



Who will watch the Watchmen?

Columnist questions popularity of movie that requires knowledge of graphic novel version

BY JOHN HITZEL
Reviewer

If you haven't read the mind-blowing graphic novel "Watchmen," by any means possible buy or borrow a copy and read it. But do not see "Watchmen" the movie, because you will have no idea what's going on. If you have read Alan Moore's scathing critique on human nature through the eyes of vigilantes without superpowers, the film will disappoint you, although you still will enjoy the ride.

There is a reason Moore withdrew his name from the credits of the movie version of his highly acclaimed 1986 graphic novel — it is a Zack Snyder (director of "300" and "Dawn of the Dead") knock-off, not Moore's vision of a world not so different from our own. Things have changed, some for better, some for worse.

Snyder accomplished what directors Terry Gilliam and Darren Aronofsky attempted and then abandoned, which is creating a "Watchmen" movie. The film is almost three hours long, and much from the graphic novel is missing or goes unexplained. Snyder succeeded at finding actors who eerily resemble their ink characters and somehow getting them to sound like their on-page alter ego also. He succeeded at condensing a 12-chapter, 300-plus-page novel into big-screen format, at the expense of the Black Freighter and newspaper man plotlines.

Some plot points: Watchmen takes place in a world where Richard Milhouse Nixon is still President in 1985 (aside: a certain ex-vigilante voted for him five times) and Henry Kissinger is still advising him in the war room. Red Scare 1950s culture is still at large. Watergate never happened. Vigilantes have been outlawed despite the apparent good they caused in the past, save for those sanctioned by the government. There exists one superhero, Dr. Manhattan, and as the result of a science experiment gone wrong, he can manipulate matter according to his will. The vigilante Rorschach, who refused to retire, is investigating the murder of a former friend. The smartest man in the world is attempting to make resources infinite in order to make war obsolete. The former Nite

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Re-purposing your wardrobe...and other tips

Go from

Ready for bed

to

Paint the town red

for instructions visit: videojug.com/film/how-to-convert-a-t-shirt-into-a-sexy-dress

Re-use an old skirt

Long, flowy skirts with elastic waists work best. Pull it over the chest, add a fashion belt and VOILA! Instant, flirty dress.

Keep that sweat-stained shirt!

If your shirt's a little worn out from all the trips to the gym, it can be saved! Just hide it under a fashionable crew neck sweater.

Design by Antionette Bedessie/Index. Photographs by Photo Staff.

Economic downturn leads people to get creative with limited resources

BY SHANNON WALTER
Staff Reporter

In the midst of a struggling economy, people are trying to save as much money as possible by repurposing old items.

Kelsey Vannatta, Kirksville resident and hairstylist at Pages of Looks, started sewing and creating unique things at about age 5 and now uses those skills to make purses, pillows, dresses, wallets and whatever else is needed around the house.

"I like being artsy — not crafty, though," Vannatta said. "Artsy is authentic and doesn't look like you made it. My goal is to create things that don't look like they were made in my living room."

Vannatta said she buys women's blouses on sale in large sizes and tailors them to fit her as dresses. She said she repurposes clothes and scraps that would have been thrown away into one-of-a-kind pieces.

"I like to make a lot of bags and wallets and clothes that I see," Vannatta said. "I like to look through People magazine ... [to find] things that I think are unique."

Since Kirksville's shopping scene is limited, Vannatta, who moved here last year with her husband, has gotten the chance to use the fabrics and scraps she finds. Vannatta said whenever she needs things for her home, she finds a way to make them.

"I just make things," Vannatta said. "When I get an idea that comes into my head, I decide to draw it, and then I make it. Necessity is the mother of invention."

Senior Missy Hastings describes herself as crafty when it comes to the clothes, jewelry, blankets and other items she makes for herself.

"Usually I'll stick to making shirts," Hastings said. "I'll find a shirt that is on the rack and it just doesn't fit or it's got a weird cut and I'll tailor it to what I want it to be."

The economy isn't the reason Hastings makes her own clothes, but it might have an effect in the future.

"I'm not just [making things] because of the economy, but it's more fun if you can get things on sale and find stuff to do with it," she said.

Hastings recently made a T-shirt quilt out of all her old shirts from high school and college. She said it was too hard to throw some of her sentimental, old and ragged shirts away so the quilt was a fun solution.

"I made record bowls for Christmas presents last year," Hastings said.

Record bowls are made by warming old records in the oven and then bending them into a bowl shape. She said she also made bracelets by cutting strips out of warmed records, molding them to her arm and painting them.

"I usually stick to sewing or decorating things," Hastings said. "I'll take a really boring flower vase and put some glue and random things [on it.] I edit and I alter random things."

Sherry Stacey, owner of Hidden Treasures, said many of her shoppers search her store for scraps of fabric, odd pieces of furniture or old pieces of china to repurpose.

