

The House of Mouse feasts on Fox, Disney scampers toward monopoly

By Sam Cook

Disney recently attempted to push through a merger deal with Fox. This deal would move over massive amounts of assets (to the tune of more than \$50 billion) and would consolidate the studios, movies, stocks and rights over for Disney.

Disney not all that long ago received the rights to Marvel property and only a handful of characters were owned by Fox. The "Fantastic Four," "Spider-Man," "Silver Surfer" and the "X-Men" are officially owned by Fox and Disney has had to struggle for usage of Fox characters in its Marvel Cinematic Universe. This deal would allow these characters to be properly introduced

into the Disney movies.

Disney has to make deals in order to use Fox-owned characters like Quicksilver and Scarlet Witch in "Age of Ultron." This new deal would consolidate all these characters in the same universe and possibly could create stronger movies for Disney which already boasts the highest global box office returns in 2016 breaking past \$7.

Furthermore, this merger would allow Disney to consolidate streaming services. Since Netflix exploded in popularity, the video streaming market splintered and movies spread to various streaming services. Disney already holds stakes in Hulu and this deal would consolidate titles among streaming ser-

vices for the benefit of consumers. Fox and Disney both own 30 percent shares and the deal would give Disney a majority stake in Hulu.

However, the drawbacks are possibly massive in scope. Starting from late April with "Infinity Wars" new release date on April 27 to the the Star Wars movie "Solo" on May 25 and Fox's "Deadpool 2" on May 18, there are three huge potential blockbusters in the superhero genre that will all be owned by Disney. Superhero movies have been consistent blockbusters and subsequently moneymakers.

As Disney gains larger and larger control over this slice of the entertainment industry, it is concerning analysts

whether different viewpoints, ideas and ideals contrary to Disney's tradition will be represented. The level of freedom that Disney will grant their "independent studio" is questionable. Disney plans to keep 21st Century Fox in the deal but downsize the studio.

While indie films and other studios will still exist, consumers should expect that Disney will massively overpower them by consolidating and raising prices because of a lack of competition at a comparable level, creating a virtual oligopoly (monopoly). Despite this, Disney's CEO Robert Iger claims that it will benefit the consumer. This is likely only true in the short term if the merger goes ahead. The domination of the mouse

over movies and streaming will likely prove disadvantageous for consumers in the long term as competition ceases.

Last three Marvel domestic box office returns:

 BLACK PANTHER	: \$500+ M
 THOR RAGNAROK	: \$314+ M
 SPIDER-MAN Homecoming	: \$334+ M

the CROZ NEST



Adam Crozier interviews senior **Caroline Kavanaugh**, Abe Lincoln Scholarship recipient.

What does your \$16,000 scholarship mean for you?

It was truly an honor to win the scholarship. There were 27 candidates for the scholarship and there was a luncheon where they told everyone's stories and announced the winners. Listening to all of the stories of what other people had gone through was an inspiring experience.

What makes your story so inspiring?

I was diagnosed with a brain tumor in fourth grade. I underwent chemotherapy and radiation to treat it. I have MRIs every three months to monitor it. My sophomore year on a scan, my doctor noticed an enhanced spot on the tumor. He decided it would be best to remove part of it surgically. On February 17, 2016 I went into a 4.5 hr surgery awake to make sure nothing went wrong. There was a point in the surgery where the doctor had to sedate me. When I woke up I realized I could not move the left side of my body at all. I spent 3 weeks in the hospital doing intensive therapy to regain my strength. When I was released I had to continue to strengthen my left side but also return to my normal activities and school (I missed 23 days) it was a struggle, but I finally got back to school, running cross country, and playing violin. This shows people that no matter what you go through in life, you have to keep fighting to achieve your goals. Also it shows not to take things for granted like being able to do a sport or play a musical instrument, because one day (like in my case) they might be gone.

What musical instrument do you play and what do you like most about it?

I play violin and I like how it allows you to express yourself. Also, especially on days when stressed or not feeling great, music is a way of escape and allows for you to get your mind off of reality for a little bit.



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