Back to the past

By JARED DEAN STAFF MOVIE CRITIC

The rumor is that there will be a movie about the Jack Benny Show in the spring. How timely. So there's this movie about the Beverly Hillbillies out now, and its timing couldn't have been more...late. After movies reviving such television topics as The Addams Family, The Fugitive, and The Coneheads, how long will we have to wait before Wally and Beaver grace us with their ever-popular screen presence.

And if that isn't sad enough, look at the cartoons getting into the pot: The Jetsons and The Flinstones. Sit-Com Soup anyone? How about trying to live in the now. At least Wayne's World didn't have to brush off the dust of age when making their movie. Oh, there's a milestone in movie making history to aspire to

- Wayne's World.

Now that I've made just about everybody angry, let's take a look at the latest in "I've got writers-block, so I'll watch TV till I think of a good plot" movie making. The Beverly Hillbillies. You'll probably figure, after that incredibly extemporaneous opening, that the movie review will be bad. On the contrary, when you don't expect much from a film, it usually meets your expectations. In the case of the Hillbillies, it met and even succeeded, but only a little, so don't get your hones up.

so don't get your hopes up.

The cast includes Dabney
Coleman, Cloris Leachman, Lea
Thompson, and everybody's favorite SNL copy machine man, Rob

Schneider. The Schneidmeister. Schneidmaster S. Of course we can't forget Lily Tomlin as Mrs. Hathaway. With a cast like this, who needs a plot. As long as you like those actors, what they say is of little importance. It didn't hurt matters to have Erika Eleniak, from "Baywatch," in the roll of Ellie May. Personally, Dabney Coleman makes me want to retch, but some people get a kick out of his over-acting.

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One of the nice parts of the film was actually seeing the family at home before they went to Beverly Hills. It wasn't a big part of the movie, but it was a pleasant aspect. The drive out to Beverly Hills is hilarious. The Clampets meet the L.A. freeway is classic humor. Grannie is also a refreshing comical presence. Jethro's character is played wonderfully. His innocence well portrayed.

I imagine it wasn't to hard to come up with the screenplay, but nothaving seen many of the original episodes is a check-mark in the benefit column if planning on viewing this film. Just make sure you don't leave before the closing credits. The bloopers are the best part, oily-hands down.

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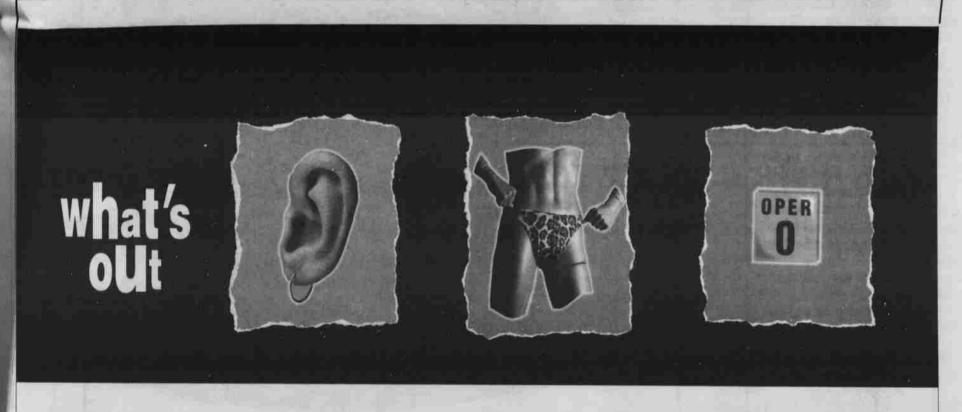
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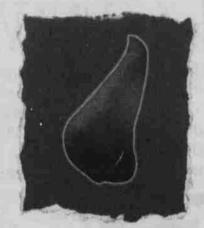
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