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WHO WE ARE


The Pacific Sentinel magazine offers an inclusive forum incorporating in-depth content from the PSU community. We advocate on behalf of the marginalized, explore the merits of cultural artifacts, and initiate interdisciplinary communication.

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UNITE PSU VICTORY

AN INTERVIEW WITH ASPSU'S NEW EXECUTIVE CABINET

ALEX SKOUSEN



Kaitlyn Verret, Liela Forbes, and Kaitlin Hoback for Unite PSU / Alex Skousen

On May 20, 2016 *The Pacific Sentinel* sat down with the newly elected ASPSU slate, Unite PSU. What follows is our exclusive interview with ASPSU President-elect Liela Forbes; Vice-President-elect Kaitlyn Verret; and Senator-elect Kaitlin Hoback.

The Pacific Sentinel: In a recent conference with Student Media, PSU President Wim Wiewel stated that the 2015-2016 ASPSU President and Vice-President had a “non-existent” relationship with him. Wiewel cited that previous presidencies would meet with him every 4-6 weeks whereas the current executive cabinet had only met with him once or twice. He called the lack of meeting a “mistake” which was “bad for the institution as a whole.” Do you plan on meeting with President Wiewel more frequently?

Forbes: While our focus has always been on serving students and empowering student voices, we definitely see that Wim is an important connection to have when we’re talking about our campus community. We actually already have meetings scheduled with him, and plan to meet with him regularly.

PS: You just came back from a very narrow win, by a margin of only four votes, which means that you’re leading and representing what seems to be a very divided student body. How do you plan on dealing with partisanship in the student body?

Forbes: I don’t think [or] consider [PSU] a divided campus, even though we only won by 4 votes. Many of the students voted in the election for other slates for the same things that we’re going to provide for them, which is representation. Regardless of whether or not

[students] voted for us, they're still part of our constituency, and making sure that students on this campus have the best access and most equitable opportunities is a priority for us.

PS: How do you plan to increase that access for students so you represent your constituency fairly?

Forbes: One of the important roles of ASPSU is to help appoint students to campus committees that enact changes on campus, where student input is gathered to implant some of the new policies and things like that. One of the best ways we're going to be increasing access is by making sure that the people that are appointed to those positions are people who have good connections within the campus community...people that are very thoughtful, and who are great at listening to student concerns...[The executive cabinet] [is] concerned students as well as student leaders. So listening to the concerns of students on our campus is something that we're very familiar with and we're very comfortable doing.

Hoback: I'm currently an equal rights advocacy director right now and one of the most important things that I've noticed...is just ensuring that you're having...direct student interactions, and you're meeting with students and speaking directly for students, not just what you think [they may say]. As much as we're a diverse group we have an even more diverse campus and we need to be ensuring that we're representing all [students].

PS: ASPSU just released a resolution urging the disarmament of campus security and the disbanding of any university task force, do you support the resolution as it is worded?

Hoback: Yes, I would say [we do].

Forbes: We were the one slate that was pro-disarm[ament] and we are the one slate that was elected. So I think it's very clear, very transparent, we do very much support #disarmPSU as a movement, as well as the

resolution that was passed through ASPSU senate.

PS: Could you explain how resolutions affect the student body?

Forbes: Resolutions establish an official position for the governing body of ASPSU. ASPSU as a representative body represents the interests of students and when...the elected voice of students makes a resolution statement in support of something, that carries weight with the administration. For example...the disarmament resolution, will serve as an official document for...the administration or Board of Trustees to be able to say, "okay, so students have collectively organized and said they do oppose the armament of campus security," and hopefully that means something to them.

PS: What further actions would your slate be willing to take to see this resolution realized on an administrative level?

Forbes: We definitely have a strong connection with students on campus who are affected by this issue, and are part of a broader community that is dedicated to seeing [disarmament] happen. So it's not just about what we as an administration plan to do, it's about conversation and dialogue that we're planning on facilitating to have other leaders emerge to carry out...what might be a monumental, but extremely worthwhile, task.

