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THE ADVOCATE

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Fordham University School of Law © The Advocate

December, 1992

Judge Pierce Attracts the Largest Audience Ever for a Sonnett Lecture

by Andrew Valentine III, 3D

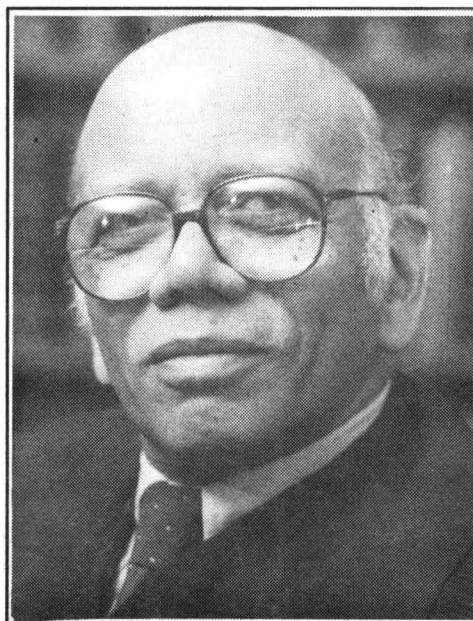
This year's John F. Sonnett Memorial Lecture was delivered by the Honorable Lawrence W. Pierce, Associate Justice of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, in the McNally Amphitheater on November 5, 1992. Previous series lecturers have included retired United States Supreme Court Chief Justice Warren Burger, the Honorable William Hughes Mulligan, and the Honorable Francis T. Murphy.

The lecture series is in honor of John F. Sonnett, a 1936 graduate of Fordham Law School, who was a senior partner in the firm of Cahill, Gordon & Reindel. His excellence as an advocate is memorialized through this lecture series.

Judge Pierce was appointed to the appellate bench by President Ronald Reagan on November 18, 1981. Prior to his appointment he served as United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York from 1971 to 1981. Judge Pierce

is a 1951 graduate of Fordham Law School, where he was a member of the law review. In recognition of a lifetime of achievement in public service and service to the law school, his oil portrait was unveiled in November, 1992, and now hangs in the Moot Courtroom.

The speaker was introduced by Mr. John Mahoney, also a 1951 graduate of the law school. A close personal friend of Judge Pierce's since their days in law school, Mr.



Judge Lawrence W. Pierce, Jr.

Mahoney gave several inspiring anecdotes on the Judge from his time at the law school and on the bench.

Judge Pierce's lecture, entitled "Appellate Advocacy: Some Reflections from the Bench", included a discussion of some historical features of advocacy, followed by a brief overview of some modern-day considerations facing

present-day appellate advocates. Several strategic, practical, and ethical consider-

ations relevant to appellant advocacy were also discussed. The lecture was highlighted by many examples and remembrances from Judge Pierce's 20 years of service on the federal bench.

During his opening remarks Dean Feerick noted that the event had the largest attendance turnout in his time at the law school. Judge Pierce's lecture gave all in attendance a more humane and personal impression of what is often considered a difficult and sometimes aloof appellate process. In closing, Judge Pierce quoted the former Solicitor General Erwin Griswold, "I hope that others have found some interest in the overview I have presented here tonight as I have seen it through my eyes." He was answered with a lengthy and heartfelt ovation. □

Note: The full text of Judge Pierce's lecture will be included in the next volume of the Fordham Law Review.

Personal Safety

by Mike Dailey, 3E

New York City is an exciting place to live, work, study, or visit. Unfortunately, it can also be a place of danger. Surveys consistently show that the number-one concern of residents of New York City is crime. In response to this concern, New York, like most urban centers throughout the country, has instituted a crime prevention concept known as Community Policing. The linchpin of the Community Policing theory is shared responsibility among the residents of the community, and the police that patrol it, for the prevention of crime before it occurs. You, the reader, share in this responsibility, whether you reside here in the city, or merely commute into the city for a few short hours a day.

There is much that the average person can do to prevent themselves from becoming the victim of a crime. All that is required is an understanding of what criminals look for in potential victims. It is important first to recognize that criminals are opportunists. They are not looking for a fight or a high risk of getting caught. Herein lies the essential strategy behind not becoming a victim; make it difficult, make yourself an unattractive target. This requires constant alertness, and a willingness to be bold, abrupt, rude and sagacious. Don't override your instincts when they're telling you something is wrong. Don't be concerned about insulting a friendly stranger, New Yorkers are notoriously cold anyway, so it won't be taken personally. The key is to remove yourself from a vulnerable situation before your means of escape are negated. In other words, you must anticipate what a criminal might do, and take preventive steps to eliminate the opportunity.

As a police officer, I am authorized to carry a firearm off-duty. I frequently opt

not to. This is simply because a firearm is not a defensive weapon. It will not in any way shield you, and in fact, can be extremely hazardous to you. Aside from the obvious hazards, it tends to bestow upon the bearer a feeling of invincibility, which leads to carelessness. Herein lies its greatest weakness. A firearm is a weapon of dire last resort, it can never be used preemptively. Yet if preemptive steps are taken to thwart a criminal's opportunity, a firearm is almost never needed. What follows is an overview of common situations that are inviting to criminals, along with suggestions of what you can do to avoid being preyed upon.

This article will focus on personal safety involving travel, and a future edition will deal with safety in and around the home. In general, when moving about the city, carry only the amount of cash that you think you will need. Be discreet in how you handle it, whether in stores, or on the street. The same goes for jewelry, both for men and for women. Rings with expensive stones should be turned inward with the stone hidden by the palm of your hand. Bracelets and necklaces should be covered by clothing, or carried inside pockets until your destination is reached. Beware of expensive earrings that dangle from the earlobe, if yanked upon by a thief they can cause serious injury. Get in the habit of carrying identification separately from house keys. If both are lost, you may not only be the victim of a larceny, you may go home to find that you are also the victim of a burglary. If you do lose both, immediately change your locks.

Purse Snatches: Don't carry a purse or bag dangling from your shoulder, this is an easy grab. Hold the purse close to your body

Personal Safety
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New York Bar Group Favors Easing Restrictions for Bar Exam Appeals

ALBANY — The New York State Bar Association (NYSBA) recently endorsed a report from its Committee on Legal Education and Admission to the Bar calling for less restrictions and increased access for those who appeal New York State bar exam scores.

The bar group explained that its concerns regarding the examination appeals process — administered by the Board of Law Examiners (BLE), the same group that administers the exam — centers on five specific areas:

- restrictions on access to essay questions should be eased
- restrictions on access to model answers from past bar exams should be eased
- applicants who appeal should be able to provide substantive arguments in support of their appeals
- there should be no limitation on assistance to applicants, and
- a specific time period should be

established in which the BLE renders its appeal decision.

There are a total of 1,000 points on the bar exam, and 660 is a passing score. Under the current system, an applicant who scores between 650 and 659 on the bar exam may appeal one or more essay answers. Access to the exam, the applicant's answers, and model answers from previous years are all severely restricted. Applicants must consider their appeals options based upon their reconstructed memory of the exam and their answers. In addition, the criteria for which previous appeals have been successful, are obscure and generally not communicated to appeals applicants.

The committee, chaired by J. Kirkland Grant of Huntington, a professor at Touro School of Law, proposes reform of the appeals process; calling for full disclosure

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Letter From The Editor-In-Chief

Dear Readers:

This issue of *The Advocate* shares information and gives advice on a wide variety of topics. Many individuals and organizations worked together to provide reports and stories to increase our awareness of some of the important events in our community and in other parts of the world.

