

LIFE-SAVING LESSONS



A member of Garden Grove's Community Emergency Response Team demonstrates to a young girl how to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation at the National Night Out event on Tuesday. Similar events were held in Huntington Beach, Stanton and Westminster this week (Orange County Tribune photo).

Update on homeless crisis to be provided

A special presentation on the city's homeless outreach activities tops the agenda for Tuesday's meeting of the Stanton City Council. Back in March, the council heard a report indicating that the city had experienced a 138 percent increase from 2019 to 2024 of homelessness, according to County of Orange statistics. The number of unshel-

■ **STANTON CITY COUNCIL**

tered people in Stanton, stated the report, had risen from 71 in 2019 to 169 in 2024 and that homeless people are more likely to have substance abuse problems and developmental disabilities. Also on the agenda is a public hearing on a request to modify the fee for false alarm responses,

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In The Trib



Not that funny?

ARTS & LIVING 5 and 8



Back in running

SPORTS PAGES 6-8

How Much Must Do Pay Back to OC?

Judge decides on Monday

By Jim Tortolano
Orange County Tribune

Andy, can you spare \$900,000?

On Monday a federal judge is expected to declare the amount of money that disgraced former Orange County Supervisor Andrew Do must repay after his involvement in a scheme that cost taxpayers over \$10 million.

Do, 62, a one-time Garden Grove City Council member, represented the First District on the county Board of Supervisors from 2015-2024 and was a prominent member of the Vietnamese community.

But that all came to an end when he pleaded guilty to a federal bribery charge



ANDREW DO, former Orange County Supervisor

and his resignation in October 2024.

Prosecutors from the Orange County District Attorney's office found that Do had accepted as much as \$550,000 in bribes to

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Success fighting tagging reported in new program

Does it seem like there's fewer spray-painted "tags" on walls and such in the city?

Ninety-two percent of reported graffiti "instances" in Garden Grove for the most recent month for which statistics are available were responded to

■ **GARDEN GROVE CITY COUNCIL**

within 24 hours. That's part of the update on graffiti abatement to be presented to the Garden Grove City Council when it meets on Tuesday.

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Decision on Andrew Do's payback

Continued from page 1

steer up to \$13.5 million in federal funds allocated to the county to the Viet America Society, a non-profit organization run by his daughter Rhiannon Do, then 19, to provide meals to elderly

Vietnamese residents during the Covid-19 pandemic.

But little of the money went for its intended purpose, some of it going to buy a house for Rhiannon, now valued at around \$1.3 million.

District Judge James Selna will decide the amount Do must pay; prosecutors are asking for \$878,000.

He has been sentenced to five years in federal prison.

Success in battle against tagging

Continued from page 1

That figure, for May 2025, was similar to April (90 percent) and March (92 percent).

Those and other facts and figures come from "enhanced service levels" through an amended contract with Graffiti Protective Coatings.

Now three trucks are operating in Garden Grove, proving service seven days a week for removal of graffiti found in the public right-of-way and on private property.

The result is a 21.53 percent increase in graffiti removal, according to a staff report.

The council will meet at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Meeting Center, 11300 Stanford Ave.

Homelessness progress report for Stanton

Continued from page 1

and a discussion of fund-raising options for the replacement of city street signs on principal and collector streets and signalized intersections, including discussions of donating said fund-raising moneys to various charities and non-profit organizations within the city.

The council will meet in closed session at 5:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. in joint regular session in City Hall, 7800 Katella Ave.

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Follow local high school and professional sports each Wednesday and Saturday in The Orange County Tribune.

News & Views

Cruise-ing for a bruising from some microbes

Just got back from our annual retreat. This one took us on a cruise to Alaska, from which we brought back many fond memories and a bout of coronavirus.

It's my fourth dance with COVID-19 ... it I get one more such affliction, I get a free T-shirt, courtesy of Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.



Retorts
Jim Tortolano

I did spend some time ruminating on the state and future of newspapering and came across some observations and conclusions. They include:

- Paper newspapers are as dead as Julius Caesar. I didn't see a single dead-tree news thing anywhere except for in one airport, and I didn't even read my copy of the Seattle Times. Back home, I glanced at The Register for the comics.

- News organs as a community "scrapbook" are dead. Cities and school districts can tell their story in full color and with unlimited space on their websites, Facebook, etc. It won't be unbiased, but newspapers can't compete with it.

