

That's it now, Alan. Adios.



TWO MUSES must claim special culpability for pushing the tendencies of the young Fly towards the Bar. One was *Petrocelli*. To the very, very young Fly, this guy was not cheesy; he was super-cool. The other was *Best Defense*. This was a book. By Alan Dershowitz. It contained the best argument for getting youngsters to learn how defending the despicable could actually be a noble thing to do, and why.

Given the rather special status for Fly of *Best Defense*, Fly always treated its author with a healthy dose of Thomas Aquinas' charity principle. Even when his treatise on *Bush v Gore* (*Supreme Injustice: How the American Supreme Court Hijacked Election 2000*) struck Fly as a rather shrill modern version of Cicero's *Pro Caelio* – "look, here is the argument I wanted to make famously, but nobody cared to listen." Even when he presented tricks amounting to deception of the court as clever and laudable defence tactics (oh, these Americans). Even, but with increasing unease, when he produced the flabbergasting fruits of countless hours of research in an ardent monograph explaining why the *Torture Warrants* was to be given a fair shake as a means to fighting crime in a world where there just were too many Muslims that Good Americans Ought to Hate, Maim and Kill (*The Case for Torture Warrants*).

But then came the Oscar show. And quoth Dershowitz: "This South Africa is a lawless country. It is a country with deep, deep racial divisions and problems we wish had disappeared because we all love Mandela."

THE SECOND proposition was true if not entirely insightful. The third was platitude delivered in a tone that oozed smarm. The first was at best alarmist and extreme exaggeration, but, when served up as comment on what the world had been shown of our legal system, nothing but pernicious rot.



Alan Dershowitz: "This South Africa is a lawless country ..."

But it got better (better even than the *Torture Warrants*):

"Now whether this judge is willing to give credence to the fact that a white person living in a white area would be in fear for his life, hearing somebody crawling through his bathroom window, fearing black intruders ... whether or not this judge is willing to find that, I don't know. But that's what this case will come down to. It's racial, that's factual – it's got nothing to do with the law."

Fly HAS BEEN learning a lot about Twitter lingo. He understands the expression is WTF!?? Apparently one may add Fs, if it helps. Fly doesn't know if it helps. But it feels right here. FFFFF.

Fly and all his siblings have seen and heard unprecedented levels of

humbug and hogwash being spouted by unprecedented numbers of people relating to what has been happening in a room in Madiba neé Vermeulen Street. But surely, oh verily, this takes the proverbial cake. This steals the whole home industry. This instantly turns the bottom of the heart of the scrape of the barrel into the modern Pandectists, the Glossators, nay, Gaius and flippin' Justinian.

And it is this feature of this surreal drivel that appeals to Fly's Pollyanna nature. There is exquisite justice in the fact that the prize (so far, Fly hastens to add: one must never underestimate humanity's capacity for idiocy) for the most inane comment, the most cringe-worthy bigotry and ignorance, should stem, not from us and ours, but from this *pontifex Americanus*. Thanks Alan for making our worst idiots look so good. And insightful. We can never, ever, after all of this is over, be half as funny as you were. Or a quarter as pig-headed.

And what now of Thomas Aquinas and his charity for the author of Fly's beloved *Best Defense*? Fly is afraid there's none left. That's it now, Alan. Adios. **A**

Legal Crossword Number 22 Answers



- Down** (reading from left to right)
1. High Speed Internet Access (BROADBAND)
 2. Thief (PURLOINER)
 3. A licence by virtue of another (SUBLICENSE)
 4. To deceive (CON)
 5. To employ in environmentally friendly way (REUTILISE)

- Across** (reading from top to bottom)
1. To caucus profoundly (BRAINSTORM)
 2. Severe censure (OPPROBRIUM)
 3. What courts say they do to clashing rights (BALANCE)
 4. What courts do in term (SIT)
 5. What overzealous litigants wish to do to their opponents (NAIL)
 6. What holders of security do to enforce their security (PERFECT)