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The University of Dayton

FOUNDER OF GUARDIAN ANGELS
TO SPEAK ON "CRIME IN AMERICA"

News Release

DAYTON, Ohio, January 31, 1985 -- Curtis Sliwa, founder of the Guardian Angels, will give a speech entitled "Crime in America: Is Bernhard Goetz a Hero?" in the University of Dayton's Kennedy Union Ballroom on Tuesday, February 5, at 8 p.m. The lecture is being sponsored by the University of Dayton Student Association.

The Guardian Angels is an organization made up primarily of young people, who, unarmed, patrol subways and streets in high-crime areas in 46 cities across the country, including Miami, Boston, Los Angeles, and New York City, where the group was founded.

Sliwa, a native of Brooklyn, had a history of public service before founding the Guardian Angels. In 1970, while delivering the morning newspaper, Sliwa pulled an entire family from a burning house, and while managing a McDonald's restaurant in the South Bronx in 1979, he organized the teenagers who frequented the restaurant to clean up the neighborhood. Soon after, he formed the Magnificent 13 -- a forerunner of the Guardian Angels -- to deter criminals in New York's subways.

The Guardian Angels have created controversy and drawn publicity for their patrols, which some claim is a "vigilante" action. Controversy, however, is not new to Sliwa. Two months before he was to graduate from a prestigious New York prep school, Sliwa, an honor student and president of the school's student government, was expelled for dress code violations.

Sliwa has spoken out on the case of Bernhard Goetz, who was arrested last month. Goetz is said to have shot four black youths on a subway train after they allegedly demanded \$5 from Goetz.

Sliwa's lecture is free and open to the public. For more information call 229-4444.

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