

Parenthood Worth the Money

by: Carrie Thompson

Parenthood, a movie which seems to attract all ages, is one which is geared more toward older teens and adults. The use of children in the cast seems to attract children to the film; however, the plot is not as suitable for them. The film deals with serious issues of society, yet is very down to earth. The movie begins with a flashback of Gil, played by Steve Martin, as he remembers his childhood and the neglect he received from his father. At this point, he informs the audience that he intends to raise his children in a loving, caring environment. In this movie, Gil's father's four grown children are presented, along with their spouses and their children. It shows the ways in which each of the parents handles the responsibility of raising children.

One couple, Susan and Nathan, played by Rick Moranis and Martha Plimpton, choose to raise their daughter Patty to be an intellect. They constantly quiz her with information, even though she is only about four years old. For example, Patty already knows the symbol for each

of the scientific elements. Nathan becomes so obsessed with educating her that his obsession causes Susan to leave him.

Gil and Karen, played by Steve Martin and Mary Steenburgen, are normal parents who try to do the best for their kids. They are a bit distraught when they discover that their son is going to be sent to a school for special education. They are forced to accept the fact that Kevin is not a normal child, according to the school principal and a child psychologist. There is, however, no evidence in the movie that there is anything wrong with Kevin. At a later point, the two, Gil and Karen, are faced with the thought of abortion because of Gil's lack of a job. They manage, however, to work through the difficult times and to have a fourth child.

The third family consists of a divorced mother, played by Dianne Wiest, and her two rebellious children. The eldest, Julie, is sexually active with her boyfriend, Todd, whom she marries. The marriage is very unstable, but with the help of

her mother, Julie and Todd work things out. The younger child, Gary, has withdrawn from his family and struggles with the things most teenage boys struggle with, such as sex. Helen, Julie and Gary's mother, tries hard to cope with the frustrations of being a single mother.

The fourth child in this family of adults is Larry, played by Tom Hulce. He resembles the four siblings' father, through his selfishness and through his insensitivities. He appears, after having been gone for three years, to reveal to his father that his compulsion for gambling will cost him his life if he does not come up with a lot of money.

Parenthood is a movie worth paying for. It presents real situations and many different ones. Despite the fact that good, solid families are presented, the viewers also see the struggles and frustrations that come with being parents and the difficulty that comes from being a single parent. The movie provides a wide range of situations. Parenthood is an honestly made movie, that relates to life as we live it.

Friends of the College Ticket Information

Meredith College buys a block of fifty tickets during the ticket sales season in the spring for the Friends of the College concert series held in the Reynolds Coliseum on the NCSU campus. This insures that new students and faculty may buy tickets since the series is always sold out and no new ticket may be bought after the sales season. All programs are given on two nights and tickets

may be exchanged for another night. No individual tickets are sold for a single concert. The price is \$30 for the series of seven concerts. Tickets may be gotten from Mrs. W.P. Garriss in Wainwright Music building.

The Friends of the College Season is as follows:

Oct. 13 &14, 1989-- The Saint Paul Cahmber Orchestra

Nov. 10 &11, 1989-- Victor Borge

Jan. 12 &13, 1989-- San Francisco Girls Chorus

Feb. 23 &24, 1990-- Shalom: We Are Here (Israel folk group)

March 23 &24, 1990-- Vladimir Feltsman, pianist

March 30 &31, 1990-- Moscow Philharmonic Orchestra

April 20 &22, 1990-- Sherrill, Milnes, Baritone