



I'm phoning in this week's D-Pad because I got kind of busy. Before anyone puts on their "hate mail" hat, this is out of a blog post over Winter Break, and it's still pretty relevant. We'll have some fresh content next week.

I think I figured out why everybody on the news is accusing Nintendo of designing a faulty strap for the Wii controller: Golf.

For those who haven't heard about this, last month got rough for Nintendo after almost every national news outlet started crying "recall" while reports started coming in about people losing control of their controllers (heh) and sending them through windows and TV sets.

I suppose anybody who realized the very full (and very American) potential to mess up something this simple knew that when Nintendo put out a controller designed to be swung around the room, this sort of thing would happen ... then I got a chance to play with one.

The Wii console comes with a game called "Wii Sports," which is a collection of very simple, sports-related games designed to show off the Wii's innovative (and addicting) new control scheme. In baseball, the controller is swung like a bat. In Tennis, the controller detects forehand, backhand, and even slice. There's also Bowling, Boxing and the new bane of my existence: Wii Golf.

The idea is as simple as the game of golf would suggest: swing arm, hit ball in hole, repeat. The problem is that the controller uses a combination of Blue-Tooth® technology and infrared triangulation to detect the controller's exact position in the room and, more importantly, on the TV. When the controller is pointed at the ground like a golf club, however, that infrared half of the equation disappears, leaving the controller's sensitivity with something to be desired. The result is a wild and accurately frustrating reproduction of what it looks like when I play "real" golf.

I suppose, for some to consider this a "real" review, I'd have to say something like "Wii Sports is 'free' and worth every penny," but my actual point isn't whether or not it's worth playing ... of course it is! The awesomeness of the Wii hardware alone makes it a worthwhile experience even if the game does suck.

The only thing I might add (and getting back to my original point) is that people should really stop trying to blame Nintendo for a faulty controller strap, because now that I've seen the frustration of Wii Golf, I know how those expensive TV's are really being broken.

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# 'Release' is no 'Catch'



Internet Photo

## Tayo Stalnaker

A&E Editor

With a great cast and an Academy Award winning screenwriter, *Catch & Release* should've been the romantic comedy-drama of the year. Unfortunately, it failed at almost everything.

The film opened with Gray Wheeler (Jennifer Garner) in tears over her fiancé's unfortunate death during his bachelor party. No, he didn't suffocate from a stripper's heaving breasts smothering his face or too much blow (which would've been awesome). Instead, he pulled a Sony Bono while skiing in Colorado.

Wheeler moves in with her ex-fiancé's three best friends, and all the tired cliché's present in almost every romantic comedy that Hollywood pulls out of its superficial anus are thrust upon the audience and don't end until after the credits stop rolling (yes, even the credits are unoriginal).

First, there's Dennis (Sam Jaeger). He's the sensitive guy who's been in love with his best friend's girl since day one. Then there's the "bad influence" childhood friend, Fritz (Timothy Olyphant), who's despised by the girlfriend. And, of course, there's the lovable, witty, fat geek named Sam (Kevin Smith), who everyone is friends with

so that they don't seem too shallow. Guess which one Wheeler ends up spooning? Hint: Not the fat guy.

Speaking of heroin, Juliette Lewis (*Natural Born Killers From Dust Til Dawn*) stars the slutty, oblivious-to-everything "other woman," who Wheeler knows nothing about until she hears incriminating voice-messages on her ex-fiancé's cell phone. She later finds out that (gasp!) her ex had a kid with this woman.

I honestly can't believe that all of this overdone filth came from screenwriter Susanna Grant, who was nominated for an Academy Award with her script for *Erin Brockovich*. To be fair, this was Grant's directorial debut, so I'll cut her a little slack.

All that aside, there were two saving graces to this film. One was Kevin Smith (yes, the Kevin Smith). Smith stole this movie. He was the only character that I actually cared about and wanted to hear talk. His irreverent dialogue was hilarious and was the one thing that kept me in my seat instead of beating my head on a trashcan outside Pioneer Place.

Oh, the other great thing about the movie? It was free, advanced screening, which meant I didn't have to sit through "The Twenty" really don't give a crap what's on TNT, and neither should anyone else.

## Concert Calendar

### River Road House Milwaukie

2/2 The Buzzmasters  
(from CCC!)  
8 p.m. 21+

### Roseland Theater

1/24 Papa Roach  
It Dies Today  
Auralust  
8 p.m. all ages

1/26 Keller Williams  
9 p.m. all ages

1/28 Coco Montoya  
Ward Stroud Band  
6:30 p.m. 21+

1/28 The Game  
8:30 p.m. all ages

1/29 Keane  
Rocco Deluca  
8 p.m. all ages

### Crystal Ballroom

1/25 G-Love and Special  
Sauce  
Matt Costa  
8 p.m. all ages

1/25 Mad Professor with  
PanAfricanist  
Dr. Israel,  
Xact Change Hi Fi  
8 p.m. 21+

1/28 The Avett Brothers  
7 p.m. all ages

1/28 Menomena  
10:45 p.m. all ages

1/29 Will Hoge  
7 p.m. 21+

### Berbati's Pan

1/24 Brian O'Dell Band  
Sarah Angela & A  
Bad Influence  
9:30 p.m. all ages

1/25 Sophe Lux  
The Sort-Ofs  
Silverhawk  
9:30 p.m. all ages

1/26 Sauce Policy  
Cellar Door  
Another Cynthia  
9:30 p.m. all ages

1/27 Childlike Empress  
Brokaw  
Dirty O  
9:30 p.m. all ages

### Dante's

1/24 Broken Teeth  
Prima Donna  
Titans of Oblivion  
9 p.m. 21+

1/25 Viva Voce  
The Village Green  
Caves  
9 p.m. 21+

1/26 Earl Greyhound  
Blue Skies for Black  
Hearts  
Go Fever  
9 p.m. 21+

### Rose Garden

1/25 George Straight  
Ronnie Milsap  
7:30 p.m.

Information compiled by  
Tayo Stalnaker



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