

## Ron's Rants



Ron Middleton  
Staff Writer

## 'Spider-Man'

For nearly 40 years, Spider-Man has been one of the most recognizable comic book heroes around the world, thanks to creators Stan Lee and Steve Ditko. And now the movie based on that legendary character has shattered every imaginable record and earned over \$220 MILLION during its two weeks of release.

Not bad for a character introduced as a throwaway story in the last issue of Amazing Fantasy way back in 1962.

If you don't know, Spider-Man (PG-13, Sony, playing EVERYWHERE) is the tale of Peter Parker (Tobey Maguire), an awkward teenager who wears glasses and is always picked on by the more popular kids at school. His best friend, Harry Osborn (James Franco), is always there to bail him out of trouble and Peter has an unrequited crush on his neighbor Mary Jane Watson (Kirsten Dunst), but she has no idea of course.

During a field trip, Peter is bitten by a genetically engineered spider. After the bite, Peter discovers he now has superhuman strength, the ability to sense nearby danger, the ability to cling to virtually any surface and the power to shoot "webs" from his wrist.

Peter then decides to use his powers to make a little scratch by wrestling Bone Saw ("Macho Man" Randy Savage). After getting ripped off by the promoter, a thief robs the crooked promoter and Peter allows him to escape. Peter then discovers his guardian, Uncle Ben (Cliff Robertson), dying on the sidewalk after being carjacked.

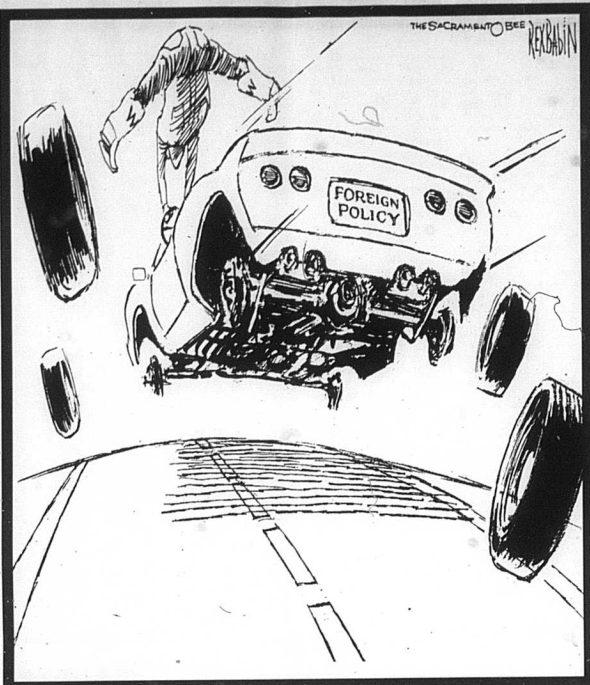
After an exciting chase through the city, Peter finds that the crook he let escape is the same one who murdered his uncle and prompts him to use his powers to fight the bad guys. "With great power comes great responsibility." Those words spoken by his uncle are one of the driving forces behind his decision.

Oh yeah, and Harry's scientist father, Norman Osborn (Willem DaFoe), decides to experiment on himself and inadvertently becomes the revenge-driven Green Goblin.

And that's only the first 20 minutes of the movie. Director Sam Raimi (Army of Darkness, For Love Of The Game, A Simple Plan) goes on all cylinders and delivers a movie that is fun, exciting, witty and very

See SPIDER on 7

## Viewpoint



## Commentary

## Boys required to make sound effects

Elizabeth's Ad-libs



ELIZABETH LEWIS  
Staff Writer

Boys must be required to take a class in sound effects before they are allowed to graduate to adulthood. I'm sure of it. Or maybe they have recording devices hidden in their mouths.

Either way, it's an interesting phenomena I began to notice in my own childhood. My brothers could accurately imitate a variety of things, from machine gun fire, horse hooves clipping on asphalt, to the sounds of apparently stunt-driven vehicles complete with accelerating, braking, and screeching noises.

I never made it past bang, or vroom-vroom. As they grow older, men constantly add to their storage of sound effects. It is no longer just for fun — sound effects become an intricate

part of daily life. Just ask any mechanic — expert or amateur.

If the car makes some strange noise, I'll tell my husband. He can instantly pull from his mental file, ask, "Did it sound like this or that?", and make the required sound effects. I could maybe suggest, "It had a little moop" of a knock to it," he'll adjust the effect and know exactly what it is he has to fix.

I'm still not sure how he does it.

I've also met a rare few that can tell you everything they've done that weekend and never utter a single word.

In this apparently top-secret classified school boys attend, they are quizzed and drilled time and time again on the different sounds a basketball can make when it hits the floor, to any clack, knock, thump or rattle of every type of machinery that's existed since the cotton gin.

I still question whether this skill is absurd or important. But maybe girls should give up their tea parties and dolls for one afternoon and crash this secret school. When you do, give me a whistle. You know, a high-pitched, three-note whistle that sounds sort of like this...

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