# The Square Flares Again

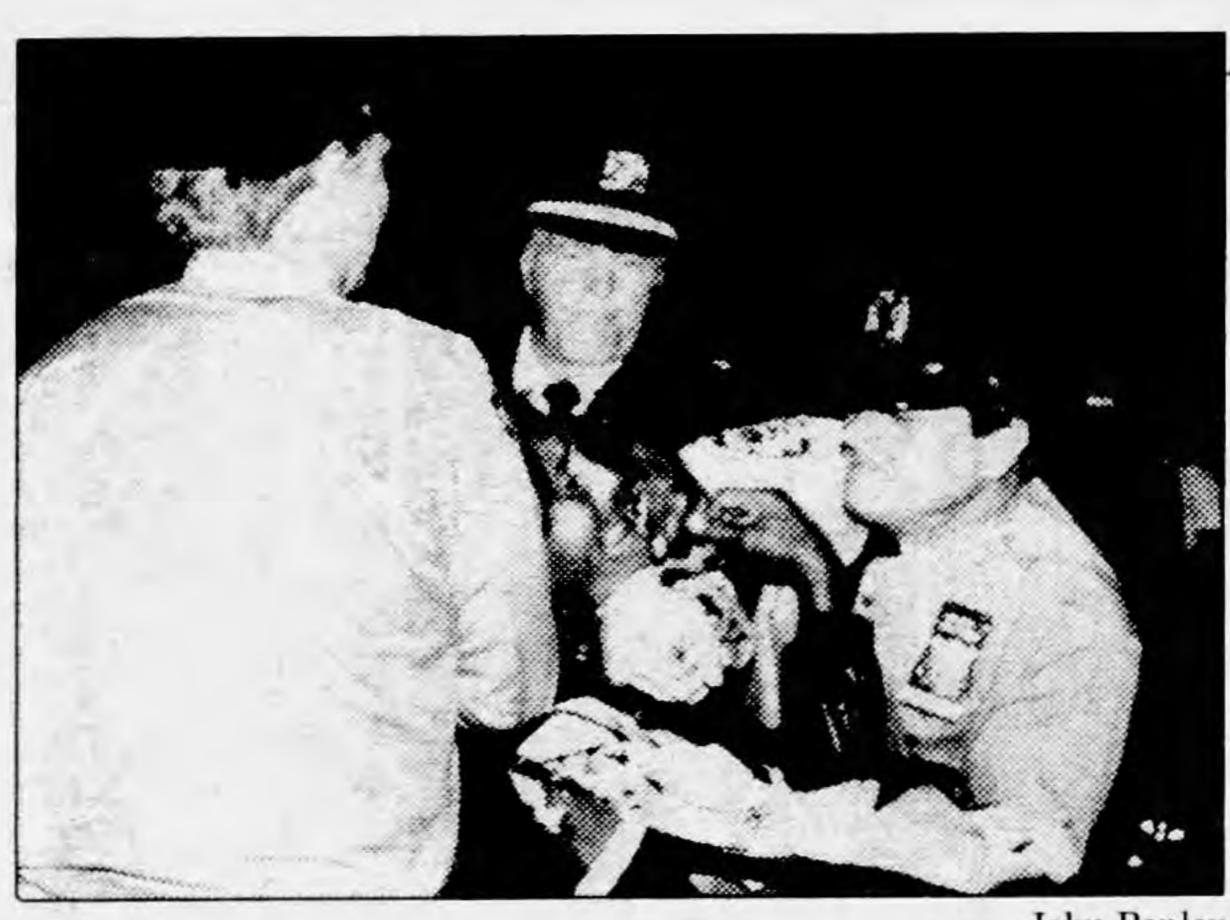
How to tell who's to blame?

The "Resist to Exist" concertgoers who battled parks department employees and cops in Tompkins Square Park on Tuesday night don't exactly conjure up visions of noble protesters speaking truth to power. But even if there were rabble rousers in the crowd, that only underscores the need for special handling — especially in Tompkins Square, where an August, 1988 riot and a toothless city follow-up of charges of police brutality have left open wounds.