Each person who is reading this letter has an expertise or an experience worth sharing with other *Advocate* readers. Let the spirit of giving, which characterizes this season of the year, encourage you to write an article for *The Advocate*.

Your expertise is a gift. Share it, and enjoy a Happy Chanukah, Merry Christmas, Joyful Kwanzaa, and a Happy New Year.

Diana R. Thompson
Editor-in-Chief

Open House at Fordham

by Lester E. Layne, 1D

On Saturday November, 14th approximately 60 minority prospective Fordham Law students attended an informational open-house here at the Law School. The session was held jointly by the Admissions office, the Academic Enrichment Program (AEP) and the minority organizations of Fordham Law.

Dean Feerick gave an overview presentation of the Law School and its direction for the future with regards to minority enrollment. He in essence said that the school is taking great strides to admit and retain minority students. Dean Feerick offered as evidence the increased enrollment of minorities presently attending as well as programs such as the AEP.

Kevin Downey, the Director of Admissions also spoke about the requirements for admission to the Law School. Mr. Downey stressed the need for students to have a well-rounded foundation as an undergraduate along with solid academic achievement. Others in attendance from faculty and administration were Professor Flaherty, who spoke about first year class

load, Dean McGough, the Director of Financial Aid at the Law School and Dean Rivera, Registrar.

Certainly the most informative session of the day was presented by Professor Heidi Hamilton, Director of the AEP. The AEP is a program that operates in the summer before the first semester of enrollment for accepted first year minority students. The program is designed to acclimate these students to the law school environment and inform them of what to expect in the first year. Professor Hamilton basically told the prospectives to be prepared for a rigorous, demanding law program. She also emphasized the fact that support for the prospectives first year students exists and should be taken advantage of.

After the morning session, tours of the Law School were conducted. Later various faculty members and upperclassmen joined the group for a buffet lunch which was held in the faculty dining room in Lowenstein.

As a first year student myself and a participant of the AEP, I must say that the day was very productive. □

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or a
R O O M M A T E ?

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the first floor,
or call 874-3826.

The Pre-Law Society of CLC Presents

Justice Angela Mazzaelli
New York Supreme Court First Judicial District

speaking on

"Women as Defendants in the Criminal Justice System"

Wednesday, December 9, 1992
Room 510, Lowenstein 3:30pm free

THE ADVOCATE

Fordham University School of Law

Diana R. Thompson
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Contributing Writers:

Robert Cinque, Michael Gracia, James Margoulis,
Tracy Murphy, Andrew Valentine III

The Advocate is the official newspaper of Fordham Law School, published by the students of this school. The purpose of *The Advocate* is to report the news concerning the Fordham Law School community and developments on the legal profession, and to provide the law school community with a medium for communication. *The Advocate* does not necessarily concur with opinions expressed herein, and is not responsible for the opinions of individual authors or for factual errors in submissions. Address all letters, manuscripts, and checks to: The Advocate, Fordham University School of Law, 140 W. 62nd St., New York, NY 10023. Contributions are tax deductible. Submissions should be made on disk in MacIntosh Microsoft Word accompanied by a hard copy. We reserve the right to edit for length. For further information call (212)874-3826.

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Personal Safety — Continued from front page

with the opening covered and protected with your arm. Never loop the strap around your wrist, if it is snatched you may be dragged to the ground and injured. When sitting, always keep your purse on your lap. People who place them on the floor or seat next to them, on the backs of chairs, or in shopping carts are often surprised to find that they have disappeared. If your bag is grabbed by a thief, the best advice is to let it go, but remember, keys and I.D. should be separate.

Pickpockets: Pickpockets usually work in teams. A typical routine is for one thief to drop a package in front of you causing you to trip, while a second thief bumps into you from behind and lifts your wallet. An easy way to thwart this routine is to carry your wallet in a hip pocket, never a back pocket which is called the "Sucker's Pocket". Another routine is for one or more thieves to cause a commotion. While the curious jostle each other to see what's happening, an unseen member of the conspiracy bumps into you from behind and makes off with your wallet. The best way to thwart this routine is to mind your own business.

Luggage: Never leave it unattended, and never let a stranger carry it for you, even if they're nice, even if they're homeless and you feel sorry for them.

Walking: This is often the most efficient, and pleasurable way of getting around the city. A few common sense methods of protecting yourself should be practiced until they become second nature. Always stick to well lighted, well traveled streets. Streets that are poorly lit can harbor dangers in the shadows, and there is always strength in numbers. Walk close to the curb, away from doorways, openings to alleys, high shrubs, etc. where predators can conceal themselves. If someone is loitering along your path and makes you feel uncomfortable, don't be afraid to cross to the other side of the street to avoid them. Walk briskly and assertively as if you're on your way to meet someone. If you follow

the same route every day, patronize the stores along the way. Get to know the shopkeepers, and which stores stay open late. These will provide safe haven if ever you're in trouble. If there are no stores along your way, vary the route you take. Let family and friends know your schedule, when to expect you and what route you take. Learn their schedules also. If you go shopping (carrying money or packages), or walking at night, bring a companion. Walk facing oncoming traffic, or, if someone in a car slows down and harasses you, do an "about face" and walk off in the opposite direction. Either way, they will now have to do a "U-turn" to come back and bother you again giving you plenty of warning.

If you think you're being followed you may very well be right. Muggers frequently "shadow" their victims for several blocks before deciding that it's safe to strike. Take the initiative. If you want to be more certain, cross the street in the middle of the block (beware of traffic). If the thief stays on his side of the street, don't immediately relax. Make sure he doesn't cross to your side of the street at the next intersection. However, if he crosses the street immediately behind you, it is definitely time to act. Have a plan in mind, but **do not go home**. Know what stores or public facilities are nearby that you can run into and call for police. If there are none, scream as loud as you can and run. Try to attract the attention of anyone who might be nearby. Don't run into a dead end or a secluded area, you're better off out in the open. By screaming and getting a good head start, you may startle the thief and cause him to recoil. Remember, he's an opportunist, he'll give up and find an easier victim.

Subway: Although much maligned, this is an excellent and inexpensive means of getting around. There are a few things about the subway that not everyone knows

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Amnesty For Fordham Law Students

by Tracy J. Murphy

Amnesty International arrived at the Fordham Law School campus in February of 1991 through the efforts of second year students Jackie Didier and Leslie Harris. Ms. Didier was a member of Amnesty three years before she came to Fordham and was surprised to learn a chapter didn't already exist here. "I knew Columbia and NYU both had big chapters and wanted to join a chapter at school. That's when I found out we didn't have one." She shares a strong commitment and interest in human rights with Ms. Harris. Both wanted to play a part in the struggle for human dignity and freedom while meeting the rigorous demands of law school. As Ms. Harris has said "It's not a big time commitment and I believe we can make a difference." The chapter tables a new petition every couple of weeks in response to urgent action appeals sent to them by the regional office.

Amnesty International is a politically non-partisan and economically independent organization working against human rights abuses regardless of either the ideology of the government or the beliefs of the victims. It began in 1961 when British Lawyer Peter Benenson read about two Portuguese students who were sentenced to seven years' imprisonment for raising their glasses in a toast to freedom. He began a one year letter writing

campaign that soon flourished into a series of groups "adopting" specific prisoners, contacting their families, writing appeal letters to the appropriate authorities, and above all letting prisoners know that people cared about their plight. By 1987 Amnesty International chapters could be found in 44 countries with more than 700,000 individual members in over 150 countries.

