

STUDENT LIFE

Saw 2 exceeds expectations



the key to unlock and remove the device on your neck. The voice explains that the device will snap shut on the front and back of your head (similar to a Venus-fly trap), consequently crushing your skull. The location of the key is also revealed on the television – an x-ray of a human skull with a key behind the right eye briefly appears on the screen. Across the room is a mirror and on the floor below it is a box containing a knife. As you walk over to it, the chain disconnects from the metal device attached to you, and the 60 second timer begins counting down. How much blood will you shed to stay alive?

Thanks to much better acting, improved character development, and a cleverly executed plot that connects to every meticulous detail throughout, Saw 2 proves to be a surprisingly superior movie than its parent. The plot is similar to the first movie, hostages locked away forced to pass ridiculous 'tests' in order to survive. Only instead of two people chained to pipes, eight people have been locked in a house. All eight of them have been poisoned with an airborne chemical which affects the nervous system and causes bleeding from body orifices. Each character must redeem his or herself following The Jigsaw's game rules, thereby attaining a syringe containing the vaccination for the poison in their bodies, but they only have two hours to do it before their bodies succumb to the poison. The games they are forced to play are both clever and gruesome. Yet, despite the fact that each gory and twisted scene made the movie harder and harder to watch, I was at the

same time becoming more and more interested in the film and its story.

Now I must warn you ahead of time – this is a horrible choice for 'dinner and a movie' – especially if dinner follows the movie. However, the storyline was very well written with many clever twists and concepts that you could only understand after you leave the theater.

This film and the previous film have left me with one question that's been keeping me up at night: The 'Jigsaw' is an 80-something cancer patient nearly too weak to hold the IV's in his arms, yet he is the mastermind behind each and every game his victims must play. How in God's name does he manage to wander around to retrieve all of the supplies for his games, as well as build and setup so many devices? He has trouble walking across a room to get a glass of water, yet he manages to install gigantic metal doors, conveniently put thick metal safes wherever he desires and set up computer monitors and video cameras in so many distant locations. Oh well...it's only a movie.

Can you keep your eyes open through it all – a plunge into a pit of syringes, brains oozing from bullet holes, slit wrists and throats...I can practically taste the vomit in the back of my throat. The bottom line: if you can stomach intense gruesome violence and appreciate a well written story, check it out! If you can't take the gore, at least go to the movie and close your eyes during the scary parts. A sequel much better than the original – finally!

Simple solutions to better service

By Allison Gray
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Everyone likes to have good service when he or she is dining out. Likewise, servers tend to enjoy good customers. Unfortunately, not all servers are the best and not all customers are enjoyable. To help this situation, there are some things you should know before going out to a restaurant.

One thing all customers should keep in mind when eating out is that the server is not the cook. Your server may take down your order and bring out your food, but he or she does not actually prepare it. It can be very upsetting for a server when an irate customer blames the server for an ill-prepared meal. If you find yourself in a situation in which you are unsatisfied with your food, politely inform the waiter or waitress. In most cases, the server will do his or her best to fix the problem, even if that means having your meal remade. If you find that your food is so terrible that you simply must complain, ask to speak to a manager. Whatever you do, do not blame the server.

Nobody likes to wait long for his or her food to arrive. Sometimes, though, that wait cannot be helped. If you are going to a restaurant during peak dining hours, plan on waiting. Peak dining hours are defined as: 8 a.m.-10 a.m. for breakfast, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. for lunch and 5 p.m.-7 p.m. for dinner. During these hours, the kitchen may be backed-up, and you could end up waiting for an hour or more to get your food. Once again, this is not your server's fault. Do not complain to him or her. Most likely, your server is waiting on multiple tables and has heard the complaint already. Rather than getting annoyed, avoid going to restaurants during peak hours, or go to a fast food establishment instead.

What many consumers don't realize is that most waiters and waitresses are not paid minimum wage. Their hourly income is often considerably less than minimum wage. Servers rely on gratuity. Since tips make up the bulk of servers' paychecks, it is incredibly inconsiderate to leave a restaurant without leaving behind a tip. The general rule for gratuity is to leave a percentage of your total bill. The percent left can be decided on according to the service you received. If the service wasn't great and your waiter or waitress wasn't very attentive, leave 10 percent. If the service was good and your waiter or waitress was adequate, leave 15 percent. If the service was excellent and your waiter or waitress left a great impression, leave 20 percent.

