STUDENTS: Youths Gain Workplace Skills

Continued from B1

The program is the brainchild of Glendale community activists Linda Maxwell, a publicist for the Spanish-language television station KVEA Channel 52, based in Glendale, and Jose Quintanar, a Glendale College administrator.

The first program was held at the Glendale Galleria in October, 1992. Gaining the sponsorship of Donahue Schriber, the mall's parent company, the program returned to Glendale in May and opened at the company's other property, the Montebello Town Center. Volunteer instructors and members of the state's Employment Development Department conduct the sessions.

"The program is about helping the young people believe in themselves," Maxwell said. "What we know about working with young people is that they don't have any hope anymore. We have to help them find the hope in themselves."

Although an emphasis was put on' organizing personal schedules, goal-setting, personal presentation and dealing with prejudice, Balderrama said, the program's greatest gift to the participants is its emphasis on self-esteem.

"When you reach a goal, they teach you, 'Don't stop at one goal, keep going,' "Balderrama said.

Foot Locker manager Jeff Henley said Balderrama came to him with personality and confidence that impressed him.

Foot Locker was one of 20 merchants at the Montebello shopping mall involved with the project, while 23 Glendale Galleria merchants offered their services. The city of Glendale operates the Glendale Youth Employment Partnership and provides resources and staff support to the We Care for Youth organization.

Of the 301 students who have attended the programs, 200 met state employment standards and only 67 landed jobs after graduation. A lot of the youths couldn't get jobs because they were underage, Maxwell said. But the program, which is open to all youths, is not designed to guarantee a job, she said, but to prepare young people for the working world.

For Balderrama, the program is paying off.

Soon after he joined Foot Locker, Balderrama moved out of his



'Life's pretty fun for me right now. I'm trying to conquer everything that comes my way."

> ROBERT BALDERRAMA Graduate of jobs program

parents' home and into an apartment. He recently bought a secondhand Jeep and is enrolled at Mt. San Antonio College in Walnut.

Balderrama said he eventually would like to transfer to a fouryear institution, majoring in business marketing or advertising.

"Life's pretty fun for me right now," Balderrama said. "I'm trying to conquer everything that comes my way."

Few Surprised by Agent's Slaying

By MATHIS CHAZANOV and DANNY ROBBINS TIMES STAFF WRITERS

Trouble had stalked Lloyd Bloom for years. Accused of racketeering in a highly charged scandal involving college football players, Bloom prevailed in court, only to face later battles over alleged mail fraud and business deals gone sour.

So when the sports and entertainment agent was found slain this week in his lavish Malibu home, those who knew him were less than shocked.

"It seemed that he had a lot of enemies, because he made a lot of promises that he didn't keep," said Wolf Schmidt, a producer who won a \$35,000 court judgment against Bloom last year after a movie deal fell apart. Schmidt never collected a penny.

Ralph Cindrich, a Pittsburghbased sports agent, said he felt "no surprise at all" in learning of Bloom's death. "Keep in mind the known Mafia people [linked to Bloom's activities] and the number of people done wrong," Cindrich

Bloom, 34, was found dead Thursday in his rented home on a bluff overlooking the Pacific in the high-priced Broad Beach section of Malibu. He had multiple gunshot wounds in his upper torso, and there were no signs of a break-in or a struggle, said Lt. Joe Brown, commander of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's homicide squad.

Although there were no obvious signs of theft, Brown said it was premature to say if Bloom's death was an assassination.

Bloom had turned his energies to the film world after he was involved in a far-reaching scandal that tainted the amateur sports world in the late 1980s. Along with a partner, New York-based agent Norby Walters, Bloom was accused of signing dozens of college football players to representation agreements before the players' college eligibility had expired, a violation of National Collegiate Athletic Assn. rules.

in the agents' convictions on charges of racketeering, conspiracy and mail fraud in 1989. Although the convictions later were overturned on appeal, the case prompted several states to enact laws regulating sports agents.

"That [case] had a tremendous effect, most of it negative," Cindrich said.

During the trial, Michael Franzese, an admitted member of the Colombo crime family, testified for the prosecution, describing how he allowed the agents to use his name as a threat to keep clients from backing out of deals with the two

Two players—Everett Gay of the University of Texas and Maurice Douglass of the University of Kentucky—testified that they had been threatened physically by Bloom when they tried to terminate their representation agree-

In a later interview, Bloom defended his innocence by saying, "Can you see Lloyd Bloom, this 5-foot-11, fragile, little guy telling a 6-6 athlete who weighs 300 pounds: 'I'm going to break your

After winning on appeal, Bloom and Walters entered conditional A federal investigation resulted guilty pleas to charges of mail fraud. Those convictions were overturned in June.

