

The Cost of being BATMAN

- Custom Graphite Cowl: \$1,000,000
- Retinal Projection System: \$10,000
- Forearm Blades: \$1,000
- Kevlar Nomex Elbow Pads: \$150
- Kevlar Nomex Gloves: \$150
- Ultrasonic Bat Attractor: \$1,000
- Kevlar Nomex Custom Boots: \$1,000
- Kevlar Nomex Body Armour: \$3,000
- Carbon Fibre Reinforcements: \$1,150
- Memory Cloth Polymer Cape: \$40,000

The *Dark Knight* (2008) was the first film to be ranked #1 on the IMDb within two days of its theatrical release. Source: IMDb.com

The *Dark Knight* (2008) was the first Batman movie to not have the word Batman in the title and also not have any bats throughout the film. Source: IMDb.com

Did you know?

For the first Batman movie, the process of building the perfect Bat suit required the construction of 28 models, along with 25 capes and 6 cowls. Because the cowl attached to the cape, it didn't allow him to move his head, giving rise to a move called the "Bat Turn", which required Keaton to move his whole body along with his head.

Source: "46 Things You Didn't Know About the Batman Films"

Source: "The Real Cost of Being Batman"

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

Spider-Man (2002) was the first film to gross \$100 million in its opening weekend alone.

Source: IMDb.com

Several Spider-Man costumes were created at a cost of up to \$100,000 each. Four were stolen from the set of *Spider-Man* (2002) in early April of 2001. Source: IMDb.com

The year 2012 marked the 50th anniversary of Spider-Man. This Marvel character made its first debut in 1962.

Source: "25 Fun Facts about The Amazing Spider-Man"

Spider-Man 3 was the highest grossing film in the year of 2007. Source: IMDb.com

The Amazing Spider-Man 2 (2014) was the first "Spider-Man" film to be filmed entirely in New York and was the largest film production ever in New York City. Source: "25 Fun Facts about The Amazing Spider-Man"



Rival comics continue their eternal battle

by staff reporter Nayma Villalpando

The idea of a superior being, someone bringing hope and joy in times of need, isn't new. The Greeks had Hercules to save them from any danger that came their way, just like the English had Robin Hood.

Since the 1930s, people have found solace in characters that have leaped off the inky pages of cheap comic books and taken on their own life form as box office hits.

From their early start, their creators and followers of the two major divisions of comics, Marvel and DC, have been rivals. The debate continues. Which comic distributor produces the better comics? Characters? Movies? Costumes?

MARVEL-OUS HISTORY

The Marvel Comic Company, originally named Timely Comics, has been in the works since 1939, but has changed names several times. By the early 1950s, they were generally known as Atlas Comics. They later adopted the name Marvel.

MAGICAL CHARACTERS

Marvel's fame has been based upon superheroes including Spiderman, Captain America, Iron Man and The Hulk and infamous super villains, such as Doctor Octopus, Green Goblin, Loki and Thanos. The fictional characters exist and function together in a single reality known as the "Marvel Universe." This universe seems to mirror real-life cities. Characters such as The Avengers, Spiderman, Daredevil and Dr. Strange are based in New York City. The X-Men are based historically in Salem Center, New York. The Hulk has been placed in the American

Southwest.

DIGGING UP A LONG HISTORY

DC Comics, an American comic book publishing company was founded in 1934 as National Allied Publications. DC is one of the largest and most successful comic companies operating in America.

DC-CHARACTERS

DC features characters such as Batman, Superman, Wonder Woman, the Flash and Green Lantern. The DC universe also includes teams such as the Justice League, the Justice Society, Teen Titans and the Suicide Squad. And you can't forget about the villains, including the Joker, Lex Luthor, Catwoman, Deathstroke, Sinestro and Brainiac.

DETECTING A COMIC COMPETITOR

Although Marvel has a large fan base, DC Comics, named from the company's popular series "Detective Comics" which featured Batman's debut, also has quite a following.

SO WHAT MAKES THEM DIFFERENT?

With both companies being a success in the eyes of their fans, each have unique strengths and weaknesses that help them distinguish their brands.

MARVEL BRAND

Take, for example, Marvel. One of their best attributes is that they stay constant, within a specific series, in terms of their writers and creative teams. For example, they had Brian Michael Bendis and Mark Bagley do 111 issues of the Ultimate Spiderman. Having the same writers allows the story line to flow without contradictions and without missing the previous foreshadowing that the writers intended to use as a jumping point in future issues.

Despite consistent writers, Marvel isn't without fault in the writing department. There are too many plot inconsistencies and the story lines don't match up. For example, Superman was supposed to have been the only survivor of Krypton, therefore the last living Kryptonian, that is unless DC decides to introduce more Kryptonians. It just doesn't make any sense.

DC DELUXE

Just like Marvel, DC has their own successes and faults. One of DC's best selling points is their legacy. DC has owned the term "crisis" ever since their "Crisis on Infinite Earths" story from 1986.

Yet, a legacy can still carry a load of problems. Keeping in touch with their past, DC does has a tendency to keep up the same old gimmicks. When I read I think, "Oh, another comic about Superman fighting some huge monster? I'll pass." That plot line gets pretty boring after a while.

COMPARISON

While both companies are in the comic industry and provide large selections of heroes and villains, beyond both comic groups being successful, fans will probably never agree that their is a fair comparison of the two. Either you like Marvel or DC. Few, true comic fans fall in the middle and profess a love for both.

Lucky for Americans, both franchises have seen extended success. Both have not only been celebrated in America, but they have also taken hold in some other countries, such as Europe and Asia, as well.

As long as the overstretched franchise feud continues, comic lovers are going to find the right supernatural character to save their day.

CUTTHROAT COMIC COMPETITION

MARVEL

FAVORITE SUPERHERO

- 12 Iron Man
- 10 Captain America
- 6 Spider-Man
- 4 Hulk
- 10 Wolverine
- 13 Other

FAVORITE SIDEKICKS

- 6 Bucky Barnes
- 4 War Machine
- 6 Falcon
- 2 Mary Jane
- 23 Jarvis
- 6 Pepper Potts

FAVORITE VILLAIN

- 16 Magneto
- 26 Loki
- 2 Dr.Doom
- 6 Ultron
- 2 Thanos
- 5 Other

FAVORITE MOVIE/TV SHOW

- 11 Winter Soldier
- 14 Guardians of the Galaxy
- 0 Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D
- 2 Iron Man 3
- 26 Avengers
- 4 Other

DC

FAVORITE SUPERHERO

- 13 Batman
- 3 Superman
- 1 Flash
- 1 Wonder Woman
- 3 Green Lantern
- 0 Other

FAVORITE SIDEKICKS

- 10 Robin
- 0 Aqua Lad
- 0 Kid Flash
- 2 Arsenal
- 1 Bat Girl
- 0 Other

FAVORITE VILLAIN

- 10 Joker
- 1 Bane
- 0 Lex Luthor
- 0 General Zod
- 0 Sinestro
- 0 Other

FAVORITE MOVIE/TV SHOW

- 1 Flash
- 3 Arrow
- 6 The Dark Knight
- 4 The Dark Knight Rises
- 1 Man of Steel
- 0 Other

Random polling of Stony Point students