- News sites and e-newspapers are picking up some of the slack, but – especially among younger readers – the trend is toward other media such as Instagram and even TikTok.

- Public confidence in the "legacy" news media is at an all-time low. Unabashedly biased outlets such as Fox News and MSNBC feed people's prejudices and ramp up dangerous partisanship.

- Finally, one time-honored tradition stands strong. The highest readership still goes to

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It is back-to-school time

Orangeview has been merged with Western High

It's back to school soon for many students, teachers and others this week and soon after.

Most prominent among the local changes is the merger of Orange View Junior High School in Anaheim with Western High School.

OV has been closed due to declining enrollment and its 200 students re-homed to the Western high campus.

Here are public school start dates for campuses serving our West Orange County cities:

- Aug. 6: Anaheim Union High School District (including Western and Magnolia high schools).
- Aug. 11: Garden Grove Unified School District.
- August 20: Orange Unified



STUDENTS in Garden Grove, Huntington Beach, Stanton and Westminster are returning to their classrooms (Shutterstock).

School District (includes the part of Garden Grove east of Haster Avenue)

- Aug. 26: Westminster School District.
- Aug. 27: Ocean View School District; Huntington Beach Union High School District.
- Sept. 2: Huntington Beach City School District.

For the community colleges, Cypress College and Fullerton College begin on Aug. 26. Orange Coast College and Golden West College begin on Aug. 25. Santa Ana College starts on Aug. 18.

CSU Fullerton weekday classes will begin on Aug. 25. CSU Long Beach will also start on Aug. 25.

Investigation continues in bike-truck fatal

UPDATE: The person who died in a fatal truck/e-bike collision last week has been identified. Huntington Beach police say it is Kolby Aipa, the son of surf apparel merchant Duke Aipa and grandson of famous Hawaiian surfer Ben Aipa.

An investigation is underway into a fatal incident on Pacific Coast Highway in Huntington Beach last Saturday in which an e-bike rider lost his life.

According to the HBPD, the tragic incident took place on PCH and Seapoint Street around

10 p.m.

A traffic collision between the e-cyclist and a Toyota Tacoma pickup truck was reported.

Arriving police found that the driver of the truck, a 20-year-old Huntington Beach man, was uninjured.

The cyclist, a 20-year-old Huntington Beach man, was found unconscious in the roadway.

Huntington Beach Fire Department paramedics transported him to a nearby hospital where he was placed on life support and declared dead on Tuesday.

Impairment is not suspected of the driver.

The preliminary investigation indicates that the Toyota was traveling southbound on PCH while the youth on the e-bike – described as an acquaintance of the driver – was holding on to the vehicle.

The rider "lost control" and the collision resulted. No arrests have been made.

History Minute

A mall by any other name might be ...

Garden Grove's largest shopping center (Brookhurst Street and Chapman Avenue) is The Promenade. but it's gone through many name changes. Originally called Orange County Plaza (1950s to 1970s), it was renamed Garden Grove Mall in 1979 and then Garden Promenade in the 1990s before taking its current monicker.



ORANGE COUNTY PLAZA
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NewsUpdate

Trump, Putin Meet in Alaska?

Seeking to find end to war of Russia v. Ukraine

Alaska could be the meeting place between U.S. President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin next Friday as the two leaders meet to discuss an end to the war between Russia and Ukraine.

That's what Trump announced today (Friday) according to the Associated Press. The Russian government has not confirmed the arrangement.

The two nations have been at war since February 2022 when Russia invaded in a "special mil-



LEADERS of United States and Russia may hold a summit (Shutterstock)

itary operation" widely expected to be brief and one-sided.

But fierce Ukrainian resistance, backed by billions of dollars in

military aid from the U.S and European allies have resulted in a bloody stalemate and hundred of thousands of casualties, both

Russians and Ukrainians.

Russian still holds an region in the southeastern areas of Ukraine.

Ventura's Canyon Fire is forcing evacuations; 2,700 have fled so far

An area one-third the size of Manhattan Island in New York City has been burned in Ventura County and remains zero percent contained, according to United Press International.

At least, 2,700 people have been evacuated from their homes and over 400 firefighters from a variety of agencies are battling the

Canyon Fire.

Another 14,000 residents in northern Los Angeles County and eastern Ventura County are under evacuation alerts, reports UPI.

Hot and dry weather conditions are blamed for the spread of the fire.

