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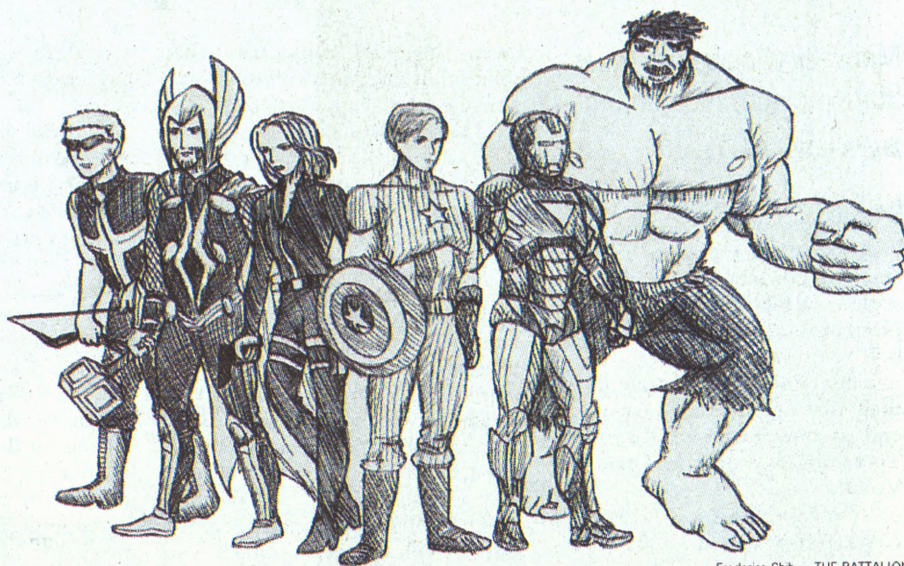
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FILM



Frederica Shih — THE BATTALION

Aggies await 'Avengers'

Students weigh in on the anticipated
blockbuster, in theaters Thursday

By Taylor Siskind

First, the Avengers tackled Loki and his
army of Chitauri. Now, in "The Avengers:
Age of Ultron," in theaters this week-
end, the Avengers will face artificial intel-
ligence in the form of Ultron as he seeks to
wipe out mankind.

And if it's anything like the first movie,
which grossed well more than \$600,000,000,
plenty of people will see it, including a num-
ber of dedicated fans in College Station.

A trailer for the movie hinted at a relation-
ship between the Black Widow, played by
Natasha Romanoff, and the Hulk, played by
Bruce Banner. This relationship never ap-
peared in the comics, and is causing contro-
versy among fans.

Jonathan Davis, agribusiness sophomore,
said the personalities of Black Widow and
Bruce Banner do not line up.

"He has a lot of love for science, and
then you look at Black Widow," Davis said.
"She's more of a darker cloud."

Juan Carlos Laxa, general studies sopho-
more and small programs officer of the sci-
ence fiction and fantasy organization Cephe-
id Variable, said the relationship could be an
interesting balance of trust between the two.

"She's a very good spy, so the Incredible
Hulk can't really know when to trust her and
trust her word," Laxa said.

Black Widow's possible relationships
don't end there. Netflix's new television
show "Daredevil" is the beginning of a next
phase of superheroes in the Marvel Cinemat-
ic Universe. In the comics, Matt Murdock,
aka Daredevil, is known not only for his
crime-fighting skill in Hell's Kitchen of New
York, but also for having a brief relationship
with Black Widow.

With this universe, Mihir Vashi, aero-
space engineering sophomore and Cepheid
Variable member, said anything is possible.

"I just hope they don't do what Spider-
man tried to do," Vashi said. "Try to have
all of these heroes and all of these side stories
and it's going to be too much and they're not
going to go into depth in anything."

Vashi said the multiple heroes in the 2012
"The Avengers" movie were well-written,
with every hero having relevance to the
movie.

Eccles said even Hawkeye was still intro-
duced in a relevant manner, even though he
was brainwashed by Loki half the time.

"They brought him further into the story
like his skills with a bow and how important
he was to S.H.I.E.L.D.," Eccles said.

One wrinkle fans await in this weekend's
blockbuster is its implications for future sto-
rylines. The accidental creation of Ultron
sets the scene for "Captain America: Civil
War," a Marvel film planned for 2016 that
will depict a fight between Iron Man and
Captain America that creates a further rift
in the characters. "Civil War" will argue
whether a superhero will have to be licensed
with the government to fight crime.

"Normally they just swoop in, save the
day, cause billions of dollars in property
damages and then swing out," said Elliott
Eccles, visualization sophomore. "Civil
War" is revealing your identity, signing up
with the government to legitimately work
underneath them, to have training and just
be held accountable for their actions."

Overall, Eccles said "Age of Ultron" might
show the characters struggling even harder to
work together, as the main enemy was cre-
ated by one of their own members.

"They're more than just superheroes,"
Eccles said. "They're really more individu-
als trying to find their way, that they're not
perfect. They're fallible."

REVEILLE CONTINUED

games and events with her,
but none of it compares to
spending time with Rev
and seeing her as a dog, be-
cause that surprises people.
It even surprised me, for
example, when I first saw
her chase her first squirrel."

Although Reveille VIII
and the handler will pass
on their duties, their time
together is not over, Kre-
ider said.

"Look on to next year —
both of us are retiring, but
it's still good," Kreider said.
"She's only across the street
from here, I'll still be able
to go see her and I'll prob-
ably make it a study room
over there at the Stevenson
Center."

Student Body President
Joseph Benigno said the
character of Reveille VIII
and the mascots before her
contribute to their legacy.

"She serves A&M," Beni-
gno said. "She serves as the
First Lady for Texas
A&M, and shows really
what Texas A&M is all
about, the history and tra-
dition — all the things we
take so seriously here."

Benigno said the attitude
of love, loyalty and respect
the student body shows for
Reveille is important.

"It's what all Aggies



Vanessa Peña — THE BATTALION

Freshman and incoming mascot corporal **Ian Moss**
poses with Reveille VIII at the retirement ceremony
Wednesday.

should show to one ano-
ther," Benigno said.

As the time Reveille
VIII has spent shaping and
impacting A&M comes to
an end, Kreider said it's bit-
tersweet.

"We have new mascot
on campus and she and her

handler are a great team,"
Kreider said. "It is tough to
see Reveille VIII go and not
be constantly around her
anymore. The commitment
took its toll, but it's been a
blessing and an honor to be
with her this year."

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AGGIE SONGWRITERS IN ACTION

SPEAKEASY ARTISTS' SHOWCASE

The first Songwriter's Showcase took
place in the LAAH Wednesday as
the culmination of a new course on
songwriting, featuring the voices of many
Aggie students and faculty members.

Breaking from their yearly literary print
editions, Texas A&M's Eckleburg Project
will showcase spoken word poetry and
music with an event at Downtown Bryan's
First Friday.