde Justice.

That was my A plan. Unfortunately, the lack of support up front torpedoed it. Had we seen the kind of support for issue #75 that we wound up getting with issue #80, and built from there, I might have been able to pull it off. As it was, I wasn't.

So there ya go!!

Thanks to Kelson and Peter David!

COMIC URBAN LEGEND: Marvel lost the Godzilla license because they were not drawing the character the way Toho wanted.

STATUS: False

I was asked about this one a loooong time ago (we're talking almost two years, heck, maybe LONGER), by, I believe, commenter suedenim, about Marvel's late-70s comic series starring Toho Productions famous movie monster, Godzilla.

The series began in 1977, and ended fairly shortly after, in 1979, after only two years of comics.

Sue had heard that the reason Marvel ceased publication of the title was because Toho had problems with the way Marvel had depicted Godzilla in the comic, but after broaching the topic with the editor of Godzilla, Jim Shooter, the reason appeared to be a typical refrain for licensed comics.

The same problem that led to the ending of Star Wars, Transformers and GI Joe - sales.

According to Shooter,

It wasn't selling, so when the license ran out, we didn't renew.

Thanks to suedenim for the suggestion, and thanks to Jim Shooter for the answer!

Okay, that's it for this week!

Feel free (heck, I implore you!) to write in with your suggestions for future installments! My e-mail address is cronb01@aol.com.

See you next week!

I may have been the one who suggested the Godzilla legend. It seems a pretty widespread belief among the subset of hardcore Godzilla fans who pay any attention at all to the Marvel series that Toho was particularly upset with Herb Trimpe's off-model depiction of Godzilla as very dinosaur-like, with no gorilla aspect to his face.

One example at hand is *A Critical History and Filmography of Toho's Godzilla Series* by David Kalat. Kalat actually squashes a lot of Godzilla urban legends in this book, but is on far more uncertain ground when discussing the comic. He writes (citing an article in the *G-Fan* magazine), Toho became frustrated with Marvel's version of their icon, and did not renew Marvel's license agreement as a result.

Shooter's explanation sounds a lot more plausible, particularly since the higher-profile animated Godzilla of the same period had more or less the same dinosaurish visual appearance as Marvel's, and Toho presumably would've had the opportunity to approve or reject the model sheets for the cartoon series.

Jeremy said

I think the failure of the Godzilla comics had more to do with the lack of other Toho giant critters. But licensing the other characters likely would have added to the cost. And like all Urban Legends, there is a grain of truth here; Toho is notorious for being difficult with their approval of licensed images.

SanctumSanctorumComix said

Now, if MARVEL never renewed the GODZILLA license, then HOW did they release the ESSENTIAL GODZILLA TPB a few years ago?

They must either have worked out a NEW deal or part of their ORIGINAL deal was the rights to reprint.

So what the heck?

If they can do that with Godzilla (who is STILL a viable money-maker for parent-company; TOHO) but they won't (or can't seem to be able to) do the same for ROM (who is a dead character for Parker Bros (and now Hasbro - who own the rights and are ALSO the manufacturers of MARVEL's Legends action figures).

Inquiring cyborg minds need to know.

Jeff Albertson said

How about checking in with Shooter for the real story of what happened with Steve Ditko and Defiant? Specifically, the Dark Dominion series was supposed to have Ditko co-plotting, but he just did the trading card zero issue and was gone.

Also, were there really original Ditko art cards released in the DD trading card set? I've never come across any evidence that anyone ever found one.

And, if you want to do an all Defiant edition, Was there ever really a Spanish language version of Prudence and Caution (or any other Defiant books)?

I miss Defiant. And Broadway.

Thenodrin said

I think that Peter David should be able to re-do Loeb's Supergirl and re-introduce Matrix so as to create Blonde Justice.

He should also write a solo title for Marvel's Avenger named Justice.

Then, DC could put out Young Justice trade paperbacks, and Marvel could put out the New Universe title Justice into a collected format.

Finally, an Amalgam project could bring all of these characters together (Robin, Impulse, Superboy, Secret, Power Girl, Supergirl, Matrix, John Tensen, Justice, and why not Firestar).

It would, of course, come out the same week as John Byrne's Amalgam project making use of Doom Patrol, Fantastic Four, and She-Hulk characters all trying to protect the identity of the Blonde Avenger. Apparently, the reader that She-Hulk talks to is trying to convince the Blonde Avenger to join the Justice League since the Avengers never invited her to join. This would, naturally, involve her changing her name to Blonde Justice.

