

STUDENT LIFE

Box Office Breakdown Aug 31-Sep 2

1	Halloween (2007)	\$26,362,367
2	Superbad	\$12,466,846
3	Balls of Fury	\$11,352,123
4	The Bourne Ultimatum	\$10,412,835
5	Rush Hour 3	\$8,575,000
6	Mr. Bean's Holiday	\$5,983,365
7	The Nanny Diaries	\$5,135,267
8	Death Sentence	\$4,231,321
9	W A R	\$4,184,444
10	Stardust	\$3,074,156
11	The Simpsons Movie	\$2,823,844
12	Hairspray	\$2,770,000
13	Harry Potter	\$1,893,258
14	Underdog	\$1,687,676
15	Ladron Que Roba A Ladron	\$1,626,090
16	Becoming Jane	\$1,613,871
17	Chuck and Larry	\$1,382,205
18	Ratatouille	\$1,201,679
19	The Invasion	\$1,613,871
20	Transformers	\$1,148,698

*Statistics courtesy of BoxOfficeMojo.com



Zombie's take on Halloween falls short.

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In 1978, when the movie Halloween was released, it became a phenomenon in the horror movie genre. Michael Myers quickly rose to the top in the world of fantasy serial killers. He struck fear into the hearts of teenage girls and children with his strange white facemask, shiny carving knife and his lack of a conscience.

Since the first film by John Carpenter there have been eight sequels. The latest, *Rob Zombie's Halloween*, debuted over the weekend almost 30 years after the first movie and captured the record for highest grossing Labor Day Weekend movie debut ever.

This newest and possibly final installment in the now legendary Michael Myers saga served as both a remake of Carpenter's initial offering and a prequel to the whole series. The first hour of the movie is a biography of Myers that portrays the events that contributed to his insanity. It explains most of the mysteries that have loomed over the *Halloween* series for as long as it has existed, like his abnormal and abused childhood and what event initially pushed him over the edge to commit his first of many murders. It even explains the significance of the unorthodox white facemask that he wears seemingly at all times.

It is very satisfying to any fan of horror movies or the *Halloween* films in general to finally have most of their questions answered about Myers' past, but that is unfortunately where the positives end. *Zombie* has a widely recognized reputation as one of the most vulgar and repulsive moviemakers ever and in that aspect he did not disappoint with his version of *Halloween*. Even in a culture that has become

extremely desensitized to sexuality and cursing in movies, you would be hard-pressed to find someone that is not immediately taken aback by this movie, or at least surprised. The very first scene establishes that Michael's childhood is by no means nurturing or normal. This becomes apparent when his mother's boyfriend expels some of the most appalling language possibly ever spoken in an R-rated movie.

It is at that point that a viewer can tell that *Zombie* is going to overdo it with at least the language, but it doesn't stop there. The rest of the movie is simply a blur of violent mutilation and frontal nudity, which is what many horror fans venture to the theaters to see. The problem with this movie is that the murders and events are extremely predictable. It is a rarity in this film for the viewer to be so frightened or startled that they jump out of their seat, but there are plenty of situations that are just plain disturbing.

A great deal of the language and over-played violence in this movie are not at all necessary to the plot, which weakens considerably after the first few scenes when the viewers figure out the remainder of Michael Myers' childhood secrets. The rest of the movie is just a slathering of very violent bloodshed and vulgar phrases that *Zombie* obviously included in the film to supplement his shock and awe approach to film making.

If you're a fan of the original *Halloween* films, you will most likely not enjoy this movie. It seems as though *Zombie* has totally disregarded the previous movies and turned his new production into something that is geared toward consumers that simply want to see people murdered in unfathomably gruesome ways. If that's the kind of movie you're searching for, or would like to frighten your date to death, *Zombie's Halloween* may be a suitable way to spend two hours.

Kevin Bacon returns to big screen in *Death Sentence*

By Sam Levine
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According to *Death Sentence*, anybody can get away with murder. And if you do get caught, chances are you'll only have to spend three to five years in prison.

In this film, which is directed by James Wan, be prepared for anything. I went into this movie with high hopes. When I came out of the theater I wasn't sure how to classify this movie. *Death Sentence* is a movie that tries to be too many things. Two-fourths of the movie is an exciting thriller, sporting outstanding and sometimes outrageous chase scenes with over-the-top gun-slinging. Another fourth of the movie contains a serious drama that revolves around Nick Hume (Bacon) as he desperately tries to protect his family by any means necessary. Finally, the last fourth of the movie slips into the realm of the unintentional comedy; parts where the movie tries too hard to be serious, overly dramatic, sections dominated by cheesy dialogue where its suspension of disbelief is tarnished.



