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### The Advocate

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The Advocate, Fordham Law School, "The Advocate" (1980). *The Advocate*. 7.  
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# The Advocate

The Student Newspaper of Fordham Law School

Vol. XII No. 2

September 2, 1980

## Perspectives On the Democratic Convention

by William McGinty

I was a go-fer for the New York delegation to the Democratic Convention. I performed menial tasks in order to be close to the action, and stored away perceptions and nuances of the political jungle within the power-packed, smoke-filled rooms of the convention.

The action centered around the internally warring New York delegation and its choice of a candidate: Carter or Kennedy. The Carter and Kennedy groups were evenly matched. President Carter had the support of state Democratic leader Dominic Baranello, Brooklyn leader Meade Esposito and Queens leader Donald Manes, with nomination efforts being led by Lt. Governor Mario Cuomo. Senator Kennedy, on the other hand, had won the New York primary and commanded a majority of the delegates. Kennedy had dedicated, energetic, almost fanatical supporters led by congresswoman Shirley Chisholm and State Senate Minority Leader *Manfred Ohresstein*.

The Carter forces eschewed emotional tactics and appeared to view the contest in purely pragmatic political terms. As one state official stated, "Carter's a schmuck but he's gonna win, and I go with the winners." The drama was further heightened by Mayor Koch's on-again, off-again support of Carter and Governor Carey's positioning for a spot on any ticket.

While on a coffee run, I bumped into Governor Carey in the New York Hilton without his entourage. Upon inquiry, he stated that he was uncommitted to either candidate, but that he advocated an Open Convention and planned to visit many of the state delegations and address the convention on the issue.

The fun and excitement came from the principal jousts in the contest for nomination. Kennedy: the fallen knight of Camelot who rose from the ashes of the Roger Mudd interview and a disastrous primary campaign to wage a final though doomed assault on the spreading conservatism within his party, and reiterating the liberal

principles — traditionally Democratic.

And Carter: the incumbent who managed to successfully counteract the political effects of a recessed economy, a murky foreign policy, "Billygate" and sagging polls, and finally rallied his forces to an easy victory in the rules fight, insuring nomination.

The security was tight and even authorized entrance into Madison Square Garden was difficult. Each morning, delegates and party officials received their credentials, along with free gifts — gold-plated big apple pins, small bottles of liqueurs and numerous tote bags proclaiming the greatness of New York, the 1980 convention and numerous advertized products. The lucky ones received guest passes; the rest bartered, threatened and pestered to get these highly valued prizes. The passes were often used to pay old political debts or create some new ones. A go-fer's name never appeared on a guest list, but by dint of being in the right place at the right time, go-fers usually received a pass, plus a big apple pin and the rest of the goodies.

The delegates from Indiana, New York and Texas stayed at the New York Hilton. The Texans seemed to thrive in the city and offered vast sums for any trinket representing New York. (In fact, I was offered a steep twenty dollars for my big apple pin.) The Indiana troops didn't fare so well. An outraged and obviously shaken Indiana woman staggered into the New York suite and complained of the many sexual overtures made by New York city men. Further examination revealed that she had strolled down 42nd Street between Seventh and Eighth Avenues and had assumed that the whole city was a teeming swirl of sexual impulses.

Monday night at the convention, the Kennedy delegates, excited and ready for battle, were soundly defeated by the Carter forces in the rules fight. The Garden quickly took on the air of a morgue, and delegates soon returned to their hotels. In the New York suite delegates and volunteers drank Scotch, watched Kennedy's concession speech and lamented the coming fall election with Carter at the head of the

ticket.

Kennedy's speech on Tuesday gave his supporters something to cheer about. Wednesday's speeches and the nomination of Carter were routine. But on Thursday morning the New York delegation was still split over whether to support Fritz Mondale's vice-presidential nomination or push Shirley Chisholm as their favorite in protest to the Carter nomination. Although there was no consensus on the issue, delegates voted as they wished, and many were

still bitter when President Carter gave his acceptance speech. His mention of the draft registration prompted an outpouring of boos. And as his speech concluded, all eyes searched for Kennedy. When he did appear, he brought the house down. The New York delegation went wild, and amid the shouting and clapping much of the bitterness was dissipated. Kennedy had supported the President, and by November the party would be united and Ronald Reagan would be the new enemy.



Fordham Faculty Family Fotos: Jonathan Frederic Block (left), born May 31, 1980 to Professor Marilyn Friedman and Thomas Block; and Abba Abramovsky (right), on May 4, 1980, to Professor Abraham and Debbie Abramovsky.

## Orientation, A Personal View

by Holly Biller

The upperclass students who volunteered their time and energies to "orient" the incoming class at Fordham Law School succeeded greatly in alleviating at least this incoming student's previously out-of-proportion anxiety about the rigors and pressures of law school life.

