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OPINION

The superhero movie: Hollywood's latest muse

By **NICK ZAMBRANO**
Sports editor

It was approximately 11:30 p.m. when I pulled into the parking lot of Union Landing. For two years I had been anticipating this day, June 29, 2004. I was counting down the minutes until Century 25 opened its doors for the midnight screening of *Spider-Man 2*. My name is Nick Zambrano and I am a fan boy.

Back when I was a lad, I dreamt of my favorite comic book heroes being brought to life on the silver screen; to see Batman drive the Batmobile in the streets of Gotham City, Spider-Man web-swing through the New York skyline and Superman battle Lex Luthor. Oh man, I was

drooling just at the thought of the live action superhero goodness. Eventually, Hollywood would grant my wish in one big package. *Spider-Man*, *The Hulk*, *Daredevil*, *Batman Begins* and *X-Men*, all within a period of five years.

As excited as I was to see my favorite comic books get adapted into movies, the geek in me was still disappointed. In typical fashion, Hollywood has twisted the mythology behind the characters to make a bigger profit. Spider-Man had organic web shooters, the Hulk was a softy and Daredevil was not as lame as Ben Affleck portrayed him to be. Every fan boy would agree with me that these moves were utterly repulsive. What happened to

staying true to the source material?

Oops, they had done it again. Hollywood exploited and dried up yet another genre. They have done this with the likes of novels (*Friday Night Lights*, *The Da Vinci Code*) pointless sequels, (*The Sandlot 2*, *Big Momma's House 2*) and remake after remake after remake. Now comic book adaptations are the new muse of Hollywood, which means we might possibly see a movie for every comic book made including spin-offs. Ready or not my fellow fan boys, our beloved movies will eventually go the way of Jean Claude Van Damme and Old Yeller.

Marvel Comics has already signed production contracts with

many different studios to produce a number of films. By 2012, we could have another Captain America movie, along with *Iron Man*, *Thor*, a Hulk sequel, *Hawkeye*, *The Black Panther*, *Nick Fury*, *Wolverine*, *Magneto* and *Ant-Man*, yes, I said it, Ant-Man is getting a movie. DC Comics is also busting out the big guns; a Wonder Woman project is in the works along with a possible Aquaman feature.

We should have come to expect this from Hollywood. They will milk this new muse for all its worth, until they find another muse to suck dry. The comic book industry will also be hurt in the process, the money they pump into these make-or-break projects could be

lost forever because of poor performances at the box office. Everyone is at a risk here.

Between now and the end of June we have two more adaptations hitting the movie houses, *X-Men 3: The Last Stand* and *Superman Returns*. Both of these films have high expectations and a strong history; it should be pretty impossible to mess them up. But after this, Hollywood do us all a big favor; try to come up with something original and something that isn't borrowed. How hard is it to come up with something new and fresh that no one is ever seen before. It's the job of a writer to come up with something inventive and, if it takes time, it takes time. Just do it.

Campus military recruitment: Fall back, soldiers!

By **JEROME ENGELBERTS**
Editor-in-chief

As anybody who comes to campus more than sporadically will have noticed: military recruiters are walking around and talking to people about joining the great uniformed masses and potentially going to Iraq to help with the eh...

what's it called nowadays? War? Conflict? Unrest? Unfortunate misunderstanding about whose oil it really is?

Opinions on whether or not these people should be allowed on campus, let alone be allowed to actively recruit, are widely divergent. Disallowing their presence on campus can affect our federal funding. In other words: in a time where educational budgets are already

under fire (pun intended) from the powers that be, we are also being subjected to military recruitment under threat of having our funding cut. Whether or not Ohlone as an educational entity would prefer to decline is apparently not really a matter of choice or principal. Good thing we're out there in the Middle East fighting those people who "just don't like our freedom".

Personally, I feel pretty strongly

about keeping the military recruiters (or any recruiters, for that matter) off campus and in the free speech area in front of the stairs, if only to point out that Ohlone College doesn't necessarily endorse their activities. The Supreme Court does not agree, however:

Chief Justice John Roberts, writing for the court, said that the campus visits are an effective military recruiting tool. "A

military recruiter's mere presence on campus does not violate a law school's right to associate, regardless of how repugnant the law school considers the recruiter's message," he wrote.

In addition, justices said that Congress could directly demand military access on campus, even without the threat of losing federal money.

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Campus Comment >>>

Your thoughts about on-campus recruiters?



KASIA ZARZYCKI
English

◆ "Who cares if they're on campus; it's not like you have to join."



LAWRENCE KOHLER JR.
Liberal Arts

◆ "I think it gives us pressure between classes."



MARINA MOURA
Health Sciences

◆ "It's okay... well, in a college setting."



BOBBY CARSWELL
Mass Communication

◆ "I don't mind it as long as they don't keep on pressuring me."



NICK SPRINGER
Undeclared

◆ "It's okay to advertise on campus cause it's your choice ultimately."