Weather: Cooler, but still 80s

The forecast for our West Orange County cities through the weekend is for daily highs to remain in the 80s but to cool slightly, with partly cloudy skies. Saturday is expected to have a daytime high of 83 with an overnight low of 65. Sunday should cool to 81 (66), with Monday and Tuesday to drop to highs of 80 (lows of 66 and 67).

Redistricting battle in Texas over House seats could spread to California

In the latest move in the struggle over redrawing Congressional districts in Texas in an effort to switch five districts to Republican control, state Attorney General Ken Paxton has asked the state Supreme Court to remove 13 Democratic state representatives from office for their departure from the state.

The Democrats are seeking to block a vote in the Texas State House of Representatives on a GOP-drawn map which could add five Congressional seats to the narrow Republican majority



in the U.S. House.

With the Democrats absent, the Texas House can't vote on bills.

In response to the Texas GOP effort, California and Illinois are considering a similar redistricting plan to offset any increase in Republican seats in Texas.

Great Thoughts

"Everyone sees the 2,000 points, but nobody sees the 2,000 days of hard work."

- Paige Bueckers, basketball player

"No one can see his reflection in running water, but only in still water."

- Taoist saying

"There is nothing permanent except change."

- Heraclitus, Greek philosopher

Arts & Living

Neeson: No Nielsen in 'Naked Gun'

Liam gives it a try but it's hard to match original

By Jake Coyle
Associated Press

Some say directing is 90% casting. In the case of Leslie Nielsen as Lt. Frank Drebin, it was more like 110%.

The choice of Nielsen for "Police Squad!" and the subsequent "Naked Gun" movies deserves a special place in the annals of brilliant casting choices.

Surely you could say that the masters of spoof — David Zucker, Jim Abrahams and Jerry Zucker — first struck gold in putting Nielsen in "Airplane!" But why, exactly, Nielsen was so perfect for 1988's "The Naked Gun" is natural to ponder during Akiva Schaffer's spirited but just off-the-mark reboot, starring Liam Neeson.

Neeson, like Nielsen, has lived largely in dramatic roles most of his career, so he's seemingly a good candidate to not just play it straight, but deadly serious. Nielsen, a '50s leading man reborn in '80s slapstick, once said he had been cast against type all his career until "Police Squad!" came along.

So when he, as Drebin, suggested "a great, little out of the way place that serves Viking food," Nielsen wasn't just delivering a line with perfect deadpan. He was self-actualizing.

You can't say the same for Neeson in "The Naked Gun." He's plenty game; commitment isn't the issue. But in this sometimes witty ode to the Zucker-Abrahams-Zucker style of satire, the role never feels quite right for him, despite the phonetic connections.

There have been a few notable exceptions, but the big-screen comedy has grown almost nonexistent lately. So it would be easy to hail "The Naked Gun" as something better than it is, since it simply existing is cause for cel-



LIAM NEESON plays it straight in 'Naked Gun' reboot (Paramount Pictures).

Movie Review

ebration. But like most reboots, particularly comedy ones, the best thing about the new "Naked Gun" is that it might send you back to the original.

This one comes from an entirely new generation. Schaffer, the behind-the-scenes member of Lonely Island, directs and Seth MacFarlane produces. The script is by Schaffer, Dan Gregor ("Chip 'n Dale: Rescue Rangers," "Dolittle") and Doug Mand.

Those are some disparate comic sensibilities, but they together prove fairly adept at channeling the wry rhythms of Zucker-Abrahams-Zucker. David Zucker, hi

The scene from that trailer happens to be the first in movie. During a bank heist, a little schoolgirl calmly walks in before Lt. Frank Drebin Jr. (Neeson) reveals himself. Unmasked, he stands up tall still wearing a now very skimpy schoolgirl uniform.

The tone of that moment — a little grotesque, straining to be eye-catching, seemingly made for the trailer — belongs more to contemporary comedies than "The Naked Gun." The good news is

that there's no worse scene in the movie.

"The Naked Gun" soon enough stabilizes in a more deadpan register. Neeson's Drebin is the son of Nielsen's lieutenant. The film gives him a quick hat tip when Drebin pauses in front of a plaque of his father in the police department.

If you're wondering how the movie handles O.J. Simpson's legacy, another officer momentarily stands before the same plaque for Nordberg before deciding not to.