Did police and park workers try to end the four-day concert-festival on a dime, as some demonstrators insist? Cops say that their polite requests to concert organizers to wind down met with violent rebuffs and fastballed bottles — a planned provocation. If so, were cops well-trained in crowd control, as then-Police Commissioner Ben Ward promised they would be after the 1988 melee? Yes again, say police, adding that they left the park and were chased by the crowd. Protest spokespersons counter that the training was a sham and that cops haven't learned to keep low-profiles.

Even if the cops behaved admirably, neither side's credibility is good in the wake of the 1988 riot. Answers must await a full-scale, independent investigation. Yet that's just what the city's feeble Civilian Complaint Review Board, by its own admission, couldn't give us in 1988. Nor can it do so now, since the board still lacks subpoena power and is often dependent on police investigators for information.

question facing the city isn't just who was right; it's how we tell. Without an independent and strengthened Civilian Complaint Review Board, the city has no credible answer.



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John Penley

Tuesday night's melee in Tompkins Square

# Fiscal Perversity

New flaw in school-aid plan

The school aid scandal continues. Despite the obvious need for overhaul, Albany's cynical system of funding public education is almost sure to stay intact. Even small reforms proposed by Gov. Mario Cuomo have been discarded in the panic over the budget deficit.

So not only will the poorest school districts continue to subsidize the richest, but the gap between the two will grow even larger.

This year, many suburban and upstate districts stand to realize a windfall from proposed changes in pension funding requirements — even if they don't get an extra penny in state aid. Fine. But New York City schools wouldn't benefit at all because their teachers are part of a different pension system.

That's why Assembly Democrats would like to consider both the pension savings and the With the whole summer ahead of us, the regular school aid package to be a single pot of money, at least this year. That way districts with big pension savings - which will continue for years — would get somewhat less in school aid. Overall, though, they'd do at least

as well as they would have in a normal year.

But, outrageously, the suburbanites — led by the Senate Republicans — are balking at even a temporary adjustment of the aid formula. They insist on treating pension savings and school aid separately. This isn't fair, by any standard — city vs. suburb, rich vs. poor.

JAMES M. KLURFELD, Editor of Editorial Pages

Wealthy Great Neck, for instance, stands to save more than \$2 million in pensions, which it could spend or return to taxpayers. Thus, even if it received no increase over the \$8 million in school aid it received last year, the district would realize a 25 percent gain. Meanwhile, hard-pressed city schools can expect a mere 5-to-8 percent overall increase. And even within suburbia, the potential inequities are grotesque.

Two years ago, Senate Republicans held the state budget hostage for weeks in an effort to gouge out more money for suburban schools. They're at it again. And kids will pay the price.

Gov. Cuomo and Assembly Speaker Mel Miller (D-Brooklyn) should hang tough. The city should get far more than its usual 38 percent share of state aid — it should get at least 38 percent of the combined pot, including the pension savings. Poor suburban districts also should be protected. If the legislators insist on tinkering instead of starting down the road to reform, they shouldn't do it in a way that helps those who need help least.

# The Joke's on Us

"How many N.Y. pols does it take to finalize a budget?" Last Sunday, New York Newsday asked readers to treat that question as a joke and come up with a punch line. One answer, according to Joe Ryan of Garden City South, is "Three. The replacements for Gov. Mario Cuomo, Assembly Speaker Mel Miller and Senate Majority Leader Ralph Marino." As long as lawmakers continue to dawdle over putting together a budget (New York is now in its second month without one), we'll continue to take your punch lines. Keep those cards and letters coming.

### NEW YORK FORUM

#### **ABOUT FAMILY**

# She's Married To the Mob

By John Cummings and Ernest Volkman

F THE FORMER Miss Kim Albanese of Valley Stream harbored any illusions before her marriage to Mr. John Gotti Jr. of Howard Beach that her existence would remain relatively ordinary, they were immediately dispelled by the event itself.

