

# Stuff



## Marvel Comics reveals *The Truth* behind Captain America

By Anthony Q. Casasnovas

Later this month, Marvel Comics will exploit the segregation and racism found in the U.S. military prior to and following WWII. Coming after *The Call of Duty*, Marvel's *The Truth* is yet another real world-based superhero tale. This time around, Marvel is continuing with the trend of re-inventing and/or altering character's origins ala the *Ultimate* series or Wolverine's Origin storyline. Captain America (a.k.a. Steve Rogers) is the hero receiving what is more of a historical re-examination or prequel rather than a full-fledged alteration of the character's background.

Stemming from a scrapped idea that Marvel's President Bill Jemas had to make Captain America a black man in the *Ultimate* series, *The Truth* explains the occurrences leading up to Steve Roger's use of the Super Serum. We learn of "The Super Soldier Project," an operation that closely shadows that of the Tuskegee Syphilis Experiment in which the disease was tested on unsuspecting blacks for nearly 30 years. Before Rogers was given the Red, White and Blue shield, three black men were tested with the serum. One of these men predates Rogers as the original Captain America.

The five issue mini-series, created by Bob Morales and Kyle Baker, will present a cold, racist U.S. military service not yet desegregated, and the first American superhero, who turns out to be a black soldier. However, due to the color of his skin, the first Captain America does not inherit the iconic figure status that Steve Rogers' Captain will eventually carry with him. An interesting addition to a classic character's history, this series is bound to stir up plenty of controversy. Pick it up quick.

## Hoodz and Hoodies

By Anthony Q. Casasnovas



For those of you who were too anxiety-ridden to go out bombing during the peak of graffiti's history or simply wish to "be down" with its current resurgence in all aspects of pop-culture, Mezco has released the Hoodz. This collection of anime-meets-graffiti styled 8" vinyl figures includes four fictional masters of the Krylon: Fatcap, Letter Man, Vapor, and Signstein. Available in "Remix" styles, Hoodz are complete with accessories such as cans that actually rattle when shaken. Want to start a retro b-boy toy gathering? Run DMC is also produced by Mezco. Reverend Run, DMC, and Jay are available with signature sneakers, caps, warm-up suits, gold chains and mics. Both sets retail at \$59.99. Check it out: <http://www.mezco.net>

Prefer wearing hoods instead of playing with them? Then hit up [www.neighborhoodies.com](http://www.neighborhoodies.com). For fifty bucks you can get a classic zip-up for either guys or gals with your zone custom-stitched in two or three inch letters. Whether from Billy's Burg or the Boogie Down, these high-quality threads are bound to get you into that hipster's pants you've been eyeing at the local dive.

## DVD



**"Bumfights Volume 1"**  
[www.bumfights.com](http://www.bumfights.com)

DVD has gone beyond mainstream and into the homes of subterranean urban dwellers and the remaining bedridden, COPS watching, not quite brain dead representatives of Americana. Bumfights.com's home video debut, Volume 1, takes the newest performance art of the streets to the discomfort of one's own home. Masquerading as entertainment, this waste of time features broken down, substance-abusing street folk brawling, running headfirst into various structures, and engaging in sexual encounters. The only standout here is Rufus, the Stunt Bum. His acts of self-abuse notwithstanding, you have to admire a war veteran who takes money from a few assholes with a DV cam only to turn around and sue them a few months down the line. I take pride in our soldiers practicing the American way. Even the randomly placed interludes featuring a stripper are unrewarding. This is simply the most base, lowest common denominator-aimed, tasteless, humorless, shoddily produced bowel movement ever to be slapped by a pricing gun. You could pair a group of blind autistics with I-Macs and produce something exponentially superior. None of it is funny, or even interesting. This isn't groundbreaking, real, or shocking. Rather, Bumfights: Volume 1 is the genocide of intelligence. Avoid. This is the video that will kill you in seven days. **-Dave Conkin**



**"James Bond Collection Vol. 1"**  
 Artisan Home Entertainment

Going across the board of agents, including Sean Connery, Roger Moore, Timothy Dalton and Pierce Brosnan, this collection contains seven of the films each packed with commentaries, numerous featurettes, music videos, even digital FX reels and making-of shorts included in the more recent Bond films. The featurettes range from explanations of elaborate set designs to discussions of the stunts used in the films. Viewers may even explore the world of Bond's gadgets and cars, as well as his beautiful femmes. Amid all the rich content and features you're given, each disc also has a very cool intro to the title screen in which you "activate" the DVD, which, though short, is pure James Bond eye candy.

The titles included in this excellent package are, *Dr No* (Bond's first appearance), *Goldfinger*, *The Spy Who Loved Me*, *The Man With the Golden Gun*, *License to Kill*, *Goldeneye*, and *Tomorrow Never Dies*. **-Adam Bernstein**



**"Brotherhood of the Wolf"**  
 MPA Rating: R  
 Publisher: Universal

*Brotherhood of the Wolf*, or *Le Pacte Des Loups* in its homeland of France, has received a DVD treatment that is clearly outmatched by its UK counterpart. The film, which is part epic beauty, part B-movie in the horror and martial arts genres, tells the story of a fabled wolf that has brought death to the countryside of France. Given that the film was fairly popular during its limited American release, Universal's skimping on features is a surprising move. While the video quality is a pristine 2.35:1, the included "deleted scenes" are a far howl from the number of features found on the 3-disc UK (and soon to be released in Canada) versions. The optional English track is also quite laughable, making the film play out like an episode of *Ultra-7*. Get the import for features, the US release for video quality, and hit by a bus for owning both. **-Anthony Q. Casasnovas**



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