

SPR

S01E02

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NEWS ONE

10

INT. NEWS STUDIO

10

In the studio.

UNDERWRITER

This is SPR.

DEIRDRE WILSON

Puerto Rico was without Oxygen for two minutes this morning after it was stolen by a new Villainous Cyborg named The Black Hole. More on this story as it develops.

UNDERWRITER

That was Deirdre Wilson reporting from SPR Miami.

STEPHEN SINGH

Live from SPR news in Washington, I'm Stephen Singh.

(then)

The White House has issued a condemnation of its own Homeland Security Director, Tyler Ross, after the department issued a "Doppleganger Alert." The alert, which has since been walked back, originally claimed "numerous unknown possibly alien substitutes have been replacing people in a massive case of identity theft." However, White House Press Secretary Jill Wessell said the following at this morning's brief:

JILL WESSELL

It was inadvisable to issue those findings to the public. The last thing we want to do is cause a panic. It is true that we have discovered the presence of one or more of these so called "Dopplegangers," but we have no evidence to suggest that these are anything more than one or two isolated events. However, the possibility of such a thing is all the more reason to support the President's Alien Registration Act.

(MORE)

JILL WESSELL (CONT'D)

We just hope that the Senate is ready to do its job and pass this bill.

STEPHEN SINGH

Deputy Secretary Ross has since resigned.

UNDERWRITER

That was Stephen Singh reporting from Washington. It's 73 degrees here in Paradise City. Coming up next is Utility Belt...

**END NEWS ONE**

ACT ONE

11 INT. UB STUDIO

11

In the studio.

STAN

From the Rust belt to the Kuiper Belt this is Utility Belt, I'm Stan the henchman, with me is the pint-sized kid with the quart-sized brain and the gallon-sized ego, it's Billy, the Whiz Kid.

WHIZ KID

Thanks. That really speaks volumes.  
(beat)  
Volumes? Anyone?

STAN

Little louder?

WHIZ KID

VOLU--ah I see what you're doing. You were probably thinking of milk with those measurements weren't you.

STAN

I'm always thinking about milk, it builds strong bodies.

WHIZ KID

Thought that was what you did for Re-animator.

STAN

Ha! That was one time. It would've worked too if we had more wattage.

WHIZ KID

I'm shocked.

STAN

He wasn't, that's the problem.

PRODUCER BOT

Alert. End Banter.

STAN

Alright, Producer Bot's right.  
You've got tech questions? Ask the  
One and a half people with all the  
answers.

WHIZ KID

And we've got a caller. This is  
Sirene from Sandusky, Ohio. Caller,  
what's your major malfunction?

SIRENE

Hi!

SFX: Automatic Gunfire.

SIRENE (CONT'D)

Big fan of the--

SFX: Gunfire on Metal.

SIRENE (CONT'D)

--Show. Hoping you can settle a bet  
I have with my sidekick.

(More gunfire)

You know Armorium?

STAN

Sure, Dutch company. Made that car  
that couldn't be crushed.

WHIZ KID

That got recalled when all those  
people died from whiplash.

SIRENE

Well they make custom capes that  
they *claim* are bulletproof from any  
angle.

WHIZ KID

You want to test their hypothesis  
through observation?

SIRENE

Don't think I've got a choice.

SFX: Gunfire.

SIRENE (CONT'D)

I think we can wrap ourselves up  
and roll out there? Like a justice  
burrito.

(MORE)

SIRENE (CONT'D)

My sidekick is saying it's suicide.  
But bulletproof is bulletproof,  
right?

STAN

Well for me, it comes down to two  
questions. What's the model?

WHIZ KID

It'll say in the hem.

SIRENE

Let me... Yeah it's the X-370.

Stan and Whiz Kid both Hmmmm.

WHIZ KID

You see that's a complication. In  
2017 Armonium got bought out by a  
conglomerate and they moved  
manufacturing to China and changed  
their process a bit. Instead of  
being pure adamantium, they use an  
adamantium/kevlar blend. So it's  
not quite as solid as it used to  
be.

