

DOWNTOWN MONITOR

***GREATER DETROIT'S ORIGINAL FREE PAPER
THURSDAY, AUGUST 6 — WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19, 2020***

Ready for Anything



READY FOR ANYTHING



What I Did On My Bummer Vacation

By Paul Arlon



This is the first issue of the *Downtown Monitor* since the second week of March, in the *Year of Fear 2020*. Before the world's everyday routines were forced to deconstruct, our venerable *Downtown Detroit* paper had been published – uninterrupted – for 57 years and 4 months straight. Never a missed publication date. And, then...just like the rest of the planet, we balled up our calendars, switched off the power, raced to the store to stock up on coffee, canned goods, slabs of meat, and 108 Double Roll Count pallets of 2-ply bum fluff, and then headed straightaway to our barricaded safe places, while making fast calls to the cable company to immediately jack-up our internet speed.

Not the same kinds of celebration for this year's St. Patrick's Day; the Vernal Equinox; NCAA March Madness; Marche du Nain Rouge; Tigers Opening Day; the NHL Playoffs; the NBA Playoffs; Cinco De Mayo; Mother's Day; Eastern Market Flower Day; Movement Festival; Memorial Day; High School Proms; Graduation Days; the North American Auto Show; Flag Day; Juneteenth; Detroit River Days; Father's Day; the Detroit Freedom Festival Fireworks; 4th of July; the Concours d'Elegance; and every Meadow Brook; DTE Energy; Freedom Hill; Ford Field; Campus Martius; DIA outdoor concert; every indoor venue event; every church; organization; charity; school; industrial; city; town, or village festival; show; flea market; parade or whatever else; Hollywood blockbuster movies; sharing an after-day drink with friends; having a romantic dinner or, most depressing of all, any in-person human life gatherings of any kind with family or friends, happy or sad, birthdays to funerals, or anything in between.

Truly a mind-numbing five months, so far. So, then, what did I do to maintain my unflappable even-keel sense of baseless optimism and constant amusement, as from my earliest childhood cognitions, I've been blessed (or cursed, depending on your point-of-view) with an innate tendency to sneer at the follies of the universe? *Meaning*: Very few ironies escape me, and sometimes even disadvantages will prove to be valuable.

Well, I did, and didn't do, this stuff:

I haven't had a haircut since the beginning of March. My hair hasn't been this long in years. Think of the Who's *Roger Daltrey* (*kind of, see pic #2*)...only half a foot taller. I watched a lot

of TV. No kidding! Am I the only one? But, yes, I did. And, after watching Tom Selleck's *Magnum, P.I.* reruns for 6 hours a day throughout the month of April (*don't have to do it anymore, I've seen them all...*), I decided to let my mustache grow in. No, not the enormous cowcatcher on Selleck's lip, but rather, think a blonder *Basil Rathbone* (*see pic #3*) in Errol Flynn's 1935 opus, *Captain Blood*. Okay, enough piffling exaggeration about my post-lockdown appearance. You can't see all of my smiling countenance, anyway, if I wear sunglasses, a rakish hat, and my stylish full-face mask.

So, what else besides 1980's reruns? Well, I'm fortunate enough to have the complete range of time-wasting streaming and cable services. I watched virtually everything worth seeing on Netflix, Amazon Prime, PBS Masterpiece, HBO, Starz, Cinemax, Showtime, and the rest of the cable universe. And, what did I like? For starters, you can't go wrong with *Ozark* on Netflix, *Bosch* and *Hanna* on Prime, *Kim's Convenience* and *Schitt's Creek* from the CBC (these are on other channels and streamers, also), and *Yellowstone* on the Paramount Network. There are lots of good things to watch on regular networks, too. I really love *The Goldbergs*, *Schooled*, *Agents of Shield*, *American Housewife*, *Last Man Standing*, etc.