PS: Section 1.15 of ASPSU's [disarmament] resolution states that "other strategies exist which have been shown to generally promote safety," what are these strategies?

Forbes: In reference to the resolution, the strategies that are being referenced are ones that were outlined as alternatives to the Board of Trustees. Those included closed-circuit TV [video monitors]...at the exits [of] every building on campus. We had students tell us they were either assaulted, or they had items stolen, and an armed police officer can't actually do anything about that, but a camera watching maybe some

other community member or a student who's violating those codes...a camera can catch that. A gun can't. Also firearms are not the end-all-be-all in terms of self-defense or things that a police officer has at their disposal. There's no reason campus security should have anything lethal. In terms of armament...many campus securities just have...pepper spray, tasers. Even those, I think, are...almost a little drastic considering the environment on campus. We don't really need to utilize those things in those certain situations [which would call for police intervention], we're very close to [Portland Police Bureau's Central Precinct]. They can respond very quickly. Actually, they have responded faster to things on campus than CPSO has.

Verret: I think it's important to utilize the great programs we have at PSU such as the Conflict Resolution Program. ...There's great faculty within that program [and] it's important to think about the resources that we already have within PSU instead of taking an outside stance, and utilize those really great programs that we already have available to us.

Hoback: The Conflict Resolution Program is a really valuable place that I think we should be taking lessons from in terms of how to de-escalate potentially violent situations on campus. I think that conflict resolution training is going to be more valuable to our community than arming police officers.

PS: Would you be in favor of an initiative or movement to have conflict resolution training mandatory, similar to the sexual safety module we already have in place?

Forbes: Yes, absolutely.

PS: Will you and/or your slate be attending the Board of Trustees' open forum meeting being held in May so that Board members can listen to student concerns without any agenda items?

Forbes: Yes.

Hoback: We plan on being there.

PS: How would you describe your relationship or interactions with the campus group 'PSU Students for Trump'?

Forbes: That specific campus group we've had some conflict with. We, as individuals, attended a counter-protest to a small gathering that they put together, to show that, as individuals, we stand against the platforms that Trump stands on. We believe that the platforms of xenophobia, Islamophobia, racism, sexism, all of these really gross things that Trump seems to find himself on, and his followers seem to find themselves on, don't have a place here at Portland State. We like this being an inclusive campus. We like being able to feel safe on campus, and the emergence of this organization called our safety into question and reaffirmed that, in fact, many people are not safe on campus because of these dangerous ideologies. As a result of our activism at that meeting we received death threats, rape threats, contact information leaked, there were people who had private photos of them spread throughout the student body, people had their workplaces contacted, they were harassed. Just as a result of standing up to what we see as bullying.

PS: Do you plan on reaching out to, or trying to initiate some sort of civil discourse with 'PSU Students for Trump'?

Forbes: Because I had to file a no contact order for my safety against some of the people who...organiz[ed] [PSU Students for Trump] I actually cannot reach out to them and they cannot reach out to me. So, no. Not for a lack of wanting to bring them into the community, but for our safety we have to maintain a healthy distance.

PS: Additional comments?

Forbes: We're really excited for this coming year. We're already planning on building a very strong team and creating a much more inclusive environment in ASPSU that can be carried on in administrations to come.

ABORIGINAL WOMEN IN CANADA

THE STRUGGLE FOR SAFETY

MADI HINZE



Aboriginal women in Canada are being murdered at disproportionately high rates. While aboriginal women make up only three percent of the female population, they account for ten percent of all female homicides in the country, and many of these homicides remain unsolved.

There is one highway, Highway 16, that is so notorious for aboriginal women disappearing on it that locals refer to it as the “Highway of Tears,” in reference to the Trail of Tears. There are even signs along the highway that urge girls not to hitchhike because there is a “killer on the loose.”

