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FILM REVIEWS

'My Life,' a bittersweet shower for the soul

By Jacqueline Ayotte

THE BATTALION

"My Life"  
Starring Michael Keaton and Nicole Kidman  
Directed by Bruce Joel Rubin  
Rated PG-13  
Playing at Cinema III

"My Life" does more than touch your heart.

It takes hold of you, moves you emotionally, and never lets you go.

The creators of "Ghost" have managed to make "My Life" the most teariest of tear jerkers, but with an inspiring touch of bittersweet elegance.

You won't leave feeling depressed, you'll leave with a cleansed heart.

The tears start flowing only moments after the viewer discovers the reason Bob Jones (Michael Keaton) is talking to himself about his childhood in front of a video camera. He and his wife Gail (Nicole Kidman)

are expecting their first child. Sadly, they discover that Bob has cancer and might not live to see their new baby. While he angrily fights with his illness, Bob decides to make a video of his life as a gift to his child. The video acts as a deep thematic voyage into the struggles and the joys of living life.

While Bob is thrust into a journey of self-discovery, "My Life" carries the viewer through a winding path connecting the characters' touching experiences with their own outlook on life.

In one scene, Bob's quick wit shines through as he teaches his unborn son how to shave correctly by videotaping himself, piled high with shaving cream. He even goes so far as to film himself in an attempt to explain the subject of sex, but he ends up chickening out.

This dramatic role is one of Keaton's best. From the moment you



Nicole Kidman and Michael Keaton star in the poignant drama, "My Life."

See 'My Life'/Page 5

A stronger second dose of Addams family's dark, morbid hilarity

By Juli Phillips & Dave Winder

THE BATTALION

"Addams Family Values"  
Starring Raul Julia, Anjelica Huston, Joan Cusack and Christopher Lloyd  
Directed by Barry Sonnenfeld  
Rated PG-13



Gomez (Raul Julia) and baby Pubert.

Being dysfunctional and — down-right weird — has never seemed like so much fun.

The Addams clan is not creepier or kookier but they certainly are funnier in this sequel to the 1991

hit. "Addams Family Values" even has a plot line that you can follow.

It seems that Uncle Fester (Christopher Lloyd) has gotten tired of his swinging bachelor life and decides he must have a wife. Enter black widow Debbie Jelinsky (Joan Cusack) who has just been hired as the new nanny for the new Addams' child Pubert.

Cusack excels as the murderer who marries rich men, kills them and collects their insurance money. The problem is no matter what she does she cannot kill Fester.

What makes the film work, however, is the sub-plot of

Wednesday (Christina Ricci) and Pugsley (Jimmy Workman) going to summer camp. The Addams children are sent away to Camp Chippewa, a haven for white rich elitists run by two counselors, remarkably similar to Richard Simmons and Kathie Lee Gifford.

Ricci steals the show with her performance as the force of evil against all things perfect. Wednesday even manages to smile one or two times.

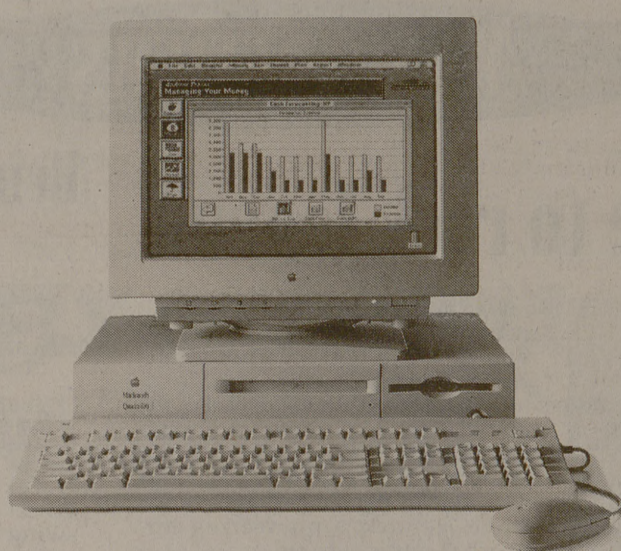
After not conforming to the camp "attitude," Wednesday and

See Addams/Page 5

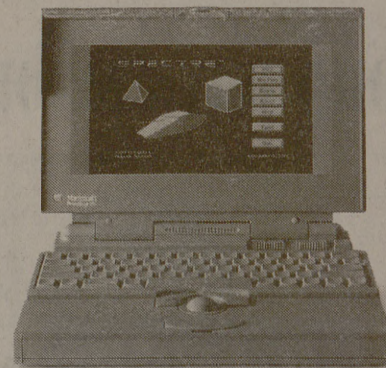
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