> By then, Bloom had moved to an \$8,000-a-month apartment on Malibu Colony Drive. He left that residence under pressure from a landlord who sued to try to collect \$16,000 in back rent. Bloom also faced a bad check charge, records

DISTRICT

Continued from B3

private business, with the power to

lay off employees as necessary. Several officials, including board President Kelvin D. Filer, expressed dismay at the district's escalating financial problems.

"I keep asking myself how we could possibly be that much in debt," Filer said, citing a 1992 newspaper report that a former superintendent estimated that the district was more than \$4 million in the black.

"The board was relying on our chief administrator to keep us abreast of our financial condition," Filer said.

Auditors recently reported that the district began last year more than \$1 million in the red. They also said the district owed payroll taxes, squandered millions on construction projects and food service contracts, and failed to document overtime payments and other expenditures.

County analysts said the district could not afford recent across-theboard salary hikes, including a 17% raise for teachers. Union representatives countered that teacher sal-

'I still have to balance the budget for this year. And philosophically, the position of the state is that if you borrow state money, you have to suffer, and that means everyone suffers.'

> STANLEY G. OSWALT Compton administrator

aries are no higher than the county average.

Oswalt's decisions and the state's intervention have provoked anger in Compton, a predominantly minority community. The student population is about 57% Latino and 41% African-American.

Latino activists have complained that their children are poorly served by the school system and have threatened student boycotts this fall unless the district hires more Latinos and improves bilingual services.

Oswalt said he will do both. Some African-American leaders

said Oswalt's layoffs and program cuts are colored by racism against "We went from knuckleheads to

skinheads. We're paying Dr. Oswalt to denigrate and hate us," said Kalem Aquil, a member of the Compton Citizen's Power Action Committee, which is critical of the state takeover.

Oswalt pledged this week to improve relations through a community forum. Oswalt, a retired superintendent who agreed to run the district until the state selects a long-term administrator, said the allegations of racism are unfound-

TAX: Support

Continued from B3

County officials counter that the budget crisis was precipitated by the Legislature earlier this year when it shifted \$500 million in property taxes from the county to the California school districts.

But many legislators said the county dug itself into a political hole during state budget deliberations by pleading for more money while offering few ideas of its own.

"L.A. County did a miserable job in making its case and in helping the L.A. [legislative] delegation fight for it," said Assemblyman Terry B. Friedman (D-Brent-

Friedman, who is carrying a rival bill that would ban smoking in most workplaces, said he was incensed by the county's support of the cigarette tax. "I find it unconscionable and deplorable that the county would contemplate making a deal with the devil tobacco industry to try to ... prevent closing of needed services," he

said. "It makes it harder for me and my colleagues to support some of their other proposals."

The cigarette tax was doomed when the proposal gained almost no support from the California State Assn. of Counties. Representatives of only two of the 58 counties—Los Angeles and Nevada counties—backed it.

Despite the county's setbacks, many Los Angeles-area legislators say they are likely to support other county-sponsored bills.

One (SB 566) by Sen David A. Roberti (D-Van Nuys), would allow cities and counties with libraries to set up assessment districts and issue limited obligation bonds to build new libraries. Forty-three of the county's 87 libraries face closure if the assessment district bill is defeated.

The other bill (AB 1038), sponsored by Assemblywoman Marguerite Archie-Hudson (D-Los Angeles), would waive a matching-fund requirement and allow the county to receive about \$72 million in state tobacco tax funds to

keep open 24 health clinics.

Another is AB 2373, which would allow counties to shift money from special funds into their general funds and allow increases in a variety of county fees. But the proposal has split some county officials, with Sheriff Sherman Block, for example, opposing it.

Assembly Speaker Willie Brown is carrying the library measure on the Assembly floor on behalf of Roberti. The powerful San Francisco Democrat also said he favors Assemblywoman Archie-Hudson's measure to fund health clinics.