As a result of these murders, the Native Women’s Association of Canada (NWAC) started a petition two years ago, which had over 9,000 signatures and was eventually delivered to the Prime Minister at the time, Stephen Harper. In the petition, NWAC cited their documentation of “over 582 occurrences of missing or murdered Aboriginal women and girls.” They also requested deliberate actions for change, which included “holding a National Inquiry into missing and murdered Aboriginal

women and girls in Canada” and involving aboriginal women in the “design, decision-making, process, and implementation of this inquiry.”

In December 2014, Harper responded to the issue in an interview, saying “... it isn’t really high on our radar, to be honest.” Nine months later, Harper outlined initiatives to confront violence against aboriginal women, which included creating a mission persons index, funding shelters and family violence prevention organizations, and supporting police investigations into the murders. To many, however, this felt like a bandaid solution, a quick fix to coddle activists into thinking Harper was finally listening.

Even after facing heavy criticism for his comments and perceived lack of respect for aboriginal women, in October 2015, his stance remained firm. During a campaign stop, Craig Benjamin, an advocate of aboriginal people’s rights, took issue with Harper’s efforts, claiming “We have to get to the point of understanding the violence is far more pervasive, that it has multiple causes and that it does in fact

have deep roots in our society and the relationships between aboriginal and non-aboriginal people.”

Harper then claimed that most of the murders had been solved, and argued that it was “way past the time” to discuss the subject because there had already been “40 examinations.”

Harper was then voted out of office, and the current Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, assumed his position in November 2015. Trudeau, a liberal in contrast to Harper’s conservatism, immediately met with hundreds of chiefs at the Assembly of First Nations in December 2015 to discuss effective initiatives.

Other than promising to launch an investigation into the missing and murdered aboriginal women, Trudeau also pledged to make significant investments into educational programs, increase funding in general, and repeal policies that are in conflict with aboriginal people’s human rights.

Since this pledge, Trudeau included a significant raise in funding to aboriginal people. The budget includes \$8.4 billion to be dispersed over the course of five years. In contrast, the United States allocated \$2.9 billion to the Bureau of Indian Affairs in its 2017 fiscal year budget.

This shift in leadership represents a vital time—a time where we can hope that the safety and dignity of aboriginal people is valued and upheld. Nothing can replace the individuals who lost their lives or fix the pain their families still feel, but looking to the future, we can strive toward justice, toward equity, and toward a better future for all.



BERRY BOYCOTT

PORTLAND BROWN BERETS TAKE ON WHOLE FOODS

MIKE BIVINS



From left: Sanchez, C.B., and Gabriela confront management at the Burnside Whole Foods / Crystal Contreras

Berries purchased at Whole Foods are among the sweetest you'll find, but that sweetness can come at a steep price that goes beyond dollars and cents. This steep price was emphasized by a picket of two Portland Whole Foods locations on May 14, 2016. The picket—targeting Whole Foods locations at 2825 E. Burnside and 4301 NE Sandy and slated to now be a monthly occurrence—was organized by the Portland Brown Berets, with several dozen people showing up to take part and draw attention to the allegations that the farms supplying berries to be sold under the Driscoll's name exploit workers. The Portland Brown Berets are centered around organizing Chicanas and Chicanos, and its motto is to serve, observe, and protect.

"It's important that the consumers know what they're buying and paying for. Just because it's local and organic doesn't mean it comes from an ethical source," says a Portland Brown Berets member whose alias is C.B. C.B., who helped

organize the picket, also says that "because Whole Foods has such a strong mission statement regarding building healthy communities we want them to honor that through its vendors as well, which includes Driscoll's and berries from Sakuma Brothers farms, which ha[ve] a horrible reputation for mistreating its workers and underpaying them. Its workers are [also] subject to harassment and strike breaking."

The Pacific Sentinel wrote about the allegations of worker exploitation by Sakuma Brothers—a Washington based farm that supplies berries to Driscoll's—in its March, 2016 issue. *ThinkProgress* also provided in-depth coverage of this longstanding issue in an April 1, 2016 article on its website.