The Fordham Law chapter recently sponsored a speaker, Mrs. Lidia Grafova, on the overnight refugee crisis created by the disolution of the Soviet Union. Mrs. Grafova is an internationally recognized figure for her early work on human rights conditions under the Soviet regime. She was one of the first writers for a major daily newspaper in the Soviet Union, *Literaturnaya Gazetta*, to even dare use the words "human rights." On Thursday, November 12, she spoke through a translator to an audience of students, faculty, and administrators on the dangers of a "facist" backlash generated by the ultra-nationalism of the newly formed republics.

The Fordham Law School chapter hopes to sponsor another speaker in the spring semester. They invite any students, faculty, employees, or administrators to join them. In the words of Jackie Didier, "We have so many advantages here, if we can improve conditions for others we ought to." □

A Latina's Perspective of the Legal Profession

by Rosalyn Maldonado

On Tuesday, November 16th, the Fordham Latin American Law Students Association held its first-ever Women in the Law Symposium. LALSA had the honor of having an all-Fordham alumna panel and our very own Professor Batts as the moderator.

The two panelists were the Honorable Ciria Martinez, Class of 1979, of the Bronx Family Court, and Marta Varela, Class of 1985, a graduate fellow under Professor Malloy and Republican candidate for the New York State Assembly in Election of 1992. Each speaker shared their personal experiences and perceptions of the legal profession and what it means to be a Latina attorney. Judge Martinez has practiced law in the public sector whereas Ms. Varela has spent her professional career in the large law firm environment. Their varied professional experiences made for engaging and interesting presentations and discussions.

Judge Martinez began her comments by reminding the Fordham community and the legal profession that "Latinas do not fit into a particular box." They bring with them their childhood and developmental experiences which may be unique from the mainstream.

As a member of a working class immigrant family, originally from Cuba, she discussed the challenges she confronted as a result of her ethnicity and background. The bias that she faced was poignantly clear when she described that as the top student in her class her counselor told her to aspire to obtain a secretarial degree. Educational and employment bias permeated her aca-

demical and employment years however she held tight to her goals to do more for herself, her family, and her community.

Ms. Varela described her experience at the large law firm as that of a "highly paid galley slave." Although she found the large firm to be hostile and aggressive, she enjoyed the practice areas. As a result, she has found more job satisfaction working at the small firm with "people she respects."

According to Ms. Varela, being of a different ethnic background effects the individual's experience in the large law firm. The individual is confronted with an experience that is contrary to her culture and difficult to reconcile with her expectations. Family praise and a sense of accomplishment in obtaining that high-priced job generate high expectations which may be rudely shattered upon entering the large law firm.

Large law firm practice is a business driven by the bottom-line, billable hours. As a result, the associate is viewed as a "potential profit center." Therefore as Ms. Varela stated, one must always remember that the "law is seductive" and ask yourself: "Is this what I really want to commit my life to?"

In closing, the women reminded us that issues, such as sexual harassment, that confront women are not just women's issues but rather human issues that should concern everyone. They also encouraged law students and young attorneys to get involved in the community and volunteer. Their final message was to be dedicated and persevere the hardships because these are ingredients that lead to success. □

Personal Safety — Continued from page 2

however, that are imperative to a safe ride. At the entrance to many subway stations are glass globes that are illuminated with either a red, yellow or green light. The red light means that the subway entrance is closed, and access to the trains cannot be obtained there. A yellow light means that the entrance is open, however there is no Token Clerk on duty at that location. To obtain access you must already have a token in your possession. Finally, the green light means that the entrance is open, and a token clerk is on duty at that location. It is at all times recommended that you enter the subway system at an entrance with a token clerk on duty. On each subway train, there is a motorman, who controls the train from the front, and a conductor, who monitors the opening and closing of the doors in the middle. Along with the token clerk, each has access to police by phone or radio. There is also, on most off-hours trains, a Transit Police Officer who patrols along the train and can communicate with the conductor and motorman. On every subway platform is an area clearly marked in yellow and black called the "Off Hours Waiting Area". These waiting areas are usually near the token booth, and in all cases within view of a Transit Authority Employee.

If you are a frequent subway rider, buy packages of subway tokens in advance. Have the money that you will need to buy the tokens easily accessible when you get to the booth, and be discreet. Have your tokens easily accessible as well, don't go fishing through bags, purses or pockets. Wait for the train in the middle of the platform, near other passengers, never at the end. The center is likely the Off Hours Waiting Area, visible to a transit employee, and will put you on the center car of the train, where the conductor rides. Never stand at the edge of the platform, subway riders have been pushed in the past.

Once on the train, keep pocketbook in lap, conceal jewelry. Always ride in a car with other passengers. If you feel compelled to help out the homeless, have small change easily accessible. Don't open up your pocketbook or take out your wallet. If someone is bothering you, be assertive. Don't engage in unnecessary conversation; sometimes a curt, "leave me alone!" is all that's required. If the harassment continues, get up and move to another seat, notify the conductor (inside the compartments at either end of the car, if he is riding in the car you're on), or get off at the next station and wait for the next train. If you feel that you are being "crowded in" by a single person or a group, you may be getting set up for a robbery. They will try to intimidate you and block off escape. Make up your mind to act before it gets too late, by screaming loudly and getting up and moving. By moving aggressively you may put the robbers off balance, surprising them and causing them to think twice. Find the conductor (get in the habit of knowing where he is when you get on the train), or get off at the next station and scream for help (either the conductor, the token clerk, or both, will hear you). Again, in these situations, follow your instincts. Don't wait to find out that your suspicions were correct before taking some form of defensive action.

Bus: Much of the same advice given for subway riding applies to riding a city bus, ie: buy tokens in advance, and keep pocketbooks in lap. Also, it is advisable to ride in the front of the bus, as the rear exit provides a handy escape for a thief.

Taxi: Only take yellow-medallion cabs

or private limousine services which you have summoned. Many livery car operations are simply rip-offs, and it is illegal for them to solicit customers on the street. Keep purse in lap, and know the route you should be taking. If you feel that the driver is taking the "scenic route" to run up the fare, ask him to drop you off at the nearest police precinct. Cab drivers are very concerned about their licenses, and you, the passenger, have the clear upper hand. Finally, when you arrive at your destination, particularly at night, ask the driver to wait outside until you are safely inside. Make your request before giving a tip.

Private Auto: A simple yet over-looked means of defense when driving one's own car is simply to maintain it in good running condition. Don't find yourself stranded by the roadside because you never found time for a tune-up. Always check the gas gauge before embarking on a trip. Make sure you have a good spare tire and jack. If you do have engine trouble and cannot quickly fix it yourself, raise the hood and stay in your car. Be wary of any "Good Samaritans" who offer to help. Ask them simply to contact the police, and then stay in your car with the doors locked until a police officer arrives. If you see someone else stranded, call 911 at the next opportunity. Be wary as well about pulling over to help, it may be a hoax. When driving, know the route you take, and carry maps in the car in case you get lost. If hopelessly lost, go to a service station or police station for directions.

When parking, always park in a well lighted area. This not only reduces the risk of auto theft, but reduces the likelihood of personal attack while getting into or out of the car. Always have keys ready when getting into the car, and take a moment to check the back seat for intruders. Don't ever leave your registration card in the car. A photocopy is all you need, and should be carried by every driver (if you're caught without the registration, simply send a photocopy in with the summons and the summons will be dismissed). However, if a thief takes possession of your car, and also has possession of the registration, he can impersonate you to the police. Furthermore, unless you have the title to the car, you will not be able to report it stolen. Anti-theft devices will only slow down the experienced car thief, which is fine since most criminals are simply too lazy to work. Use several and frustrate them into going elsewhere. Finally, always lock the doors when leaving your car, even if only for a minute or two, and don't ever, ever, leave the keys in the ignition. I once found a three year old boy named Brian in the back seat of a Honda on W 178 St. and Audubon Ave. (...just one story, I promise). Anyway, his mother left him in the car with the motor running for "only two seconds" while she ran into a video store in Ringwood N.J. Needless to say mother and child were happily reunited. This leads us to the next topic: Car-Jacking.