This would start a feud between David and Byrne, culminating in a Hell in the Cell match at SDCC 08 where they fight for the right to the use of the name Blonde Justice.

Maybe I should go lie down.

Anonymous said

Now, if MARVEL never renewed the GODZILLA license, then HOW did they release the ESSENTIAL GODZILLA TPB a few years ago?

The license was available and they worked out an agreement for a single printing of the book. Note that it had \$3 tagged onto the usual cover price for Essentials.

Dark Horse had the comics license for a number of years, starting in 1989 with a Steve Bissette drawn one shot that was soon followed by a six issue mini.

Sure sounds like you, Sue, as the comment also included the specific reference that Trimpe didn't make Godzilla look enough like a gorilla, so it's enough that I'll edit you in as the person!

And yeah, so many other licensed usages of Godzilla look just like the Marvel version, it most likely was sales - especially since, as noted above, sales is such a common reason for not renewing licenses.

It would appear that, after the 70s, Toho got a lot stricter in their Godzilla licensing requirements. Also, I believe the comic book came out during a period when Toho wasn't making any new Godzilla movies for a while, so that probably made them more amenable to people offering checks to use the character.

Incidentally, as noted above, Marvel only bought the rights for \*one\* print run of Essential Godzilla. I gather that it was a pretty large print run and there's no particular shortage of the book or anything, but if you have any interest whatsoever in the series, it might make sense to grab a copy now, before the grabbing gets tough.

Bryan said

I think Toho had a lot of piccadillos regarding licensing. The 70s animated show for instance was not permitted to use the Godzilla roar. The Marvel Godzilla may not have had Rodan or Mothra, but it did have some very like-minded giant creatures in Yetrigar, Batragon, and the Beta-Beasts. I always liked how Marvel would include licensed characters like Godzilla and ROM into the Marvel Universe rather than stick them in their own private worlds.

Speedily Crossing Argun, Heilongjiang, Tumen and Yalu River from the south to the Chinese into the Northern Dynasties. Soviet Red Army played only four days of battle, it will disarm all of the Japanese Imperial Army, and seizing control of Harbin, the new Beijing (Changchun), Shenyang, Dalian, and other four major cities and the whole of northeast railway network.

As long as someone taking the lead, many people will follow ran into the warehouse. Seeing bold people simply had no reason so many properties, so timid people to lag behind, the Gulf Arab people started looting warehouses of materials.

Taken to haul foreign fishing ah!

Taken to the foreign earnings In

A large number of a large number of troops, to the warehouse-stream towards ... However, because chaotic, we desperately forward crowded, and every time the door has stopped the warehouse. Things took into the warehouse, unable doors outside, unable to enter, everyone was packed sweating all over, breathlessness, cards where standstill ... Therefore, the looting of efficiency is not high. Only some big efforts of young people robbed little things, and most people just stood aside to watch. Looting two days, many big openings open warehouse, only moving a corner ...

My father is a devout Catholic, usually always warned us: ill-gotten gains, Gou not my all, and although Mo from 10 cents. He is absolutely not allow my brother and I went to the warehouse with things, and my brother I also there is no such idea. However, at that time I was a nine-year-old children, although the family did not want to take things, but love to watch.

At that time, the ROC government sent to the Department of receiving Fu Zuoyi Northeast, Fu not, he has to accept Beijing, Tianjin; send Yan Xishan, Yan not, he should receive Shanxi; send Chong Bai Xi ... not to. But no sites in the country were far in Myanmar's expeditionary force 52 Army, took over the northeast.

Army, is already in February 1946 the.

From August 1945 to the following year in February, the Soviet Red Army's occupation of northeast China over six months, the name of substituting the Chinese government reception, which actually is aimed at, and raped looting evil. That's my boy, witness pro-Wen leadership of the CPC Soviet elder brother in the actions of the Northeast. They gnash their teeth to the people of the northeast, the core!

Reading fourth grade, this is the largest class of primary school age. Just remember that in the near future, the third day of school after the winter vacation, school to an Gao Gang forces communicators. Gao Gang was very famous, is the leader of the Eighth Route Army, which claims the Communist Party's Northeast Wang. The propagandists in the classroom, voice cordially said to us:

The children, now Japan's surrender, the Central Army will arrive. We invite you to welcome the Central Army, good or not?