But, my most favorite shows from any of the cable channels or streaming services? I watch virtually every cooking show, any time I can. I love *Chopped*, *Good Eats*, *America's Test Kitchen*, and whichever show is on any channel at whatever time I'm in front of a TV. You simply can't help but to improve your cooking skills if you watch *hundreds* of hours of cooking shows. Gimme *Valerie Bertinelli* frying clams and pouring Tequila over a piece of sugared watermelon, or *Alton Brown* dry-aging a prime steak in his refrigerator with a pie tin and a paper towel. I'm in. Cooking is my favorite hobby. And, I think our readers might like to see a few decent recipes that they can try out at home, as well. Our new *Food* column appears on Page 4, in this issue.

I worked on a lot of crossword puzzles. I work on them everyday, boosting my vocabulary, polishing my mental thesaurus and honing my colloquial vernacular to a gleaming razor's edge (*plus, the answers are in the back of the book...*). And, since I now really like crosswords, I think our readers might like them, too. You'll find *Brain Fun*, on Page 9, puzzles and bits of interest for all to enjoy!

And, now? I'm so very pleased to write, that even after all that's befallen our world, the *Downtown Monitor* – *Greater Detroit's Original Downtown Paper* – is back in print, and for now, you'll find us every other week, with our next issue in print on Thursday, August 20th.

We're so very grateful that we've survived. We're back in business. And, most of all, we're **READY FOR ANYTHING.**

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Food

The Kitchen Diva!

by Angela Shelf Medearis



A Cool Salad for Hot Summer Days

Dear Readers: I'll be taking a break from writing my column to focus on helping those in need during the coronavirus crisis. Meantime, I'd like to share with you some of my favorite summertime recipes from years past. Hopefully, they'll inspire you to cook up something "Diva-Licious."

Calypso is probably best known as a type of Caribbean folk song. It's inspired by a combination of musical styles and languages common to Trinidad. Calypso music is rhythmically smooth, and the words are often colorful and sharply critical in a witty way.

This recipe for Calypso Black Bean and Corn Salad draws inspiration from the Caribbean, the easy spirit of the islands and the music heard there. The salad takes only a few minutes to assemble, and it can be served either cold or at room temperature. Best of all, most of the ingredients can be found in the pantry or the freezer.

This festive salad instantly became one of my all-time favorites when I was challenged by chef Bobby Flay on his Food Network show "Throwdown With Bobby Flay." I decided to serve the Calypso Black Bean and Corn Salad as a side dish with my fiery Jerk Chicken.

The wonderful thing about this combination of black beans, corn and spices is that it perfectly complements the smokiness of barbecued meats. It's unique and colorful, and it tastes better the longer it sits in the pepper-infused citrus marinade. The judges loved my dishes, and I was declared the winner of the challenge.

While it was wonderful to claim

a culinary victory over chef Flay, the real winners were the guests at the barbeque. They got to eat some of the best dishes in Texas! Try this delicious salad, and you'll feel like a winner, too!

CALYPSO CORN AND BLACK BEAN SALAD

- 1 (10-ounce) package frozen corn kernels, thawed
- 2 (15-ounce) cans black beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 large red bell pepper, seeded and diced
- 1 small fresh jalapeño chili, seeded and minced
- 1/2 cup firmly packed chopped fresh cilantro
- 1/4 cup freshly squeezed lime juice



Phil Curry

- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper

Combine the corn, beans, bell pepper, jalapeno, cilantro, lime juice, oil, sugar, salt and pepper in a large bowl. Taste and adjust seasonings. Cover and chill one hour or overnight to combine flavors. Serves 4 to 6.

Angela Shelf Medearis is an award-winning children's author, culinary historian and the author of seven cookbooks. Her new cookbook is "The Kitchen Diva's Diabetic Cookbook." Her website is www.divapro.com. To see how-to videos, recipes and much, much more, Like Angela Shelf Medearis, The Kitchen Diva! on Facebook. Recipes may not be reprinted without permission from Angela Shelf Medearis.

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Crossword Answers from Page 8

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THE SPORTING LIFE

Sports in the New World

George B. Eichorn



Sports has rightfully taken a backseat to the world pandemic known as COVID-19. Games were cancelled across the globe as soon as the pandemic hit us like a storm.