Car-Jacking is the crime of the 90's, and is occurring everywhere. It is usually committed in one of two ways: the perpetrator comes up to the car while the car is stopped at a traffic light, or while the driver is simply sitting with the car in park, forces the driver out of the car at gunpoint, and then makes off with the car. The second common method is for the perpetrator, aided by an accomplice, to cause a minor collision. When the driver gets out to inspect damage, the perpetrator pulls a gun and

Personal Safety
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CULTURE GUIDE

by Diana R. Thompson, Editor-in-Chief

Dance

now - 2/21/93
NYC Ballet
 at Lincoln Center's NYS Theater.
 870-5690. \$9 - \$70.

12/9/92 - 1/3/93
Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre
 at City Center, 131 W. 55th Str.
 581-1212. \$10 - \$50.

Exhibitions & Tours

12/9 & 12/12
"TriBeCa: The Low Down II"
 Visit galleries and studios that
 were once lofts and warehouses.
 Call Eye on Art Tours, 877-5117.
 11am - 1pm. \$33.

now - 12/12
"Pueblo Artisans:
 Contemporary Jewelry, Painting,
 and Sculpture of the Southwest"
 American Indian Community House.
 708 B'way. 2nd floor. 598-0100.
 free.

1/9/93
"Medium Cool"
 Discover the evolution of the cool style
 which has its roots in Pop Art and is
 now exemplified by slick young
 photographers and Postmodern
 appropriationists.
 Call Eye on Art Tours, 877-5117.
 11am - 1pm. \$33.

1/23/93
"Downtown Directions"
 See the trends of the 90's in
 TriBeCa's artists' studios and
 avant-garde galleries.
 Call Eye on Art Tours, 877-5117.
 11am - 1pm. \$33.

2/6/93
"Madison Mile"
 A look at Madison Avenue's
 exclusive collectors, private
 dealers and galleries.
 Call Eye on Art Tours, 877-5117.
 11am - 1pm. \$33.

now - 1/3/93
"Visiones Del Pueblo:
The Folk Art of Latin America"
 250 objects from 17 countries represent-
 ing
 the 16th century to the present day.
 Museum of American Folk Art.
 Two Lincoln Square (bet. 65th & 66th
 Streets).
 595-9533. free.

now - 1/3/93
"Songs of My People
African-Americans, A Self-Portrait"
 photographs at the
 Museum of the City of New York.
 Fifth Ave. & 103rd Str. 534-1672
 ext.206.
 Wed. - Sat., 10am - 5pm. Sun. 1pm -
 5pm.

now - 1/24/93
"Henri Matisse: A Retrospective"
 Museum of Modern Art.
 307-4545.

now - 5/8/93
"The Orchestra & the City:
150 Years of the NY Philharmonic"
 Amsterdam Gallery,
 S.C. Davis Museum, NY Public Library
 for the Performing Arts. Free.
 Mon., Wed. - Sat. Noon - 6pm.
 870-1721.

12/17/92 - 5/15/93
"Balanchine"
 Featured are many rarely seen
 photographs, drawings, designs,
 notes, posters, and costumes from
 the work of this late choreographer.
 Main Gallery,
 S.C. Davis Museum,
 NY Public Library for the Performing
 Arts,
 Lincoln Center. 870-1721.
 Mon., Wed. - Sat. noon - 6pm.

Music

12/11
"A Christmas Sampler"
 Cathedral of St. John the Divine
 7:30pm.

12/11
Andre Watts, pianist, at
 Avery Fisher Hall. 8pm.
 875-5656.

12/13
Kathleen Battle, soprano, in recital
 at Alice Tully Hall, Lincoln Ctr.
 875-5050. 8pm. \$40.

12/13
Vienna Choir Boys
 at Carnegie Hall.
 7:30pm. \$12 - \$45.
 \$5 for students.

12/22
"Traditional American Christmas Music"
 at St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church
 109 East 50th Str. at Park Ave.
 751-1616 ext. 227. 6pm.
 \$5. \$3 for students.

12/31
New Year's Eve Gala
 w/ the NY Philharmonic at
 Avery Fisher Hall, Lincoln Ctr.
 8pm. \$15 - \$90.

1/7, 1/8, 1/9, 1/12/93
 NY Philharmonic Orchestra
 Kurt Masur, conductor,
Yo-Yo Ma, cellist, at
 Avery Fisher Hall, Lincoln Ctr.
 875-5000.

1/14/93
Frederica von Stade, mezzo-soprano,
 in recital, at Carnegie Hall.
 8pm. \$12 - \$50.

2/11, 2/12, 2/13, 2/16
Andre Watts w/the
 NY Philharmonic at
 Avery Fisher Hall.
 \$6 - \$20.

2/14/93
"Prelude to a Kiss: Jazz for Valentines"
 A potpourri of ballads by Betty Carter,
 Jimmy Heath, Harold Ashby,
 Roy Hargrove and Bobby Watson.
 Alice Tully Hall. 875-5050. 8pm.

Jazz Hotline: 875-5299.

Rock Concert Hotline: 307-7887.

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 of jazz, opera, & ballet videocassettes.

Theatre

now - 1/3/93
"Betsey Brown"
 A Rhythm & Blues Musical
 co-written by Ntozake Shange & Emily
 Mann.
 Crossroads Theatre Co., 7 Livingston
 Ave.
 New Brunswick, NJ
 Call for details 908-220-1082.

Theatre Tickets

Get half price day-of-performance tickets
 for B'way & Off B'way shows at the
 TKTS Times Square Box Office at 47th
 Str. & B'way,
 or in the Mezzanine of Two World Trade
 Center,
 or in Brooklyn at Court & Montague
 Streets.

There are a limited number of tickets
 available
 at \$15 each for students and senior
 citizens
 for the B'way shows listed below.
 Call the box offices.

A Streetcar Named Desire
 Death & the Maiden
 Five Guys Named Moe
 Les Miserables
 Miss Saigon
 The Phantom of the Opera

Other Activities

Jazz Lecture
 at Bruno Walter Auditorium, NY Public
 Library for the Performing Arts. \$10.
 6:30pm.

12/9
Charlayne Hunter-Gault
 of WNET's *MacNeil-Lehrer Report*,
 will sign copies of her autobiography,
In My Place, at Black Books Plus,
 Amsterdam Ave. & 94th Str. 6pm.

12/12, 12/13, 12/19, 12/20
Holiday Crafts Fair
 M.L.King, Jr. High School
 122 Amsterdam Ave.,
 bet. 65th & 66th Strs.
 11am - 6pm. Call 866-2239.

12/18 - 12/23
American Indian Crafts Market
 Crafts demonstrations & sales of
 handmade items by Native craftspeople.
 American Indian Community House,
 708 B'way at Waverly Place
 (1 block north of E. 4th Str.)
 598-0100 ext. 240.
 Noon - 6pm.

