

Opinion

It's a bird, it's a plane, it's the future of the DCU

By **RYAN HAJE**
Contributing Writer

From the years of 2013-2023, DC tried its hardest to be just like the Marvel Cinematic Universe, and that got it nowhere. The DC Extended Universe was confusing and all over the place, but once James Gunn became the head of the recently formed DC Studios, he rebooted the DC Extended Universe into a new continuity called the DCU. This reboot has come with a lot of questions from fans, the biggest being what the universe will look like. I think the universe should embody everything James Gunn has done up to this, that being to make something fun.

Since 2023 not many questions have been answered about the future of this universe. The current one that's on everyone's mind is 'where is Batman?' Fans saw a shadow of him in the 2024 animated show "Creature Commandos," but other than that Batman has merely been hinted at and teased. It has been confirmed by Gunn that Robert Pattinson will not be returning to reprise the role of Batman in the new DCU, which in my opinion is both a good and bad decision.

Pattinson's performance in "The Batman" (2022) is unlike any other Batman actor up to this point. The film was praised for every aspect and is my personal favorite Batman movie. I think it is the right choice for DCU to not overlap with the continuity

that Matt Reeves is building and to let him do his own thing with the Dark Knight.

With the failure of "The Flash" (2023), a negative aura has been left around the character. If the Flash were in this universe, I don't think it should be Barry Allen. It should be his successor, Wally West. This thought process could also apply to other characters.

It's confirmed that Damian Wayne is going to be

Robin, but I think Nightwing should get the focus. Nightwing has become a character much more than Batman's former sidekick, and truly became a hero of his own. Because of this if he was to have his own T.V. show it would probably be the most successful project of the universe. With a Teen Titans movie on the way, it's only a matter of time before Nightwing gets his own T.V. show or movie.

The one thing that DCU should be more careful about is the amount of projects it release in a year. So far in the 2020s, Marvel Studios has been a train wreck, and this is mainly due to the

amount of projects they released in such a short amount of time.

The DCU should go in the direction of releasing two movies, two T.V. shows and maybe one animated project a year. This system would ensure that fans get these "main events" of the universe and the shows can have a unique story disconnected from the movies. This would prevent them from making the same mistake that Marvel Studios made.

Another question about the DCU is what characters and stories should be adapted? Many projects that have been announced but not released feature obscure characters like a Booster Gold T.V. show, a Swamp Thing movie and the most obscure one: giving Clayface his own movie. I believe it's the right choice to stay away from popular characters because it will keep the universe fresh and fantastic stories only told on the pages can now be told like never before.

The future of the DCU is a bright one, as the universe grows so will the size of the fan base. It has been rewarding to see these iconic characters getting the spotlight they deserve. I think five years down the line, whatever James Gunn and his crew decide to do will make the universe possibly greater than the MCU, and either way, truly something special.



ILLUSTRATION BY JULIA ARCHER

Bobcat Buzz



ILLUSTRATION BY EMILY KATZ

Useless acronyms P.M.O.

By **LILLIAN CURTIN**
Opinion Editor

On campus, there are some normal acronyms that are just a given. Saying "CAS" for the College of Arts and Sciences is pretty understandable.

But please, for the love of God. If a building is a shape, and you want to call it that shape, go ahead. There's no shame; it's the easiest route. There is no reason to make it more complicated than it is. No one is stopping you from just keeping it as is.

I wish someone had stopped whoever thought of making DOME an acronym for Driving Opportunity, Momentum and Engagement.

Literally, why? What is the point? It's a dome-shaped building. Is that not reason enough for it to be called "The Dome?"

The Oval Office isn't a square, neither is the Pentagon. Even in Albany, the Egg is just named after what it looks like.

You'd never guess what shape the Egyptian pyramids are. But did they call them the PYRAMIDS? No, they didn't.

They didn't decide to make a pyramid and then say, "Hm, it being the literal shape isn't enough to call it a pyramid, let's make it really difficult and performative, and give it a really long name that no one knows, so they just call it a pyramid anyway."

Because, let's be honest, that's what it is: performative. I get it, we have an image to maintain. "Ambition unleashed," and all that, but can we at least leash this one back up?

Sure, marketing needs to happen. I can appreciate that. I mean, how else can we pay for the millions of additions to this school, so that they can have even more abbreviations?

I can assure you that adding extra words to be fancy isn't going to do the trick, because nobody cares enough.

I couldn't even tell you what The DOME stands for off the top of my

head. If that was the first question on QKart trivia, I'd be off in a second.

It's okay, though, I'd just go back to my DORM where I SLEEP and EAT.

I'm still getting used to The SITE, and then they go ahead and say, "We have more!"

I'm groaning, sighing and rolling my eyes because at this point it feels like I'm getting pop-quizzed. In actuality, the only thing that's getting tested is my patience.

I get it, it's a small thing. It's not a big deal. I would agree. Except it's the principle of it all. It's kind of like when you just start adding random things to your resume, but it's more of a list of a lot of things with no substance than a short list with depth.

It feels artificial and shallow. It has no substance. I would much rather it just be "The Dome" because it has a literal dome on top, than it just be another thing that we want to gush over for the sake of being pretentious.