At some point or another, everyone is faced with poor service. When you dine-in at a restaurant, naturally you expect your waiter or waitress to be friendly and attentive, but this doesn't always happen. Whether it's because the server is having a bad day, is overcome by an onslaught of unsatisfied customers or just has a nasty headache, he or she may not be doing his or her job appropriately. There is no excuse, however, for a server not to give the best service he or she can, especially since waiters and waitresses know that their attitudes will be reflected in the tips they receive. That's where the two-cent tip comes in.

If you visit a restaurant and receive absolutely horrible service from a waiter or waitress with a contemptible attitude, you have the right to refuse your server a tip. If you don't leave anything at all, though, there's a good chance that your server will simply assume that you forgot to leave a tip. To make it blatantly obvious that you didn't forget but were disgusted with your service, leave two pennies. Only resort to the two-cent tip in extreme cases! As a warning, you should know that there is a chance that your waiter or waitress will remember you. You may not want to leave the two-cent tip at a restaurant you frequently visit.

If, even in the most extreme situations, you don't want to resort to the two-cent tip, you can simply ask to speak to a manager. (This often has better results than the two-cent tip.) Talk to the manager after your meal and explain to him or her your dissatisfaction with the service. The manager will most likely attempt to rectify the situation by appeasing you, the customer, and approaching the problematic waiter or waitress.

Keep these things in mind the next time you go out and hopefully your dining experience will be a great one.

Rosa Parks dies at age 92

By Earl Gordon
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A civil rights icon has passed away. On Oct. 24, 2005, the mother of the civil rights movement passed away due to natural causes. Rosa Parks died at the age of 92 years old. She had dedicated the majority of her life to helping create a better and more integrated world where everyone could be equals.

On Dec. 1, 1955, Rosa Parks left her job as a seamstress for the day, and rode the bus home. The common place for African Americans was located at the rear of the bus. The seats on the bus quickly filled up. When asked to move from her seat to allow a Caucasian man to sit, she refused to comply. The outcome of this situation led to Mrs. Parks' arrest. This event brought about the beginning of the civil rights movement.

Parks, who at the time was the secretary of the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People), sparked the attention of the African American community. A boycott of the buses in Montgomery, Alabama began and lasted 381 days. The boycott was organized by Martin Luther King Jr., and ended on Dec. 20, 1956, when a supreme court ruling was passed ending segregation on transportation systems.

Her actions of the past helped to mold the world that we all live in today. "Rosa Parks

was symbolically important for civil disobedience. Without the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, it would have been just one person against a large group," stated Professor John Rossi. "She was an important figure who helped mobilize support. Without her, things wouldn't be the way they are."

Penn State Erie students were also grateful for Rosa Parks' accomplishment and acknowledged her struggles in the past. "I think she played an important role in American history. If not for her, then we would not be as integrated as we are today," said sophomore Kirsten Strobel. Without Parks' courageous stand against injustice, the exact world we know today would not exist. Some places would still be segregated even in the twenty-first century.

Students also spoke out about Rosa Parks' actions on the bus. "It was the morally correct thing to do. She needed to take a stand and she did. She handled herself appropriately by using a forceful, yet nonphysical way of confronting those who treated African Americans wrong," replied Philosophy major Masoud Sayles.

"I think it was an absolutely necessary step to take. She definitely had a major impact on people, especially on the people who made such ridiculous laws such as segregation," Penn State student Chris Callahan stated.

Although this event took place over fifty years ago, every person today has benefited

from this period in history. The outcome of Rosa Parks' actions has helped to pave the way for not only previous generations but also for the generations to come. The world as a whole has come a long way from what it was before. We are one step closer to what Rosa Parks and other civil leaders like herself had envisioned in the past. History is important because people should not repeat the mistakes of the past. Thanks to Parks contributions, the only steps we have left to take are the ones moving forward.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Civic rights icon, Rosa Parks, 1913-2005

FOX

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10. Chance To Be In Jimmy Z's / FOX Commercial
9. Steelers vs Chargers
8. See Jimmy Z As Elvis
7. See Roller Girl
6. 20oz ~~Steelers~~ Steelers Cup \$1.00
5. Free Lotto Ticket with Every Pizza
4. 25¢ Wings
3. Chance To Be Saucy Man or Woman
2. Swallow A Hot Boy
1. If All Else Fails, Eat A Fat Chick

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