The quips are good, though. Dre-

Fair ★ ★

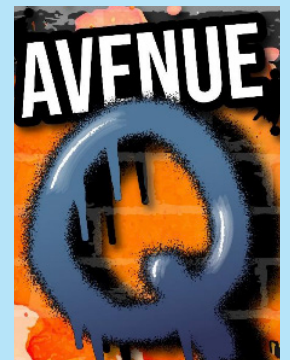
bin, watching footage of him enraged on a previous case, seethes, "I was furious about the Janet Jackson Super Bowl." "That was 20 years ago!" someone replies. Another exchange: "You can't fight City Hall." "It's a building."

You could make a good case that a diet of such wordplay is all one, really, needs. There are definite pleasures in seeing this tradition of dumb-but-smart comedy car-

Continued on page 8

'Q Street' returns to Gem

"Avenue Q," an offbeat musical using live actors and puppets, will return to the Gem Theater in Garden Grove from Sept. 6 to Oct. 12. It offers a funny take on the struggles of adulthood. The show is rated for audiences 13 and older and is a presentation of One More Productions. The director and musical director will be Damien Lorton. The Gem is located at 12852 Main St. Ticket prices are \$50 for adults, \$35 for evening performances for those 62 and over.



TheSportsPages

Seattle yearns for new Sonics; SoFi sweetness

Just got back from our “retreat/cruise” to Alaska via Seattle. The highlight: the dog-sledding. The low-light: the coronavirus.

But I have recovered sufficiently to stagger to the iMac and pound out a few thoughts on the general topic of athletics ...

Seattle must get an NBA team. You can’t pass through the “Emerald City”

without seeing posters, billboards, graffiti, head-lines, etc. calling for the return of pro basketball to the town.



Sports Retorts
Jim Tortolano

The Seattle Sonics – unable to make an arena deal with the city – pulled up stakes in 2008 and moved to the unexpected town of Oklahoma City.

The NBA has promised an expansion team to Seattle, and can even resurrect the Sonics’ name, which will be very welcome up there in the Puget Sound.

SoFi’s Smooth Move: Stan Kroenke and Crew, sometimes depicted as heartless profiteers, are making friends in a big way beyond just bringing to Rams back from St. Louis and providing a home for the Chargers.

Each fall they offer the gorgeous SoFi Stadium – perhaps the best football stadium in the NFL – to high school football teams for key games.

On Friday, Aug. 29, there will be a prep contest including a clash between the Garden Grove High Argonauts and the Pacifica High School Mariners.

Other meetings involving “schoolboy” teams are scheduled this fall in a series that began in 2023.

Kroenke was once a factor in helping move the Rams from Anaheim to Missouri.

OK, Stan, you’re forgiven. Finally. Mostly.

Kyren’s Back in Runnin’

Top ball-carrier signs with the Rams again

By Greg Beacham
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Kyren Williams grew up in St. Louis going to Rams games and dreaming of someday carrying the ball for his favorite team. The running back has done it impressively over the past two seasons — and with his new contract, he won’t wake up anytime soon from his childhood dream.

Williams agreed to a three-year, \$33 million extension with the Los Angeles Rams on Tuesday, wrapping up months of contract negotiations with a deal through 2028.

Williams has been a productive starter in the Rams’ backfield for two years, producing back-to-back 1,100-yard seasons. Los Angeles resolved its most significant contract issue before the new season with a deal that includes \$23 million in guaranteed money.



KYREN WILLIAMS has signed a three-year contract with the Rams, the team he grew up watching. (Rams photo)

Williams made the Pro Bowl in 2023 while finishing third in the NFL in yards rushing, and he has rushed for 2,582 yards and 26 touchdowns while adding 464 yards receiving and five more TDs over three seasons as a versatile component of Sean McVay’s offense.

“For me, it means everything,”

Williams said. “It means a whole lot that just this organization believes in me, and I’m going to continue giving them everything I have in my soul to make sure they know that.”

Williams and the Rams finalized the deal during a meeting in McVay’s office on Tuesday

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The Angels lose late, 6-5; Dodgers pad NLW lead

The Los Angeles Angels continued their late-season swoon on Friday with a 6-5 loss to the Detroit Tigers in Comerica Park.

Leading 5-3 in the top of the eighth, their hopes were dashed in the bottom of the inning when Matt Vierling hit a three-run home run to center field for the victory.

