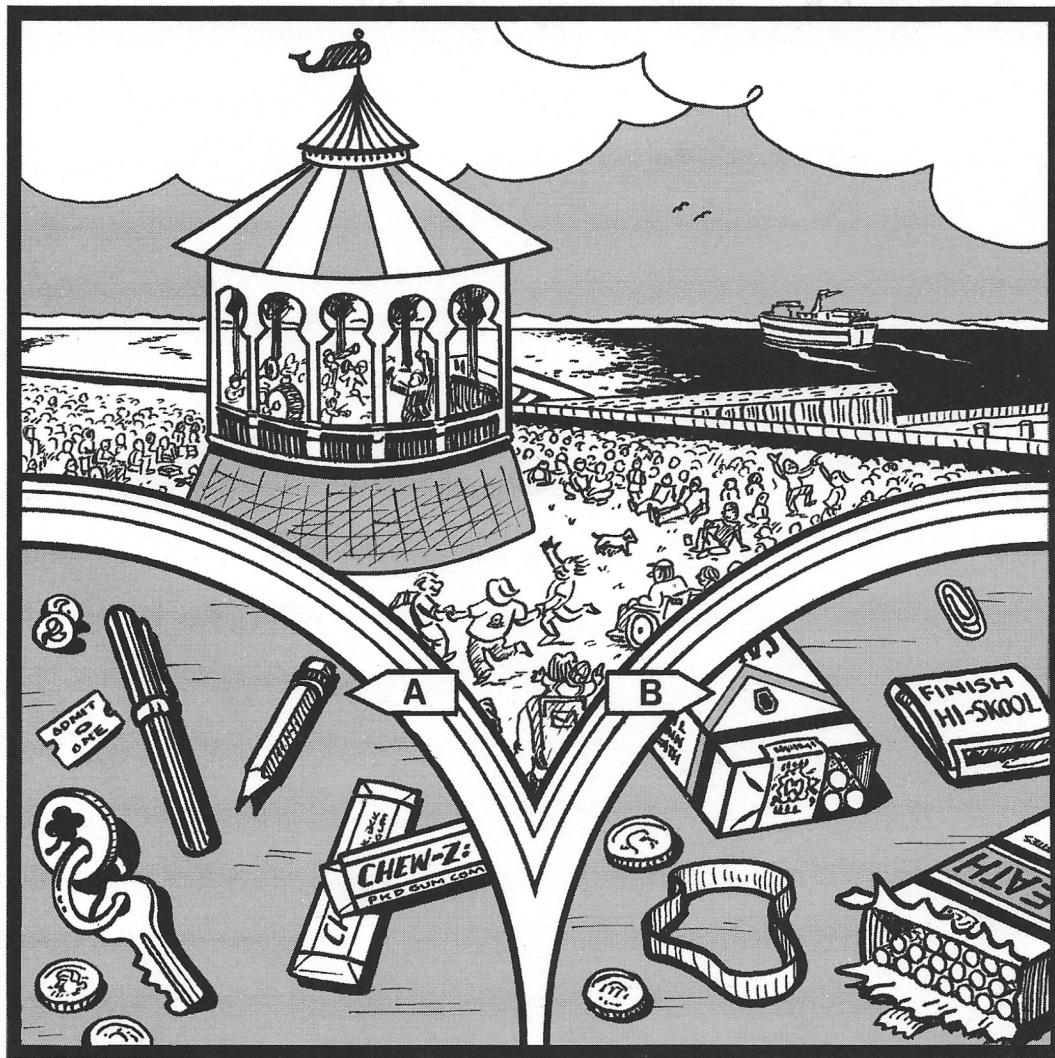


# BANG, BANG!



**S**am loved crowds and never missed the Sunday evenings when the high school band performed in the gazebo in the center of Ocean Park, an open area in Oak Bluffs that borders on the Vineyard Sound.

He was there on a Sunday evening in August when, as usual, people came in droves and picnicked on the lawn. Some of them had to park almost a mile away, and they came as much for the music as for the spectacle of the audience flocking down to the bandstand, which they circled in a parade of dancing and prancing and whooping it up. It was routine for Sam to have a few police available whenever there was a crowd.

Standing on the outskirts of the park, he was hoping to spot the men who, in the course of a burglary the previous night, had jumped from a second-floor balcony and escaped with a haul of jewelry. Shortly after the break-in, a man calling himself J. Rolf hobbled into the emergency room of Martha's Vineyard Hospital. His leg was subsequently put in a cast, after which he commandeered a wheelchair and disappeared, presumably with the help of an accomplice. Thus far, the pair were still at liberty.

The band was working up to a crescendo of drums and brasses and the final crash of cymbals when the cymbalist overcymbaled and lost control of one of his discs. It went flying and hit a tall bearded man on the shoulder. He had been pushing a wheelchair labeled MVH, but with the blow, he tripped and the occupant was catapulted from his seat and sent sprawling on the grass. In the semidarkness the bearded man fled.

It took Sam a minute to shoulder through the knot of people staring down at a man with a cast on his leg and a bullet hole in his chest. The body had been stripped of all objects that could identify it.

Meanwhile, the police arrested two bearded men who resembled each other, each of whom was accused of being the man who had been pushing the wheelchair. Both men declined the honor of being questioned by Sam, but nevertheless acquiesced when Sam asked to see the contents of their pockets. The total contents of each man's pockets were separately labeled for evidence, one man's as A and the other's as B. After examining A and B carefully, Sam made an arrest.

Which of the two men did Sam charge, and on what counts?

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## Questions

1. Was the dead man one of the burglars?
2. What are two possible reasons for his being killed?
3. Was he killed in the immediate vicinity of Ocean Park?
4. Why was the body put in a wheelchair?
5. What was Sam's reasoning, and what charges did he make?

*Solution on page 51.*