Boy Who Could Fly is a film which does not

(Continued from page 8)

Since the death of his parents, Eric has be- come utterly isolated, never venturing beyond a word and only occasionally acknowledging the presence of others. Eric deals with his problems in both the most inarticulate and most direct manners: he attempts to avoid the reality he finds painful by shutting it out, but also professes that he can fly, rea- soning that if he had been able to fly he might have been able to directly avert the fatal crash that took his parents.

The very day that Milly and her family moved into their new house, she glimpses Eric through her bedroom window sitting on his window-sill, arms spread, so as to float for a gentle breeze to carry him aloft.

The attraction is instantaneous. At school Milly tries to help Eric open up, jeering balls with him during gym class, and the attraction continues at home, allowing an eye on him when he might stray too far out on a bridge. In the end, Eric be- gins to respond to Milly, evoking his actions. A kindly high school counselor (Colleen Dewhurst), who worries that Eric will be sent away to an institution, enlists Milly as his guardian and to continue to help him to overcome his autism. This works well for the main characters since it allows their love affair to blossom, but also attempts to expose how we try to preserve elements in our own way. This is brought to a head when Milly flies over a bridge while packing a rose, only to later wake up in the hospital with barely a scratch — the child believes that Eric can actually fly and that he caught her and brought her to safety. However, the attitude of the psychologist who is asked to have a look at Milly, Milly is fantasizing because "she" just needs to believe in some magic because (she's) had so much pain.

It is not until almost the end of the film that we actually wonder whether or not Eric can fly. When we do, the psychia- trist's words come back with a vengeance — belief in magic has become strong en- ough to dictate reality. This startling re- velation reminded me of Disney's Pinocchio where Gepetto wished strongly enough that his puppet came to life. But this premise in Pinocchio relied also on the fact that Gepetto deserved to have his wish granted — he had worked long and hard all his life without reward. This same logic prevented Pinocchio the living puppet from simply wishing and becoming a real boy — he could not gain the magic trans- formation unless he earned it by saving his father from the whale's belly.

It is this conclusion that "The Boy Who Could Fly" trivializes the problems of its characters. Eric's autism, Charlotte's prob- lems in the new computerized workplace, Louis's problems at school and with bul- lies, Milly's problem of having to play surrogate mother to both her family and to Eric, the entire family's problem of deal- ing with the loss of their father: these are all real problems that need real solutions.

"The Boy Who Could Fly" tries to be a Pinocchio for the 80's but unfortunately presents the magic without the feeling. The film tries to present realisti- c solutions to life's problems and ultimately fails in its goal to be uplifting.

Lucy Dennis as Milly, and Jay Underwood as Eric.

Now make the right move. To The Travelers ACCENT program. Where you'll find varied and valu- able learning experiences. A supportive human environment and a sophis- ticated technical area. And where you'll find plenty of opportunities to help move you ahead.

Meet us on Wednesday, October 8 for a brief presentation on the ACCENT pro- gram. Contact your Career Placement office for details. Or, find out more about signing up for The Travelers interview schedule. Recruiters will be on campus Wednesday, October 29. Or, send your resume to: Priscilla Pellett, 30-CR, The Travelers Companies, One Tower Square, Hartford, CT 06183-7060.

You'll also receive a competitive salary, complete benefits and even an IBM PC A to take home with you. Plus generous relocation assistance to our Hartford, Connecticut home office.

If you're a highly- motivated person, an inde- pendent worker, and an innovative thinker, you have the right chemistry for ACCENT.

Meet the right people, make the right move. To The Travelers ACCENT program. Where the accent is on you and the inspira- tion. To The Travelers, where you'll find plenty of opportunities to help move you ahead.