

[SUNDAY, MAY 12]

CARTOON HEROES

Kaiju Big Battel

For those who adore both professional wrestling and Japanese monster movies but felt that never the twain would meet, Kaiju Big Battel delivers. You may have seen their stickers around town—a blockhead and crossbones sporting a blank expression (that's Dr. Cube, the "evilest evil within Kaiju")—and the word is spreading up and down the East Coast. In



outsized plush costumes, characters like Beefy L'Ox, Cycloptopuss, Dusto Bunny and Club Sandwich (who looks like ... a club sandwich) fight in epic cage-match battles for control of the universe, often accompanied by hipster bands like Les Savy Fav. Miniature Styrofoam buildings and landscapes are routinely destroyed by the monsters in the course of their battles. Kaiju, the brainchild of a group of art and design students from Boston, is more than just a bunch of kids jumping around in Krofft-on-crack outfits. It's a veritable media empire selling videos of Kaiju Battels (complete with faux-Japanese commercials), T-shirts, manga, lunchboxes and other baffling collectibles. In a way, Kaiju is no different from its Japanese counterparts, from Hello Kitty to

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by J. Gabriel Boylan

Philadelphia Weekly, May 8, 2002, Volume XXXI, No. 19

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**Kaiju appears at Wizard World East 2000, May 10-May 12,
Pennsylvania Convention Center, booth No. 1009.**