The May 14 picket started at noon at the Burnside Whole Foods where after about an hour of rallying to chants such as "exploitation ain't the way,

farm-workers deserve fair pay” and picketing near one of the entrances, a small group went inside and read and presented a letter to a Whole Foods manager. After the letter was presented the group then marched along the sidewalk to the Whole Foods on Sandy Blvd, marching down Cesar Chavez Blvd along the way. This trek down a street named for legendary labor organizer Cesar Chavez was “symbolic,” says Portland Brown Berets Captain Sanchez. Some left before the march to the Sandy Whole Foods, but around twenty made it to the Sandy Whole Foods.

Also attending the protest was a Portland State University student and Portland State University Student Union Member who asked only to be identified as Gabriela. Gabriela—who was leading chants over a bullhorn—says she came to support the cause.

During the protest Whole Foods sent a tweet to *The Pacific Sentinel* saying it will “continue to monitor the situation to ensure worker welfare,” and also mentioned that it is in “close communication” with Driscoll’s.

For now, the Portland Brown Berets organized

Driscoll’s berries protests will focus only on Portland’s Whole Foods due to “limited resources and support at the moment,” C.B. said. “We have a personal investment in this action as many of our friends and family members have worked picking for generations and have mothers, grandparents, cousins, and extended family that still work in the fields.”

Whole Foods also passed along a statement through a public relations agent where it contends that it does “more than any other U.S. supermarket to ensure the rights and working conditions of the men and women who grow the produce we sell—both inside and outside the U.S.”

Driscoll’s passed along a statement through a public relations agent saying it has been “unfairly” targeted with “secondary boycotts,” as well as “dissemination of false information and false accusations.”

The next Whole Foods picket is scheduled for Saturday, June 18 from noon to 1:30 p.m, an event page has been created on the Portland Brown Berets facebook page. The picket organizers can be reached through the Portland Brown Berets Facebook page.



Driscoll's berries picketers outside the Whole Foods at 4301 NE Sandy / Crystal Contreras

#GiveElsaAGirlfriend

DEMANDS FOR LGBT REPRESENTATION IN MEDIA FOR CHILDREN

MADI HINZE



"Frozen" 2013 / Disney

Equitable representation in the media has been a topic of conversation (and contention) for quite some time. The plethora of thinkpieces on whitewashing and erasure, along with critiques of inaccurate depictions of historically marginalized groups in the media make it evident that many consumers of popular media view representation as an important issue.

A majority of these conversations focus on racial representation, and we have seen a shift in this regard with movies like *Home*, which has a young black girl with natural hair as the main character, or "The Princess and the Frog," which features Disney's first black princess. Only recently have other underrepresented identities in the media grabbed national attention however, identities such as sexual orientation, disability, and gender, among others.

This lack of LGBTQ+ characters in the media, specifically children's media, prompted 17-year-

old Alexis Moncada to create the hashtag #GiveElsaAGirlfriend. Moncada, a self-identified bisexual Chicana, is a prominent activist on Twitter and creator of *Feminist Culture*, a Twitter and blog that covers intersectional feminist issues, all catered to young girls and women. She created the hashtag after a string of tweets expressing how "iconic" it'd be for Disney to make Elsa a "lesbian queen."

The hashtag blew up overnight, something even Moncada herself didn't expect. News outlets began covering the topic, Twitter highlighted it on their "Moments" feature, and thousands of people retweeted the original tweet.

Moncada then wrote an article for MTV, explaining her motivation behind creating the hashtag: "Growing up, I was really confused about who I was. A large part of me still is. I didn't even know what being gay meant until Katy Perry's song 'I Kissed a Girl' became a hit and the conversation

was forced on my family and friends...But as I became a teenager, I realized my entire understanding of this experience was based on one song...I hadn't been aware that there could be true love between women, so when I felt that love, I felt confused and alone."

She then explains the impact that having an LGBTQ+ Disney character would have: "This is why Elsa is so much more than a poster image—for me and for every girl who has and will watch 'Frozen.' Giving young girls the chance to understand that a princess can love another princess the same way Cinderella loved her Prince Charming is vital to their development. No one deserves to feel isolated and confused about who they are."