12/27 - 12/30
Modern Language Association
 convention at the Hilton Hotel.
 Over 700 sessions, forums, and
 readings involving all literary genres
 in various languages & cultures.
 Topics include fair use & other
 copyright issues.
 Scheduled speakers include:
 Ralph Ellison, Jessica Hagedorn,
 & Jason Robards, Jr. 614-6372.
 8:30am - 10:15pm.

now - 1/6/93
 Radio City Christmas Spectacular
 w/ The Rockettes.
 Radio City Music Hall.
 307-1000.

1/7/93
"Blues and the Ballet:
Wynton Marsalis"
 The week before its world premiere,
 Wynton Marsalis will discuss his
 collaboration with the NYC Ballet's
 Ballet Master in Chief Peter Martins.

now - 1/10/93
Big Apple Circus
 at Damrosch Park, Lincoln Center.
 268-0055.

1/27/93
"Movement as Metaphor:
Jazz Dance on Film"
 Walter Reade Theater.
 165 W. 65th Str. 875-5601. 8pm. \$7.

Holiday Shopping for Unique Gifts

American Folk Arts Museum
Gift Shop
 Columbus Ave.
 (bet. 65th & 66th Streets)
 595-9533

Black Books Plus
 Amsterdam Ave. & 94th Str.

Judaica
 208-10 W. 72nd Str.,
 2nd floor. 724-2424.

Nkiru Books
 76 St. Marks Ave.,
 Park Slope, B'klyn
 (718) 783-6303

Ice Skating

Wollman Rink, Central Park
 517-4800. Mon. 10am-5pm.
 Tues.-Sun. 10am-9pm.
 Admission: \$5. Skate Rental: \$2.50.

Rockefeller Center Skate Rink
 601 Fifth Ave., 757-5731.
 Mon.-Fri. 9am-10pm.
 Admission: \$7. Skate Rental: \$4.

Jewish Museum
 temporary location:
 The New-York Historical Society
 77th Str. & Central Park West.
 399-3430.

Laser Light Shows
 at the Hayden Planetarium
 81st Str. & Central Park West.
 Fridays & Saturdays.
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 Call 769-5921 for group rates.

Lincoln Ctr. Hotline: 875-5299.

Lincoln Center Tours
 Tours last 1 hr., everyday 10am - 5pm.
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 of 12 or more people. Call 875-5350.

National Museum of the American Indian
 B'way & 155th Str., 283-2420.
 Tues. - Sat., 10am - 5pm. \$3. \$2 for
 students.

PRISM Activities Hotline: 988-2880.
 PRISM is sponsored by the social
 committees
 of various churches.

ROSE MUSEUM at Carnegie Hall
 Open daily 11:00am - 4:30pm. Free.

(For more events, read *New York*
Magazine and *The Village Voice*. Also,
 for maps of NYC and brochures of places
 to visit, call NY Convention & Visitors
 Bureau, (397-8222.)

Bottle and Glass

By James C. Maroulis

The holiday season is approaching and, with luck, your holidays will include abundant quantities of champagne. Added to the annual festivities, we will have a further reason to rejoice: exams will be over. One of my only fond memories of last year's exam hell was bringing a bottle of champagne on ice to my Contracts exam and popping the cork within one minute of handing in my bluebooks. This column will discuss some of the customs that accompany champagne and the various options at different prices.

How Champagne is Made

As the evil Benjamin in *Wayne's World* noted, all champagne comes from the Champagne region of France. Anything made outside the Champagne region is sparkling wine. However, most Americans refer to any sparkling wine as "champagne." This is something to bear in mind when you encounter someone pretentious.

There are several ways to turn a still wine into a sparkling wine. The best, most expensive, and most commonly used method is the one employed in Champagne. It is an absurdly complicated process that involves several rebottlings and requires people to scurry around the wine cellar every week spinning the aging bottles a quarter-turn. Yet, there are two interesting facets of champagne making. First, after the wine is initially fermented, racked and blended it lacks carbonation. Then a small quantity of wine mixed with sugar (called "liqueur de tirage") is added to the wine and it is bottled. A second fermentation, begins and turns the additional sugar to alcohol. A by-product of fermentation is carbon dioxide and thus the wine becomes carbonated. Second, before the wine is ready to sell, an additional dose of sugar is added (the "dosage."). The more sugar added, the sweeter the champagne. Champagnes list sweetness on the label:

1. Sweet or Doux: 8-10% sugar added.
2. Semi-Dry or Demi-Sec: 6-8 % sugar added.
3. Sec or Dry: 3-6% sugar added.
4. Extra-Dry: 2-3% sugar added.
5. Brut: 0-2% sugar added.

By far the most common types of champagne are extra-dry and brut; people very rarely drink sweet champagne these days. Further, it should be noted that extra dry champagne is actually sweeter than brut. I realize this is confusing, but it is one of those cool wine facts that helps you make friends and influence people. Finally, some champagnes are made without any "dosage." They are very hard to find but are reputed to be bone dry. They are sometimes called: Ultra Brut, Brut Absolu, Sans Dosage, and Dosage Zero.

How to Chill a bottle

All champagne is served chilled and a bottle that is not cold enough doesn't taste all that great. To chill a bottle of champagne as cold as you could possibly want it, put it in an ice bucket filled with ice and water for 45 minutes (less time may be insufficient and more time is unnecessary). If you use this method, you will need a small towel to wrap around the wet bottle when serving. I cannot emphasize strongly enough the need to put water in the bucket along with the ice. Surrounding a bottle of wine with ice cubes alone does not chill it quickly or efficiently. By adding water, the process is speeded immeasurably. Further, try not to chill champagne in the freezer. Not only does it take much longer than the ice bucket method but there is the danger that it will be forgotten, freeze and thus be ruined. Champagne may be stored in the fridge. However, I would recommend that it be placed in an ice-bucket

for 15 minutes before serving in order to make it properly cold. If you are unsure whether a bottle of champagne is cold enough, here is a simple test: dry any excess water from the outside of the bottle and press the bottle against your cheek. If it is very uncomfortable, then it is ready to drink. Finally, I feel compelled to inform you that I like my champagne very cold. This puts me at odds with an entire school of wine snobs who believe that white wines in this country are already served too cold.

Opening the Bottle

Since there is a lot of pressure in a champagne bottle, opening it requires some care. Here is a simple procedure. Remove the foil from the top of the bottle. Point the bottle away from all persons in the room and remove the wire cage that surrounds the cork. Once the wire cage has been removed, you should keep your hand on the cork at all times. With the cork held firmly in one hand, twist the bottle with your other hand. The cork will then easily pop out. Please note: twist the bottle—not the cork. If you twist the cork, it can tear.

For the truly pretentious, a champagne cork should not be "popped." Rather, when the cork is almost out of the bottle, one corner of it should be pulled out at an angle and the carbon dioxide should be allowed to escape in relative silence. This is an unfortunate custom because the sound of the cork popping adds a festive note to most occasions.

Because champagne is under pressure, any flaws in the cork will become clear before you drink the wine. Thus, unlike most other wines, the cork from a bottle of champagne is not usually sniffed before tasting. I sniff it anyway because it smells good. Finally, once the cork is out of the bottle, it expands and can't be put back in. Thus, when you open a bottle, you have to drink all of it.

Pouring and Drinking

Champagne is commonly consumed in tall fluted glasses. They allow one to watch the bubbles as they rise and they keep the champagne from going flat. A national tragedy was the invention of the American champagne glass. These short, wide, shallow glasses are totally unsuited for drinking champagne. Not only can't you admire the bubbles but the stuff goes flat before you know it. No doubt, these were invented by the same person who brought us the champagne fountain. He'll be the first one up against the wall when the revolution comes.

