

# New comedy delivers dopey laughs

BY FRANKLIN CLINE  
Reviewer

The wacky story of a man and his dealer, "Pineapple Express" is a funny and surprisingly violent dope comedy aimed like a hilarious W.M.D. directly at hip, educated stoners.

The film centers around the relationship between Dale Denton (Seth Rogen), a 25-year-old subpoena server with big dreams of hosting a talk radio show, and his drug dealer, Saul (James Franco), an amusingly burnt-out dude who spends his time constructing joints that would make Frank Lloyd Wright proud while watching reruns of "227."

Through a series of unfortunate events, this unlikely pair winds up scrambling across highways and through forests, battling potentially triangulated cell phones, a bad cop, an even badder boss dealer and their own stoned incompetence, all because of a murder accidentally witnessed by our wonderful protagonist Dale.

Here, Rogen is just as likeable as he's always been, although he does seem more comfortable playing the somewhat-responsible butt-kicking doper as opposed to the fuddling father-to-be in "Knocked Up" or even the quotidian, ironically homophobic doper

in "40-Year-Old Virgin."

However, this is not just Rogen's show: The slow-burn exploration of Dale and Saul's initially awkward relationship is handled well by both the writers (our man Seth, again, yes, but also Evan Goldberg, the same duo that brought you last year's totally funny "Superbad") and his co-star, Franco, even though Saul's character flagrantly apes Peter Dante's character in "Grandma's Boy." However, this is easily forgiven considering the prevalence of stock characters in the history of the theater.

Regardless of this minor complaint, the funniest parts of the movie are not the ubiquitous dope jokes or even the ridiculous fight

scenes, but instead the small moments of genuine affection shared between the two characters. Listen close, and you'll hear a hint of affection when Dale calmly and routinely points out to Saul in so many words that his brain has been fried, just like the commercials warned.

In fact, the burnout-factor is pretty high between these two as Dale rightly points out during the climax of the film that they're much less productive and capable when they're high. This, coupled with the fact that the massive body count of the film, which is entirely due to the green stuff, supersedes



Photo courtesy of Sony Pictures  
James Franco and Seth Rogen form an unlikely friendship in "Pineapple Express." The film was released Aug. 6 and brought in more than \$41 million so far at the Box Office.

that of the original "Rambo," leads the casual, sober viewer to witness an unexpectedly anti-dope film.

The film is so centered around the kindest of buds, it breaks down like this: If you're really into the whole weed culture, then this film is definitely your bag, and you've probably already snuck in to the 4:20 showing at your local corporate theater chain and

giggled knowingly until the house lights came up. If you're merely hip to the whole pot thing, in a disassociated "I've-never-tried-it-but-I've-got-nothing-against-those-who-dig-it" sense, then you can definitely still, at the very least, get behind the hilarious repartee between Rogen and Franco, especially if you were a big fan of the TV show "Freaks and Geeks." The

rest of the film certainly will neither offend nor bore you. On the other hand, if you've never "got" grass humor (don't like Cheech and Chong? How about Harold and Kumar?), or especially if you look down with great, condescending disdain upon those who enjoy the infamous M.J. that didn't get a nose job, then skip this film and check out "Step Brothers" instead.

## Venturing outside comfort zones can produce lasting friendships

As a first-year student in the first week of class, you might find yourself in one of multiple social scenarios. Some people are very outgoing and others less so, but members of both categories frequently make the mistake of thinking they are all set and don't need any new people in their lives. Here are three situations in which this would be the case:

**Student A:** This student has just arrived in Kirksville with a busload of people from graduation. The plan is to room with a friend from high school and live down the hall from the significant other, and the whole posse will get together as frequently as possible. College is going to be a fantastic repeat of the last four years!

**Student B:** Friends? This student doesn't need them. All socializing time is filled with chatting with the high school sweetheart or texting from beneath the desk, so meeting new people isn't even an option. Student B spends weekends driving back and forth from St. Louis (or wherever the boyfriend/girlfriend is) and weeknights memorizing the cracks in the ceiling during phone calls.

