AREA ENTERTAINMENT

AT THE MOVIES

By Fred Douglass

"I Love You To Death," is an incredibly hilarious movie (based on a true story) about a woman who teams up with her mother and a few other bumbling idiots in a plot to murder her bed-hopping husband.

While "Fatal Attraction" focuses on the "other woman" in a story about a one night stand that leads a psychotic single lady to harass a man and his family, "I Love You to Death" is about a devoted wife who decides she would rather kill her philandering husband rather than to divorce him.

Her rationale: ". . . he'd just move in with some other woman!"

Anyway, seeing "I Love You to Death" and "Fatal Attraction" will probably save more married men from AIDS than wearing condoms. The moral of these two stories is clearer than the punch line of any of "Aesop's Fables:" committing adultery can be hazardous to your marriage, peace of mind and health.

Currently playing at theatres in the Rotunda and Yorkridge Shopping Center, "Love You To Death" stars Kevin Kline of Fame as Joey Boca, the playboy pizza parlor proprietor and Tracey Ullman of the Fox televison show bearing her name as Rosalie, his wispy wife.

As the movie opens, we find Joey in church confessing to a befuddled priest that he has sinned by committing adultery a "dozen . . . give or take a couple of times," in the past two weeks.

Later, we find Joey at work at his pizza parlor ogling female customers and making dates in between taking orders on the telephone while his wife naively ignores her husband's brash actions.

Devo, a short order cook played by River Phoenix, is in love with Rosalie and attempts to convince her that Joey is doing a lot more than "fixing the pipes" when he goes to visit one of the females who lives in the apartment building next door that the pizza vendor owns.

But Rosalie ignores Devo and continues to work dutifully, insisting that Joey is a faithful husband who loves his family. Meanwhile, Joey goes off to do his plumbing jobs armed with a tool chest containing nothing but prophylactics.

But as Robert Burns said "The best laid schemes of mice and men oft go astray" and Rosalee finally catches Joey in the act while visiting the library where she sees him fondling another woman between the aisles.

Distraught, she goes home and reveals Joey's infidelity to her mother Nadja, a kooky character played by Joan Plowright whose favorite source of information about the work is from the more bizarre tabloids found at supermarket checkout counters.

Rosalee decides that the only possible solution to this problem is to kill Joey. Her mother, who despises Joey, gleefully agrees to become a co - conspirator and, in fact, takes on the leadership of the project.

Unaware of the plot to end his life, Joey continues his normal behavior, lecherously prowling the streets and nightclubs of the city in search of new conquests and demanding to be waited upon hand and foot at home.

Implementing the murderous plot, Mother hires a friend to beat Joey to death with a baseball bat because its the "cheapest way." Joey survives and buys a gun to protect himself. Next, mother attempts to wire, Joey's car to blow up, but bungles the effort.

Quiet moment in the film "I Love You To Death," L to R: Rosalie (Tracey Ullman), Joey (Kevin Kline), and mother Nadja (Joan Plowright).

Playing on his love for good food, Rosalee and her mother brew up a batch of spaghetti sauce spiked with dozens of sleeping pills in a scene reminiscent of the witches standing over the cauldron in Shakespeare's play "Hamlet," rapping about "Bubble, bubble, toil and trouble."

But Joey, whom Rosalee describes as a man who works 14-17 hours a day seven days a week, sleeps 2-3 hours a night and still has energy to chase women, merely ends up with a stomach ache and gas.

So they persuade Devo to shoot Joey in the head with his own gun while he sleeps, but he lives. Somewhat sedated by the sleeping pills, Joey does not realize that he is wounded, but complains of a headache.

Finally, Devo goes out and hires two inept drug addicts named Harlan and Marlin to finish off the job, but they also flub the task in the most ridiculous manner.

Despite the fact that Harlan and Marlan fail miserably as hit men, they brag about their deeds while buying drinks for their friends with the $200 they earned for their work and everybody ends up behind bars.

Most people who follow television talk shows know how this movie ends because the couple upon whose lives this movie is based wrote a book about their love story.

But even if you have heard the talk about their escapades on television, you still have to see this side splitting, comical movie to appreciate the validity of the statement "truth is stranger than fiction."

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MAKING THE ROUNDS with Bonnie Matthews Butler

This Sunday, May 13, is the day we pay special homage to that great lady - Mother.