The loss – their third straight and seventh in 10 games – dropped the Halos to 55-61 and deeper into fourth place in the American League West.

In building their lead, the Halos got home runs by Gustavo Campero (his third of the sea-

son), Zach Neto (17th) and Jo Adell (24th).

Back in Chavez Ravine, the Los Angeles Dodgers gained a game in the National League West race by defeating the Toronto Blue Jays 5-2 as the second place San Diego Padres lost 10-2 to the Boston Red Sox.

The Blue Crew (67-59) got a home run from Mookie Betts (his fifth of 2025), three hits from Shohei Ohtani and a sterling pitching performance from Clayton Kershaw (6-2), who

AL West Standings

	W-L	Pct.	GB	L10
Houston	65-51	.560	—	5-5
Seattle	64-53	.547	1.5	7-3
Texas	60-57	.513	5.5	4-6
ANGELS	55-61	.474	10	4-6
Athletics	51-67	.432	15	5-5

NL West Standings

	W-L	Pct.	GB	L10
DODGERS	67-49	.578	—	6-4
San Diego	64-52	.552	3	7-3
San Fran.	59-57	.509	8	5-5
Arizona	55-61	.474	12	4-6
Colorado	30-85	.261	36.5	3-7

worked seven innings giving up seven hits and one earned run. He struck out seven, walked one.

With the win, the Dodgers lead the Padres by three games.

Pro Bowl star gives team a ground game

Continued from page 6

morning before the team headed to Oxnard, California, for a joint practice with the Dallas Cowboys.

“We gave them the offer, we gave them the things that we wanted,” Williams said. “And the great Rams organization, and (executive) Matthew (Shearin) and Coach McVay, they discussed, and they came back to me. And, man, I couldn’t believe what they said. Honestly, I wasn’t expecting them to say yes. But when they did, you should have seen me.”

While signing his deal, Williams made a joyous FaceTime call to his mother, who took him to innumerable Rams games at the then-Edward Jones Dome.

McVay got inconsistent production out of his running backs for four years after the Rams released Todd Gurley following the 2019 season, but Williams



KYREN WILLIAMS is a Ram for three more years.

has been a dependable workhorse back who makes up for his lack of elite breakaway speed with relentlessness and toughness. McVay also has consistently praised Williams’ locker room presence and leadership.

“I think the coolest thing, where you know this is the right thing, is ... how he wanted to still be here, but then when you start to see his teammates’ reaction, and when you see how happy his coaches, his teammates are for him, you feel really good for him,” McVay said. “And the best part about it is he’ll just continue to do what he’s done. He’s like,

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Argos, Mariners on field at SoFi Stadium for Aug. 29 clash

It won’t be the season-opener for either team, but the Aug. 29 football game between Garden Grove and Pacifica is likely to open some eyes.

That’s because the contest will be held at the glittering SoFi Stadium in Inglewood, home of the Rams and the Chargers. The game is scheduled for 8:30 p.m.

More details will be forthcoming, but to be able to play (or watch) in that kind of venue will be a life-time memory, to be sure.

- Finishing our tour of the actual season openers for local teams ...

Huntington Beach will start the 2025 season on Thursday, Aug. 21 against **Orange**. The Oilers were 7-5 overall and

Prep Sport Spotlight

posted a 3-2 mark in the Epsilon League.

The Panthers were 2-8, with a 2-3 mark in the Foxtrot League.

Western will kickoff on Thursday, Aug. 21 also, facing Salesian.

The Pioneers were 5-6 overall and 2-3 in the Delta League.

The Mustangs were 9-4 overall and 5-0 in the Del Rey League.

Magnolia opens on Friday, Aug. 22 against Costa Mesa.

The Sentinels were 1-9 last year and 1-3 in the Zeta Division.

The Mustangs were 8-4 with a 3-2 mark in the Tango League.



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Kyren is a Ram for the next three years

Continued from page 7

"I can't wait to work even harder." And it's like, I don't think you can work any harder."

Williams also made an offseason decision that likely played a role in the relatively speedy resolution of his negotiations when he reported to training camp last month as scheduled. He has participated in all practices instead of holding out before the final year of his rookie deal.

The fifth-round pick out of

Notre Dame in 2022 said he never seriously considered a holdout or a hold-in, preferring to keep the focus on the team.

"I know what the Rams are about, and I know what we stand for," Williams said. "I know the standard here is not (holding out). I know a person who thinks that they're bigger than the program is not where we're at. And so for me, I didn't want to give off any type of ill feelings to my teammates, to the organization, to myself."

