

STUDENT LIFE

America, Britney fed up with K-Fed

By Chris LaFuria
editor in chief
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Just when the world was fed up with celebrity users and pop culture abusers, some silly supernatural being decides to deliver to the world the gift of Kevin Federline, or, as most people have come to call him, "Mr. Britney Spears." Blatantly coinciding with the creepiness and ghoulishness of Halloween, Mr. Spears released his debut album *Playing with Fire* on Oct. 31.

After weeks of support and media preparation for its release, the album managed to sell 6,000 copies in its first week and landed at number 151 on the Billboard Top 200. Though not cited in Britney's claim, some people speculate that the recent divorce between Federline and Spears may have come from the artist's lack of popularity and over-exertion in the party scene.

While the album was entirely written by Federline and mastered at the notorious Federline Records, musically and lyrically, the album may propel the self-proclaimed "America's Most Hated" to the top of the "Ex-Celebrity Husband" charts. Most of the content in Federline's lyrics are about the important things in his life such as a garage full of whips, smoking weed and partying.

Federline stuns the world with the profoundness of his lyrics, in which he compares himself to a popular deity and ranks his priorities. "Like Jesus in every way / I'm crucified every day" and "Fell in love with the herbs just like my wife" are only two short excerpts from the revealing diaries of a misunderstood drama king.

Not only is his album racing up the charts like a '93 Eurovan, but his concert venue is bringing in about as many fans as the Penn State Behrend Lawn Darts team. At the prestigious Webster Hall in New York City, where the seating capacity is just over 1,500, K-Fed managed a whopping 300 fans in attendance -- 297 of them more than likely his Verizon network (they come with the phone).

All jokes aside, the life of K-Fed, or the recently tagged Fed-Ex, took a turn for uncertainty after he allegedly received a text message from Brit, revealing the plans for a divorce. After two children and countless embarrassing media run-ins, the Spearses ended their two-year marriage due to what Britney claimed was, "Irreconcilable Differences."

According to a close friend of Spears, "She doesn't

want to divorce Kevin, but if that's the best thing for her children and for her own sanity, that's exactly what she'll do."

The Ex-LFO back-up dancer and former Shar Jackson lover fathered two children with Spears, Sean Preston in 2005 and Jayden James in 2006. After Britney filed papers for divorce, Fed-Ex counter-filed papers, attempting to gain sole custody of the children and receive spousal support. According to TMZ.com, Spears is waiving the right to spousal support after the two established a stern prenup. Sources say Spears may also move to have both parties pay their own court fees.

Whether you hate him or love him, the male Paris Hilton's album may surprise some people. Even with its cliché beats and less-than-enticing lyrics, there's a



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)
K-Fed can add divorced and broke to his résumé.

good chance K-Fed will reach the 10,000-album mark. Although his music will make rap fans cringe and critics reach deep into their think-tank of insults, the purpose behind Fed's album is what America yearns for -- pop icons to love and destroy.



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Carrey gets serious in *The Number 23*

By Scott Muska
student life editor
3/30/07

There has always been, and most likely always will be one central question posed when Jim Carrey is cast in a role that is not in the genre of comedy: Can he actually act serious in a film?

From what I have seen in *The Number 23*, he certainly can.

Though Carrey has proven himself as more than adequate in serious roles in previous years through films like *The Truman Show* and the very highly acclaimed indie movie *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*, many moviegoers still view Carrey as a perennial funny man, and have a difficult time reconciling the fact that he is indeed a very diverse actor that could almost even be put into the same category as Johnny Depp or the extremely versatile Ryan Reynolds.

In *The Number 23*, Carrey plays the average American blue collar male, Walter Sparrow. He is a professional dogcatcher that becomes extremely enveloped in a novel that his wife bought for him on

his birthday. This book is based on a man that becomes obsessed with the very mysterious traits and coincidences of the number 23. Sparrow finds that his life parallels greatly with the author of the novel and the film takes off from there.

There are many twists and turns, and the ending is akin to those of the popular *Saw* movies in that it is nearly impossible to figure out until it is finally explained to you at the conclusion of the movie. The film employs a masterful use of suspense, and is extremely unpredictable.

Carrey's performance is aided by a great script written by Hollywood newcomer Fernley Phillips, and it's extremely difficult not to take the ordinarily hilarious actor very, very seriously. At the commencement of the movie, Carrey is sarcastic and catches a few laughs from the audience and this use of his sense of humor helps the audience to relate to Carrey as he usually is, and to become more used to his character. It also helps the audience to become even more involved and sympa-

thetic of Carrey's character when he begins to fall into his downward spiral and becomes, for lack of a better word, insane.

This movie was very original and both the plot and production were very good. It actually reminded me of movies that have been put into the film noir category because it gave off a very grim mood throughout the movie and seemed as though it was always extremely dark. This fit very well with the movie, though, and it was tastefully done

as opposed to overdone, which is a problem with many movies that are made today. This utilization of darkness as an aid in setting the mood of a film could be expected from Joel Schumacher, the director of *Batman Forever* and *Batman & Robin*.

Overall, I consider this movie to be very good and I am not the only one who has embraced both Carrey's work and the overall quality of the film.

Assistant news editor of the Beacon, Lenny Smith, also enjoyed it. "I went

into the theater kind of skeptical as to whether or not they could make a movie solely based on a number, but soon into the movie I was completely hooked," said Smith. "Throughout the entire movie I was trying to guess how it would end, but when the movie finally did come to an end it was one of the most shocking endings that I have seen in a long time."

The Number 23 is easily the best movie that I have seen so far this year and this movie should serve as the final hush to the probing questions about Carrey's adequacy as a diverse and serious actor. It is a movie that is definitely worth seeing and I regretably disagree with Peter Travers, the movie guru who critiques films for *Rolling Stone*. Travers awarded only one star, and bashed the movie pretty heavily, putting it in his "Bomb Squad" category of terrible movies released in 2007. I would have given this movie three stars, and justifiably so.

