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The University of Dayton

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

News Release

DAYTON, Ohio, February 11, 1988--Curtis Sliwa, founder of the Guardian Angels, will speak on crime in America and how people should get more involved in crime prevention. The lecture, which is free and open to the public, is in the University of Dayton's Kennedy Union Ballroom on Thursday, Feb. 25 at 8 p.m. and is sponsored by UD's Student Government Association.

The Guardian Angels is a crime-fighting organization made up primarily of young people who patrol subways and streets in high-crime areas in more than 60 cities across the country, including Miami, Boston, Los Angeles and New York City, where the group was founded in 1979. They do not carry weapons.

Sliwa, a Brooklyn native, had a history of public service before founding the Guardian Angels. 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 group to deter criminals from New York's subways, also a forerunner to the Guardian Angels.

The Guardian Angels have drawn publicity for what some claim is "vigilante" action. At a recent lecture at the University of Kentucky, Sliwa said that police often make people feel that just mentioning the phrase "citizen's arrest" is a vigilante act.

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 Bernard Goetz, who was arrested in December 1984 for shooting four black youths on a subway train after they allegedly demanded \$5 from him.

For more information, call UD's Student Government Association at 229-4444.

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