STAN

More breathable though.

WHIZ KID

Much more.

STAN

Those old capes could stop a train.  
I mean the force would still be  
enough to turn you into a goo. But  
the capes held up just fine.

WHIZ KID

Sirene, you never tested your capes  
before using them in the field?

SIRENE

What like shoot them?

STAN

Ohhhh. Uh oh. Yeah. SO this depends  
a little on what's being shot at  
you. Anything armor piercing up to  
say....5.56 Caliber?

WHIZ KID

Yeah, 5.56.

STAN

Yeah and I think you'd be fine. But you haven't tested it. So I think it's not surprising that I --

WHIZ KID

We.

STAN

We're on team side-kick here.

SIRENE

Oh Shit.

SFX: Gunfire. Phone clattering.

STAN

Hmm. Those sound like 7.62s. Just to be safe, I would try not to get shot this time.

WHIZ KID

What I would do is when you get home, just take a corner of it and give it a proper test it.

STAN

Or better yet, search on Ebay and see if you can get an old 250 series cape. You can usually find one for under 500 dollars. Indispensable.

Silence.

WHIZ KID

Hello?

STAN

Huh. Well I guess that answers that.

PRODUCER BOT

End show! End show!

STAN

Alright, well that's our show. As always, if you have tech questions, we've got answers.

WHIZ KID

Give us a call at 414-555-BELT. That's 414-555-BELT.

STAN  
I am Stan the Henchman.

WHIZ KID  
I'm Billy the Whiz Kid.

STAN  
And this was The Utility  
Belt!

WHIZ KID (CONT'D)  
And this was The Utility  
Belt!

Banjo music.

**END ACT ONE**



NEWS TWO

12 INT. AD BREAK

12

In the studio.

ADS

Support for SPR comes from...

(then)

The Heroic Legion. Since 1942 we've had a single goal. To "Do Good". We've expanded that mission at home and abroad, with outposts in almost every major city and country across the planet. Thousands of people working together to preserve peace.

(then)

Supers that work for the Legion are provided with some of the best benefits and amenities available, services to help you become the hero we know that you were meant to be.

(then)

Do you hear the call? Apply at a local outpost today and see if you qualify to become America's next great Superhero. The Heroic Legion. Here to do good.

13 INT. NEWS STUDIO

13

In the studio.

STEPHEN SINGH

Live from SPR news in Washington, I'm Stephen Singh .

(then)

More than two hundred cities have applied for the Heroic Legion's Tower Two project.

(then)

The organization listed three main criteria: Metropolitan areas with more than fifty thousand powered individuals, a business friendly environment, and urban or suburban locations with the potential to attract and retain strong superhuman talent.

(MORE)

STEPHEN SINGH (CONT'D)

Critics have noted that the Legion has been seeking tax incentives and grants that may cost the chosen city upwards of six billion dollars. Dr. Hanna Nasir of the Future People said this when asked about the project in an unrelated interview:

DR. NASIR

I'm sure this expansion is useful for the Legion, but there is nothing in this proposal that will benefit the civilian population at large. Nothing but more opportunities to militarize impressionable superhuman youths. What happened to the promise to "Do Good"? This only does good for the Legion and its bottom line.

STEPHEN SINGH

The Legion has not responded to her comments.

UNDERWRITER

That was Stephen Singh reporting from Washington, it's 73 degrees here in Paradise City. Up next is These American Supers.

**END NEWS TWO**

ACT TWO

14 INT. PROGRAM STUDIO

14

In the studio.

ETHAN

With QSPZ Baltimore, it's These American Supers. Today on our program, "Return to Sender"

(then)

The most common gripe among American super villains is that "heroes just won't stay dead". In fact, there is an rule in the Villainous League, that if you don't see the body, you cannot count a hero as deceased.

