

WEEKEND JOURNAL.

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THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

Friday, March 23, 2007 **W1**

TV

Hours of Boomers

How does PBS lure the “me generation” into watching a two-hour documentary? Make it about them.

“**The Boomer Century: 1946-2046,**” which airs Wednesday, takes Baby Boomers on a journey through their collective memory—rendered as a virtual museum, populated with cultural touchstones like “**Leave It to Beaver**” and the assassination of **John F. Kennedy**. Pausing occasionally to speak to prominent boomers such as **Erica Jong** and **Rob Reiner**,



the film asserts that the generation’s size (about 78 million people) and stereotypical character traits (idealism, flexibility, self-centeredness) have reshaped the U.S. and will continue to do so in coming decades. One segment explores the possibility of genetic

life extension; another raises the specter of boomers reliving the ’60s by becoming political activists again.

“There’s a Peter Pan aspect to this generation,” says another of the film’s talking heads, **Tony Snow**, the White House’s press secretary. “We never think we’re going to grow up.” (9 p.m. EDT; check local listings)