

Girl, Interrupted puts "crazy" into perspective

by Katie Galley
editorial page editor

Have you ever felt like you were different? That you didn't know what you wanted to do with your life? How about not feeling like you know who you really are? This is how 17 year old Susanna Kaysen ends up in the mental hospital, Claymore.

Played by actress Winona Rider, the movie *Girl, Interrupted* tells the story of Susanna, whose parents sign her into a mental hospital when she decides that she doesn't want to go to college with the rest of her friends. Set in the year 1967 the movie takes a look at the two year "rest" that Susanna has in the hospital and all of the angst she suffers trying to discover the root of her "illness", which the doctors label as Borderline Personality Disorder.

The beginning of Susanna's stay in

the hospital starts with a violent and frightful encounter with another patient, Lisa. Played by the extraordinary actress, Angelina Jolie, the character of Lisa is one of an extremely aggressive, yet charming sociopath, who has spent the past eight years in Claymore. After the encounter the two girls quickly become friends and fall into a world of their own at the hospital, separating themselves from the outside world.

As Susanna is trying to recover from her illness she is unknowingly being drawn into Lisa's egocentric world and is finding it harder and harder to adhere to the rules that will help her get out of the hospital faster. While she was already labeled as "crazy", her attachment to Lisa and several other girls in her ward disturbs the nurses and doctors that are trying to help cure Susanna. Together Lisa and Susanna get into mischief by breaking out of

their rooms to explore the hospital, refuse to take their medication and eventually break out of the hospital, only to find that the real world is not where they want to be anymore.

After they are both caught and brought back to the hospital and banished to separate wards, Susanna finds that many of her problems were because of her association with Lisa. She works slowly through her problems with the help of the no-nonsense Nurse Valerie, played by Whoopi Goldberg, who helps Susanna find her lost self and get back to reality.

This movie was intense, light-hearted, touching and frightening all at the same time and well worth the two hours and five minutes I spent in the theater. There were moments in the film where I laughed out loud at the antics of Susanna and her friends, who included a bulimic girl, an anorexic girl, and a self-inflicted burn

victim (whom they all lovingly called Torch). Susanna's plight frightened me when we learned that she was admitted in the first place for the reasons of "uncertainty about self-image, long term goals, types of friends or lovers to have and which values to adopt", pretty much growing up in a nutshell.

Granted, the film and actual experiences that this movie was based upon were set way back in 1967, however, Susanna's problems are our problems too. These are problems that transcend the ages and if people thought her crazy for being confused about life, you can imagine how many of us would be institutionalized right now. If it's true then what the movie preaches to us that "being crazy" is measured on how socially acceptable we are, then for the most part, this whole world is insane.



Winona Rider and Angelina Jolie star in *Girl, Interrupted*

In theaters, Next Friday is the blunt of America's laughter

by Jermaine Hardy
staff writer

If the names Smokey, Debo, or Ice Cube don't ring bells for you, then please do yourself a favor and direct your eyes toward the direction of another article. This review is for explicit humors only. You have been warned. For those of you who are familiar with those names, here's an update on them. Smokey is in rehab for his smoking problem, Debo has escaped from prison, and Craig, as in Ice Cube, is still jobless. You have witnessed the crew's wild scenario in the original Friday movie as Smokey and Craig blazed their way through the obstacles of the day, nearly getting themselves killed in the course of it. Well it's Friday once again and the mayhem promises to continue.

In the sequel Next Friday, Craig moves to the suburbs with his cousin Dayday (Mike Epps) and uncle Elroy,

who has bought a luxurious home with lottery winnings. Craig's father (John Witherspoon) suggests that he live there for a while to take a break from the hectic ghetto life of South Central L.A., where he got in some life threatening trouble when he and the neighborhood bully, Debo (Tommy Lister), came to blows in the prequel. However, Craig finds that the suburbs are reluctant to give him any more peace than the hood did. On his first day of living in the suburbs things get chronically crazy.

Craig finds out that his cousin's home will be auctioned off if the long past due bill isn't paid. However, the bill isn't the only thing that's high. Temperatures rise as Craig and crew plot to steal the money from the drug-dealing neighbors in order to save the house. In the midst of this steaming situation the crew is on the run from Dayday's alleged baby's mama who plans to make Dayday's life a living

hell since he denies being the father of her child. To top the day off, Debo has broken out of jail and he's on his way to get revenge on Craig.