While thousands have supported the movement, there are also thousands opposed to it, largely right-wing and religious media outlets. They have created their own hashtag in response, #CharmingPrinceForElsa, along with a petition which currently has over 215,000 signatures. In her piece for MTV, Moncada briefly acknowledges that she has received opposition, but does not acknowledge their petition or hashtag.

While Disney has yet to comment on the hashtag, the voice actress for Elsa, Idina Menzel, recently acknowledged her support at the Billboard Music Awards. "I think it's great," she said. "Disney's just gotta contend with that. I'll let them figure that out."

It will be interesting to see whether Disney comments at all, and it would be groundbreaking if they actually do give Elsa a girlfriend in the Frozen sequel, due to be released in 2018. Either way, it's inspiring to witness the impact of one tweet: a tweet that has sparked conversations across the world, trended on multiple social media platforms, and garnered enough response for celebrities to pay attention.



SPACE DRAGON II

MARS LANDINGS IMPROVED

JEREMY KING



On April 27, 2016, Elon Musk, CEO of SpaceX, announced via Twitter that the corporation would be sending a spacecraft to Mars by 2018.

Working with NASA in a “no funds exchanged” partnership, SpaceX will cover the cost of the mission; NASA will offer crucial technical support in ensuring success.

“This collaboration could provide valuable entry, descent and landing data to NASA for our journey to Mars, while providing support to American industry,” NASA spokesperson Tabatha Thompson said in an interview with *TechNewsWorld*.

The “Red Dragon”—a variation of SpaceX’s existing Dragon 2 spacecraft—will be tasked with the mission.

“Originally designed to retrieve soil samples from the Mars Rover and bring them back to Earth, Red Dragon’s objective is to collect critical data needed ahead of further, possibly manned, Mars missions,” reports Patrick Lejtenyi in an article for *AskMen*.

In another tweet following shortly after the announcement, Musk stated that the spacecraft was “...designed to land anywhere in the solar system,” with the Red Dragon’s mission acting as the first test flight.

Suffice to say, the Red Dragon is designed to get

places. Making the trip back home, however, is another story altogether.

“...The delta v requirements are substantial,” Mike Jude, program manager at Stratecast/Frost & Sullivan explained when addressing the issue of the voyage home in an interview with *TechNewsWorld*. “There needs to be a Mars ascent vehicle.”

A sample return mission is currently expected to launch at some point in 2020, though details remain uncertain.

“A potential Red Dragon sample return would launch on a SpaceX Heavy Falcon rocket, descend to the Martian surface using onboard thrusters, grab samples from an existing rover with a robotic arm, and launch those samples back to Earth in a Mars ascent vehicle contained within the capsule,” *Popular Mechanics* states.

Beyond gathering soil, one of the most pivotal aspects of the Red Dragon’s Mars mission is the gathering of data; more specifically, data that could prove critical in establishing a foundation upon which NASA can go about establishing the first potential human colony on the red planet.

According to NASA, The Red Dragon mission will achieve this largely by “[informing SpaceX’s] overall Mars colonization architecture,” *AskMen* reports.

One of the technologies SpaceX has incorporated into the design of the Red Dragon—among other spacecraft of their making—that piqued NASA's interest in the collaborative endeavor in the first place is a little something called supersonic retropropulsion.

"Supersonic retropropulsion offers what appears a simple solution: firing a rocket engine in the direction of travel to slow down," *SpaceNews Magazine* reports.

"That becomes complicated, though, when traveling through a thin atmosphere faster than the speed of sound."

It is believed to be the only current method of successfully landing humans on Mars, but a number of factors—the extensive cost of research being chief among them—largely dissuaded NASA from pursuing a greater understanding of the emergent technology.

"We're not investing in [supersonic retropropulsion], but we don't need to if our commercial partners are," NASA administrator Charles Bolden told the *Washington Post* in a panel on May 18, *SpaceNews Magazine* reports. "We're talking about reducing the cost to the taxpayer."