After all, there are not many marriage ceremonies where the name of the church in which the blessed event is to be held is treated as a state secret, except to immediate family and friends. Or where the father of the groom does not attend the ceremony for fear of attracting too many FBI agents and

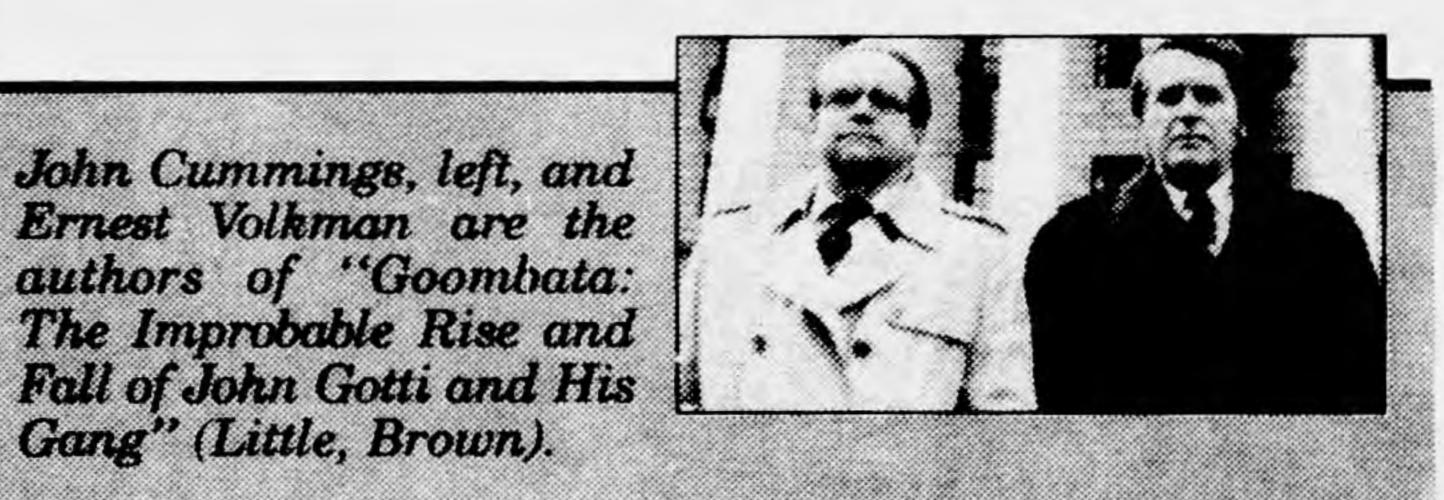
police detectives. Or where the groom makes his way to the wedding by slipping through hedges and assorted backyards. Or where an extraordinary number of guests

at the wedding reception seem oddly sensitive about being photographed, and a number of hulking men with no necks look out of place in tuxedos, and other men, looking even more out of place, spend a lot of time talking into their lapels.

Gang" (Little, Brown).

All of this may be regarded as the new Mrs. Gotti's baptism into a very special world. And the curious circumstances that surrounded her wedding are just the beginning. In fact, she has entered a world in which she will play a role honed by hundreds of years of tradition.

Regrettably, neither Amy Vanderbilt nor Miss Manners has devoted much thought to the social etiquette of the Mafia wife, so the new Mrs. Gotti whose background does not include any connection whatsoever with the mob — will have to play it by



ear. She might find these general guidelines useful:

Honor Thy Husband. Fundamentally, Mafia wives are expected to be uncomplaining domestic helpmates. Some mob wives

have summed up their existence as the "four Cs": cooking, cleaning, children, church. They are never to ask about their husbands' income (or, more important, its source). Each week, the husband places a certain amount of cash on the kitchen table. His wife is to use this money to pay for the upkeep of the house, food and the care of their children. In turn, the husband, engaged in an occupation with irregular hours, comes and goes as he pleases.

Is That a Tape Recorder in Your Pocket, Or Are You Just Happy to See Me? As the former Kim Albanese has already discovered, life as a Mafia wife means living in a fishbowl. Her husband, called "baby mobster" by his law enforcement adversaries, who claim he is an important mafioso and a chip

— Continued on Page 74

#### NEW YORK FORUM

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off the old block, is a subject of interest to the FBI and the NYPD. He is under constant surveillance and now Kim Gotti will enjoy such attention, too. She'll have to assume every phone call is monitored, and the walls of her home contain eavesdropping devices. As a Mafia wife, Kim will find that even shopping for a pair of pantyhose will attract scrutiny. (In the days before the FBI began using female agents, Tina Franzese, wife of infamous Mafia capo Sonny Franzese, used to shake her FBI shadows by entering a store's girdle department, where male agents felt too embarrassed to follow).

