

Today's crossword solution

B	L	A	B	P	L	E	B	E	A	G	E	D	
A	O	N	E	R	E	A	L	M	M	I	M	E	
R	A	T	T	L	E	T	R	A	P	P	A	C	T
E	D	I	T	E	D	L	I	L	T	N	E	E	
O	V	I	D	R	O	O	S	T	E	R			
A	M	E	R	I	C	A	S	Y	E	L	P		
J	U	G	S	T	U	N	T	S	O	A	P	S	
A	T	O	M	S	N	O	R	E	G	N	A	T	
R	E	C	A	P	T	W	I	N	S	D	R	Y	
E	X	E	S	S	A	T	U	R	A	T	E		
V	A	N	I	L	L	A	L	I	S	A			
O	C	T	T	I	M	E	R	A	T	H	E	R	
T	U	R	F	P	E	R	C	E	N	T	A	G	E
E	R	I	E	U	B	O	A	T	E	L	A	N	
R	A	C	E	P	A	S	T	Y	D	O	D	O	

FEATURE

A not-so-super hero



'Spider-Man'
Starring Tobey Maguire, Kirsten Dunst
★★★★☆

■ Cheesy dialogue and mediocre acting might make 'Spider-Man' fall short of audiences' expectations

Jen West
Oregon Daily Emerald

"Spider-Man" jumps onto the big screen to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the web-slinger's first appearance in Marvel Comics. The film hits theaters nationwide today.

Although the film, directed by Sam "Evil Dead" Raimi, does not fall short of audiences' expectations, it does not exceed them either.

In this typical comic book-turned-film, shy and awkward Peter Parker (played by Tobey Maguire) is bitten by a genetically altered spider during a high school field trip. As a result, his body becomes stronger, he can jump great distances, he has developed a "spider sense," and he can spit spider webs from his wrists.

Watching Parker go through these changes and learn how to use his new spider abilities is hilarious. The slapstick comedy in the film is one of its only redeemable qualities, and makes the cheesy dialogue and mediocre acting bearable.

At first, Parker uses his powers to make money and impress his secret crush, Mary Jane Watson (played by Kirsten Dunst). He throws himself into a caged wrestling ring, pitting himself against Bone Saw McGraw (played by "Macho Man" Randy Savage of WWF/WCW and Slim Jim snacks fame).

But in a tragic chain of events, Parker's uncle, who had been like a father to him since his parents' deaths, is killed, leaving Parker with a heavy burden of guilt. His uncle's words, "with great power comes great responsibility," come back to haunt him, and Parker makes it his mission to use his powers to save those in danger.

Meanwhile, his best friend's father, business mogul Norman Osborn (played by Willem Dafoe) con-



Courtesy

Tobey Maguire stars as Peter Parker in 'Spider-Man,' which opens today in Eugene.

ducts an experiment that gives him increased strength and also drives him insane. As Osborn, he treats Parker like the son he always wanted, but as alter ego Green Goblin he is Spider-Man's arch nemesis.

At the same time, Parker and his best friend, Harry (played by James Franco), duel for the affections of Osborn and Watson, Spider-Man and Green Goblin duel for the safety of the city.

"Spider-Man" stays true to the comic book-style format and penchant for alliteration, but the thin plot weaves a predictable web of family intrigue, failure and betrayal. Like many other comic books

that have found their way onto the big screen, "Spider-Man" offers audiences nothing new. Several of the scenes are blatant rip-offs of other well-known comic book movies such as "Superman." Even the "Matrix"-inspired special effects seem like cheap knock-offs.

"Spider-Man" is an enjoyable movie to watch at matinee prices when there is nothing better to do. But then the film should be placed back on the shelf with the other retired superheroes who aren't quite so super any more.

E-mail reporter Jen West at jenwest@dailyemerald.com.

Dietitian for summer diabetes camp:

To coordinate menu planning camper intake & education at a residential summer camp. Need strong communication skills and an ability to support families. Must be board eligible or a registered dietitian. Be a part of a highly motivated medical team. Must be able to live at camp 35 miles from Portland 6/19-8/20.

Contact Joannie
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