Students are loudly answered in unison: Well done!

Promoters listened to our answer, SWEET SMILE, and then said:

Today Saturdays, next week Monday, we invite you free ride to XX (names forgotten) places. We also prepared a lot of delicious, please eat. To there, eaten lunch, we will, every two small children to the flag. you supplied, standing next to the railway. train opened up, the Central Army alight when you waved small flags, cheered in unison welcome welcome, warmly welcome, good or not?

Students are loudly replied: Good!

You should wear the most beautiful new clothes to ah! Propagandists did not forget to account.

Good! Students are answered in unison.

Publicists finished, with the class of the teacher (class teacher) confession a few words, waved hands just departed.

After school, students are very excited. Many students did not take the train, this time the desire can be achieved.n

I was frightened, I do not know what happened, we do not know the Sheire he angry.

His father see me back home, they solemnly asked me: Chi-up.

I fear, carefully walked over, I thought, I have not committed anything!

From now on, you stay at home, not out two. If guests to hear and immediately slept in bed, the blankets are covered, malingering.

My heart would like to, really strange, how I did not disease called malingering?n

I lay down their bags, come kitchen, the mother quietly said to me: Just now come to Sun uncle, and your father these chats about normal for a long time, about as you do. You must obey, this is not fun.

Parents see such a serious and earnest attitude, I know that there had been very important event. I have always been obedient is a good boy, always among the best academic performance, are parents loved me. From home tense atmosphere, I should be even more obedient. Therefore, I will stay in the room, not even the front yard to.

Eat dinner, my father s mother, said: I have to select a small physician where two Chinese medicine, sick leave certificates held tomorrow again to the level where the teacher to.

Mother: You pick the medicine?

Thrown cesspit discuss, but not really disease. His father answered.

In this way, I can not two, spent three days at home. A person stay at home, no small partner to play with real nausea.n

In fact, Sun is the uncle of party members. They met with the guerrillas and the Eighth Route Army, welcomed the decision to use force composed of students to XX places by train from Huludao welcome from the national army (52 Army from Myanmar by the turn of Fuzhou, from Fuzhou by the turn of Huludao, landing after the division, regiment by train to their respective destinations), the Eighth Route Army in the ambush on the slopes adjacent to the railway, not by taking advantage of the national army, were caught unprepared fight him!

Sun uncle heard heads so that the suction back into an air-conditioned, I thought: so many children, you do not explain beforehand, guns and bullets fight over, the children how to do?n

Human Nature beat the party spirit and decided to tell the truth my father and to us out of their minds: malingering!

Father looks solemn and said: Monday evening, your class students and their teachers, one is not returned. Today, Tuesday, Sun uncle told me that already from the news, all the students and teachers, were all killed.n

Farewell hometown, and then a fertile, and graduated from the land.

According to the father told me later, the news came: students lined up standing next to the railway, each carrying two small flag, a blue sky and white sun flag of the KMT, a blue sky and white sun Montreal Red flag, see Guojun from the Train, they were singing, dancing, voicing support for the welcome the national army. Innocent, the flowers of the motherland warm welcome, the national army was very moved, they relax vigilance, and the children get off to shake hands ... Then, in the ambush on the hillside beside the railway will be shot at the Eighth Route Army, machine guns, rifles, grenades have descended from heaven ...n

The Eighth Route Army fought victory. The commander of this campaign, please reactive to the higher authorities had good news, they will write on Terminator Guojun so many However, they will not report, At the same time the number of primary school teachers and students annihilated.

Later, many villages dead child s parents met each other about they found out the selection to welcome the national army, all in all, Niu Road, the students because, Niu Road, the whole village is living Manchu people, rather scattered, the associated less. The Eighth Route Army head design, calculation has been careful to family and friends of these students, if one Han Chinese, the parents will tell the friends and relatives overseas. Han Chinese are the official in Nanjing, overseas ... the news spread about this inhuman, will tarnish the Communist Party and the Eighth Route Army s reputation.n

