

Jaws



Speaking of jaws, the movie of the same name played a crucial role in the abrupt change in fortunes of the Pomona Power Paddlers. The synchronized swimmers had been mired in a mid-season slump that sent them to the bottom of the Western State Water Ballet League standings. And after being pitifully shut out 15-0 at the hands of their archrivals, the Anaheim Aquarians, Coach Fafner held an intense closed-door meeting during which he screened the quintessential “fish bites man” movie, accompanied by a pledge that he’d personally put the next swimming slacker between a pair of those formidable jaws. As expected, the movie struck fear in the hearts of the Power Paddlers, and they swam with a newfound desperation at their next match against the Mendocino Mermaids. And won! And continued to win eight, nine, ten in a row! By season’s end, the Paddlers were tied with the Aquarians for first place. It all came down to a winner-take-all match at the Pomona pool. The visiting Aquarians went first, performing a provocative “History of the Heimlich Maneuver” set to Henry Mancini’s “The Pink Panther Theme.” Their score: an impressive 9.3. Coach Fafner countered with “Battle of the Monsters Starring Godzilla and Mothra.” The routine was complicated, exciting, and – since it incorporated Godzilla’s atomic breath and Mothra’s magnetic powers – true to life. The Paddlers were well on their way to a convincing victory when Daphne, the left wing, somehow slipped into the finale to “It’s a Small World.” The automatic 10-point deduction gave the win to the Aquarians. And, true to his word, Coach Fafner wasted no time in introducing Daphne to the shark tank, as the rest of the team looked on in horror and, yes, fascination.