

# Assignment TV

By TERRENCE O'FLAHERTY

In its headlong race toward outer space and inner trivia, it might appear that the sado-masochists were being neglected by television this season. But this is a field in which the Hollywood boys excel and they're not about to let us forget it.

The newest helping of viciousness disguised as adventure is NBC's "T.H.E. Cat" which recently made its debut. The half hour thriller was artfully photographed but was not empty-stomach entertainment. The drama was festooned with all the scare symbols known to fiction; scar-faced killers, Chinatown dragons, circus dwarfs, stiletos, a half-caste with an ear-ring, black leather, death grimaces, and a one-armed policeman.

Contrary to what you might suppose, the central character is not the Marquis de Sade. It is Thomas Hewitt Edward Cat, a former cat burglar now a professional bodyguard who relies on his agility to protect his clients — most of whom are marked for death. His working hours are after dark and his office is a nightclub called Casa del Gato (Cat House — get it?) and that's about the level of subtlety reached in the opening sequence. The setting is San Francisco but it's so dark nothing is recognizable and it's all filmed at Paramount Studios anyway.

THE SHOW'S main asset outside of its art director and cameraman is the face of its star, Robert Loggia, a comparatively new performer despite guest appearances and a continuing role as Disney's Elfgo de Baca a few seasons back. It is a face that will fascinate the ladies and perhaps even a few gentlemen. Unfortunately the promise of a personality behind it never quite materialized in

the first episode. Maybe it's not there at all.

"The Green Hornet" is ABC's Friday night contribution to the young people of America. It is produced by William Dozier, the same great mind that gave the world "Batman."

According to the network, the show is done with style, gloss and elegance and with a tasteful dressing of pretty girls.

I HAVE SOME bad news for Dozier and ABC. "The Green Hornet" has no style whatsoever and it is produced without a gloss of any sort. If they think there is anything elegant about this sleazy third-rate cops-and-robbers they had better look up the word in the dictionary. It had one pretty girl but there is nothing more common to Hollywood than pretty girls unless it's smog. You can get either one by just opening a window.

As foolish as "Batman" is, at least it has a breezy quality that saves it from being an entire waste of time. The producer has indicated that his new hornet show would be played straight and there is truth to that. The young people who watched the show with me walked out before it was over. Can it be that Dozier has spoiled his audience by camping up "Batman?" Without a tongue-in-cheek, "The Greek Hornet" looks just like what it is—a poor show. Kids with any sense at all will recognize it immediately. Any adult who would spend a half hour watching it must have no alternative.

The sponsor is a maker of pimple remover pads which will give you an idea of the audience ABC is trying to attract with its hornet. Too bad the villains in the show didn't use the sponsor's product.

## Western Avenue Work In State Road Budget

More than \$400,000 for road work in the Torrance area has been included in a state highway budget of \$673 million for the 1967-68 fiscal year, according to the State Highway Commission.

The new budget contains nearly \$458 million for major new construction and improvements and some \$4 million for traffic safety and operational improvement projects.

Area projects included in the budget include \$155,000 to widen Western Avenue between Palos Verdes Drive and Redondela Drive, a distance of eight-tenths of a mile; \$130,000 to widen truck scales and improve drainage on the San Diego Freeway near Avalon Boulevard, and \$125,000 for modifications to signals on Artesia Boulevard between Pier Avenue and Hawthorne Boulevard.

THE WESTERN Avenue project is estimated to cost \$310,000 and will be shared by the state and Los Angeles County. Costs of Modifications to the Artesia Boulevard signals will be split between the state and the cities of Redondo Beach, Manhattan Beach, and Lawndale.

## No Parking Zone Voted

Parking will be prohibited on the east side of Wilmington Avenue between 223rd Street and a point 350 feet northerly, Supervisor Burton W. Chace said today.

The new regulations were authorized by the Board of Supervisors yesterday. The County Road Department will post the necessary signs within 10 days.

A total of \$51.1 million has been earmarked for Los Angeles County projects, while an additional \$60 million for rights-of-way acquisition in Los Angeles County is included.

The major construction effort in the new budget is for the state's 2,185-mile share of the national system of Interstate and Defense Highways. The budget contains \$386,483,000 in federal funds, including \$327 million for the interstate highway system.

UNDER RECENT federal law, the interstate system must be completed by 1973.

Some projects will be partly financed in the 1967-68 budget and several projects begun in the current year will be completed with funds in the new budget.

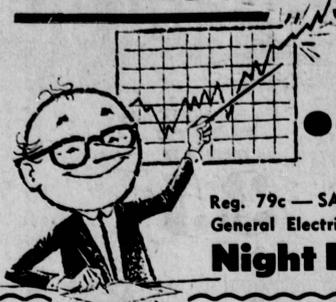
In submitting the budget to Governor Edmund G. Brown, Highway Commission Chairman Robert B. Bradford warned against comparing it to the current state highway budget.

"Such a comparison would be meaningless at this time," Bradford said, "because the new budget includes for the first time accrual funds."

Bradford said because of the new accrual accounting system, many millions of dollars would not be received as cash in the highway fund during the fiscal year. Award of construction contracts will depend upon the rate at which the cash is actually received, he added.

Electronics Tech. I.C. Royce G. Young, USCG, son of Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm D. Young of 22905 Walnut St., was graduated from the Advanced Electronic Technician School at the U. S. Coast Guard Training Center

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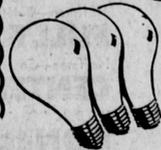
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