Despite the fact that NASA is looking at, potentially, "...its best top-line budget (adjusted for inflation) in six years," according to Casey Dreier of The Planetary Society, working with a corporation like SpaceX that can afford to more readily afford to take risks makes sense, given the budget cuts and fiscal limitations NASA has consistently endured.

NASA enjoyed the peak of its financial freedom in the fiscal years between the mid to latter half of the 1960s, according to information presented by Dr. David A. Kring of the Center For Lunar Science And Exploration, at which point their budget encompassed roughly 4.5 percent of the federal budget in total. As of 2014, NASA's budget had dwindled to just shy of 0.5 percent.

Space, it would seem, isn't the most profitable venture. But with private corporations such as SpaceX picking up the tab, the Red Dragon mission could very well turn the tide in NASA's favor.

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OCULUS RIFT

FACEBOOK'S IMPACT ON OCULUS RIFT'S VIRTUAL REALITY

JULIANA TATTOLI

In March 2014, Mark Zuckerberg announced that Facebook was teaming up with and buying out the virtual reality company Oculus Rift. The idea of using a virtual reality headset to interact with other real people is not too far out in the future anymore.

Oculus Rift manufactures Virtual Reality headsets. Virtual reality has been described by users as 'mesmerizing', 'otherworldly', and 'a little unsettling'. The Oculus Rift virtual reality headset is a \$600 system that looks like a black bar covering your eyes from temple to temple. The headset immerses your entire field of vision, therefore creating a very realistic visual experience. With a virtual reality headset, you're experiencing the sensation of being in another place, sometimes simulating activities, without leaving your physical location at all.

In 2014, Facebook bought Oculus Rift for \$2 billion with the idea that virtual reality could turn social networking into a more multidimensional experience. In Mark Zuckerberg's 2014 announcement statement on Facebook, he stated "Our mission is to make the world more open and connected." Zuckerberg wants to meld the virtual reality experience from a gaming-based system to a system that can simulate face-to-face interaction, making people feel like they're really in the place that they are seeing on their screen. Although Facebook bought out Oculus Rift specifically, they are still planning on working with other brands to produce similar products that are less expensive in order to reach a wider audience.

"We're going to make Oculus a platform for many other experiences. Imagine enjoying a courtside seat at a game, studying in a classroom of students and teachers all over the world, or consulting with a doctor face-to-face -- just by putting on goggles in your home," Zuckerberg also declared.

However, many privacy concerns have been raised around Oculus Rift's system and Terms of Use. Oculus' privacy policy has users agree to terms that some have found suspicious. It is stated that information will be collected about what apps, games, and other content you use the device for; what type of device you're using; your IP address; information about your operating system; and sometimes precise location. The system also records your physical movements during your virtual immersion sessions.

Oculus Rift's software installs a full system permissions process called "OVRServer_x64.exe" that is always on and sends data updates to Facebook's and other third parties' servers regularly. Many people are concerned that this will create an even greater risk for identity theft, scammers, spies, or hackers.

Some are even concerned that virtual reality headsets are -- or could become -- a means of state surveillance. For the full virtual reality experience, Oculus headsets require the ability to track and record your movements, what you're saying, where you're facing, what you're looking at, and how you're interacting with what's around you. Advertisers have also been getting in on the use of virtual reality for their profit. Through speculations that the headset has the ability to record what you have in your home, or the fact that the system traces what you look at during your headset immersion, data is being sent to third party advertisers in order to tailor the content and timing of advertisements for you.

The privacy policy even states "We use the information we collect to send you promotional messages and content and otherwise market to you on and off our Services. We also use this

information to measure how users respond to our marketing efforts.”

In early 2016, Dem. Minnesota Senator Al Franken wrote to Oculus Rift’s CEO raising the concerns of whether or not the company shares its information with third parties, as it states in the privacy policy, claiming a breach of privacy. At the time this article was published, Oculus Rift has not yet written back to Franken.

