



It is written

The following is a review of the movie "Pete 'n' Tillie" which appeared at the Confederation Center last week.

It is pretty good, all things considered, like those plays that win annual prizes in off years. Though directed by Martin Ritt of "Sounder", "Pete 'n' Tillie" reads like the 'serious picture' that directors of comedies and action films are always promising to make when they have realized enough money from their hack work. Few of them ever do, it is embarrassing. All the hours in pursuit of the easy have rubbed off, and their very vision has become so saccharine that "serious" means a few "serious" characters stuck in the sugar, like on a wedding cake. "Pete 'n' Tillie" fares better solely on the strength of Tillie's part.

Tillie is well into her thirties when she meets and sleeps with Pete, a defensively wise-cracking market researcher. (Whether Pete is actually supposed to be funny a la Neil Simon or not is hard to say. The fact is, we are conditioned to laugh at the mere sight of Walter Matthau, and we do.) Pete and Tillie marry and have a child, with their sit-com problems gradually being replaced by the



After bangs, Bing's: Burnett and Matthau as Pete 'n' Tillie.

serious ordinary kind that we in the audience have.

It is an interesting plan, to take them our comic icons and turn them quasi-tragic. Carol Burnett, as Tillie, pulls it off magnificently, with grace and depth I never guessed she had. She was given a touching, full, well-conceived part and she enriches it. Matthau as Pete does his best.

But that's as far as it goes, as Ritt and writer, Julius J. Epstein keep blowing it on the incident-

als. For example, Tillie is called to have lunch "like civilized women" with one of Pete's mistresses. She goes, and over a drink tries to make the best of the time by asking the girl friend what she finds so attractive in Pete. "You should know," the mistress replies a trifle petulantly "he's kind, has a great sense of humour and... he's a pistol."

"What?" asks Burnett.

"You know", says the mistress, "a pistol".

At the end of a very short

lunch Burnett gets up to leave and the mistress asks "If you know about Pete and me, why do you stay with him?"

"H's a pistol" Burnett replies.

In between those exchanges and I think they are terrific- Ritt has the mistress drop her contact lens into her martini. Very funny. "Pete 'n' Tillie" does that too often for comfort. Burnett keeps it moving.

but she has to work overtime to do it.

records



Phoenix/Grand Funk - SMAS 11099

If you've been following Grand Funk for their past few albums you have probably noticed a drastic change in style. This change first came to light when GF recorded their Closer to Home album. More attention beca-

me concentrated on the lyrics, a far cry from GF's earlier albums. This new approach to music will probably kill one of the most talented bands in the world today.

Side one of Phoenix exhibits one phase of GF's evolution. More emphasis is put on Mark Farner's organ work. This addition results in a fuller, funkier sound. Flight of the Phoenix is a good example. Led by Farner on organ and Doug Kershaw on violin, Flight of the Phoenix is by far the best cut on the album. As a whole, side one comes off quite well, the emphasis being put on GF's instrumental abilities. Unfortunately they blow what could have been an excellent album on side two.

"I'm afraid of over-population/I don't want to die

from suffocation,/ the world is full of pollution/ and Jesus is the solution/" Please spare us. Side two is garnished with such nauseating sermons from the Rev. Farner. This is paranoia-rock at its worst. NOT since Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young's "Ohio", has there been such drival put on record.

Rock and Roll Soul is the last cut, and in some ways it resurrects the Grand Funk of old. But its too little too late. It Grand Funk continues to put out the same kind of crap found on side two of Phoenix, their days are numbered. If they can come out with an album along the same lines as their fantastic E Pluribus Funk they will be reinstated as the number one group in the world, a position they are capable

of attaining. The next Grand Funk album should tell the story.

BEST WISHES
AND A
HAPPY ST. PATRICKS DAY



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