In the Northeast, the Communist Party religious persecution from the 1947 beginning, in 1948 to orgasm. Since my house is all Catholics, therefore, be greatly impact. Especially from the University Theological College after graduation when the priest s brother, participated in the Army of Our Lady (a Catholic house of the Virgin Mary to participate in voluntary prayer), was sentenced to five years in prison. His classmates even worse, because they are Notre Dame army responsible person until 1978 also detained in jail, has been imprisoned for more than 30 years. People ask, why should we re-sentenced them to the criminal? Because they are soiled with an army word - you do not U.S. imperialism When spies and the minion, is not prepared to overthrow the communist regime and organized army Why?n

Yihetuan era lesson plans, which has slandered Church infanticide, the flesh-and-blood by the pharmaceutical baby started) ... This How terrible: you these American spies, and the banner of the Missionaries of Charity signs to China, the original stem this heinous, heinous acts! Therefore, in Ping outside a church parade held in a large-scale struggle will be. We Church of primary school pupils are supplied on parade Ping, access to education.

During that struggle was, I saw that the United States and American missionaries priests, nuns, were ordered to stand on the Taiwan side of the struggle, and everyone must bow pleaded guilty.n

He did not cry, nor did yell, perseverance and vision stand with ... I think that he has added the suffering of the crucifixion, dedicated to the suffering of a physical God.

The persecution of churches, and other KMT members of the Communist Party of persecution, are interrelated.

After the national government to take over the Northeast, and sent an Many experts, the delegation composed of scholars studied Japanese plunder, looting after the Soviet people and the resources of the northeast, agricultural status quo, a construction blueprint for the future planning. Among them, there is a geological mission, from study in the United States, studies returned to serve the motherland Dr. Zhang Xin led. They observed that in a coal mine in Liaoning Province, iron ore and other minerals, therefore, needs often appear mountains.n

KMT troops inspected terrain topography, military preparations for drawing maps, the eradication of the Communist Party ... scholar touched the soldiers, rational stresses unclear, Zhang Xin-fu and the whole team inspected the Eighth Route Army was killed.

Then the Eighth Route Army, mostly illiterate illiterate; that government officials nor the number culture. Therefore, it pushed Zhang Xin-fu Shen-shen, read a heart xin. They killed in cold blood after Dr.n

These KMT senior persons, many of whom have relatives in the United States. For example, the parents of a scholar mission in the United States, they knew that their son, daughter-in-law killed, we will do everything possible, through churches, will grandchildren from the United States to raise. The church will also include some people with insight, that the persecution of the Communist Party would have occurred one after another, in order to allow children from the Tiger s Mouth, gave some Americans adopted children, so that they grow up healthily future be a good education ... so, the church the number of babies and children, will reduce a lot.n

Those church property and other assets, all the name-for-name, become the property of the Communist Party.

(D) at the end of

I wrote these memoirs is the tears in her eyes. Especially when writing section, we juvenile class 40 blooming, and the class teacher, 41 live life, as was the devastation on the. Their lively and lovely image, always came in my eyes, beating. Until next February, they had fallen from the 60th anniversary ceremonies.

Over the years, I always thought, why not come back alive a primary? Although welcome to the task of the total number of unknown primary, but in order to create a warm atmosphere, it is estimated that no less than the minimum 1,000 people, could reach more than 2,000 people. So many children may not have long from the eyes of bullets, all of them killed? No one suffered minor injuries? No one has saved the lives of the injured? ...

## About the Author

From [goodcomics.comicbookresources.com](http://goodcomics.comicbookresources.com):

Nominated by the Academy for Science Fiction, Fantasy and Horror Films for the Saturn award for Best Genre Video release, Two Evil Eyes feels like two.

Two Evil Eyes information, trailers, reviews, photos and more. FilmSpot gives Two Evil Eyes fans a place to review and discuss their favorite.

An overview of Two Evil Eyes, including cast and credit details, a review.

With Two Evil Eyes both directors were finally paired together to bring another horror legend, this one from the literary side of the genre, to the screen.

A retelling of a pair of Edgar Allan Poe stories by two master directors of the horror genre, Two Evil Eyes consists of separate, although.

Two Evil Eyes, Two Evil Eyes review, Two Evil Eyes trailer, Two Evil Eyes pictures, Two Evil Eyes news.

Cinematic shock masters George Romero and Dario Argento team up on this double feature of frightful tales from the pen of Edgar Allan Poe.

But here we are eight years after Gates Of Hell was released, faced with Two Evil Eyes in a rather limited engagement at a handful of theaters.

Source: <http://www.productsherbal.com>