As Zuckerberg stated in his announcement, “One day, we believe this kind of immersive, augmented reality will become a part of daily life for billions of people. Virtual reality was once the dream of science fiction. But the internet was also once a dream, and so were computers and smartphones. The future is coming and we have a chance to build it together. I can’t wait to start working with the whole team at Oculus to bring this future to the world and to unlock new worlds for all of us.”

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ONLINE BATTLES

THE PENTAGON'S NEW CYBER-DEFENSE PROGRAM

JEREMY KING

The Pentagon's Cyber Command—a 'cyberwarfare' unit formerly dedicated entirely towards "digital adversaries such as Russia, China, Iran, and North Korea," *TechNewsWorld* reports — has recently set its sights on the Islamic State in the Levant.

Under the authorization of the Obama administration, the campaign against ISIL seeks to disrupt the organization's fundamental communication abilities across the board in an attempt to disorient the group en masse and chip away at their capacity to carry out operations.

To oversee the campaign, the Pentagon "...has created a cadre of 'national mission teams' that resemble special operations forces," according to *The Hill*.

While the exact details of the Pentagon's plans are not known, Isaac Porche III, associate director of the Forces and Logistics Program at the Rand Arroyo Center, believes that the Cyber Command's campaign will be employed in conjunction with more conventional counterterrorism tactics, according to *TechNewsWorld*.

"Cyber is just one domain that we fight in, and all the domains have to be addressed," Porche said.

The campaign — and its myriad implications both foreign and domestic — is also notable for being the first large-scale instance of "cyberwarfare" the U.S has taken upon itself.

"We are dropping cyber bombs," Robert O. Work,

deputy secretary of Defense, told the *New York Times*. "We have never done that before."

Understandably, then, one might feel trepidatious about the prospect of taking on ISIL in the virtual realm; CyberCaliphate, a group of a hackers claiming links to ISIL, hacked into the Twitter account of U.S. Central Command Jan. 2015 with the intent of leaking classified information pertaining to sensitive military operations and retired army personnel, according to the *Washington Post*.

It didn't take long, however, for experts to catch on to a pattern.

"Much of the information being shared by Centcom's hijacked Twitter feed is publicly available from other sources and appears to be nonclassified information," the *Washington Post* reported. "This is important because the hackers clearly want to make it seem as though they've successfully pulled off a major data breach."

Speaking on the divide between the U.S and Iran's cyber capabilities in appearance before the Senate Armed Forces Committee on April 5, 2016, Admiral Michael Rogers stated that the U.S.' abilities put the nation in "...[an area of] significant advantage." Despite the success [ISIL] has found in perpetuating its message through social media and web vandalism, the U.S., in terms of raw tech "horsepower," has the upper hand.

According to Kevin O'Brien, CEO of GreatHorn

Inc., "...the U.S. is living in a pre-cyber-disaster world," *TechNewsWorld* reported. "That is, it has not suffered a crippling large-scale cyberattack from a foreign entity."

Yet ISIL actively utilizes the internet — mostly in the form of targeted recruitment through social media outlets - and O'Brien warns that "...it is likely a matter of time before we see one of these events take place."

ISIL, in adopting online campaigns promoting idealized representations of a life under the Islamic State, attempt to appeal to the sensibilities of impressionable young adults in the U.S; a strategy that seems to have paid off, to some extent.

Though not an overt assault on the U.S, the effective spread of their ideology nonetheless presents a very real threat to the nation.

An estimated "3,000 Westerners are fighting alongside [ISIL] and other jihadist groups in Syria and Iraq," according to the *Fordham Political Review*.

"They're trying to appeal to small numbers, which unfortunately in the terrorism business is all it takes," said Frank Cilluffo, director of the George Washington University Homeland Security Policy Institute, in an interview with CBS News.