Williams is due to make \$5.34 million this season in the final year of his rookie deal, and he will remain the lynchpin of

the Rams' ground game even though the team has invested in the running back position with more enthusiasm than most opponents in recent seasons.

Los Angeles general manager Les Snead has drafted a running back in eight consecutive drafts, and he now has one of the NFL's top-10 highest-paid running backs despite drafting Blake Corum in the third round in 2023 and trading up to pick Jarquez Hunter in the fourth round last April.

Williams had career highs of 1,299 yards rushing and 14 rushing touchdowns last season, accounting for a league-high

73.6% of the Rams' rushing output. But he also fumbled five times in the regular season and again in the postseason, and Williams has been working on grip strength during the offseason to avoid a repeat.

Williams is just the second Rams draft pick since 2018 to be given a second consecutive contract by the team.

Receiver Tutu Atwell, drafted one year before Williams, is back for a fifth season with Los Angeles after getting a surprising one-year, \$10 million deal in the opening days of free agency last spring.



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Garden Grove Rotary

Who sponsors a defibrillator program to save lives when heart attacks strike?

Garden Grove Rotary

Who recognizes 6th grade students for achievement in academics and scholarship?

Garden Grove Rotary

Who sponsors and contributes to training high school students on leadership and citizenship?

Garden Grove Rotary.

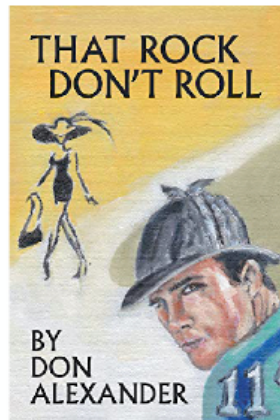
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That Rock Don't Roll

"A fun story set in the OC that is sometimes tongue in cheek and sometimes deadly serious."
- The Orange County Tribune

Available through Amazon.com and Barnes & Noble for \$19.99. Special offer: For a signed copy, including the cost of shipping and handling, send a check for \$15 payable to Don Alexander, 9814 Bird Ct, Fountain Valley, CA 92708. Include your name and return address.



Don Alexander has been a sports columnist, a sports broadcaster, talk show host and a college instructor. This is his first novel.

Movie review: Neeson is not Leslie Nielsen

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ried on.

Also giving the film a lift is Pamela Anderson, playing the distraught sister of a man killed in an electric vehicle crash. The villain this time is a tech mogul, played with typical sleazy panache by Danny Huston.

Once again, a police procedural serves as the movie's framework, complete with shadow-forming Venetian blinds and hardboiled monologuing.

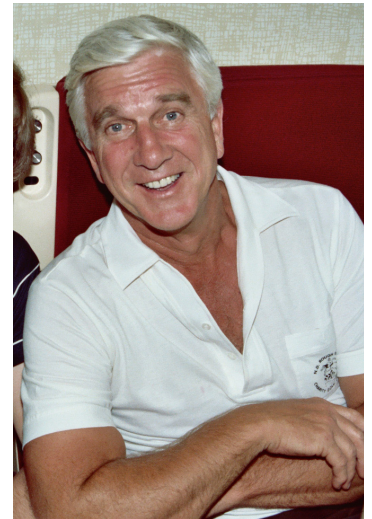
This time, though, thanks to Nielsen's flinty presence (and all those "Taken" thrillers), you half believe him as a tough detective.

Who might have played Drebin? The best answers I could come up with are Bryan Cranston or maybe Morgan Freeman. But I also, after going back to rewatch the original, suspect there's just no topping Nielsen.

It has to be up there among the greatest comic performances, and the Zucker-Abrahams-Zucker wit surrounding him only feels more out of reach after this well-meaning homage.

But if you disagree, I'm sure that we can handle this situation maturely, just like the responsible adults that we are. Isn't that right, Mr. Poopy Pants?

"Naked Gun," a Paramount Pictures release is rated PG-13



LESLIE NIELSEN

by the Motion Picture Association for crude/sexual material, violence/bloody images and brief partial nudity. Running time: 85 minutes.

Jim's Retorts

Continued from page 3

coverage of death, crime and disaster.

How does all this affect The Tribune? Not sure yet, but the city streets were pretty dark until that unknown fella Edison invented the light bulb.