

## 3 Strikes surrenders to stereotypical Holly-hood views

by Jermaine Hardy  
staff writer

I counted approximately 10 farts, 2 burps, and one simultaneous fart + burp, but this is not the only reason why the word "stink" would apply to the movie *3 Strikes*. Director DJ Pooh may be popular for his bodily function gags with the movie *Friday*, but this doesn't mean he will get respect for them now. The content of the movie *3 Strikes* was overflowing with these cheap, grotesque gags while Antonio Fargas (with emphasis on the last 3 letters of his name) as the star's uncle used his butt to say most of his lines. This grotesque imagery attempted to be the comedic center of the movie, but it just added an extra foul aroma to a stinky project.

In the movie, Brian Hooks plays Robert Douglas, a twice convicted felon struggling to elude the penal system's three strikes policy which puts three time felons in prison for life. The idea of the movie is brilliant. It touches on a serious issue that has never been confronted in film, but this movie just wasn't funny or interesting enough to pass for a good project. The plot is basically senseless. Robert comes home from prison for the second time and has plans to straighten up, but after five minutes

free he is involuntarily involved in a shoot out with L.A. police, thanks to his friend who picks him up in a sto-

lows the story.

Pooh attempts to entertain us with some intense strip shows and many

comedic approach to the issue and remain conscious of the topic throughout. This may have been an effort that

worked in Pooh's first project, *Friday* (he served as co-writer with Ice Cube), the same exact tactic doesn't work for *3 Strikes*. *Friday* was a new, fresh twist on the "Holly-hood" genre, but the same conventions can't be accepted this time. It was fun to see Ice Cube as Craig go through a day in the "hood" in the movies *Friday* and *Next Friday*. It was a new, innovative image on the big screen that many people had never seen. In these movies, the theme looks into the serious predicaments of young black males in a passive, even hilarious way. But with *3 Strikes*, this theme is becoming repetitive in a genre that represents a vast group of people. In other words, *Friday* was one swing and a miss, but an appreciated effort. *Next Friday* was an understandable strike two, but *3 Strikes* is definitely an out.

Though this genre represents a vast group of people, these films fail to reflect its people in a true light. The type of imagery that was used in the last two *Friday* films and now in *3 Strikes* portrays blacks in a stereotypical, negative light in many instances. For example, the films discussed poor body maintenance as a prevalent characteristic of the black families (like inevitable bodily function gags, etc.), as well as heavy drug usage (in various marijuana sce-

narios). Black women were also de-graded (as strippers, etc...). This is not to say that this was intentional, but that because the genre represents black cinema and because these conventions are so cheaply used, the stereotypical influence increases.

Stereotypes have historically been incorporated into black cinema due to an oppressive industry that demands certain conformity. This is perhaps why some black films still feel the need to conform to a certain image projected by Hollywood. This is more than likely why stereotypical imagery remains prevalent in the movies discussed. Producers are often skeptical about supporting films that go against Hollywood's expected conformity, and *3 Strikes* as a bad movie is a result of this.

As said before, the movie had a good idea in attacking the subject it did, but this good idea did not follow through with a good plot. The story line was weak. The movie made no significant use of cinematography, taking away much of its value as a movie. The comedy was more disgusting than funny and its large explicit aspect made no valid contribution. If you go see it, be skeptical. I give it a D.



3 Strikes falls short of serious

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len vehicle. Robert manages to escape in the midst of the shoot out while his friend is shot in the buttocks and arrested. From this point Robert is on the run as the mass media fol-

marijuana-smoking scenarios, all of which are out of place and insulting to the audience's intellect. In the beginning of the movie, I got the impression that it was going to take a

could have worked brilliantly, but instead the movie got carried away with cheap gags and sexploitation, causing it to stray.

Though such vulgar comedy

## Snowball 2000 was indeed a success in spite of slow start

by Valerie Hammond  
staff writer

This year's snowball dance was considered a success by its organizers. During the evening, about a hundred and twenty-five people attended the event.

Chris Motta, Assistant Director of Student Activities said, "It wasn't the turnout I had hoped for, but it was nice and I think people had a good time."

Even though the turnout was a little less than the committee had wished for, there were still plenty of people to enjoy the dance. There was a comfortable, relaxed atmosphere, where people could have a good time dancing the night away, said organizers.

Not only did the students that attended the dance get to have a good time, they also received a glass mug with the logo of the snowball dance as a favor to remind them of the night. Some also took home some of the balloon ornaments that decorated the Reed Commons.