Kevin Bacon in *Death Sentence*

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Hume's high hopes for his eldest son, Brendan (Stuart Lafferty), vanish instantly as Hume help-

lessly witnesses his son's murder at the hands of a gang headed by Billy Darley (Garrett Hedlund). Convinced that he will not be able to find justice from the courts, Hume takes it upon himself to find his son's murderer and bring him to justice. The story is not deep on its own merits, it is in fact Bacon's character that gives the movie most of its substance.

Acting is as good as it comes in this movie. Kelly Preston and Jordan Garrett do a fine job playing the roles of Helen and Lucas Hume. Unfortunately, not much time is given to their characters and they simply remain one-dimensional as the two play the parts of a grieving family.

A pleasant surprise is John Goodman's presence as Bones, a sleazy arms dealer who supplies both the protagonist and antagonist with their firearms. The bad news is that Goodman's role is far too short, with perhaps only 15 minutes of screen time. If only half of the movie was devoted to his character.

Death Sentence is a good movie but it just never hits that sweet spot moviegoers will be expecting. Feel free to give it a try however. Even if you don't love it, chances are you'll get a laugh or two.

However *Death Sentence* does not fail in all respects. There were a few issues with the character development, (there was actually a montage scene in which Hume apparently learns to be an expert marksman by studying the instruction manuals that came with his weaponry), and it's true that some of the scenes in the movie could have been handled better. The movie, however, is suspenseful, exciting, and well, it is entertaining. I found myself laughing at what were supposed to be very emotional and somber scenes, but I never once thought about leaving the theater.

The initial plot of the movie is nothing special but gets much more interesting as the movie progresses.

Question of the week:
What is your favorite Kevin Bacon film?

- A) Footloose
- B) Mystic River
- C) Hollow Man
- D) Stir of Echoes
- E) Other

Last week's winner: The Wilson brothers.

Upstart band *Fort Pastor* makes stop at Behrend

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Visitors to the Reed Union Building were treated to the diverse soulful sounds of Fort Pastor on Aug 31st. With members hailing from Texas and all the way from Australia, Fort Pastor's music is just as manifold as the band's history. Band members Brant Christopher, Jeffrey Todd, and Jono Callow initially met at a festival called "Greenbelt" in England. After forming Fort Pastor, the band recorded their first album, titled, "Alive Inside" by sending tracks back and forth over the internet, due to one member of the band living in Australia at the time. With a studio album and extensive touring under their belt, Fort Pastor have been playing together for two years. The band describes themselves as "acoustic soul rock" with similarities to other artists such as Rusted Root.

One of the most intriguing things about Fort Pastor is their use for of unusual instruments. While they use the standard acoustic guitars, they also employ the use of instruments such as a didgeridoo, darabuka, resonator guitar, djembe, and mandolin just to name a few. The evening began with a song titled "Fall With Me" followed by a humble greeting from lead singer, Christopher. "We are Fort Pastor..."

Please stay in your seats." Humor is one thing Fort Pastor loves to incorporate into their live shows. "We like to have a good time up there." Brant chuckles. Two songs into the set, guitarist Jeffery Todd waits for the applause to cease and then chimes in with, "Having fun? Thank you! Goodnight!" The group may be making jokes about their



Fun-loving band Fort Pastor entertained students in the union building on Saturday.

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popularity now, but the future holds great things for Fort Pastor. Having just signed a recording contract with Koch Records, the band

plans to release their next album titled "Beautiful Imperfection" on Oct 9th. The CD will be available in most music stores and from the Koch Records website. In support of the album, Fort Pastor plans on going on a 50 date tour.

Music isn't the only thing that Fort Pastor is passionate about. They also created an organization called "Social Justice Army" which focuses on aiding communities and solving social issues. Some of the activities that Social Justice Army have volunteered for are helping homeless shelters, volunteering at food banks, and other various community service activities. According to the Social Justice Army website, "The mission of The Social Justice Army is to inspire, rally and organize others to serve one another by providing opportunities to serve as a group within their local communities, thereby building hope, conviction and courage in themselves and those they serve." Despite only having been an organization for eight months, the organization has over 2,000 members and has contributed 60,000 hours to community service.

Having just played at Penn State Beaver and Allegheny University, Fort Pastor plan on visiting numerous college campuses across the country. The first single from their new album titled "March Out" will begin airing on the radio next month. For more information about Fort pastor or The Social Justice Army, visit their website at www.fortpastor.com.