Who would have thought that major events such as NCAA March Madness, The Masters, Opening Day in baseball, the Kentucky Derby, Wimbledon, the Indianapolis 500 and the Stanley Cup and NBA playoffs would need to be cancelled or rescheduled? Unthinkable to even the casual sports fan. Yet it happened.

First, we witnessed the return of men's soccer (in Europe), South Korea and Taiwan league baseball, NASCAR racing, men's and women's professional golf.

Then came IndyCar and Formula One racing, followed by Major League Baseball with its Summer Camp and 60-game abbreviated season. Finally, camps and restarts for the NHL and NBA. Sports is indeed back!

Yet while we welcome back the players, coaches and select media, the fans are being kept away at most games and matches. Empty rows are replaced by giant tarps or cutouts of fans or graphic images. Actual crowd noise replaced with piped in cheers and music. Games are conducted as if in a giant studio instead of a filled stadium. It's just not the same yet it's the best we can do.

Many players and officials from all sports have opted out or been sent to the sidelines due to exposure to someone with COVID-19 or themselves protected from coming down with it. More than a dozen major league veteran umpires are sitting out the MLB season.

Even star quarterback Matthew Stafford had to leave Detroit Lions camp in Allen Park. The good news is that Stafford's COVID-19 test proved to be a false positive!

Players and team officials of the Miami Marlins and St. Louis Cardinals must have gotten carried away on recent road trips and compromised the lengthy set of rules which MLB players and owners agreed upon.



Going out on the town to a lounge or casino was not what Commissioner Rob Manfred expected from his professional ballplayers.

Our Detroit Tigers have started the season at 5-5, yet lost the chance at hosting the Cardinals at Comerica Park after more than a dozen St. Louis players and team officials were waylaid.

Meanwhile, our Red Wings and Pistons are watching on the sidelines as their respective leagues play "under the bubble" in cities like Toronto, Edmonton and Orlando.

The Lions and the NFL had to cancel the entire pre-season in order to keep players healthy and in training camp routine.

Michigan International Speedway (MIS) hosts NASCAR racing this weekend in Brooklyn yet without spectators. College and high school football face uncertain futures this fall. Even the NFL has no guarantee it will see its new season played in its entirety.

It's a new world order in sports. At least they are trying to take the stress off fans who have waited anxiously for the resumption of the leagues and the crowning of champions.

Stay tuned!



Intimation of Immortality

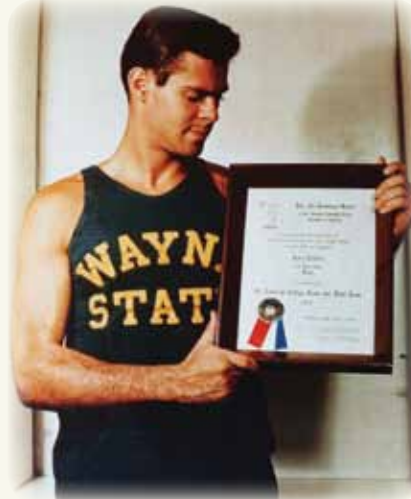
Dr. John Telford

'IN THE INTERIM' - I've raced interim sprinters in interim races, / Loved interim women in interim places, / Been interim Chief of Detroit's troubled schools, / And of Madison's briefly—contending with fools. / Between the desire and the base spasm / Whence once we were sired to cross the great chasm, / From that fast spurt-ing until the last curtain, / Between our first stirring and final interring—/ Indeed, we're ALL "interim"—yet just IN the interim???

I penned this reflectively autobiographical poem of meta-physical inquiry in 2013 in partial tribute to immortal poets William Wordsworth and T. S. Eliot. At the susceptibly vulnerable age of 84 in this era of the fearsome corona virus, I contemplate the logical concept that any kind of faith—including faith in the Judeo-Christian eternal-life doctrine—means making a VIRTUE of NOT

THINKING, but I then (perhaps illogically) reflect upon the Biblical "blessed be the righteous, for they shall be fulfilled"—both in this world and perhaps in the next. It was fiery Mexican revolutionary Emiliano Zapata who said, "If there is no justice for the people, let there be no peace for the GOVERNMENT."