**Student C:** There might be a few people around who this student already knows, but getting to know them better isn't very high on the to-do list. As for making new friends,

it doesn't seem to be worth the extra effort. Student C will get to know the neighbors from sharing the bathroom and the roommate while debating which channel to watch on TV, but that's about it.

If you fit into one of these three scenarios and think you have everything you need, think again. Remaining close to friends from the past is wonderful, but it is a big mistake to think your life can't be enriched by new acquaintances. If your cell phone is glued to your cheek, think about what you — and your beloved or friend — might be missing out on. Residence hall activities, on-campus events and even classes are great places to network and expand your social circle. For students who are shy or don't enjoy taking part in large-scale group activities, it still is easy to meet people who live nearby. Prop your door open to say hello to passersby or do your homework in the lounge. You'll slowly start recognizing your neighbors, and then you can further develop friendships. If you've come to the University looking for something new, your adventurous attitude will reward you.

If I had followed that advice sooner, my college beginning would have been pretty different. Coming from high school, I was the only one to attend the University from my

graduating class. When my roommate and I hit it off, I was delighted, but we just stayed in our room instead of going out to do anything. It was nice to have a great companion, but I didn't have any other friends and rarely had plans besides renting "Alias" reruns or ordering Chinese delivery. People five doors down introduced themselves to me in December, asking what hall I lived in. Imagine their surprise to find out we were neighbors!

When my roomie told me in April that she was transferring the next fall, I actually cried. To think that my one companion would not be there by my side made the thought of returning in the fall frightening and sad.

Although I had to begin my sophomore year without my best friend and with only a few acquaintances from the previous year, it forced me to do what I should have done from the beginning: Get out of my room and find some new companions. As a result, I've been anticipating the end of summer since May, eagerly awaiting my reunion with all the faces I missed so much.

Regardless of each individual's situation coming to the University, whether single or in a relationship, alone or surrounded by friends, Truman will provide the opportunity for a new beginning. Lasting connections



Kelly Schute

## We need to talk

will be made, from the first week of class until the last week before graduation, and who would want to miss out on a relationship that could last a lifetime? There is no way of knowing which relationships will endure and which might fade away, but it's pretty easy to be bold and start up a conversation with someone new. The outcome might be more than you were expecting.



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In times of crisis, a visit to the Emergency Room can be the difference between life and death. In hospitals nationwide, and here in our own community, qualified caregivers are on hand 24 hours a day, seven days a week to address the urgent medical needs of you and your family.

In events such as serious injuries or allergic reactions, the ER is the most appropriate place to go for care. Emergency Rooms are in direct contact with ambulance providers and emergency

services, and are a vital link in a community's first response network.

How do you know when a medical issue is an emergency? According to the Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act, legislation that guides hospitals in providing appropriate emergency room care, a medical event is an emergency if an individual's health is in serious jeopardy, there is a serious impairment of bodily functions or there is a serious impairment of a bodily organ. Some of the condi-

## Some medical symptoms require quick attention

tions generally regarded as medical emergencies include:

- Severe injury
- Signs of a heart attack, such as pressure or pain in the chest
- Signs of a stroke, such as severe numbness and loss of vision
- Bleeding or vomiting that will not stop
- Severe shortness of breath
- Severe disorientation and
- Medical condition in a child younger than six months.

Because ER visits are nearly

always unexpected, it is wise to keep insurance policy information and personal identification nearby at all times. Make a list of your allergies as well as any current or previous medications you are taking and include contact information for your personal physician(s). You also should be familiar with your medical history, including your blood type and any previous issues.

In the event of an emergency, a visit to the ER can save your life or the life of a loved one. Experi-

encing a medical emergency can be frightening, and one way to help minimize concern is to seek preventative care. Making regular visits to the doctor and having an in-depth knowledge of your and your family's medical history can help to avoid medical emergencies or identify a medical issue before it become serious.

For more information about Northeast Regional Medical Center and its emergency services, call 660-785-1000 or 785-1300.

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