Having been fueled by such sensationalist media projects as "The Paper Chase" (in addition to comments from friends, relatives and disinterested third parties) as to the excessive time and energy demanded by legal study, I entered first year feeling both apprehensive and hopeful. But above all I felt uncertain.

The time-worn psycho-therapeutic technique that I learned as an undergraduate Psych. major — that of assuring people that their nervous feelings are both normal and natural — was in abundant supply on SBA Orientation Day, as several highly skilled social workers (masquerading as second year law students) circulated among the Freshman class mouthing words of reassurance and instructing us in

mandatory survival hints.

The day's activities, including taking photos for yet-to-arrive I.D. cards and standing on a two-hour book line, finally culminated in transporting 50 pounds of books to our respective homes (the figure has been verified by one enterprising student who weighed them).

But, after several glasses of wine at the end-of-day party, I left in an optimistic mood. Even now, I still retain the strong impression that the "Journey towards the Bar Exam" which I have embarked on this past week will be perhaps trying and certainly challenging, but will never cease to be rewarding.

I. Dean McLaughlin, August 20, 1980 Faculty Orientation speech.

The author worked as a manager of Macy's after finishing their "Executive Training Squad," and most recently taught music at P.S. 193 (K-6). She also teaches piano, guitar, accordion and violin, and composes select magnanim opuses in her spare time.

## Tax Court Favors Students

Thanks to a recent U.S. Tax Court decision, students who take out-of-town summer positions can deduct their transportation and living costs. In *Hantzis*, 38 T.C.M. 1169, the court ruled that a Harvard Law student's deduction of about \$3,200, incurred during a summer law job in Manhattan, was legitimate under the Tax Code's Sec. 162(a)(2). The provision allows deduction of "travelling expenses... incurred while away from home in the pursuit of a trade or business."

According to the *National Law Journal*, the IRS argued that the student, a

resident of Boston, had her "tax home" in New York for purposes of her summer employment. Under this theory, the student would be considered a resident of the city in which he or she has a summer job.

The court did not accept this contention, stating, "It would have been unreasonable to expect her to move her permanent Boston home to New York, merely because she has a ten-week job in New York." Students must be working more than 50 miles from their school to qualify for the deduction.

## TERMS OF ART

# Dressed To Kill: A Killer

by Jim Duggan

People go to the movies for three reasons, Alfred Hitchcock once said: to laugh, to cry, or to be frightened. Unfortunately, for contemporary film makers the last of these effects is becoming more and more difficult to achieve. Audiences have become both more jaded and more sophisticated in recent years.

When the Lumiere brothers first demonstrated the new invention of moving pictures in France in 1895, the film of a train moving towards the camera so terrified its viewers that some of them ran from the theatre thinking that there must actually have been a train somewhere behind the screen.

Now, when I look back on the last few years of my own moviegoing, I can think of only one moment when I experienced that old terror which Lumiere's audiences felt in the last century. That was during Brian DePalma's *Carrie*. Anyone who has seen the movie knows which scene I mean and I won't ruin it for anyone who hasn't.

DePalma has given us another excellent thriller, *Dressed To Kill*, and perhaps the highest compliment one could pay the film is to say it is the best work in the genre since *Carrie*.

If you can read this page without moving your lips, you will undoubtedly see through such mystery as there is to the plot within the first half hour of the film. But it is precisely when we know who did it, and that our hero or heroine on the screen doesn't, that the suspense is greatest. It is then that we feel like shouting at the screen to warn them of the villain creeping up behind them, or begging them not to go into that room. Perhaps all one can say without giving it away is that *Dressed To Kill* is about a psychopathic transvestite who pursues a middle-aged matron (Angie Dickinson) and a young call girl (Nancy Allen) through the streets of New York.

DePalma makes this an effective cinematic thriller by simply using all the old devices of other thrillers, but using them more deftly and tellingly than they are usually used. He can even get away with using a split screen to follow two characters at once, a device you probably thought a bit hokey when you first saw it in some old, low budget Warner Brothers film. Yet DePalma makes it work. He has no new bag of

cinematic tricks. He is quite simply a master of all the traditional movie suspense techniques, and has the timing and the light-fingered touch necessary to make them work.

In fact, DePalma's films draw so heavily on the classic suspense tradition that they have often been marred by a slavish imitation of his mentor, Hitchcock. DePalma's *Obsession*, especially, suffered from that flaw. DePalma has, fortunately, overcome this exaggerated propensity to the sincerest form of flattery and, despite all the comparisons of *Psycho* and *Dressed To Kill*, the earlier film is more an inspiration for the latter than a model for it.

*Dressed To Kill* is unlike *Psycho* most noticeably in that it takes place in New York, and the very real terrors of urban life make a particularly effective backdrop for the film. The nervous, incidental eye contact that Nancy Allen makes with strangers, unsure who her enemies are, and the way she finds herself caught between a psychotic and a gang of teenaged toughs on the subway will surely ring true for any woman, especially a New Yorker, who has felt uneasy in the city after dark.

