

GIVEN 1 TO 20 YEARS

Richard Convicted!

Second year student Jack Richard was found guilty of burglary and larceny in a mock trial held in Speech 301 this past Saturday. Judge Gary Shapira, an attorney-at-law with the Erie firm of Juliante and Kelleher, said that defense lawyers had failed to contest the evidence essential to the prosecution's case, and that judicial prerogative permitted his finding for the State.

Following the trial, Speech instructor John Spielmann suggested that the most important lesson learned by students participating in the case was that justice in human affairs does not depend solely upon truth. Spielmann indicated that Richard was actually innocent, and that a miscarriage of justice occurred, and can easily happen in human affairs whenever truth is not cloaked in the garb of eggettive rhetoric. Mr. Richard commented, "I was robbed."

Jack may have been framed, but he faced a prosecution who honestly and at times effectively presented the State's case. Under questioning by Bill Ghisholm, Arnie Caldwell, Cheryl Ott, and Mike Adams, the plausibility of Jack's guilt unfolded step by step. Sue Peterson testified that Jack entered her room on the eve of January 23rd and made off with a valuable art print. Other prosecution testimony established the circumstances necessary to the commission of the alleged crime.

The defense concentrated on a running refutation attack designed to weaken each step of the prosecution's case. Jack's good character was attested to by Fr.

Moynihan, campus spiritual director. The time element surrounding the crime was shown to be less clear than alleged by the District Attorney, and the feasibility of other routes to the crime's location, and the possibility of there being other criminals, were alluded to. Finally, Public Defenders Art Hannah and Steve Winger got a somewhat-less-than-believable witness, Bill Thomas, to testify that Jack was in Turnbull Hall around the time the crime supposedly occurred. Richard was not called to testify in his own behalf.

Prior to closing arguments by each side, Judge Shapira revealed his surprising decision for conviction. Later, jurors such as history professor Stephen Cohen and student Chuck Deitsch indicated that a jury might have been more receptive to defense arguments than was Mr. Shapira. However, no appeal is being planned.

Forensic Union President Mike

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