The dance was put on primarily through money from Student Activities. The money that was raised from the dance will go back into the Student Activities general budget to be used for the next activity that comes along.

This year's snowball dance featured a king and queen contest. Prior to the dance, students nominated contestants for these positions. The lucky king and queen were Dan Midberry and Kavita Prabhu.

Organizers hope the snowball dance will continue as a tradition here at Behrend. The Lion Ambassadors helped decorate for the dance which had been postponed from the fall semester. This was because of a small turnout in the number of pre-sold tickets. However, the dance committee often finds that the majority of the tickets are sold at the door anyway.

There is a concern that the snowball dance will not take place next year because of a lack of enthusiasm for the dance by the

student body, a lack of cooperation for set-up and the like, and a concern over financial matters. Student Activities always has a difficult time dividing up its money to various activities, and the funds spent on the snowball dance could provide a lot of money for other club activities instead were it to be cancelled. Much further discussion will occur on this topic.

Food for the event was provided by Housing and Food Services. They served beverages and a mixture of cheese and meat products as appetizers. Although not too much of it was devoured, it was greatly appreciated.

As mentioned before the Lion Ambassadors helped set-up and tear down for the occasion. Many of the decorations were thrown away because of the prospect that the dance may not be held next year. In addition, much glitter was thrown around at the festivities. And of course, the bright white Christmas tree made an appearance as the center piece for the event.

## Sneak preview of *Post Coitum*, "After Sex" eroticizes Behrend

by Deanna Symoski and  
Katie Galley  
former features editor and  
editorial page editor

So you've been used and abused by your significant other, and Limp Bizkit CDs have become the permanent soundtrack for your life. Getting dumped sucks, especially when you did it all for the nookie. But luckily, we're still young enough to be resilient, and we have friends who know just the right drink to make everything better.

But what if you wake up one morning and suddenly you're middle aged with two kids and a spouse who doesn't even sleep in the same room with you? Your work at the publishing company is mildly rewarding, but

you're constantly forced to read about characters that have more exciting lives than you. You're bored, you're frustrated and you're horny as hell.

This is just the situation in which Diane finds herself in *Post Coitum* (*After Sex*), a French film directed by and starring Brigitte Rouan. Life, however, takes an unexpected turn for Diane when she meets Emilio, a mysterious stranger half her age, who ravishes her with his forbidden appeal. The two begin an erotic affair as Diane risks everything just to feel alive again.

But mysterious French guys do have short attention spans, so after her husband leaves her and her boss fires her, Emilio, of course, dumps her. The return to mediocrity is more than she can handle, and Diane spirals into a tragic pit of despair.

*Post Coitum* is a jolting look at life, love and sex. And the movie's central theme of love and sex motivating our every thought day in and day out is something that everyone can identify with. We can't help but realize there is something disturbingly familiar about Diane as she goes from euphoric lover to jilted ex. In her insanity, perhaps, we see some of our own psychotic tendencies (you know, the drive-bys, the hang-ups, the email tampering) and the pathetic fool all of us will inevitably play in our search for happiness. While the characters speak French, it is the international language of Amore, or love that we all understand. Ultimately, *Post Coitum* serves as a frenetic reminder of just what is left after sex, but that no matter what, we gotta have faith.

### LEX

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



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**Aries** (March 21-April 19). Vinny Mac is back, thank god!

**Taurus** (April 20-May 20). Spring Break is over, try being sober for once!

**Gemini** (May 21-June 21). Let your imagination run wild.

**Cancer** (June 22-July 22). Just keep saying to your self...7 more weeks.

**Leo** (July 23-Aug. 22). Don't smoke the purple cookies!

**Virgo** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Start working out now so it's easier in the summer.

**Libra** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Take a night off and go see a movie.

**Scorpio** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Plum. You can never get enough.

**Sagittarius** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Remember, you pay for what you get.

**Capricorn** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Kiwi, they're not just for breakfast anymore! (nudge, nudge, wink, wink)

**Aquarius** (Jan. 20-Feb 18). Bongo says, "Fruit Roll-Ups rule the world. Get one for yourself today."

**Pisces** (Feb 19 - March 20). Deep thought -- Isn't it strange that a gift could be an enemy?

by  
Bongo the three legged  
monkey

Experience *Post Coitum* for yourself  
Women's Film Series  
Reed 117  
March 21, 2000, 7p.m.  
Free Admission