DePalma has also given us the best teenaged hero since the Hardy Boys in Keith Gordon, a precocious lad who hunts the killer with a collection of home-made gadgets that appears to include everything but a Dick Tracy two-way wrist radio. It is just such comic book elements as this, and the Terry-and-the-Pirates-style plot of, say, *The Fury*, that gives DePalma's movies much charm amidst all their mayhem.

In *Dressed*, Michael Caine is effective as a posh British psychiatrist and Dennis Franz does nice work as the cop who violates Nancy Allen's rights so often the scenes seem like issue spotters' off a Con Crim exam. If there is any false note in the casting it is that Nancy Allen always seems a mite too much like your best friend's sister to be entirely believable as a hooker.

Happily, the camera doesn't follow characters so much as it stalks them. Even during a relatively quiet scene, when Nancy Allen and Keith Gordon are sitting on a couch talking, the camera jumps around as though looking for a way to edge closer to them unobserved, as their psychotic opponent might.

In short, the whole film is extremely well done and worth short-shrifting a few cases for some evening.

## Dates to Remember

### Placement

- Wed Sept. 3 - Panels begin - Choosing a Career
- Fri Sept. 5 - Sign-up for recruiting ends
- Tues Sept. 9 - Panel: Civil and Criminal Law
- Wed Sept. 10 - Panel: Corporate Practice
- Mon Sept. 15 - Interviewing on-campus begins
- Tues Sept. 16 - Panel: Tax
- Thurs Sept. 18 - Panel: Labor Law
- Tues Sept. 23 - Panel: Sports and Entertainment Law
- Thurs Sept. 25 - Panel: International Law
- Tues Sept. 30 - Panel: Real Estate

### Academic

- Wed Sept. 3 - Attend your Monday classes
- First day to change classes
- Thurs Sept. 4 - Last day to change classes
- Mon Sept. 8 - Entries for I.L.F. competition due in Room 048 by 6 p.m.

### Social

- Thurs Sept. 4 - Tang (party) 4:30 p.m. til? Cafeteria
- Fri Sept. 26 - Circle Line Cruise 9 p.m. - 12 Midnight
- Tickets on sale from Sept. 2nd on
- See your SBA representative

Also - Gwyneth Murphy's weekly Dance/Exercise class resumes today, Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. in the Chapel (2nd floor Lowenstein). All are welcome—no charge.

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## ILF Writing Competition

by Jim Tynion

On May 25, 1980, International Law Forum was the recipient of the prestigious Eugene A. Keefe Award, presented by the Student Bar Association each year at graduation to the publication, organization or individual which has performed consistently outstanding service to Fordham Law School. Tim Tynion accepted the Award.

Those upperclass students who wish to become members of a legal journal and who have an interest in the international aspects of legal practice are invited to enter the *International Law Forum's* current writing competition. The competition is open to all second and third year day students, as well as all second, third and fourth year evening students. The writing problem is now available in the Registrar's Office, and is due before six p.m. on Monday, September 8th. The *ILF* is seeking approximately twenty additional students for its 1980-1981 staff.

In addition to publishing two issues this year, the editors and staff members of the *International Law Forum* will participate in several other activities, including: assisting in the selection and preparation of the Jessup International Moot Court Team; assisting in the organization and presentation of the Fordham Corporate Law Institute's forum on "Financing in the International Capital Markets"; and assisting in a joint effort by several law schools to publish a "bluebook" for international legal materials.

Students who have questions concerning this writing competition or any other aspect of the *ILF* should consult our bulletin board opposite the phone booths in the basement, or see Steve McLaughlin or Jim Tynion in our office, room 048.

## Speakers' Forum

by Sharon Souther

The Speakers' Forum is designed to accommodate student interests in various areas of the law by providing lectures and discussions in these areas. In doing so, the Forum seeks to draw on the resources of major New York firms and corporations and the talents of distinguished alumni.

The Fall semester's schedule is still incomplete, but at this point, the Forum plans to sponsor lectures by Hon. James B.M. McNally, Law '20 (formerly of the New York Appellate Division), and, in conjunction with PAD, Hon. Mary Johnson Lowe (currently sitting in the Southern District of New York). As the schedule of speakers develops, notices will be posted on the law school calendar in the lobby.

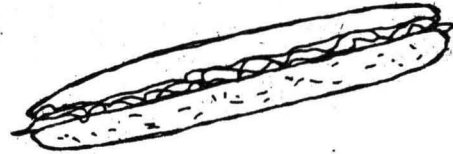
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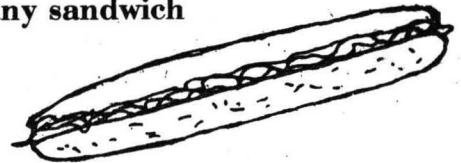
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