In my youth, I refused to be GOVERNED by the deep physical pain the elite quarter-miler inevitably suffers in the final 100 yards of a 45-second race, to which if he succumbs and eases up for only a stride or two, victory may elude him. (See this 1957 Wayne State University publicity photo taken 63 years ago of me wearing a WSU track shirt and holding my painfully-gained NCAA All-America certificate for the quarter-mile, following my memorably undefeated European tour with the U.S. team.) In the same mode wherein I turned down an offer to be GOVERNED by greed and selfishness via financial sponsorship by a posh local athletic club that wouldn't take



my three world-record-breaking African-American Detroit Track Club sprint-relay teammates as a package with me in 1958, I have waged and will wage that righteously egalitarian war until my poetic "last curtain" during what remains of my "interim" on this planet.

After more than six decades as a teacher, coach and administrator at all scholastic levels and now as the Detroit Public Schools Community District's contracted Poet-in-Residence, I will continue to ply the "In-

quiry Process" I initiated at Southeastern High School in 1960 when I was a teacher and track coach there, and where I now teach again. It involves questions I ask my students; e.g., "What is faith? Define it. What are some forms of it? Is there anything that seems to you to be worth dying for? How did you come to believe this? What would you most like to be able to be, or do? Why? What would you have to know to be able to do it? How can "good" be distinguished from "evil"? What are the most important changes that have occurred in the past ten, twenty, or fifty years—or during last year? What might the most important changes be next month? Next year? Next decade? What would you change if you could? Why? How? Which ones would you stop if you could? What are the most dangerous ideas that are popular today? Why do you think so? Where did these ideas come from? How might humankind's survival be endangered if we didn't have

language? What is the meaning of 'meaning'? What meanings do the words 'infinity' and 'eternity' hold for you? " ...And more. I now ask YOU, the reader, to delve deep into your soul and seek answers to these questions as well. And—per my inquisitive poem—are we sentient humans indeed all "interim"—or perhaps may we just be existing IN the interim between now and our NEXT existence???

John Telford is a former DPS superintendent and a current Detroit school board candidate. Get his books *A Life on the RUN - Seeking & Safeguarding Social Justice*, *The Poet-Emperor of EARTH - An In-Depth Dialogue with The DEITY*, and his other books at Book Suey, 19345 Joseph Campau in Hamtramck or at amazon.com (type in Dr. John Telford). Hear him on WCHB AM1340 Saturdays at 9:30 a.m. and Mondays at 6:30 p.m.

His website is www.AlifeontheRUN.com.

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HAPPENINGS IN THE D

Allee Willis Tribute Exhibit at Historical Museum

An Allee Willis exhibition is now open at the Detroit Historical Museum and is on display through the summer of 2021.

Born and raised in Detroit, Allee Willis graduated from Mumford High in 1965 and kept close ties to Detroit in the decades after becoming a successful, multi-talented artist.

Best known for songwriting credits (including *I'll Be There For You* by the Rembrandts and co-writing *September* by Earth, Wind and Fire), she was inducted into the Song Writers Hall of Fame before her death in 2019. She was a Grammy, Emmy and Tony winner and her songs have sold an estimated 60 million records.

Dance to some of Allee's hits and learn about her stellar career through artifacts, including handwritten song lyrics, a collection of records featuring her songs, as well as her 1974 original album *Childstar* and a colorful life-sized cutout with art from her live show and documentary *Allee Willis Loves Detroit*.

The Detroit Historical Museum is open to the public with abbreviated hours (Thursday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday, 1-5 p.m.) and enhanced health and safety measures. The Allee Willis tribute exhibit is included with general admission.

The museum is located at 5401 Woodward Avenue (NW corner of Kirby) in Midtown Detroit. For more information see detroithistorical.org.

Carr Center's 'Citizen in Pictures'

The Carr Center and Creatively Speaking will present two films on Wednesdays, August 12 & 19 on the themes from Claudia Rankine's award-winning book, *Citizen: An American Lyric*.

Each one-hour virtual program begins at 6:30 p.m. with Rankine reading from her work, followed by the film and a hosted talk-back.