(then)

There is an unspoken rule, that if you can see the body, make sure to poke it with a stick.

(then)

Throughout history, there are dozens of accounts of heroes treating death as a minor setback.

(then)

They're resurrected. They're cloned. They're replaced by interdimensional counter parts. And their return isn't always a happy one.

(then)

Ellen Spiegel has the story...

ELLEN SPIEGEL

Captain Phasmic gave his life to save the world, and yet you've probably never heard his name. There was no parade, no medal, no statue in his honor. All that stands in memorial to his sacrifice is single line in the Peoria Register's online weekly shout out section.

(then)

"Braino was defeated moments before destroying the world. Also dead: Captain Phasmic."

(a beat)

(MORE)

ELLEN SPIEGEL (CONT'D)

A single sentence between mentions of the upcoming spelling bee and the winner of the 25th pie eating contest.

LILY

You saw that one huh?

ELLEN SPIEGEL

This is Lily Cheslock, editor in Chief of the Peoria Register in Illinois.

LILY

Yeah we had written up a longer story but there just wasn't much of a demand.

ELLEN SPIEGEL

Braino is a reliable feature on headlines throughout the region. He's made the FBI's most wanted list and is a member of the Villainous league. But the problem was that when it came to Captain Phasmic...

LILY

We shouldn't speak ill of the dead, but...

WOMAN

He was the worst.

ELLEN SPIEGEL

This just one of the many citizens in Peoria who had a negative interaction with the Captain.

On the street:

WOMAN

I was walking home one night after double shift when a man tried to assault me. I screamed for help, and whoosh, the Captain drops outta the sky and knocks the man out.

(then)

I was in shock and asked him: "Why would this happen to me?" And you know what he said?

(impression)

(MORE)

WOMAN (CONT'D)

"Maybe if you didn't dress that way." Then whoosh, just takes off again. Wait can I swear on this?

ELLEN SPIEGEL

Yeah, we'll just bleep it out.

WOMAN

Maybe if you didn't dress that way, you tight-wearing mother\*\*\*\*\* you wouldn't be such a \*\*\*\*\*ing \*\*\*face.

On the street:

MAN

He refused to fly me to safety because I was too fat. He flew down to tell me that.

(then)

My house was on fire!

On the street:

TEEN

Captain Phasmic? \*Long string of bleeped obsenities\* That guy!

Music.

LILY

It wasn't much of a shock that the city didn't eulogize him.

ELLEN SPIEGEL

It was however a shock, to Captain Phasmic.

CAPTAIN PHASMIC

I can't say that I was thrilled.

ELLEN SPIEGEL

He had pulled the oldest trick in the book. He had faked his own death.

CAPTAIN PHASMIC

Braino had this doomsday device, ready to light the air on fire or something, who really listens to the monologue.

(then)

Anyway, I rip this thing out of the ground and bring it into orbit.

(MORE)

CAPTAIN PHASMIC (CONT'D)

There's only a few seconds left so I think I'm gonna die. But when I throw it away it takes like twenty seconds to go off. Stupid Braino can't even make a timer. More like. Not a lot of Braino.

ELLEN SPIEGEL

Instead of flying back down to check on the public he made a decision.

CAPTAIN PHASMIC

I hadn't had a vacation in years and, everyone thinks I'm dead, so why not let them believe it? Just for a bit.

ELLEN SPIEGEL

So he flew home, packed away the costume and waited for a parade that would never come.

CAPTAIN PHASMIC

I went to my own funeral, you know to watch from a distance with a black umbrella, looking super good in case anyone hot recognized me.

(then)

But no one came. Two landscapers just dropped a tombstone and left. And that was it. Then some punk kid came past. And look. Look at this. Gum. On my tombstone.

(then)

F\*\*\*ing gum. After I saved that kid's life. *Probably.*

(then)

Not even the Legion showed up.

(then)

What am I paying those dues for if they aren't going at least give me a proper send off?