Life in the Fast Lane. For women who crave an active social life and the opportunity to meet new friends and interesting people, the Mafia is not the place to be. Mainly for security reasons, a Mafia wife's social calendar is pretty sparse, restricted primarily to family gatherings (an invitation to Sunday dinner at the in-laws' house is one Kim Gotti will not dare to refuse too often.) Generally, Mafia social occasions are quasi-business affairs, keyed to births, weddings and funerals, where male attendees spend most of their time warily watching one another and holding oblique conversations about "business" — discussions that exclude women. There are occasional nights out for a restaurant meal, but the choices are limited: usually, it's a Mafia restaurant, and the husband spends much of his time exchanging gestures of mutual respect with fellow diners in his line of work.

Still, there is an upside to a Mafia wife's existence. For example, if Kim Gotti's husband rises to such prominence as her father-in-law has, she might find herself the mistress of a million-dollar mansion on Long Island or in Westchester. Of course, no Mafia husband is about to hire a domestic staff for fear that they might be undercover FBI agents. So, unfortunately, Kim Gotti will continue to do the cooking and cleaning herself.

As they say, some things never change.

#### **ABOUT MONEY**

# The City Can Bank on It

By Nicolaus Mills

and the chances are your bank isn't going to show much interest in giving you a business loan or mortgage. It's a familiar story, but over the

last few years, it has gotten worse. In a growing number of poor neighborhoods, you may not even have a bank — or be able to get a checking account elsewhere.

According to an investigative report released by State Sen. Franz S. Leichter (D-Manhattan), many banks have instituted distance requirements denying checking accounts to people who don't work or live within 10 blocks of the branch they want to use. The best you can hope for is a check-cashing storefront that won't charge too much to service your paycheck or social security.

The problem is one that New York City is now trying to tackle. This month the full force of new banking regulations goes into effect. These allow the city's Banking Commission, comprising the mayor, the comptroller and the commissioner of

Nicolaus Mills teaches

American studies at Sar-

ah Lawrence and is edit-

ing a book, "Culture in an

Age of Money: The Legacy

of the 1980s" (Ivan Dee).

finance, to wield New York's clout to bring about greater access to banking services and encourage investment in low-income areas.

Under the new regulations, in order to be designated eligible for city deposits a bank must, at a minimum,

do the following: 1) Score a Community Reinvestment Act rating of at least "3" (the lowest grade is "5") as determined by the State Banking Department; 2) Make sure that no more than 66 percent of its branch closings occur in poor areas; 3) Show it is adhering to all equal credit opportunity laws. In addition, for a designated bank then actually to be selected as a holder of city deposits, it must file a community service questionnaire reporting on such matters as its participation in city housing programs, its small business loans, and whether it provides bilingual tellers for branches in non-English-speaking neighborhoods.

Can the new rules make a difference? If we look at them purely in terms of their formal demands, there is reason to be skeptical — as many were at Banking Commission hearings held last December. It's almost impossible to score a Community Reinvestment Act rating worse than a "3." As the Rev. John Vaughn, chairman of the East Harlem Community Coalition for Fair Banking, recently observed, "You get a '3' for breathing." As for the 66 percent limit on bank closings in poor areas, Leichter has pointed out it is too little, too late. So many branches have already closed in poor neighborhoods that most banks can easily meet this threshold.

The real promise of the new bank regulations IVE IN THE WRONG section of New York lies in the opportunity they give the Banking Commission finally to select where the city deposits its money and, beyond that, in the chance they provide the Dinkins administration to turn the public spotlight on banks.

How a city can use its leverage to change the ways its banks do business is dramatically illustrated by Pittsburgh. Just as in New York, good housing stock in poor neighborhoods there was going to waste because people couldn't get mortgage money or home-repair loans. Last November, Sophie Masloff, Pittsburgh's septuagenarian mayor, made it clear that her administration was not going to let local banks continue to conduct business as usual.