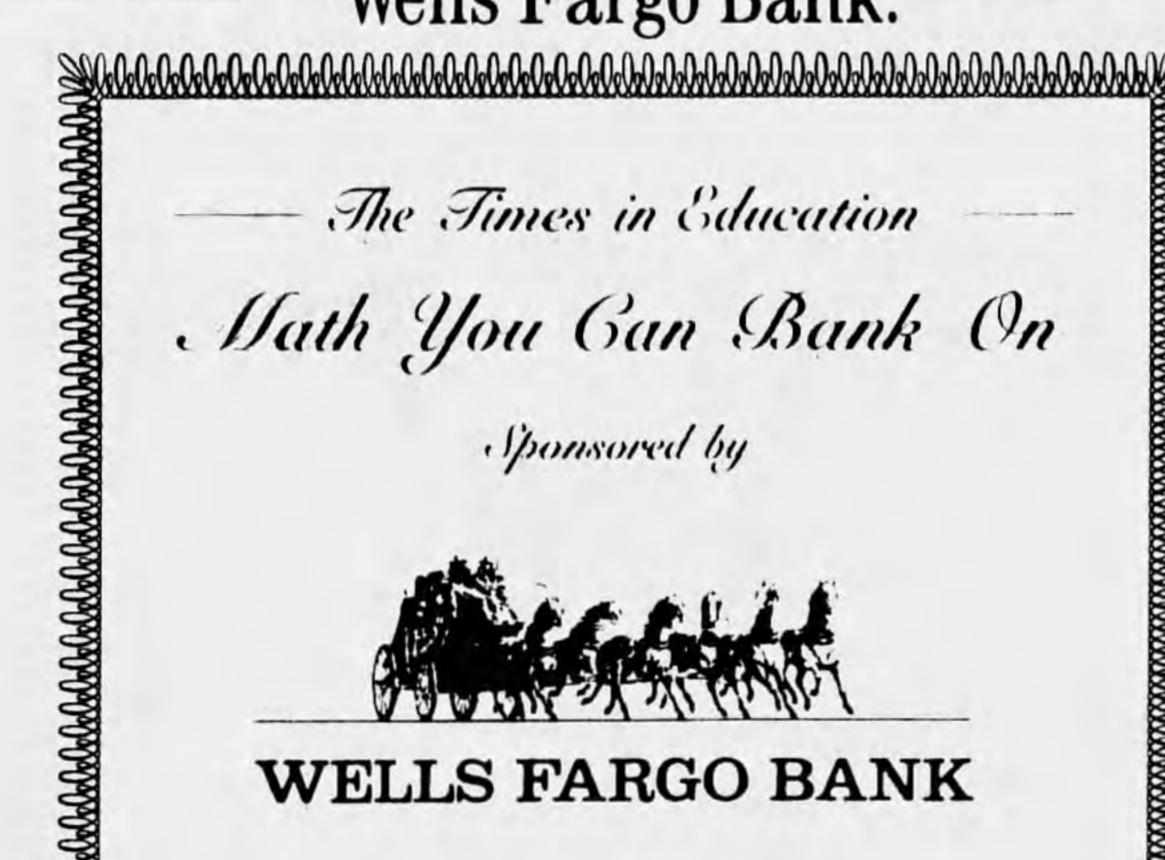
But Brown cautioned that his support has been prompted by Assembly members pushing for the proposal, saying he has not seen "any thaw in the relationship" between Legislature and the board. Other legislators, however, were

more sympathetic: "I think there is genuine empathy here for their situation, particularly relative to the health elinics," said Assemblyman Richard Katz (D-Sylmar). "We will try to find ways to help."

TBACH BES

Introducing MATH YOU CAN BANK ON the newest study unit and competition from the Times in Education, sponsored by Wells Fargo Bank.

your students can apply their math skills to the real world as they:



to teachers

- Keep and "balance" a checkbook
- Design a personal budget
- Learn how to comparison shop Discover savings and investment options

And much more!

Plus: students can enter to win a deposit to THEIR OWN SAVINGS ACCOUNT and cash for their classroom by designing a personal plan for achieving both a long- and short-term financial goal.

MATH YOU CAN BANK ON

Cll winners and their teachers receive MATH YOU CAN BANK ON T-shirts. FIRST PRIZE

\$100 to student's classroom

\$100 savings account deposit and

SECOND PRIZE \$75 savings account deposit and \$75 to student's classroom

\$50 savings account deposit and \$50 to student's classroom And all participants receive MATH YOU CAN BANK ON certificates.

