

At the Lane

'Greetings' Is Satire On the Problems of Today's Younger Set

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"Greetings" at the Lane uses a double-barrelled scattergun technique satire coming from one muzzle and slapstick from the other, to tell its story of the problems of today's youth.

The problems are real enough and they include the draft (thus the title), the breakdown of sexual inhibitions and the worries that accompany such emancipation and the specter of a computer-operated world with the computer in this instance used as a guide to dating.

The approach to such matters, however, is brash and insouciant in an unconventional movie made by youth (none of the players or creative staff is over 30) which looks at youth and its dilemmas with genial mockery.

The producer is Charles Hirsch and the director is Brian de Palma, the latter a young Philadelphian. The two have collaborated on the freewheeling screen play which sometimes pokes fun at the ponderous "I Am Curious (Yellow)" type of sex and nudity, cocks a snoot at the general run of underground films, vigorously lambasts the Establishment and occasionally applies the comedy treatment to the Jean-Luc Goddard technique which we always felt was held sacred by the collegiate crowd.

NO MERRY ROMP

This is no merry romp intended for the juvenile audience. It talks of sex and nudity and exposes plenty of both in their more ridiculous manifestations. And if one of its three anti-heroes ends up in Vietnam in a comedy scene, he is still in Vietnam and being shot at.

An obsession with the John F. Kennedy assassination by another of the trio might strike one as a repellent subject for come-

dy until one realizes that what is being satirized is the general morbidity of the public in its listening to each spotlight hunter who insists his version is more accurate than the Warren Report.

Jonathan Warden plays the lad about to go before the draft board. He is coached in draft dodging by his pals Geritt Graham and Robert De Niro. He is instructed on how to appear as a homosexual, as a mental case and as a right winger who would wipe out all minorities both in his army and the enemy's.

UPTIGHT ON SEX

He also is the lad who is uptight on sex and seeks a companion via the computer with results that suggest there are a few bugs in the most sophisticated computers.

His two pals work in a bookstore. Graham is the one who probes into the Kennedy case and is a ready victim of the lunatic fringe. De Niro is the camera addict who decides to be a Pepping Tom, an action which cools the steamy aspects of sex into another conglomeration of burlesque.

The film wanders through the streets of New York coming up with provocative camera analogies pertinent to what might loosely be called the plot. There are eccentricities in construction but the net result is impressive.