"Our desire is not to encourage bad loans, but additional community reinvestment," she declared in a speech that was anything but grandmotherly. "There is no good reason why a creditworthy customer seeking to finance a \$20,000 home should be treated any less responsively than a creditworthy customer seeking to finance a \$100,000 home." The

mayor followed up her speech by calling in the presidents of Pittsburgh's five major banks and instructing her finance director to institute a 100-point rating system. Under the Pittsburgh system, a bank could earn up to 20 points for the quality of its ser-

vice, 30 points for the prices it charged depositors, and 50 points for its commitment to community investment.

As a result of Masloff's actions, Pittsburgh's major banks suddenly found themselves under intense public scrutiny. Not only that, but they were faced with a city government whose \$500 million a year in active deposits made it, in the words of Pittsburgh Finance Director Ben Hayllar, an "important customer." Five months later, the lending practices of Pittsburgh's banks have done a sharp turnaround. Today they are offering to creditworthy customers not only mortgage money but home-repair loans (as vital as a mortgage for a rundown house) that can be paid back as part of their mortgages.

There's good reason to believe that New York City, which in fiscal 1989 averaged daily bank deposits of \$192.8 million, can emulate Pittsburgh in turning around its banks. The key will be what officials do with their new powers and the media opportunities they present. The lack of coverage surrounding last December's bank designation hearings does not bode well, nor does the mayor's tardy withdrawal of his personal accounts from Manufacturers Hanover Trust, one of two American banks on the creditors' committee that negotiates South Africa's foreign debt. The bright side is that the Dinkins administration has every motive to treat the city's banking crisis the way it treated the recent Bronx social club fire — as a life-and-death neighborhood issue.

## LETTERS

#### Let Immigrants Breathe Free Advance Didn't Sink Them

Regarding the Viewpoints article by Jay Mazur, president of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, describing the negative results of the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 ["A Law Stacked Against Hispanics and Asians," April 17]: Mazur does not address the primary problem with IRCA — the difficult and ambiguous rules with which employers must comply in order to be "legitimate."

The vast majority of employers do comply with the law, maintain the required records and hire people who "look or sound foreign." The labor force is a tight marketplace and to reject individuals on the basis of their looks is not good business. The law must be repealed and something done about our current attitude toward immigrants.

Protectionist measures such as IRCA and "controlled" immigration are contrary to our heritage as a melting pot and deprive us of a valuable source of diligent new workers. Typically, these immigrants are willing to work in jobs that many Americans are not willing to do. With the looming shortage of entry-level workers, we can ill afford these attitudes.

> Gregory Chartier Ossining

Your business story of April 14 on the plight of Grove Weidenfeld erroneously implied that an advance to me of \$225,000 was part of the reason the publishing company went into debt ["Grove's Denouement"]. "Waverly Place," the first of my two books under contract to Grove, more than earned back the entire advance. I am astonished that your reporter did not have the decency or intelligence to check out this fact.

Susan Brownmiller Manhattan

#### Taking Money From the Kids

As a New York City teacher, I am outraged that the schools chancellor, a man who's supposed to be instrumental in turning our educational system around, is receiving a salary of \$195,000 and will be living in a million-dollar home, rent free!

In this city, there are classrooms without adequate books or supplies and with broken chairs and desks. There are bathrooms without functioning toilets. Many of these schools are not far from the chancellor's new home. Even more outrageous is the fact that many of the children attending our schools have no homes. The budget is too tight to provide our children with the bare necessities, but luxuries are easily come by. For shame, New York.

> Marjorie Cavanagh Richmond Hill

#### Only Themselves to Blame

Your April 3 editorial, which blames government and President George Bush for failing to respond to the AIDS crisis ["Has a Hurricane Hit New York?"], is ridiculous.

One always reads of people blaming everyone for the tragedy except the people who are really responsible: homosexuals and heterosexuals who don't practice safe sex and those who take

If a person were to develop cancer because he or she smokes cigarettes, would anyone blame the president of the United States? Other maladies that kill have been with us for a longer time than AIDS: cancer, heart problems, strokes, etc. When was the last time anyone wrote an editorial or introduced legislation into Congress calling for a greater federal response to these sicknesses?

> Kenneth Lloyd Brown Forest Hills

# THE DOUG MARLETTE EDITORIAL CARTOON



"REMEMBER WHEN THEY USED TO SEND US POVERTY PROGRAMS ...."

