**Friday Night Lights** entered theaters on Friday, Oct. 8. It stars Billy Bob Thornton, Lucas Black, Garrett Hedlund and Derek Luke. The movie is based on a true story.

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### ‘Friday’ lights up screen

**By Mike Caputo**

When high school football players look back to their careers, the memory often remains. Through the oil fields of West Texas, these memories are collectively shared, not only by the players, but also by the entire community as well.

The extreme magnitude that high school football has on the lives of people in Odessa, Texas was chronicled in the book, *Friday Night Lights*, written by H.G. Bissinger. Odessa Panthers basketball player Billy Bob Thornton was chronicled in the book, *Friday Night Lights*, written by H.G. Bissinger. Odessa Panthers basketball player Billy Bob Thornton

The movie begins with pre-season training camp, without much of a background on Odessa, but effectively manages to illustrate the attitude of the town right from the beginning.

One key difference between the book and film is that Thornton's weak and modest portrayal as coach Gary Gaines takes away the tough demeanor that he possessed in Bissinger's book. The remainder of the cast performed their roles 'to the book' alongside an interesting and unpredictable character development. This characterization was nearly identical to the array of perspectives that Bissinger presented in his account, in which he centered upon the individual worlds of Gaines, Winchell, Miles, the family pressured Don Billingsley (Garrett Hedlund) and the straight-edged, yet vicious, Ivory Christian (Lee Jackson).

Each of these players differed, but molded together as a team. There is nothing typical about the story of *Friday Night Lights*. It contains all the sweat and tears of a football team's daunting season both on and off the field. The film complements the book so wonderfully by illustrating all the bone-crunching hits and spine-tingling emotions that, even if the viewer has never had their own high school football experience, it will be sure to never leave their memory bank.

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**‘Stepford’ falls just short of perfect**

**By Nicole Southern**

The ideal woman. Every man is looking for her. She's beautiful, she's smart, she has the perfect body and, best of all, her main goal in life is to please her husband every second of every day. But this fantasy of the perfect woman is just that—a fantasy. Right? Not for the town of Stepford.

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Derek Luke as hot-shot running back Boobie Miles and Lucas Black as low-key senior quarterback Mike Winchell.

When Walter is let in on Stepford's little secret, he's faced with a difficult decision. If he could change Joanna, would he? The starring women in the movie seem to do a much better job than its leading men. While they deliver performances up to par, the men fall slightly short of expectations.

Kidman plays an obsessive workaholic who never has enough time for her family. She is very convincing as Joanna, providing viewers with a taste of how important good acting really is.

The Stepford Wives' boats an all-star cast, including some of Hollywood's biggest stars like Nicole Kidman and Matthew Broderick, as well as some of its older leading ladies and men such as Bette Midler and Christopher Walken.

**The Stepford Wives** was released in 1975. It was intended to be a suspenseful horror film. Frank Oz's version, however, tells the same story, but with humor.

The story manages to keep viewers on their toes in the second act. When Joanna is finally brought before her husband in front of all the men in Stepford, she pleads her case, begging Walter to remember all the good and bad times they have had together. Shortly after is when the real action begins.

The film's costumes and sets help to give it that little push over the edge. The sets are very believable. It adds credibility and allows the audience to feel as though they are actually a part of the incredible little town. The costumes are also very well done. They give characters depth and help display their personalities. It's like someone has put on a beautiful pastel-colored dress every day while Joanna is always seen in a dark, simple outfit.

The performances of Broderick, Walken and John Lovitz were respectable, but not something to be bragged about. This time around they seemed much less believable than some of the performers in their past. However, they still maintain to provide a decent representation of the characters they are embodying.

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