

Leaven Reviews

Baby Maker "Pleasant, Thin"

"The Baby Maker" is a mildly diverting, anemic motion picture which makes a virtue of its own thinness of content and lack of intellectual energy.

In a sense, "The Baby Maker" is below criticism. You either assent to it or you don't. It's about a childless, well-to-do couple who hire a young girl to perform the offices of the sterile wife, so that they can have a baby which is at least "half" theirs.

The first confrontation between the wife and the hired mother-to-be is a key to the entire presentation of "The Baby Maker's" plot. Sue and Tish meet, chat and impress us as equally attractive characters.

allusively. They communicate by indirections, though the audience understands everything almost from the first. The result is a dissipation of the dramatic impact of the scene.

If this is not gripping, it's not unpleasant. It's a kind of atmosphere drama, and it sets the tone for the first of the film. You assume that underneath "The Baby Maker's" strenuous decorum, there must be fairly strong human emotions.

Hence, "Baby Maker" succeeds precisely because it consistently fails to develop its situations dramatically. It never attempts to be drama, and it never slips into sentimentality.

The direction of James Bridges, who also wrote the script, is generally satisfactory, because it's unimpressive. The style is an amalgam of cliches borrowed from "The Graduate," "Goodbye, Columbus," and even "The Sterile Cuckoo."

obtrude themselves; and the "philosophical" theme song of movie is, alas! reminiscent of the banalities of "The Sterile Cuckoo." The lyrics—"People laugh, people cry. That's the way it is. I know it is...Don't ask me why. I only know what I know"—are more than a little unfortunate.

Barbara Hershey, who starred in one of last year's best movies, "Last Summer," turns in a creditable performance as the baby maker. Her exuberant little-girlishness is perfect in the movie's schematic presentation of reality.

If you intend to see "Baby Maker," bear in mind that nothing will happen while you are in the theater. This movie not only lacks a second act, it lacks a third, too. It is little more eventful than a landscape painting.

NOTES: The Chapel Hill Carolina is presenting something of a festival this week. On seven successive days it is showing "A Thousand Clowns," "Phaedra," "The Russians Are Coming," "If..." "Barbarella," and "Goodbye, Columbus." The last will play for two days.

Most of these films have been in Chapel Hill three or five times before. "A Thousand Clowns," "The Russians Are Coming," and "Barbarella" have played at the Student Union free flicks. "Phaedra" is a circa 1963 bit that was unanimously panned as a tawdry, inept rewrite of Racine's classic tragedy.

interesting, overrated films, which likely as not will hit the Union freebies next year or the year after. Both have been part of the Super Sunday series already. They would be worth a viewing if they were on a first run. But it is inconceivable to me that the management of the Carolina was unable to find and book worthwhile current films.

LAST WEEK'S column was written by Jim Charney, to whom all thanks.

Charles Donahue, a student of Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, will address the Political Science 95A class today at 1 P.M. D.C. center of the Students International Meditation Center (SIMS). SIMS is sponsoring Donahue's appearance.

He will offer a vision of possibilities concerning solutions to all contemporary problems, political, social or economic. Donahue received a degree in philosophy from Dartmouth College in 1966. He is also a University of Chicago alumnus in philosophy.

He has studied with the Maharishi at his academy in Rishikesh, India as well as in Europe and the United States. Donahue is one of a few full-time teachers of "Transcendental Meditation" in the world. He contends that "Transcendental Meditation" is the method for eliminating all of man's sufferings. Donahue will relate his method to contemporary political issues.

Skip McGaughey, graduate leader of 95A, has termed the upcoming lecture one of the most potentially exciting talks this fall. He has urged both class and public attendance.

Campus Calendar

The UNC Chess Club will hold its Chess (k)Night tonight at the Carolina Union. The club invites all chessplayers regardless of ability to drop in any time between 7 and 11 p.m.

There will be an RCF meeting at 6 p.m. in the James Social Lounge. All governors and independent dorm presidents are invited to attend. Tommy Bello will speak to the group.

Professor Emerson Spies will visit the campus this Friday afternoon to talk with students interested in attending the University of Virginia's School of Law. Interested students should go by the Placement Service, 211 Gardner Hall, to set up an appointment with Dr. Spies.

Christine Hatfield, pianist and composer, will present an evening of her own and other masterworks tonight in Morrison's small social lounge at eight o'clock.

The program will be the first one for November in the "Fall and the Fine Arts" series.

Alpha Epsilon Delta, pre-med, pre-dental honorary fraternity, will hold a rush meeting for all prospective members Mon., Nov. 9 at 7 p.m. in room 204, Student Union.

Interviews for the Carolina Symposium Interim Committee will be held Nov. 9, 10 and 199 from 1-5 p.m. in room 205, Student Union. Applications and sign-up at the Union Information Desk.

A panel of prominent North Carolina journalists will be in Howell Hall tomorrow at 8 p.m. to discuss the results of the elections and the impact student involvement may have had in them. The panel members are: Ed Yoder, Associate Editor, "Greensboro Daily News"; Perry Morgan, Editor, "Charlotte News"; Paul Jablow, "Charlotte Observer"; and Joe Doster, "Winston-Salem Journal and Sentinel."

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UNDERSTANDING ISRAEL SEMINAR "Christian Response to the Middle East Crisis" Dr. John Dixon Wednesday November 4 8:30 p. m. 204 Student Union Hillel Foundation

PEANUTS comic strip panels showing Snoopy and Woodstock.

ANDY CAPP comic strip panels showing a woman talking about getting married.

BLOOD, SWEAT & TEARS LIVE-IN CONCERT FRI. NIGHT, NOV. 13-8 PM DORTON ARENA-RALEIGH HEAR ALL THE GREAT B.S.&T HITS

CROSSWORD PUZZLE Answer to Yesterday's Puzzle

Grid for crossword puzzle with clues for across and down.

ABRAXAS Grand Opening this week Featuring: The New Deal String Band, The Road Band, Scotty Dail