Although each year in May we set aside this day of honor, every day is really Mother's Day, for she is the recognized spiritual foundation of the family. It is mother who nurtures and provides the coming of life.

While each mother will have an observance of choice, there will be many that will share in a public remembrance .

For those who will be "making the rounds," here are a few of the activities scheduled in honor of Mother's Day.

* * *

A pre-Mother's Day cabaret show and dance featuring the **Dell, the Manhattans, the Intruders, Jean Carne** and **Billy Paul** will be held on Saturday, May 12 at the Fifth Regiment Armory.

* * *

Also on Saturday, jazz fans can groove to the sound of **Hank Crawford** and **Jimmy McGriff** and special guest **Ruby Clover** at the Palladium on Liberty Heights Ave.

* * *

Maceo's Lounge is hosting a Mother's Day buffet on Sunday beginning at 11 a.m. until 8 p.m. Reservations are suggested.

* * *

The New Big Wooten's Bar and Lounge has a Mother's Day Affair starting at 7 p.m. Free champagne and also disco music are on the bill.

The New Frederick Bar and Lounge has an affair beginning at 1:30 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. An open bar and food, along with oldies but goodies music, are on tap.

Michelle is hosting a Mother's Day Cocktail Party at the Sphinx Club starting at 4 p.m. and lasting until 8 p.m. Music will be provided by FES 2.

The Birdcage is offering a special Mother's Day buffet on Sunday. No further details were available by our deadline but anything **Ronie Strickland** puts on is sure to be top notch.

* * *

Stopped by the Lighthouse Inn on Frederick Ave. last Friday to catch V-103's **Randy Dennis** spin the latest tunes, Randy, who is one-half of the morning team (with **Jean Ross**) on the number one radio station (according to recent ratings), keeps the crowd on their feet and begging for more.

Randy, who I'm sure can command enormous monetary compensation for his work, likes to keep abreast of the musical tastes of his audience and feels "spinning records on a small scale is one way to stay in and give something back."

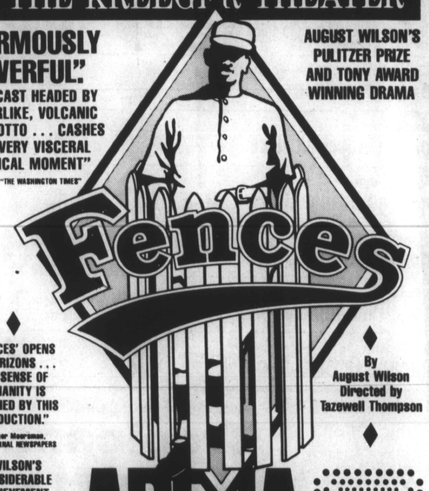
Another way Randy has given something back to his community is by establishing the Randy Dennis Scholarship Fund out of his own pocket. This scholarship, which will

(Continued on Page B-7)

IN THE KREEGER THEATER

"ENORMOUSLY POWERFUL."
"A FINE CAST HEADED BY THE BEARLIKE, VOLCANIC YAPHET KOTTO . . . CASHES IN ON EVERY VISCERAL THEATRICAL MOMENT"
—Nap Ernstein, "THE WASHINGTON TIMES"

AUGUST WILSON'S PULITZER PRIZE AND TONY AWARD WINNING DRAMA



"'FENCES' OPENS UP HORIZONS . . . OUR SENSE OF HUMANITY IS ENRICHED BY THIS PRODUCTION."
—Roger Moorman, THE JOURNAL NEWSPAPERS

"WILSON'S CONSIDERABLE ACHIEVEMENT BRING(S) TO MIND THE ELEMENTAL POWER OF EUGENE O'NEILL . . . A ROBUST TALENT."
—David Richards, THE WASHINGTON POST

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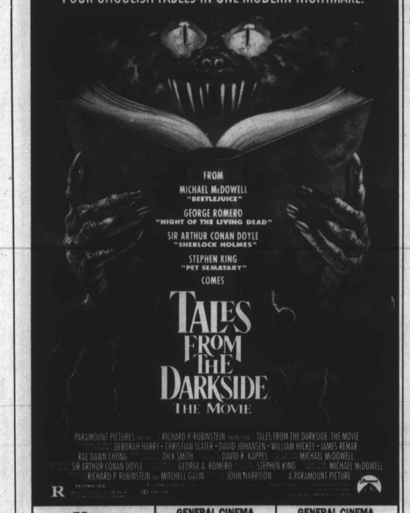

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AREA ENTERTAINMENT

SOUNDS

By Carl Matthews

JOHNNY GILL
"Johnny Gill" (Motown)

Let's see. What's New Edition been up to lately? Ricky Bell, Michael Bivins and Ronald Devoe have teamed up to produce a hit album ("Poison"), calling themselves Bell Biv Devoe. And Johnny Gill, who sang lead on New Edition songs such as "Can You Stand The Rain," has a new album out, his first for Motown.

