

DAILY NEWS

\$1.00

NEW YORK'S PICTURE NEWSPAPER®

Sunday, February 18, 1990

ANOTHER DAY, ANOTHER 71¢

SHEILA ANNE FEENEY

Maybe Richard Serra could help make the piece more abstract:

An 18-foot sculpture commissioned for a Columbia, Md., office building is being removed and sent back to the building's owner, Principal Financial Group, in Des Moines. Seems that the sophisticated Eastern Seaboarders weren't ready for sculptor Ed Massey's vision of the "Corporate Ladder," which depicts a middle-aged white guy in a suit holding a briefcase. Below him is a white woman, holding his papers, and farther down still, a black man in a business suit, and a white mailroom clerk. At the top gloats an old, smiling, near-bald white guy. Commercial tenants complained that the sculpture was offensive. "The people who find this most troubling are those who realize their position in the hierarchy," says Massey of his massive social commentary. The West Harlem artist is now working on a huge piece depicting a drug dealer "for myself."