IRON BARRACUDA

It is company policy to notify the Legion if you are going to fake your own death.

ELLEN SPIEGEL

This is Iron Barracuda, Leader of the Heroic Legion.

IRON BARRACUDA

Sometimes it can be necessary for public safety and for the safety of the hero's family for such a deception.

(then)

So when the Legion accessed the situation, we believed it would be in the interest of both parties if we didn't play into the Captain's...

(ahem)

Plans.

ELLEN SPIEGEL

When he didn't get the swan song from the public or his co-workers.

(then)

He took things into his own hands....

News recording.

NEWS REPORTER, RETURN TO SENDER, E2

We're here at the Peoria Spelling Bee Grand Championships where deceased superhero Captain Phasmic has returned from the grave and he appears to be drunk.

CAPTAIN PHASMIC

C-c-can you spell ungrateful? I can. U, N, G, A, R, T. Full.

AUDIENCE MEMBER, RETURN TO SENDER, E2

Get off the stage!

CAPTAIN PHASMIC

You get off the stage!

Aside.

ELLEN SPIEGEL

The outburst cost him his position in the Legion, and he was banned from Licensed Hero work.

(adding)

For six months.

Interview.

CAPTAIN PHASMIC

You know how they say that if you look around the room and you can't find the asshole, the asshole is you?

(then)

Well what I learned is that I was surrounded by assholes.

ELLEN SPIEGEL

The Captain now spends his time flying around the city flipping off the people he once swore to protect.

(then)

They are happy to return the favor.

ETHAN

That was Ellen Spiegel, regular contributor to the show.

(then)

That's it for our program. Which we're recording from our studio and not in front of an audience after what happened the last time:

AUDIENCE MEMBER, RETURN TO SENDER, E2  
Get off the stage!

ETHAN

We'll be back soon with more These American Supers.

**END ACT TWO**



NEWS THREE

15 INT. STUDIO

15

In the Studio.

STEPHEN SINGH

Live from SPR news in Washington,  
I'm Stephen Singh.

(then)

A formal date has been set for the  
merit hearing of Cosmos.

(then)

Merit Hearings are the stage in  
removal proceedings at which the  
government and the foreign  
nationals present their arguments  
for and against removal of the  
individual.

(then)

Aided by the ACLU and other  
Superhuman Rights groups, Cosmos  
and his legal team have been  
optimistic about his chances in  
court. SPR caught up with the Head  
of Cosmos legal team, Phil Axion,  
at his office in New Jersey.

PHIL AXION

(long island accent)

I've worked a lot of cases like the  
Big C's over the years. The United  
States has drawn people from across  
the universe, even people from  
other universes have immigrated to  
our great country and none of them,  
none of them, have the resume that  
my client has. How many people do  
you know that have saved the world  
more times than you can count on  
your fingers?

STEPHEN SINGH

It should be noted for listeners  
that Phil Axion is a giant super  
intelligent spider, so he is  
holding up four legs.

PHIL AXION

Look at that. Three times that  
many. Cosmos is a hero. A hero's  
hero. A superhero's hero.

(MORE)

PHIL AXION (CONT'D)

He's my hero. Your hero. And we have every reason to believe this court will remember this in their decision. End of discussion.

UNDERWRITER

That was Steven Singh reporting from Washington.

(then)

Today's show was written and produced by John Dorsey and Maximilian Clark. Additional producing by Brendan Sokler and Carla Lerner, This episode's cast include (see website). With special thanks to Brenna Killeen.

(then)

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(then)

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Outro:

UNDERWRITER (CONT'D)

Coming up in our next hour, what does grocery shopping look like when you burn 10000 calories per hour? We talk to super-foods nutritionalist Wendy Klondike on how to make your meals keep up with your metabolism. An investigative report...

SFX: Music and fade out.

UNDERWRITER (CONT'D)

This is SPR.

**END NEWS THREE**

END EPISODE TWO