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entertainment

'Pelham' police outwit villains

Finally, a New York movie with an effective (if not efficient) police force. "The Taking of Pelham 1, 2, 3" has a New York City subway car and its 18 passengers hijacked by four desperate, machine gun armed men, who demand a \$1 million ransom from the city. They'll shoot one hostage per minute if the ransom isn't paid by a certain time.

Hijack members include English actor Robert Shaw (he was the Irish mobster who was conned by Newman and Redford in "The Sting"), the leader whose cold ruthless actions send the city hierarchy into a panic, and Martin Balsam, a former subway operator who sneezes a lot

Movie trend reversing

Most of our time is spent in the dark recesses of the subway tunnel getting the feel of the hijackers (no one really cares about the mish-mash group of hostages, not even the audience). It was a bit different to have a frenzied police department and the snivelly, waggish mayor get the job done. No tricky escapes or last minute con maneuvers, in which the antihero outwits the establishment, could prevent the city from muddling through the crisis. It all points to a recent, slowly reversing movie trend in some films that has the good guys (or at least those on the side of the 'aw) coming out on top again.

Walter Matthau, as a gruffy, slump-ing transit authority officer, gives the film's best performance. Matthau remains one of the best character actors in movies today and has finally begun to broaden those comic roles (as good as they were) that always found him playing second fiddle to someone like Jack Lemmon or Neil Simon. With "Charley Varrick and The Laughing Policeman'' (a movie that looks like it cathe out of the same pot as "Pelham")

Zappa,

Mothers

and now this role. Matthau retains his jowly, comic style but has expanded into some interesting dramatic roles.

Obscene humor

"Peiham" has to be one of the few movies ever made to receive an R rating almost entirely because of vulgar language. Screenwriter Peter Stone creates a humor out of obscenity that is in poor taste but funny nonetheless.

Director Jack Sargent (never heard of him before) manages to overcome one flaw after he puts the movie's time limit climax in the middle of the film. A keystone Comedy-Pony Express police race finally gets the money to the hijackers, but once it's done, the biggest suspense buildup of the movie is over with.



Like last month's "Juggernaut," Pelham" is not really a disaster film. as many have indicated. We have enough of them already without trying to add every life endangering drama to the list. "Juggernaut" wasn't about a ship blowing up as much as it was a match between Richard Harris and an intricate time bomb. And except for a brief moment in "Pelham," the accent here isn't on the imperiled hostages as much as on Matthau and Shaw. The heavy handed Sargent uses none of Richard Lester's flair or indiosyncratic style, but "The Taking of Pelham 1, 2, 3" is a better piece of entertainment. even if you can figure out the ending.

By Meg Greene

The Grand Wazoo himseif, Frank Zappa, and his Mothers of Invention will be bringing their odes to teenage life, absurdist outlooks and other snide put-downs to Lincoln, Tuesday night at Pershing Municipal Auditorium.

Zappa is one of the most versatile and influential musicians around. He has become involved in almost every form of music including

TICKET PRICES: \$5.50 IN ADVANCE \$6.00 DAY OF CONCERT TICKETS ARE ON SALE DAILY AT AUDI TORIUM BOX OFFICE FROM 10 A.M. TO 6 P.M. MAIL ORDERS ARE ACCEPTED.

classical, jazz, blues and rock. He has been noted for bringing what would be called classical form to modern music. He is the first and perhaps the only of today's musicians to do this.

Also appearing will be Robin Trower, former quitarist from Procul Haren, now on his own. Tickets are on sale for \$5.50, or \$6.50 the day of the show.



monday, november 25, 1974

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