Keeping the champagne cold is a primary concern and many of the customs surrounding its consumption are designed to ensure this. First, always hold the glass by its stem, this will keep your hand from warming the wine. Second, champagne is consumed in small portions and small glasses. A large glass of wine will warm up by the time you reach the end. If you wish to drink more, simply pour yourself another small glass. Third, always put the bottle back in the ice bucket when you are finished pouring.

Champagne and Food

Another great thing about champagne is that it goes extremely well with food—maybe better than any other white wine. Fish, poultry, cheese, fruit, hors d'oeuvres, and veal are all nicely complemented. Further, champagne is the traditional companion of caviar. The acidity of the wine is the perfect foil for the oily, salty taste of the fish eggs. Although caviar is extravagant, the bottom has dropped out of the market since the collapse of the Soviet Union and prices are currently at record lows. Zabars has a good

selection (including fresh caviar) at excellent prices. For an extraordinary taste sensation, nothing can top: a dozen raw oysters (shucked moments ago), served on crushed ice, each one crowned with a dollop of very cold fresh caviar, and accompanied by icy glass of good champagne.

Champagnes You Can Buy

The market for champagne is unusual in several respects. Firstly, quality certainly does not increase proportionally with price. The wines in the \$5-\$25 offer reasonable value for money but after that the money is simply wasted. There are many excellent bottles of champagne selling for \$70 and up but, since the \$20 bottles are so good, there is no reason to spend the extra money—even if you have it. Secondly, Champagne is one of the few regions that makes excellent non-vintage wines. When the same maker sells a vintage wine \$30 and a non-vintage for \$20, you are better off buying the non-vintage. Finally, as a general rule buy Spanish wines in the under \$10 range, American wines in the \$9.50-\$15.00 range, and French wines in the \$15.00-\$25.00 range. All the wines reviewed are brut.

Inexpensive Champagne

1. Codorniu: This Spanish wine is an excellent value. They make a number of inexpensive champagnes in the \$5 range. All are solid and drinkable. My favorite is their blanc de blanc.
2. Frexenet: Another solid Spanish champagne; this sells for around \$5-\$8 a bottle and has a dry, slightly flinty taste.
3. Shadow Creek: I have yet to taste this wine but it is a new release by the reputable California champagne maker Domaine Chandon. It sells for about \$8 and has received decent reviews. If you try it, let me know what you think.

Moderate

1. Piper Sonoma: This is a very nice bottle of champagne for \$10. It is dry, clean, crisp, well-balanced and has a lovely fruity taste. I prefer their blanc de blanc to their blanc de noir but both are very good. A steal for \$10.
2. Domaine Chandon: A large California producer of very nice champagnes at about \$10-\$12 a bottle. These are great values. They make both a blanc de blanc and a blanc de noir. Mumm Cuvee Napa: This is another fine bargain in the \$10-12 range. It is well made, smooth, dry California champagne with a flinty hint to it.

Expensive

1. Tattinger La Francaise: An excellent bottle for \$20. Smooth, dry, elegant, light—this wine exemplifies finesse. It also has very tiny bubbles which are supposed to be a sign of a good champagne.
2. Mumm's Cordon Rouge: This wine, with a distinctive red stripe on the label, is ideal for lovers since it was the champagne consumed by Rick and Ilsa in *Casablanca*. It is a smooth, dry medium-bodied champagne. Further, its prices have dropped to about \$18 for a bottle of non-vintage after a few some what critical reviews. A very good wine at a very good price.
3. Laurent-Perrier: Their non-vintage sells for about \$20. I must confess that it has been a few years since I tasted this wine but I remember it to be excellent. Further, it has a great reputation for both price and quality. Well worth a try.

4. Louis Roederer: Non-vintage, around \$20. This is an excellent, full-bodied champagne. It is strong and well balanced and luscious: highly recommended.
5. Perrier-Jouet: Non-vintage, around \$20. If you're looking for a light, delicate, smooth champagne, it is a toss-up between this and the Tattinger. If you like it a little more fruity, buy the Perrier-Jouet; if you like it a little more dry, buy the Tattinger. Perrier-Jouet is an excellent wine and you won't go wrong.
6. Moët & Chandon: They are France's largest producer of champagne and their wines are good. However, they always seem to be a little more expensive and a little lower in quality. For this reason, I don't buy Moët. Note to the pretentious: Our European correspondent, the redoubtable Andy Grant, informs me that the "t" is pronounced in "Moët" not only because of some arcane rule of French pronunciation but also because Mr. Moët was Dutch and that is the way he pronounced it.
7. Iron Horse: They make probably the best California champagne you can get in town. The stuff is excellent with great balance, medium body and a lovely dry flavor. However, it sells for the same price as the French wines and thus I see no reason to buy it.

Outrageous

If you have money to burn and are looking to waste it on champagne, I recommend the Tattinger Blanc de Blanc. This is a super wine and you will not be sorry. You might also try the Perrier-Jouet Flower Bottle or the Louis Roederer Cristal (if you like a full-bodied champagne). These sell for around \$70 and up. Dom Perignon is not recommended. It is made by Moët and bears their trademarks: higher price, lower quality. However, if you want to make it clear to your guests that you are serving very expensive champagne, then buy Dom Perignon because it is the only expensive label that is generally recognized. Incidentally, it does taste very good.

The Bad Stuff

If someone gives you a bottle of bad sparkling wine (e.g. Andre), don't despair. Just mix the plunk with orange juice and add a couple of ice cubes and you'll have a lovely mimosa. However, there is no palatable way to consume cold duck. If someone gives you a bottle, there are only two possible courses of action. Either give it to someone else or, if you have ample storage space, hold on to it and give it back to the same person next year as a holiday gift.

Pretentious Tasting of the Month

This summer, fortune smiled upon me and I came into several bottles of 1975 Romer Du Hayot (Deuxieme Cru Classe). This is an exceedingly sweet white wine from the Sauternes region of Bordeaux. Sauternes is made in a very unusual manner which will be discussed in another column. Anyway, since the wine is so sweet it ages better than most white wines and it is always special to find a properly aged bottle. Most Sauternes in the wine stores is in its infancy and most old Sauternes is impossible to find. The Romer Du Hayot has a lovely deep gold color with a hint of amber. It has a powerful nose and an intense, sweet, concentrated flavor with hints of melon and pears. This is a smooth, well-structured, viscous, nectar-like wine with a very long finish. Highly recommended. □

*“Do not respect persons in judgment,
but hear the small as well as the great;
do not fear the face of anyone
for the judgment is God’s . . .”*

(Deuteronomy 1:17)

A message for all from the
Jewish Law Students Association

Presently, there is no **Pro-Life** organization
at Fordham Law School.

There is, however, an effort underway
to revive the

Catholic Law Students Association.

This is only one way the **Pro-Life** message
will be brought to Fordham.

If there is a sufficient interest
among non-Catholic students

to begin a separate **Pro-Life** Group,
we would like to know

your response and comments.