Born and raised in the nation's capital, Johnny Gill began singing at age 8 in the group Gill Special, a gospel quartet with his three brothers.

In junior high school, he met Stacy Lattisaw, who soon became a pre-teen star with "Let Me Be Your Angel."

One day Stacy convinced Johnny to sing a demo song into a $29 tape recorder. She took the amateur recording to the president of her record label (Cotillion). After he was signed to a record deal, Gill and Lattisaw hit the charts with their "Perfect Combination" LP.

In 1985, Gill released his second LP, "Chemistry," which included the single "Half Crazy."

Johnny's latest album combines the talents of two of the hottest producing teams in the industry — Jimmy Jam & Terry Lewis (who are best known for producing such Janet Jackson's multi-platinum albums "Control" and "Rhythm Nation") and L.A. & Babyface (who have produced hits for Karyn White, Paula Abdul and Pebbles).

Those of you who are familiar with any of the above-mentioned artists know what to expect: the polished Jam-Lewis funk of such uptempo numbers as "Rub You The Right Way" and "Wrap My Body Tight"; the slickly-executed balladry on "My, My, My" and "Feels So Much Better," which were produced by L.A. and the "Whip Appeal" man himself, Babyface.

Among Johnny Gill's special guests on this album: Kenny G, Pebbles, Karyn White, and After 7.

VARIOUS ARTISTS
"Pride" (Ruffhouse)

To some, rap music is the ideal medium in which to musically express one's feelings about the lingering effects of racism in this country. Ten popular rap artists have contributed material for this compilation album which explores various angles of this important issue.

Executive producers of the project, Chris Schwartz and Joe "The Butcher" Nicolo, hope that the project will have a positive effect on the Black community. Twenty cents from each album sold will be donated to the United Negro College Fund.

The album features the talents of Schoolly D, who contributes "Black Man"; Three Times Dope ("Increase The Peace"); Special Ed ("The Bush"); Sir Mix-A-Lot ("Society's Creation"); and Mac Money, who performs "Respect Yourself," which borrows a riff from the old Staple Singers hit.

The album also includes the new single "Pride" by One Voice. The single is basically a collage of snippets from famous speeches and R&B oldies, spliced together by D.J. Jazzy Jeff. Such voices as Martin Luther King, Jr.

—Making the Rounds

(Continued from Page B6)

be awarded today (11) at Coppin State College, is for a student in grades 8 thru 12 and stipulates that he or she must finish high school and go on to a college or university.

But back to the Lighthouse Inn. The overflow crowd (between the ages of 21 — 35 the night we were there) was graciously greeted by doorman **Sparky** who knows how to make you feel welcome. So, for those who like to "pump it up," then the Lighthouse Inn is a "must" on your list when you make the rounds.

* * *

A new adult (or thirty-something and older) private club has opened called Club 1818 on Maryland Ave. Our party was most impressed with the management and clientele the night we visited.

This bi-level club has continous disco music on the first level and live entertainment and free food on level two.

This is a membership club whose motto is 'We're here to serve you," Check out the action and you won't be disappointed.

* * *

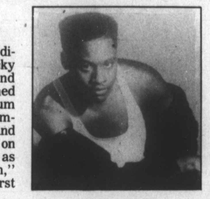
The Sportsmen's Lounge has some birthday parties you won't want to miss. **Dave Ross** will celebrate on Thursday, May 17 and the popular **Victor Green** and **Marcus** will have the honors on Saturday, May 19.

* * *

Grace Parks and **Michael Preer's** "Rib King" Bar-b-que restaurant has finally opened and I'm told their Chicago style ribs are "out of this world." The restaurant, located on E. 33rd St. is open Tuesday thru Sunday, Check it out!

* * *

Don't want to close this column without mentioning **Abraham** and **Joe's** Seafood Party at the Sphinx Club last week. While the music started a little late, the seafood served more than made up for any delays. Good job, fellas.



Johnny Gill

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