

BULL FROM TURNBULL
by Carol DeArment

Erie's new ABC-TV-WJET station is now supplying two notable new culturalisms: "Batman" and "Where the Action Is." Erie, Pa., an obscurity on the western fringes of Wesleyville, is now linked with the world. Batman is the democratic demi-folk hero of a spunky show full of pithy, real-life situations. He is a mortal distinguished from other men only by his eccentric attire, and superior equipment. The World War II Batman worked with tools of stone age simplicity. His Batzooka was a rope and hook that simplified that mundane chore of scaling buildings. But modern Batman must have a Batmobile worthy of 2007, and a computer in his formerly monastic cave. Both Batman and Napoleon Sols come complete with kid-brother image sidekicks.

The rise of super-heroes should discourage some college sluggards, for by comparison we lack the biff and pow to dent the world. Our lives are somewhat less dashingly filled by liverwort micro-examination. Most of us go to college hoping to make money. Fame is optional. But doesn't it hurt when we see a clod making an effortless fortune? Florence Henderson, for example, grosses money by appearing on the Match Game quiz show

which asks such technical and intellectual questions as "Name a piece of furniture found in a bedroom." If you and your teammates give the same answer, you are entitled to giggle delightedly.

Or you could spend your life doing television commercials. "Hi, I'm Betty White." (Pronounced Foo-ite, of course.) "I'm the bag you see standing here full of chip-niks." (Did I phrase that right?)

One must have connections to land such Utopian employments. Most Behrendites do not have this pull, however, which is why they attend Behrend in the first place.

Behrend is gloriously conservative. Granny dresses and Ben Franklin glasses are minimal. A noteworthy exception is the dazzlingly raucous Fasenmeyer car, the Weavermobile.

In fact, the only belligerent protests this year have been letters to the editor, which unhappily is a rather dull medium; and with the loss of Steve Fine, even these have suffered a setback.

Ah, but this spring there will be some excitement as hundreds of Behrendites fall asleep all over the hillsides.