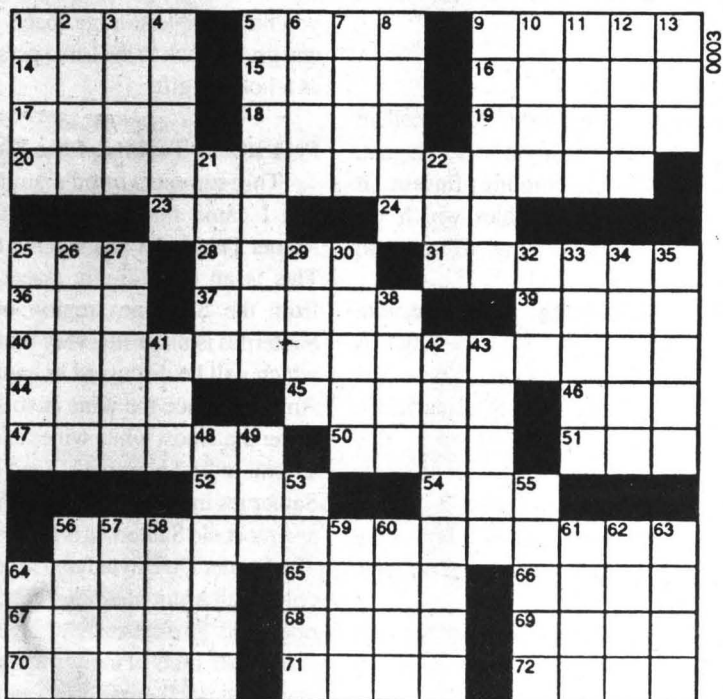
Anyone who is interested
in either of the above or has any ideas,
please drop a note at the SBA office.

CROSSWORD RD® Crossword

Edited by Stan Chess

Puzzle Created by Richard Silvestri

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| ACROSS | 40 Head of the Secret Squadron | DOWN | 30 Gantry of fiction |
| 1 Toy-pistol ammo | 44 You, once | 1 Without preparation | 32 Reuters rival |
| 5 A heap | 45 Comic lead-in | 2 Precinct | 33 Standard-deviation symbol |
| 9 Struck an attitude | 46 Tablecloth substitute | 3 Stud holding | 34 One of the Allens |
| 14 Algerian port | 47 Joining alloy | 4 Plumber's tool | 35 Unkempt |
| 15 Agenda segment | 50 Sit a spell | 5 Educated folks | 38 Desperately urgent |
| 16 Mary Richards' best friend | 51 Whatever Col. | 6 Soul singer | 41 Cartoonist Key |
| 17 Star Wars princess | 54 He ran against DDE | 7 Wallet items | 42 Be at odds |
| 18 Point at the dinner table? | 56 Henry Fonda movie | 8 Slap on | 43 Eyewitness |
| 19 Tended to the Tin Man | 64 Kerman native | 9 PDQ | 48 Sign for a hitch |
| 20 Koestler novel | 65 Swordplay memento | 10 Riverfront Stadium's river | 49 Gun the motor |
| 23 Stirrup site | 66 Newspaper section, briefly | 11 The man from U.N.C.L.E. | 53 Harried |
| 24 Hogwash | 67 Grain elevators' kin | 12 Delightful region | 55 Sundae topping |
| 25 Cone-bearing tree | 68 Albany-Buffalo canal | 13 TV's Major | 56 Small combo |
| 28 Steady | 69 As far as | 21 Sweetheart of the 1976 Olympics | 57 Berlin casualty of 1989 |
| 31 Cat, perhaps | 70 Composer Gustav | 22 A Smothers brother | 58 Cain's nephew |
| 36 The College Widow author | 71 Kind of vision | 25 Friday request | 59 Piece of land |
| 37 "___ you so!" | 72 Look too soon | 26 Potato type | 60 Catch cold? |
| 39 Pocketed bread | | 27 Drive back | 61 Act glum |
| | | 29 Tanker weights | 62 Distaff ending |
| | | | 63 Recess |
| | | | 64 Suffix with boy or girl |



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Personal Safety — Continued from page 3

makes off with the car. The first thing a driver can do to frustrate the commission of this crime is to drive with the doors locked and the windows shut. When stopped at a traffic light, always allow one car length between your car and the car in front of you. Get in the habit of checking the rear view mirror, and keep the car in gear if you're driving a stick. If involved in a minor collision, don't get out of the car. Keep the doors and windows locked, and inform the other motorist that you wish to await police response. Finally, if someone approaches your car carrying other than a "Squee-Gee," take the initiative; press down on the horn and drive away. If this means driving into oncoming traffic or through a red light, that's okay, just don't worsen your situation by causing a major collision.

If you think that your car is being followed, do not drive home. Let the car pass. If it doesn't, drive to the nearest police precinct, or drive right up to the door or booth at a service station and tell the attendant to call 911. If you can, go inside, otherwise, get back into your car, lock the doors, and wait for police.

What if I am Robbed? It is a purely personal decision whether or not to fight, and depends largely upon the individual circumstances. However, this much advice can be offered. Don't resist unless absolutely necessary. At all times remain calm and thinking. Observe as much as possible about the perpetrator; things such as age, height, weight, ethnicity, etc. are extremely helpful to police in tracking them down. To assist your memory, make comparisons with someone you know. Record in your memory anything odd like tattoos, deformities, etc. Don't get hung up on clothing which can easily be changed. Observe the weapon and be able to describe it. Remember statements made, and terminology used. Finally, observe the di-

rection of flight, what kind of automobile was used, if any, and then call 911.

When the police arrive, an immediate search will likely be conducted to try and apprehend the fleeing suspect. The clarity with which you convey the description and the details of the incident will greatly impact upon the police efforts. If the initial search is unsuccessful, you will immediately be taken to the police precinct to be interviewed by detectives. They will record all of the above information while it's still fresh in your memory, and then ask you to view photographs of recidivists who approximate the description you give them. If you do not identify the perpetrator from the photographs, it may take a while before you again here from the police. This does not mean they are not working on the case. Criminal investigation takes time. Based on the detailed account you give them, and the accounts of similar victims of crime, patterns of criminal behavior are identified which allow police to anticipate a criminal's next move, and close in for the arrest. Once an arrest is made under circumstances similar to yours, you will be asked to view a "line-up" procedure at which time the perpetrator will be presented to you and you will be asked to identify him. It is not uncommon for a single arrest to lead to convictions on dozens of past crimes.

In conclusion, falling victim to crime can radically alter our lives. It is imperative to develop safe habits that keep us out of harm's way. The biggest inhibition that people have towards doing what's apparent is fear of being embarrassed, fear of being offensive, fear of being mistaken. Yet far better to walk safely away in self doubt than to be violated, maimed or debased knowing you could have saved yourself. □

Mike Dailey is a Sergeant in the NYPD.

Easing Restrictions — Continued from front page

of essay questions to appeals applicants and model answers from previous bar exams to future bar candidates for admission to the bar. In addition, the state bar supports an applicant's right to provide a brief substantive argument in support of an appeal; and calls for the BLE to announce the criteria used to approve or deny an appeal.

The 54,000-member New York State Bar Association is the official statewide

organization of lawyers in New York and the largest voluntary state bar association in the nation. □

NOTE: Copies of the "Report and Recommendations of the Bar Examination Appeals Process and Disclosure of Bar Examination Essay Questions and Model Answers," are available from the New York State Bar Association Office of Administrative Liaison (518) 463-3200.

Fordham Law Students for Choice in Parade

Fordham Law Students for Choice spent Sunday afternoon October 19th showing their support of reproductive freedom and abortion rights. Joined by friends and relatives, the student group carried a banner ("FORHAM LAW STUDENTS FOR CHOICE") aloft, demonstrating solidarity with over a thousand other pro-choice New Yorkers who also participated in a parade down Fifth Avenue. At a rally held to kick off the parade, local clergy and various other community leaders spoke of their support for abortion rights and other health care, and urged the crowd to support and elect political candidates with similar views on these issues.

People opposing abortion rights also turned out in good number (to line the avenue as the parade passed by). The pro-choice events were organized by WHAM!, Women's Health Action and Mobilization.

