

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR OF *THE NEW YORKER*

THE FINE PRINT CONTINUED

Kimberly Ryan: Self-described rock 'n' roll singer slashed the face of model Fontaine with stem of broken champagne glass

5 years' probation, community service, undisclosed reparations

Dr. Lawrence Barton: Dentist discriminated against AIDS patients by directing dentist John Wolf, who sublet space from him, to limit treatment of AIDS patients

\$15,000 fine, to be paid to Dr. Wolf¹¹

Adrienne Brown: James Brown's wife convicted of possession of PCP

Fined \$330

Bess Myerson: Convicted of Shoplifting

\$100 fine, \$48.50 in court costs

Gary Stollman: Forced consumer reporter David Horowitz, at the point of a (toy) gun, to read on television a statement about space aliens and the CIA

3 years' probation

David Sanders: Peoria man telephoned women and requested their panties, succeeded at least 50 times

Fined \$500, ordered to undergo psychiatric treatment

22 employees of New York collections agency: Convicted of the felony —after copping a plea—of skimming thousands, perhaps millions, of dollars from city parking meters

Have a record but no time, no suspended sentences, no probation—nothing¹²

SPY periodically publishes *Letters to the Editor* of The New Yorker because The New Yorker doesn't. Still. Address correspondence to "Dear Bob," c/o SPY, The Puck Building, 295 Lafayette Street, New York, N.Y. 10012.

DEAR MR. SHAWN,

I haven't enjoyed a blessed thing in your book since that magnificent five-parter in 1984-5 on corn, potatoes, wheat, rice and soybeans. What's up?

William Giese
Chevy Chase, Maryland

"Mr. Shawn"? He probably took all the agricultural five-parters with him when he left.

DEAR BOB:

I'm confused. From a review of *The World According to Me!* in your December 21, 1987, issue: "Jackie Mason's material consists almost entirely of outrageous insults addressed to Jews, Italians, Poles,

Puerto Ricans, and Wasps. For more than thirty years, Mason's audience—that is, his victims—have found him hilarious, and the sorry truth of the matter is that he is hilarious."

From a Profile of Mason in your September 19, 1988, issue, describing the same show: "He is rarely tasteless or cruel; he is a gentle comedian. . . ."

Which reminds me: when was the last time one of your Profiles said anything seriously critical about its subject?

Seth Roberts
Berkeley, California

Well, is the material in the grand comic tradition, or is it just old? Depends on who you are. In this instance the review was written by Brendan Gill, the profile by Whitney Balliett. Also, you don't actually need to go back very far at all to find something "seriously critical": in Berton Roueché's October 21, 1985, Profile of Portland, Oregon, he writes, "Traffic in Portland is neither heavy nor notably light." Take that, Portland! ☺

WHAT IF YOUR MOTHER WENT TO LOS ANGELES FOR TV-PILOT SEASON?

WEEK 1 Mom seizes opportunity during callback with Jason Bateman to remind him not to forget Justine's birthday.

WEEK 2 Mom admonishes casting director to repeat cue without mouth full.

WEEK 3 Mom sends her head shot to Edward Woodward's people in attempt to get on *The Equalizer*.



WEEK 4 Mom embarrasses you by asking Nipsey Russell if he is related to Bertrand.

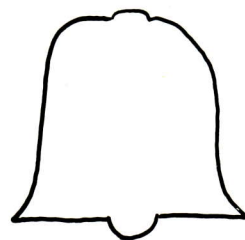
WEEK 5 Mom gets a guest-star spot on an action-adventure show but is unable to remember the name of the program.

WEEK 6 Negotiations grind to a halt when Mom's agent discovers that Mom has been listening in on the upstairs extension.

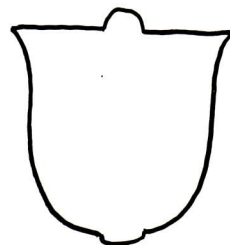
WEEK 7 Mom is forced to work evening shift at nearby Taco Bell.

—Henry Alford

KNOW YOUR CHRISTMAS COOKIES



Bell



Mahalia Jackson

O'Donnell

¹¹The Northern Dispensary, in Greenwich Village, was found guilty of discriminating against AIDS patients, was ordered to pay a fine of \$47,000 to two men who had been refused treatment and to post a notice that it does not discriminate against AIDS patients.

¹²A 23rd employee—the first to cop a plea—received five years' probation. Several other cases are pending.