

Spider-man crawls into the record books

BY CLIFTON T. WILLIAMS

The fastest growing blockbuster of the summer features a geeky science nerd swinging from building to building, in blue and red tights. *Spiderman*, the first of a three part series about the comic book "web head", made its theatrical debut on May 3, and was an immediate box office smash.

On its first weekend it tallied in a whopping \$114 million, shattering the previous three day record of \$90.6 million held by *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*. If this isn't staggering enough, it continued to prove itself after scoring another \$72 million on its second weekend, making it the third largest grossing three day week of all time.

It further continued to shock the nation when it drew in another \$46 million on weekend 3. This is the

most successful third weekend of all time. It was also the same weekend that the much anticipated prequel sequel *Star Wars: Episode II* was scheduled to debut.

This lead to another bitter rivalry between the two blockbuster movies. *Star Wars* fans everywhere were sure that its opening weekend numbers would knock the 'Spider King' from his throne and claim the number one weekend slot for its own. However, critics were proven wrong everywhere as *Episode II*'s first weekend came to a close, after bringing in \$116 million dollars.

At first glance it may appear that the 'light saber sequel' just barely Waterlooed the super hero flick, but this is not the case.

Episode II opened on a Thursday, whereas *Spider-man* opened on a Friday. This gave *Episode II*

one more day to count for its weekend total. So to make it fair, *Spider-man*'s total on Monday of its first weekend was also added to its score. This gave the webby flick a four day weekend total of \$126 million, thus leaving *Episode II*'s \$116 million four day total a little less than champion material.

Although *Spider-man* has indisputably won the opening weekend totals, the movie that will make the most money total this summer is still much of a toss-up between the two. Each one is expected to bring in over \$400 million in theatres alone.

Now the question that most of you are wondering about is probably what makes this movie about a comic book superhero so great. Well, it's a combination of many things. First, we'll talk about the movie's audience. It appealed to almost every person outside of the nursing home. Not only did you have a whole slew of wannabe teenage spideys who watched the movie with their girlfriends, but full grown Spider-man fans from way back came to see the live action rendition of their favorite web-slinging hero. Not to mention its PG-13 rating. This lead to whole families going to watch the flick.

Now, the part that really earned *Spider-man* its record-breaking bucks. The movie rocks! From start to finish, the fluid motion of the movie keeps you honed in and waiting for what's going to happen next. Of course you know the hero is going to save the day, but the road there is what the movie is all about.

The movie starts with Spider-man's alter ego Peter Parker, a nerdy high school senior, getting bitten by a genetically created spider and poof, you have Spiderman. The rest of the movie follows in almost every aspect the complete history of the hero as stated in



comic books. A few differences are the spider that bit Peter, and the fact that this Spider-man's web comes from mutated spinnerettes in his wrists instead of web cartridges of his own design. You see the death of Uncle Ben, Peter's mentor and surrogate parent, and the transformation of Spider-man, the freelance wrestler, into the friendly neighborhood superhero.

You then see the formation of Spidey's first major villain. Everyone knows that to make a good superhero, you have to have a good villain. William Defoe plays the part of Spidey's arch nemesis 'Green Goblin' to perfection. The hi-tech glider riding, punipkin-throwing, evil incarnate gives the movie an amazing edge! The aerial fight scenes between the two super humans are beautifully photographed and make for some very chilling movie experiences.

For those of you who feel like I did about the movie, and can't wait to see the sequel, here is some good

news for you. The next *Spider-man* movie is scheduled to release to theatres in the summer of 2004. The cast will remain the same with Tobey Maguire as Spider-man, and Kirsten Dunst as the hero's love-lorn leading lady. Spidey fans, however, can expect to see two of Spidey's oldest comic villains pair up to menace the Spider's home town. 'The Lizard', a half reptile half scientist Jekyll and Hyde, paired with one of the web-head's most notorious villains 'Doctor Octopus', a scientist who after a freak lab accident had four pneumatic arms seared to his back. With a line-up like this, things are definitely looking up for this blockbuster's sequel.

By stacking the odds against our favorite web-slinging hero we can definitely expect to see another eye-riveting sequel. My advice to those of you who haven't seen the first movie is: go to the nearest theatre and watch it. *Spiderman* receives without a doubt four stars.****



Wendy's/Citgo

Eat great, even late!

Wendy's: 6 a.m.- 11 p.m. Mon.-Thurs.
6 a.m.- 12 p.m. Friday & Saturday
7 a.m.- 11 p.m. Sunday
Citgo: Open 24 hours

(606)256-5611



Danny Settles, Store manager

KFC

KFC Hours:
Sunday-Thursday,
10:00 AM-10:00 PM
Friday, Saturday
10:00 AM-11:00 PM

Both located on U.S. 25 North at I-75