#### THE NEW YORK NEWSDAY INTERVIEW WITH BRUCE CUTLER

# He Says His Gotti Connection Is Platonic

Q. It's often said John Gotti enjoys his notoriety. Would he trade all the fame and press for obscurity if it meant never being prosecuted again?

A. Prosecutions don't really bother him. If his family's healthy, he's happy. The personal vendetta against him doesn't bother him as much as the utilization of RICO [Racketeer-Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act, the federal law that makes being organized to commit crimes a crime in itself] against other people of his lifestyle.

Q. Which is?

**A.** People who do not follow the regular 9-to-5 lifestyle. People who like to gamble, like to go out, like to stay out late. People who've been in trouble before, maybe been in jail before [as Gotti has, for hijacking and manslaughter]. The RICO statute was designed to go after 3,000 to 4,000 men in this country who the government says are in this so-called Mafia.

Q. Are you saying there is no Mafia?

A. When you answer that question, everybody is incredulous. Of course there is organized crime in America. But there is absolutely no evidence of what prosecutors call an Italian-American Mafia in America.

Q. You're right. People reading that answer are going to be incredulous.

A. They're incredulous because they read about the Mafia. They watch it on television. They see it in movies. Take this poor Mr. Castellano [alleged Gambino family chief Paul Castellano] who was killed. [Authorities reportedly suspect Gotti ordered the killing.] How many times have the newspapers said my client had something to do with this? He didn't. What's dangerous about [the allegations] is that most people now believe he did have something to do with it. He's never been accused of it, let alone gone to trial.

Q. When John Gotti is heard on a wiretap saying,



#### TOUGH GUY

A former Brooklyn assistant district attorney and law partner of Barry Slotnick, attorney Bruce Cutler has successfully defended John Gotti in three criminal trials over the last four years. David Berreby interviewed him for New York Newsday.

"Last night I was dying to tell 'em, 'What do youse think, you're a separate society, your own gang? Youse still a part of us, an integral part of us. You got orders and rules that bind you,' " is he referring to Arc Plumbing and Heating, where he's employed?

A. Let me tell you something. I have never said that Mr. Gotti was [just] a salesman for a plumbing supply company. There are times, when they

charge him with crimes, the FBI agent will list that as a place of employment. [But] he's not a \$25,000-a-year salesman. John has another business he's been working with in the garment center. He has other businesses as well.

Q. But what is he referring to on all those tapes?

A. [Those statements] are snippets of larger conversations taken out of context. The government puts their interpretation on those conversations.

Q. Socializing with Gotti as much as you do, you must be under government surveillance, too.

A. I assume so. I see what the government is capable of. There's a real lust there to put Mr. Gotti in jail. And there's a real lust out there on the part of the government to dissuade lawyers from vigorously representing people that law enforcement hates. They don't want to see Jimmy LaRossa [a lawyer who represented Castellano]. They don't want to see [Gerald] Shargel [who represented Gotti's co-defendant in the most recent trial]. They want [defendants] to have government-appointed lawyers. It's a deliberate campaign to chill vigorous representation.

Q. But it isn't just prosecutors who say you've come to resemble your client.

A. I went to private high school. I had all the luxuries that somebody that grew up dirt poor like Mr. Gotti could only dream of. People jokingly say [they've seen a] transmogrification. It's not. I'm the way I've always been. I do think that I have grown as a result of representing somebody whom law enforcement despises. My eyes have opened to what they're capable of.

Q. Have prosecutors really changed so much since you were an assistant DA in Brooklyn?

A. To me, it's night and day. Nowadays, there's an intransigence, a lack of realism, a lack of compas-

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# NY Newsday Interview: Bruce Cutler

— Continued from Page 73

sion. RICO has helped do it. It's given a sword to federal prosecutors to stab people and cut their throats without benefit of constitutional guarantees. Things like statutes of limitations, presumption of innocence, due process, trial by your peers, reasonable bail — they're all out the window now. Double jeopardy — you used to take it for granted that if you were acquitted, it was over. Now you can be acquitted in a state court, but [the alleged crime] is a "predicate act" named in a [federal] RICO indictment. [When I was prosecuting murders, if a DA used the word "Mafia" in court, it was a mistrial. "La Cosa Nostra?" Mistrial! Now, not only do they say it, but it's written in the indictment. And I don't want to be a chauvinist, but now when you go to a DA's office, some 80 percent [of the assistant DAs] are women, and most of them are more vicious and more unrealistic than the men.