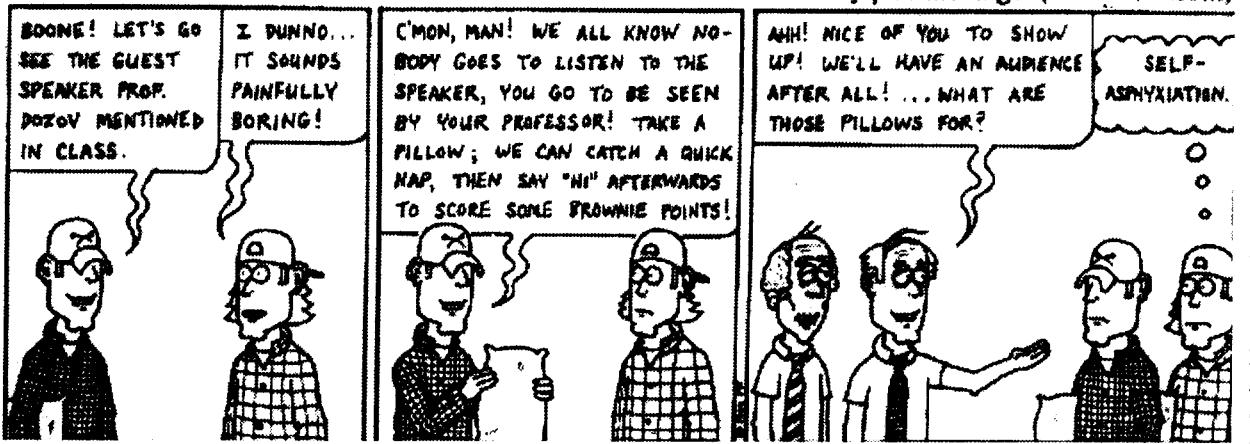
If you were a fan of the original Friday, then you should also appreciate its sequel. However, it's not surprising that the sequel, which doesn't include the hilarious element of Chris Tucker as Smokey, has trouble matching the wits of its predecessor. However, newcomer Mike Epps as Dayday manages to provide hysterical humor as Craig's counterpart. Directed by popular video director Steve Carr, the movie has a cartoonish affect that adds to its lightness. Screen written by Ice Cube, the movie doesn't want to suck you in, and although it contains some grotesque bodily function gags, it doesn't intend on being hard to digest. It wants to give you a good laugh, and I'm always ready for a good laugh.



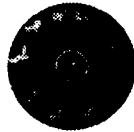
Mike Epps and Ice Cube get acquainted in *Next Friday*.

LEX

by phil flickinger (www.l-e-x.com)



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Aries (March 21-April 19). Try a new winter sport — Co-ed naked snow angel making.

Taurus (April 20-May 20). Thank God for horoscope writing, three legged monkeys.

Gemini (May 21-June 21). When a MAC says, "It's not my fault," it is. Hit it with a hammer twice. Make sure it's good and dead.

Cancer (June 22-July 22). Pretend you're in sorority, don't talk to anyone for a week.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22). Don't forget to have your cat spayed or neutered!

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Get some exercise, carry a case instead of a 6 pack.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Do the world a favor, start a petition to have Turnbull condemned.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Pineapples. They're not just for breakfast anymore (nudge, nudge, wink, wink).

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Get "lei"ed and support your basketball team, go to a game!

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). If you go to class you might actually learn something, try it sometime. Your parents are paying good money.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb 18). Saying only one stupid thing is like trying to eat only one potato chip, a second one always follows.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20). Deep thought — Have you ever wondered what happened to that stray cat you saw outside of Ohio Hall then noticed that the hamburger that you just got from Bruno's is the best that you ever had?



by Bongo the three legged monkey



DICK and Jane



Dear Jane,
I'm in my second semester at college. My girlfriend of two years is a senior in high school. I get "home" a few weekends a month to see her and my family. She does not come to visit me at college since she doesn't have transportation. I suppose the long distance thing has been ok, but it is weird that she does not know any of my friends at school. Then last week she decided that she is coming here for school next fall. My concern is that she is only coming to this school for me, and that makes me nervous. Should I talk to her about this? How can I bring it up without making her think I don't want her here?
Too Much Pressure

Dear TMP,
Your girlfriend's recent decision is obviously making you uncomfortable, so you definitely need to sit her down for a talk. She is putting a lot a pressure on the relationship if she really is choosing a college based on you. Tell her! Tell her that you want her to be as close as possible, but you also want her to look at all of her options because you want her to be happy. No doubt, she will say something like "you make me happy." To field this, remind her that you have made the long-distance thing work so far and no matter where she is you will work it out. On the other hand, you said that she doesn't know any of your friends. You wouldn't have mentioned that if you were not thinking about how

your friends might react to her. I'm sure you know relationships require a lot of time and effort. So does college. Juggling school, friends and a girlfriend (who will probably expect a lot of your time) could be hazardous to your health. Make sure you weigh out all of your options. Most importantly, talk to her! Don't wait until she's here expecting everything to be perfect to tell her she's making you nervous.
Jane

Write letters to Jane at dickandjane@wildmail.com or leave letters in the Beacon mailbox (downstairs in Reed).