

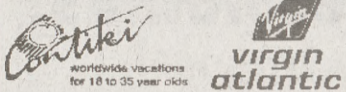
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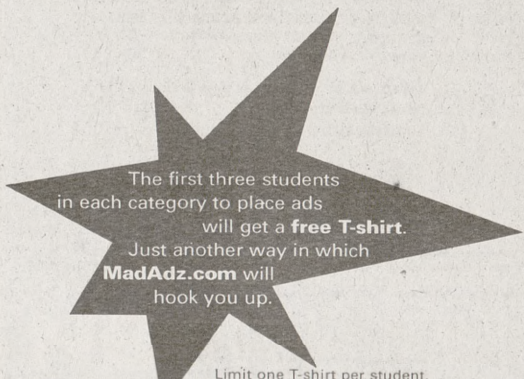
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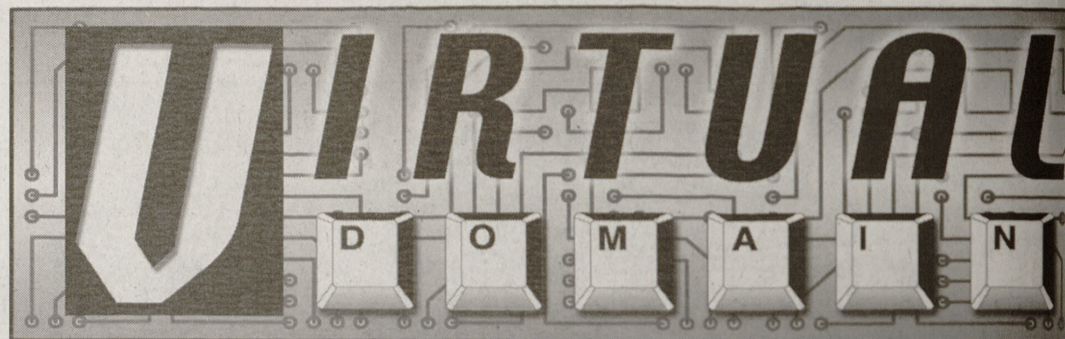
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Spiderman
System: Playstation
Genre: Action
Developer: Neversoft Entertainment

Spiderman, the latest venture of comic books into video games, stands out as a step in the right direction for the crossover genre.

Comic books usually do not translate well to other mediums such as video games and movies. If there is any doubt of this fact, simply think back to a little movie called Batman and Robin. Comic-based video games are no exception to this history of awkward adaptations, but with Spiderman, at least, there seems to be hope.

What makes this video game great is that it captures the

essence of the Spiderman comic books perfectly. It is fun to play, easy to follow and full of great characters such as Dr. Octopus, Venom and The Rhino to keep the game interesting.

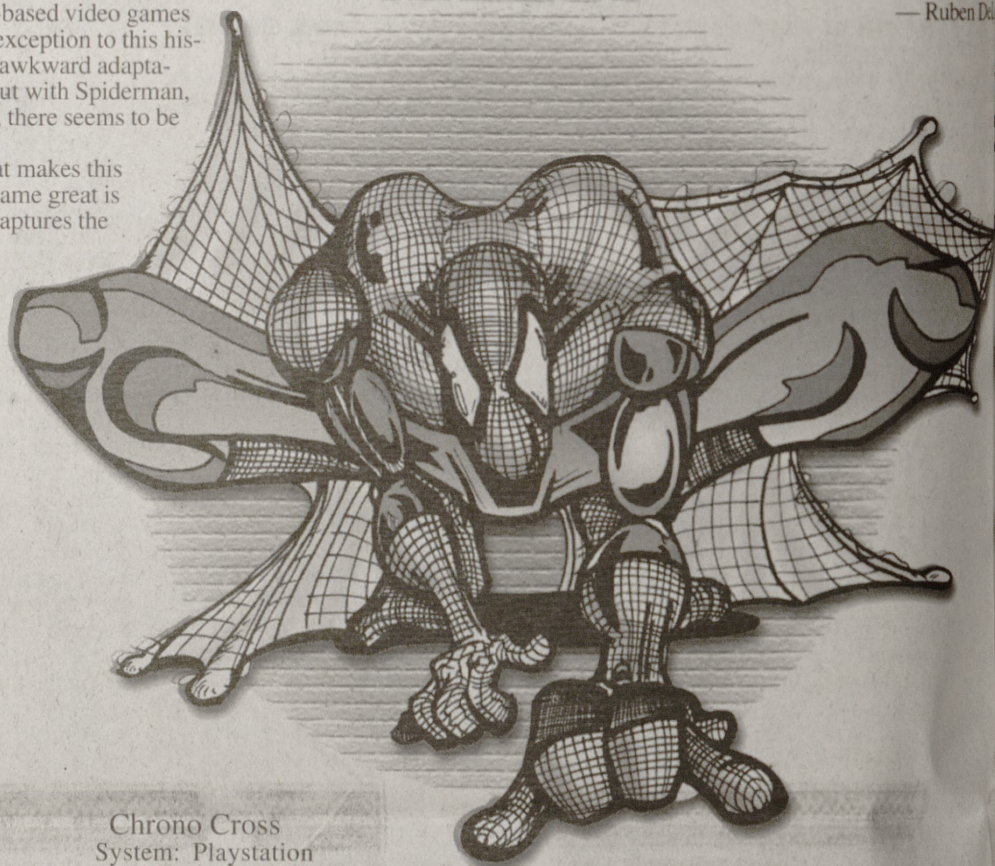
Players follow the web-slinger as he leaps from building to building, swinging and catapulting off of anything he can get his hands on. The use of the patented Spidey web-shooters is probably the most entertaining aspect of the game. Not only can players use the webbing to swing from place to place, but it is

also great for constructing shields, boxing gloves and exploding bombs.

The game play is great in that since Spidey can stick to any wall or ceiling, but this unabashed freedom of movement makes it hard for the camera to keep up, creating confusing views at times.

The graphics are good, and sometimes-awkward camera angles should not deter true Spidey fans. Spiderman proves to be a breath of fresh air for gamers looking for a good comic book game to play. (Grade: A-)

—Ruben De



Chrono Cross
System: Playstation
Genre: RPG
Developer: Squaresoft

Chrono Cross has a lot to live up to. Almost five years ago, Chrono Trigger, one of the best role-playing games ever to be released, debuted on the Super Nintendo. Chrono Cross, the sequel to this legendary game, does not live up to its predecessor.

Not to say this is a bad game. The game has very good qualities that easily make it one of the better RPGs to be released on the Playstation, but it is not up to the usual fare of Squaresoft games that keep players up late at night not only to play the game, but to see what happens next in an innovative plot.

What made Chrono Trigger a great game was how it limited the fantasy element of the game, making it a Jules Verne-like adventure through time and space. Chrono Cross heavily follows a fantasy plotline with

the same boring qualities that make the modern RPG genre stagnant.

The graphics are, of course, top-notch and battle sequences are smooth and fun. But the plot does not compare with Chrono Trigger. Most of the plot is the usual fantasy fare, with dragons and mystical items. The game does break out of the mold with cross-dimensional time travel, some excellent time distortions and amazing lands at the edge of time and space. These twists make the game worth playing, but one has to wonder why the twists constitute so little of the game while the boring fantasy in the main world makes up the rest.

On the whole, this game does not stand as one of Squaresoft's greatest, but it is one of the better games has produced in recent years. (Grade: B)

—Kyle W

A = instant classic
D = don't buy it

B = a cut above
F = burn in effigy

C = average

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