Diasporadical Trilogia, by Blitz the Ambassador, will be shown on August 12. This series of three short films reflects music and visuals based on his album, *Diasporadical*, and his travels to Accra, Salvador da Bahia and Brooklyn.

Women's Work from the Diaspora—Charcoal, by Francesca Andre and *Auntie*, by Lisa Harewood will be shown on August 19. *Charcoal*, are the parallel stories of two black women and their lifelong journey to overcome internalized colorism, find self-acceptance and ultimately, redemption.

Auntie, explores a common occurrence in the Caribbean of a young girl being raised by a parental surrogate — her 'Auntie,' following the mother's migration to London. For some families, the time spent apart can never be recovered. A Barbadian story that explores conflicts of kinship, matriarchy, family. The film series is co-sponsored by Source Booksellers in Midtown. Buy a copy of Ms. Rankine's book and mention the Carr Center to get 10% off your purchase. For tickets to any program see thecarrcenter.org or <https://bit.ly/3fDFTx2>.

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COMMUNITY

Laydell Harper

Churches Still on the Frontlines

The church has always been a safe-haven and anchor especially during troubled times. After several months of worshipping in an entirely different way, the new normal is still not normal to regular Sunday church goers. Hartford Memorial Baptist church that sits on the east side of James Couzens Hwy., and towers over the Lodge Freeway with such dignity and grace it welcomes those that travel the freeway in a most welcoming way. The towering steeple is a steady reminder that everyone is welcome. And were it not for the Coronavirus pandemic several hundred cars could be seen parked in all of the parking lots and on all the streets near to the Church. The parking lots are now empty on Sunday. Hartford has streamed the Sunday service since the beginning of the pandemic.

Those of us that have made the Sunday worship service an important part of our lives find it difficult to give up the weekly fellowship, in person altar prayer, and singing those favorite hymns now that the regular Sunday Service is viewed on Zoom. This is the new normal and one that most of us would never have imagined.

But, Hartford Church along with other churches have not missed a Sunday during these uncertain times to deliver a soul steering message to so many that are now more than ever before in need. This is a regular service as if the church were full that includes: Prayer, regular soloists and of course the sermon from the pulpit delivered every Sunday by the pastor, Rev. Charles Christian Adams.

"We have had live services in the sanctuary, and from other locations, but we've always tried to maintain the integrity and ownership of the sacred space," said Pastor Christian Adams. "It has been far from flaw-

less, but spirit filled and inspirational."

"We have hosted Funerals almost from the very beginning of the pandemic and continue to host weddings as well."

Aside from the Sunday 10 a.m. streamed live or call-in service, Hartford continues to offer regular church events to get families through this very difficult period; Devotional, Monday-Friday 7 a.m.-7:20 a.m., Wednesday Prayer Service 7 p.m. on zoom, Hartford Bikers- Once a week, and the Food Pantry every Wednesday. There's something for everyone. Visit the website: hmbcdetroit.org.

The pandemic has not stopped the church from being creative to celebrate noteworthy events; Pastor Christian Adams' birthday was a great excuse to see fellow church members, but from a safe distance, several hundred members had a drive by celebration to wish him well and honk their horns in celebration, the high school and college graduates were duly recognized with an outside graduation service and ceremony for all the 2020 graduates.

"Last week Hartford Church distributed over 1200 food boxes with fresh fruits, vegetables and meat to feed 1200+ families," comments Edith Clifton, Hartford Communications Manager. "Zip Code 48235 was hit hard by COVID-19 and devastated the community already besieged by healthcare disparities, high unemployment poverty.

"In stressful times like these people in the community call on Hartford for assistance; the church always responds," comments Rev. Christian Adams.

Established in 1917 as a *Community Church*, Hartford helped found the UAW, opening job opportunities; fought racial segregation in housing and urged registration and voting. Hartford is still on the frontlines of these ongoing challenges.