Q. What makes you agree to take a guy's case?

A. There's a simpatico. There's a feeling that you want to help the person. There's a feeling that they're unjustly accused.

Q. But can't lawyers work hard for their clients without befriending them?

A. How do you represent somebody who's on trial and facing jail for the rest of his life, without being close to that person? The connotation the govern-

ment wants to put on it is that even though they never see Mr. Gotti do anything wrong, he's always breaking the law. Therefore, the lawyer who's around him is breaking the law, too. You cannot walk into a courtroom as a gladiator to do battle and please everybody. There are lawyers in New York who look down on their clients. They don't want to get dirty. They don't want to have lunch with the client. To me that's stealing somebody's money.

Q. If a defense lawyer is a gladiator, fighting for his client, why are you complaining that government lawyers are fighting tooth and nail for their client?

A. The prosecutor has no client. He has nobody sitting next to him facing 100 years in jail. He has nobody's wife who sits at home and waits for the verdict. It came out after the electricity had already gone through Sacco and Vanzetti that, hey, maybe they were framed. The government does these things, and if lawyers don't protect people, it's over.

Q. So you're going to be sharing space with Jimmy LaRossa?

A. Right. I'll have an office in his suite.

Q. So I guess he doesn't think your client killed his client?

A. Jimmy represented Mr. Castellano for years as a great lawyer, as a friend, but he's of my mindset, of course. Mr. Gotti had nothing to do with this.

#### ART BUCHWALD

# 10 Questions That America Needs to Ask

T'S TIME for another mail call. As you will note, I have only answered questions that were accompanied by a self-addressed envelope.

I read where Ivana Trump cannot go out on dates without Donald. If I take her out, do I have to pay!

No. Under the terms of the agreement, Mr. Trump must pick up the tab.

How much time can you get if you stick up a savings and loan bank with a gun?

Anywhere from 10 to 20 years, depending on the judge.

How much can you get if you were an S&L president who ran off with all the money?

You can get one year on the beach in Rio de Janeiro, six months on the ski slopes in St. Moritz or three months at the Hotel de Paris in Monte Carlo — breakfast included.

I thought that the Stealth bomber was supposed to be a secret, but details about it were given to Congress. If it is no longer a secret, why are we still building it?

The Pentagon will not answer that because it is the only secret they have left.

Does Margaret Thatcher tell her own jokes or does somebody write them for her?

Thatcher tells her own jokes, which is why the people love her so much. Her last one about the poll tax broke up the population for days.

Why do the French think Libyan leader Gad-

hafi is peachy keen? Because Gadhafi arranged for the return of two hostages and a baby who had been kept by terrorists for three years. To show their gratitude, the French gave Gadhafi Chad, three French jets, an oil tanker filled with French perfume and a promise of the Legion of Honor if he didn't blow up any French embassies.

Andy Warhol said that everybody should be famous for 15 minutes. When is Louis Farrakhan's time up?

It's up.

Is Mayor Marion Barry of Washington a good mayor with a bad habit or a bad mayor with a bad habit?

Mayor Barry is trying to rid himself of his bad habits and stress his good ones. A good Mayor Barry would be wonderful for Washington, but a bad Mayor Barry would not be any better than the one we have now.

Will Michael Milken learn a trade if he is sent

to prison?

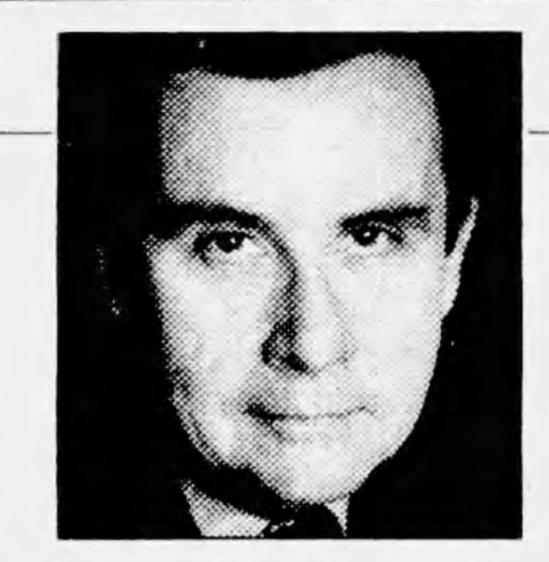
Speculation has it that Milken will be assigned to either turn junk bonds into license plates or license plates into junk bonds whichever the state needs more of at the time.

