

# entertainment

## Coen brothers continue to please movie goers with 'Burn After Reading'

By JADRIAN KLINGER  
STAFF WRITER  
JK5089@PSU.EDU

Just ahead of Tarantino and Rodriguez, the Coen brothers stand as the finest postmodern auteurs of our generation. The writing and directing combination of Joel and Ethan never fails to please the enlightened moviegoer who despises the Hollywood formula of happy endings, likable characters, stiff acting, cliché direction and regurgitated plots. A film by the Coen brothers always provides safe harbor in the vast cesspool of Disney heart-warmers, Kate Hudson and McConaughey romantic-comedies, product placement filled blockbusters and any shined up turd starring Sarah Jessica Parker and her giant face mole. The Coen brothers' latest flick, "Burn After Reading," is no exception.

"Burn After Reading" stars John Malkovich, Frances McDormand, Tilda Swinton, Brad Pitt and

George Clooney. The combined total Oscars wins between these actors, actresses and the Coen brothers equals seven. The expectations run high for a film featuring this kind of hardware, but rest assured that your \$8.50 would be well spent. Granted, it is not quite as great as "Miller's Crossing," "Fargo," "The Big Lebowski," "O Brother Where Art Thou?" or "No Country for Old Men" but "Burn After Reading" deserves your attention.

Set in Washington D.C., McDormand plays an aging gym employee who wants, more than anything, a plastic surgery makeover. Her makeover consists of liposuction, rhinoplasty, a facelift and breast augmentation, which costs an even \$50 grand. Her fellow employee at Hardbodies Gym, played by Pitt, finds a

CIA intelligence. The two take this discovery as an opportunity



George Clooney, Brad Pitt, Frances McDormand, John Malkovich and Tilda Swinton star in the new film by Joel and Ethan Coen. Sometimes you have to get what you can get, and sometimes you get what you need.

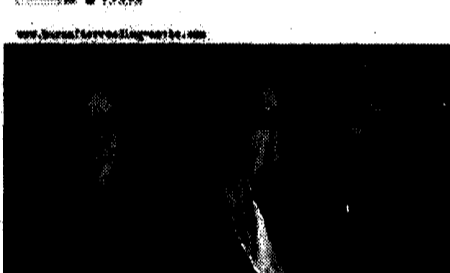


Photo courtesy of [filminfocus.com](http://filminfocus.com)

to blackmail the recently fired, for drinking too much, CIA agent played by Malkovich. It

turns out that the disc does not contain top-secret information but is a memoir written by Malkovich's character, which was stolen by his wife in an attempt to gain financial leverage in her clandestine divorce plans. After getting zero compensation from the fired CIA agent, the Hardbodies Gym duo deliver the disc to the Russian Embassy in the hopes of a score.

Meanwhile, the scheming wife, played by Swinton, cheats on the fired CIA agent with a Treasury agent who is played by Clooney. The Treasury agent in turn cheats on his wife with McDormand's character. From there, the twisting plot unfolds with the Coen brothers' trademark brand of violence and comedy.

The violence stems from the many abrupt and gratuitously graphic murders throughout the film. The comedy comes from Clooney's sarcastically over-acted character and the fact that

Malkovich's character repeatedly asks two rhetorical questions: "The Russians?" and "What the fuck?" The best laugh-out-loud moment comes when Clooney's character destroys a homemade dildo machine in a fit of rage after learning his wife is leaving him.

I refuse to spoil the ending, but I will tell you that somebody gets his or her breasts augmented. If the prospect of hearing John Malkovich rhetorically ask, "what the fuck?" or seeing the destruction of a dildo machine on film doesn't interest you then you probably enjoy Sarah Jessica Parker movies, in which case you are already dead inside. Go see "Burn After Reading" because it's good. If you don't like good movies, then at least go see it because a percentage of each ticket sold helps in the fight against Sarah Jessica Parker's face mole, which grows larger and more powerful everyday. Don't be another Parker face mole statistic. Get out there and do your part.

## Geek Corner: Nintendo 'punches out' the competition

By JAMES COUCHE  
STAFF WRITER  
JTC5101@PSU.EDU

It is no secret that Nintendo's E3 2008 appearance was less than stellar (the word "pointless" comes to mind). It was so disappointing that the company apologized several times on several continents. Now, as a way of seeking redemption, they have hosted a major press event to show off games that people will actually WANT to play (sorry Wii Music, nobody cares about you).

Knowing that they had to blow everyone away, the company made some huge announcements, including 'Punch-Out!!!' 'Wii', 'Sin and Punishment 2', 'Mario and Luigi 3', and a new version of the DS. This was a far cry from Wii Sports Resort and Animal Crossing at E3; now Nintendo's

"hardcore" audience has something to get excited about.

'Punch-Out!!!' is a game that Wii owners have been demanding since the moment they brutally beat down a George W. Bush Mii in Wii Boxing. From the look of early trailers, many of the original stock of characters are back including favorites Glass Joe and King Hippo with Little Mac returning as the main character. The game play seems very reminiscent of the original with a simple fighting system built on motion controls. Hopefully, the punching accuracy is higher than Wii Boxing; and for that matter, pick up a wireless nunchuk to avoid whipping

yourself in the face with the cord (the Wii is dangerous kids).

'Sin and Punishment 2' is a sequel to the Nintendo 64's number one import. For some reason (possibly the N64's imminent death), the

considered one of the system's best games. If you like high intensity shooting, laser sword fighting, and giant boss battling action, this game should be at the top of your list next year. For a

taste of the original, just check out the virtual console to find a localized, prettier-than-the-original version.

Probably the biggest news of the event is a new DS. Nintendo walked up to the old phrase "if it ain't broke, don't fix it" and punched it in its face. The new DS (called the DSi) features larger screens, two cameras, an SD card port, and no backwards compatibility. In place

of this missing function is the possibility of a virtual console-like service for the portable. The DSi will be released in Japan before the end of the year but Americans (and presumably Europeans) will have to wait until well into 2009 to get their hands on the updated portable. The reason for this: DS sales are so strong in the U.S. that releasing it now would be pointless (silly Americans, that's what you get for buying their products.).

With the new announcements, Wii owners can finally breathe a sigh of relief. There will be games worth getting excited about in the coming months that don't involve cooking, pet grooming, or playing Frisbee. It seems to be a good time to brush the cobwebs off of the system and get ready to start playing your Wii again.

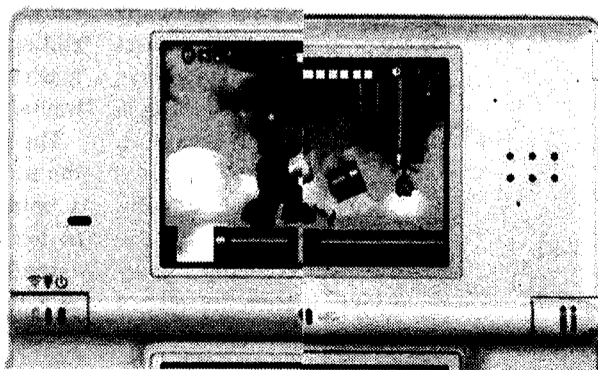


Photo courtesy of [arstechnica.com](http://arstechnica.com)

The display screen of the DSi will be slightly larger than that of the original DS.

game never managed to get a stateside release despite being

cameras, an SD card port, and no backwards compatibility. In place

backwards compatibility. In place