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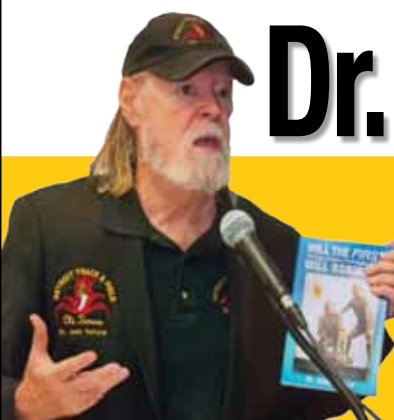
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BRAIN FUN

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Actor Carrey
- 4 Weapon of mouse destruction
- 8 Zits
- 12 Man-mouse link
- 13 Midwestern state
- 14 Addition sign
- 15 The national pastime
- 17 Node
- 18 — pro quo
- 19 British patrolman
- 20 First lady before Michelle
- 22 Old MacDonald's place
- 24 Twistable cookie
- 25 Fort Dix, for one
- 29 Sea (Fr.)
- 30 Gray matter
- 31 Snapshot
- 32 You might run on one to get home
- 34 "The lady —
- 10 Unfeeling
- 11 Catch sight of
- 16 Continental coin
- 19 — Mawr College
- 20 Bausch's partner
- 21 Vicinity
- 22 Candid
- 23 Grenoble girlfriend
- 25 La Scala showstopper
- 26 Renunciation of a faith
- 27 Perches
- 28 Reverberate
- 30 Rorschach sample
- 33 — de corps
- 34 Smear
- 36 Tibet's capital
- 37 Dressed
- 38 Nevada city
- 39 Bigfoot's cousin
- 40 Goblet feature
- 42 Medic
- 43 Big bother
- 44 Seek damages
- 45 Em halves
- 35 Drench
- 36 Cow catcher
- 37 Underground chamber
- 40 Close
- 41 Villainous look
- 42 Information storehouse
- 46 Con
- 47 Versifier's tributes
- 48 Baltimore newspaper
- 49 "Act now!"
- 50 Prolonged sleep
- 51 "Of course"

DOWN

- 1 Task
- 2 401(k) alternative
- 3 Costume party guests (Var.)
- 4 Leg bone
- 5 Street
- 6 Piercing tool
- 7 Crony
- 8 Poise
- 9 Organization

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13					14			
15			16						17			
		18						19				
20	21					22	23					
24					25					26	27	28
29					30						31	
32			33								34	
			35								36	
37	38	39							40			
41						42	43				44	45
46						47					48	
49						50					51	

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Puzzle Answers on Page 4

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

2		8		9		7		
	4				7		1	
3			1					2
		9		6		5	7	
	2		8					3
8					9		4	
9			5			1		
	6			7				5
		3		1	6		9	

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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7	6	4	9	1	2	3	8	5
5	2	3	8	7	9	1	6	4
6	8	1	3	4	5	2	7	9
1	4	2	6	3	7	9	5	8
3	9	6	1	5	8	4	2	7
8	7	5	2	9	4	6	3	1
2	5	9	4	8	1	7	9	3
9	1	8	7	2	3	5	4	6
4	3	7	5	9	6	8	1	2

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

*Sociologists have discovered an interesting correlation between economic health and women's clothing: The worse the economy, the longer women's skirts become, while the better the economy, the shorter they rise.

* Coca-Cola owns all website URLs that can be read as ahh, up to 62 h's.

* The world's shortest escalator is the one in the basement of the More's Department Store in the city of Kawasaki, Japan. It's 33 inches tall and has only five steps.

* Realizing that surgical antiseptics were marketable to just a small group of professionals, the makers of Listerine began to market the product as a floor cleaner -- as well as a cure for gonorrhea. While we won't necessarily vouch for the latter, in a pinch, just add a capful for every gallon of water and mop away. Other uses include dandruff elimination, deodorant, a numbing agent for toothache pain and tick removal.

* The famous Battle of Hastings didn't take place in Hastings, but a town seven miles away, today called Battle.

* A 1938 issue of *Made-moiselle* magazine had a handy bit of advice for college gals seeking suitors: have your mom send you some flowers to trick all the boys into thinking they have competition. No word on whether it worked.

* According to an American study, Californians are less likely to barbecue on a Tuesday than any other day of the week.

Thought for the Day:

"Wisdom is the reward you get for a lifetime of listening when you would rather have talked." — Mark Twain

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