

mom-and-pop store," as if it makes any difference if someone's son or daughter is shot while delivering pizza for a rich multinational corporation or Chubby's.

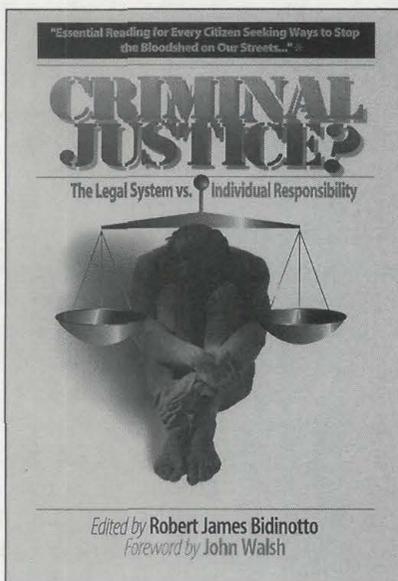
As it now stands, one government agency can fine a restaurant owner for not being careful enough if a young kitchen worker simply picks up a grinder part and places it in an automatic dishwasher, while on the same day another government agency can fine the same owner if he's overly careful about sending the same employee out on an unsafe delivery.

When cases like Pizza Hut's wind up in court, the business can be fined for discrimination for not sending drivers to certain areas or, conversely, fined for sending drivers to unsafe areas. At the Blue Coat Inn in Dover, Delaware, a waitress sued her employer for "inadequate security" after she was abducted from her car in the restaurant's parking lot, then raped and robbed. The Inn routinely provided escorts for waitresses to their cars, and on this night a busboy accom-

panied the waitress to her car. After the busboy returned to the restaurant, the criminal gained entry to the car through the waitress' open window as she sat in the car counting her tips. The Delaware Supreme Court upheld the \$600,000 verdict against the restaurant.

As I'm writing this, the local news is reporting that a bus passenger was shot behind the ear in Homewood, a poor African-American neighborhood. During the morning rush hour, in broad daylight, the bus was caught in a crossfire from two pistols and a shotgun.

What's needed here is an attack on crime, not an attack on businesses that are fed up with dodging bullets. Rather than telling pizza shops how to run their businesses, the first task of Pittsburgh's public officials should be to worry about their own job performance. That begins with making the streets safe enough so that people—black or white—aren't afraid to ride a bus or deliver a pizza. □



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