"I call us the ultimate recycling program because be it clothing or household items, they're getting the second or maybe even third go around, and why not if it still has great function left," Stacey said.

She said she has a few customers come to the store looking for a certain percentage of wool in fabrics to make quilts or rugs. Stacey said one customer buys old china to make mosaic tables tops.

"Nothing gets wasted," Stacey said. The economic downturn has helped Stacey because shoppers are saving money and the environment by repurposing items from Hidden Treasures, she said.

"We had the best year we've ever had last year and hope to do the same this year," Stacey said.

Drive-ins decline in numbers, but the few left flourish

BY STEPHANIE HALL
Features Editor

During the summer of 1950, drive-in theaters were the place to go after the sun set. Now entering the 21st century, it seems the sun has set on drive-ins' popularity.

During the height of the craze there were 131 drive-ins in the state of Missouri, according to drive-in.com. Now the number has dwindled to just 13 scattered across the state. The few drive-ins that remain face shorter seasons and unstable weather but manage to prevail.

The only remaining drive-in theater nearby is the Moberly Five and Drive in Moberly, Mo. This drive-in is not only unique to the area but also is the only drive-in and regular theater hybrid in the world.

"The Moberly operation is attached to a five-screen indoor theater," said Dan VanOrden, the circuit general manager for B&B Theaters. "As far as I know it's the only operation of its kind in the country."

B&B Theaters only owns two drive-ins including the one in Moberly. All of their other drive-ins have been shut down for the past 15 to 20 years, VanOrden said. He blames their demise on a number of factors, including location.

"Drive-ins used [to] be on the outskirts of town and the land wasn't very expensive to own and insure," VanOrden

said. "But that's changed and a lot of communities have grown to where the drive-ins are."

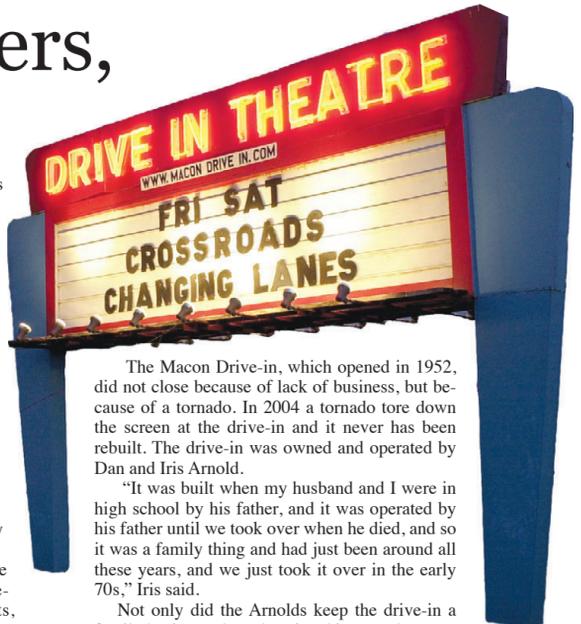
But the main problem lies in the location of drive-ins — in the great outdoors. VanOrden said this is especially an issue in the Midwest where the weather can be unpredictable. He said it is hard to pay the bills on a small business that only runs a few months out of the year.

The Moberly Five and Drive came out of the ashes of the downtown Moberly theater, which closed to build the new five-screen theater at the same location as the existing Highway 63 Drive-in. Now they both run during the summer months, but the drive-in closes for the winter. Because this combination is unique to Moberly, VanOrden said the Associated Press picked up the story a few years ago and ran it worldwide.

"We've never had anyone come back and say there is another one like it," VanOrden said.

Although the Moberly location is doing well, he said the company has no plans to build more drive-ins. He said that in addition to normal theater costs, expenses such as weed control, lawn care and maintenance need to be taken care of.

One drive-in in Adair county was taken down by nature.



The Macon Drive-in, which opened in 1952, did not close because of lack of business, but because of a tornado. In 2004 a tornado tore down the screen at the drive-in and it never has been rebuilt. The drive-in was owned and operated by Dan and Iris Arnold.

"It was built when my husband and I were in high school by his father, and it was operated by his father until we took over when he died, and so it was a family thing and had just been around all these years, and we just took it over in the early 70s," Iris said.

Not only did the Arnolds keep the drive-in a family business, they also aimed it toward families. Iris said they tried to keep their drive-in

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Around the Ville

Mar. 27

7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Porn Debate

Adult film legend Ron Jeremy vs. Pastor Craig Gross
Baldwin Auditorium
Free with Student ID \$5 GA



Mar. 28

7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Fashion

Lights, Camera, Fashion: from Hollywood to Truman, a designer and model fashion show
SUB Activity Room
Free



Mar. 29

6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Screening

A film based on a true story about a North Korean family and their daily struggles to survive
Georgian Room
Free