I saw Marla Maples on the Diane Sawyer show and she looked like a very nice person. I couldn't believe she would break up Ivana's family, steal Donald's affections and tell the New York Post that Trump was the best sex she ever had.

If you had listened closely, you'd have realized she did not break up a home or steal Donald's affections. Friends say that she just happened to be the right woman in the right place at the right time. As for saying that Trump was the best sex she ever had - New Jersey women say that about rich men all the time. Even ladies who don't know Donald Trump tell it to their friends just to liven up their luncheon conversation.

#### WILLIAM PFAFF

# Consumer Envy Didn't Put the Cold War on Ice



WO FALSE conclusions commonly are drawn about what happened during 1989 in Eastern Europe. The first says that it was a "consumerist" revolution, driven by people's longing to possess prosperity and the consumer riches of the West.

The second — Zbigniew Brzezinski is the latest to claim it, speaking last week to a gathering of Democrats in Washington — says that "the United States has won the Cold War." The first has some truth in it, but a minor and subsidiary truth. The second has no truth in it at all.

and predictability in East-West relations. Washington had not only accepted the Soviet Union's domination of Eastern Europe for more than 30 years but, at the cost of a not inconsiderable hypocrisy, had contributed to maintaining it.

Think back. In 1952 General Dwight Eisenhower and his future Secretary of State, John Foster Dulles, successfully campaigned against President Harry S Truman, charging the Truman Administration with passivity in the face of Communism's challenge and promising to substitute a program for Communism's "rollback."

A year later the new president and his secretary of state witnessed a revolutionary uprising by the workers of East Berlin, then a Soviet occupation zone. The United States did nothing to interfere with Soviet suppression of that uprising.

Three years later the people of Hungary conducted a spectacularly brave and successful uprising against their Communist government. The United States did nothing to help the Hungarian revolutionary government.

"Rollback" thus proved an empty promise, a fraud. Afterward, the policy of successive American governments was not only to acknowledge Soviet hegemony in Eastern Europe but to lend support to its stabilization and regularization — to promote a "more organic" Soviet relationship with its satellites, to cite a phrase made notorious during Henry Kissinger's custodianship of American foreign policy.

One cannot say that the policy actually followed by Washington was irresponsible or unconsidered. It was perhaps an inevitable policy, given the circumstances of the times and the political climate in the West. However one must challenge the hypocrisy which claims that the United States "won" the Cold War.

The United States made just two serious contri-The upheavals taking place threatened stability butions to winning that war. The CIA invented and initially sponsored Radio Free Europe, and RFE made an essential contribution to the collapse of Soviet power in Eastern Europe.

The United States also spent enormous amounts of money on arms. The challenge of U.S. military spending certainly contributed to the crisis in the Soviet system that emerged in the late 1980s. However the causes of that crisis were much more complex than mere budget overstrain.

The argument that East Europeans were deathly tired of penury and longed for prosperity is certainly true. But to assume that a mere desire for Western consumer goods provided the main motivation for what happened is as mistaken as it is condescending. The people of the East European nations rose against tyrannical power because they wanted freedom. They wanted their nations' independence given back. They wanted to rejoin Europe — rejoin the world.

The implied assumption of those who describe what happened as a consumerist revolution is that the dominant materialism of the contemporary West has become the human norm. This is not so. A heartening message of the revolutions of 1989 is that men do have higher values than material values, and on great occasions can soar above selfinterest and greed.

#### TOMORROW IN **NEW YORK NEWSDAY'S EDITORIAL PAGES**

In the Opinion of F. WARREN BENTON



The corrections expert says that doublebunking prisoners carries a high price in added staff and the risks of strife.

 Banning categories of donors won't protect the blood supply.

• With cartoonist Marlette you get the big picture.