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CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR A REVIEW

MATTHEW BERGER

We are nearly halfway through 2016, and Hollywood has already dished out two blockbuster superhero movies for comic book fans and casual movie-goers alike: "Deadpool", directed by Tim Miller and "Batman Vs Superman: Dawn of Justice," directed by Zack Snyder. Later this year, the public will be treated to two more superhero films in "Suicide Squad" directed by David Ayer and the divisive "Doctor Strange" directed by Scott Derrickson. Obviously, we are not experiencing a superhero movie shortage. In the whirlwind of this non-stop caped crusader barrage, audiences (including myself) often experience boredom when greeted with the same old thing. When a superhero movie rejects the formula, we as movie-goers are astounded. "Captain America: Civil War," the third installment of the Captain America series, does exactly that; offering rounded performances by returning Marvel cast members and new heroes, as well as creates a new emotional maturity often lacking in summer blockbusters.

The story begins a few months post-2015's "Avengers: Age of Ultron." Captain America, played by Chris Evans, leads a new lineup of Avengers including Black Widow, Falcon, War Machine, Scarlet Witch, and Vision. After a devastating accident caused by one of the Avengers which resulted in many bystander deaths, the United States Government proposes a piece of legislation meant to regulate superhuman activities. Such legislation would hold them responsible for numerous past events in the Marvel Cinematic Universe, continuing Marvel's proven formula of a shared universe. Tony Stark, AKA Iron Man, played by Robert Downey Jr., stands in support of the bill whereas Cap stands in opposition. Through much action and drama,

the two leads form separate teams of Avengers, cumulating the years of Marvel Cinematic Universe tension.

With so many characters all in one movie, one might assume little screen time for each of them. Surprisingly, nearly every hero has at least one shining moment, allowing for an extremely well rounded and emotionally gripping cast. The two newest additions to the Marvel Cinematic Universe, Black Panther portrayed by Chadwick Boseman and Spider-man portrayed by Tom Holland, are introduced perfectly, organically blending with the team of veteran actors as well as holding their own scenes as individual performers. Holland stands out the most. After 5 different Spider-man solo films from Sony, Holland is able to break free from naysayers and own the part better than any preceding actor who has portrayed the Web-slinger.

Though the new comers and other heroes are a perfect supporting cast, the film's emotional core sits in the relationship between Downey's Iron Man and Evans' Captain America. The two characters have grown to this showdown since their prospective solo films. Seeing the development of Tony Stark from rebellious playboy to responsible government agent battling Captain America, the once loyal watchdog turned fugitive, offers perfect resolution to their relationship. Both Evans and Downey own their respective parts, capping off their emotional journeys and leading fans to wonder where the two will go next in 2018's Infinity War: Part 1.

Directors Joe and Anthony Russo have crafted not only the ultimate superhero character piece, but also formed a beautiful action film. The insane

action set pieces, from the tunnel chase to the airport showdown, are exemplary moments of what a superhero film should be, blending CGI with intense practical choreography. Chadwick Boseman's Black Panther is especially intense with his use of martial arts and acrobatics to fend off the opposing team of Avengers. The use of humor in these scenes lightens the heaviness of the rest of the film. Spider-Man and Ant-Man are the ultimate comedic talent in the film, offering Fox's Deadpool a run for its money.

Though the action and humor creates a fast pace which takes viewers on a great blockbuster journey, there are moments in the narrative which slow it down. The forced romance between Cap and Agent 13 is a glaring issue, seemingly trying to squeeze in a forced romance in an already very full movie. The villain Zemo, though offering a very powerful ending monologue, continues the current Marvel trope of uninteresting villains (not even considering the basic cameo of Crossbones in the opening act). Hopefully Marvel can pack an evil punch with "Doctor Strange."

Even with these issues, the Russo brothers are able to pull off an extremely entertaining and emotional film. The two directors have created one of the greatest superhero films to date, balancing emotion, humor, and action. For those of you experiencing superhero fatigue, worry not, "Captain America: Civil War" and the Russo Brothers are here to save the day.

"Captain America: Civil War" is now in theaters and is directed by Joe and Anthony Russo and stars: Chris Evans, Robert Downey Jr, Scarlett Johansson, and Sebastian Sean. Captain America: Civil War is rated PG-13.

well,
it's been real





W.A.!



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