TOP TEN GROSSEST THINGS ON EARTH

10. Naked fat guys on vinyl seats.
9. Camel breath.
8. The vomit scene in The Exorcist.
7. Motel room artwork.
6. Ear wax museum.
5. The name "Mungo."
4. Bean dip.
3. Nose hair.
2. Road Oysters.
1. Drugs.

PARTNERSHIP FOR A DRUG-FREE AMERICA

MY OWN PRIVATE IDAHO

A Truly Just Cause

By Michael V. Gracia

At the time of this writing the United States government is considering volunteering the services of the United States Army to be used in the delivery of desperately needed food and medical supplies to the famine ravaged regions of Somalia. This is a good idea.

I remember watching news reports on the famine in Ethiopia during the mid-eighties. I remember that at the time supplies meant for the sick and starving people in that country were not reaching their destination. The reasons for that were a civil war which made the delivery of the goods dangerous (supplies were not allowed to reach their destination by anti-government guerrillas in order to make the existing government look bad), thieves (many supplies were stolen en route or from the hangers were they were stocked once they reached Ethiopia) and corrupt government officials (these individuals allowed for the delivery of some of the supplies while the rest were sold at a profit in the black market).

The same problems encountered in Ethiopia now exist in Somalia (and in other areas of Africa afflicted with famine). I remember asking at the time, why don't we just deliver the food and medical supplies ourselves (by that I mean the United States and not the United Nations or whatever organization was responsible for the delivery).

I think that we should consider this again. Why not take the 82nd Airborne Division or the 101st Air Assault Division and task them with the mission of delivering supplies to those sick and hungry men, women and children. Why not cut through the bureaucracy and just do it. There is no time to waste negotiating. These people are dying and they CAN be saved. We have the food and supplies; let's just get it to them.

Of course, no American should be too eager to send American soldiers overseas into dangerous areas when our national security is not at stake. Nor should we interfere in most of the internal affairs of other world nations. But I believe that we should use our influence or our might, whether it be political, economic or military might, to solve some of the problems of the world. The cause must be one which is morally just, as I believe this situation to

be. The problem is that when our government does this sort of thing it doesn't always choose worthy causes and it often just aligns itself with whomever is convenient at that moment, without thinking about the moral or future strategic implications.

In Somalia we have a situation where other nations should become as involved as they did during the Gulf Crisis. I also believe that it is rare when the United States can actually count on its so called "allies", except for England, of course, and it is for this reason that we should take matters into our own hands as soon as possible and stop the suffering and death that is going on in Somalia.

Now, I'm not talking about an invasion of the country at all. I am also not talking about using American forces as escorts for the delivery of food. I am talking about the U.S. armed forces doing the actual delivery of supplies. Run this as you would a military operation, swiftly, so that we can get in, help the people, and get out as soon as possible.

The loss of one American soldier, in an operation of any sort, is one life too many. Yet the possibility exists that this may happen. But it is less likely that those who are interfering with the delivery of supplies will try to intimidate or stop the 82nd Airborne. They could die if they tried. A risk that they don't have to take into consideration right now. The supplies will get there!

This, to me, is a worthy cause for military intervention. To others the civil war in Bosnia and Serbia may be such a cause. To some others, the invasion of Kuwait was reason enough for American intervention. Who is to decide what's worthy and what's not? Our leaders, and they should be prudent and realistic (as to the benefit of our involvement to that country or people and the long term implications of our actions) when making such a decision. We cannot and should not try to solve every problem around the world on our own. But there are some that we can.

I am aware that there are some Americans which oppose United States intervention of any sort in the internal affairs of other countries. But just think of how many men, women and children in Somalia died from starvation and sickness in the time that it took you to read this column. □

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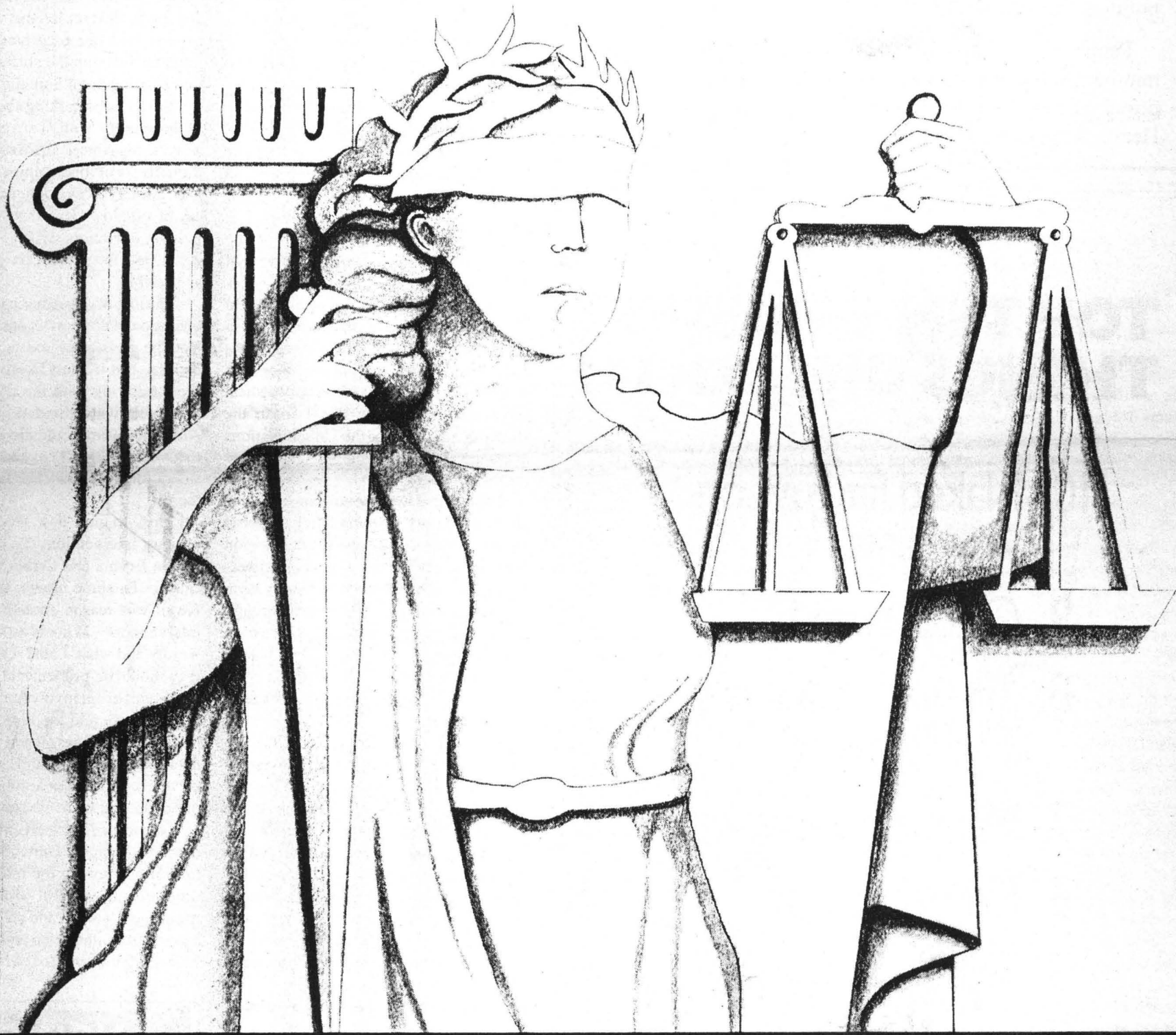
ANSWERS TO PUZZLE

CROSSWORD® Crossword

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