THIRD PRIZE

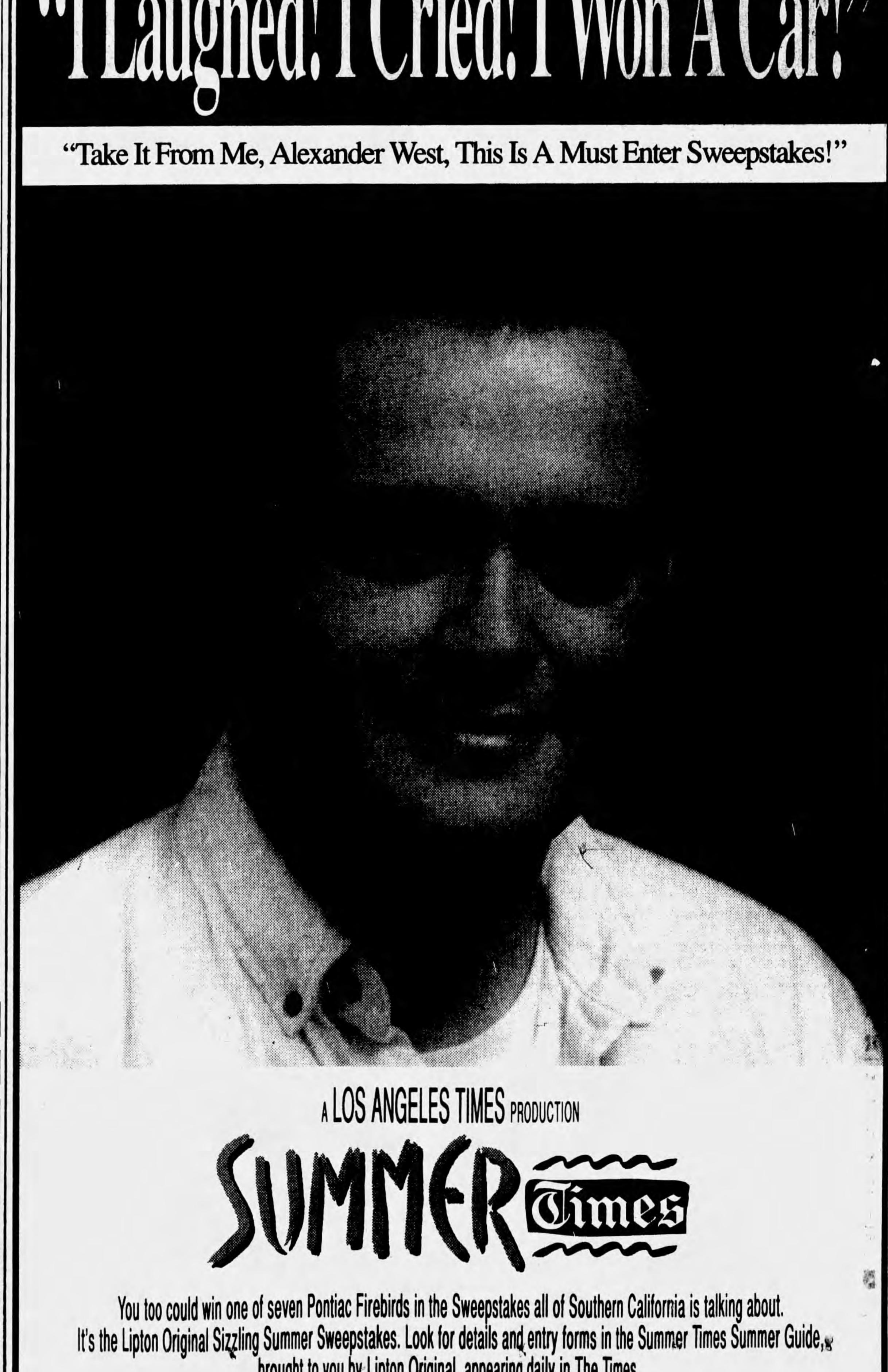
Register now for your class (up to 40 students) to participate. Your \$42 registration fee is being provided by Wells Fargo Bank.

The MATH YOU CAN BANK ON study package includes:

- Twelve lessons which build students' consumer math skills.
- Ten supplemental activities for real-life math
- applications. • Thirty copies of The Times delivered to your classroom each Thursday from September 23 through November 4.
- Entry forms and instructions for entering
- the competition. • For grades 5-12.

HURRY. Enrollment is limited.

To register, complete and mail or FAX this coupon. Wes! I want to register my class for MATH YOU CAN BANK ON. School Name: Teacher's Name: School Address: City: School Phone: Principal's Name: District: County: Participation limited to schools in Los Angeles Times distribution areas: Mail to: The Times in Education, 1375 Sunflower Ave., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 FAX to: (714) 966-7745 sponsored by WELLS.FARGO BANK



It's the Lipton Original Sizzling Summer Sweepstakes. Look for details and entry forms in the Summer Times Summer Guide,