



Erik Jacobs/The New York Times

**Liberté, Égalité, Fraternité — and Water**

Bob Blumer, a waiter at Les Halles, a brasserie on John Street in Lower Manhattan, was doused with water yesterday after coming in first in the waiters/waitresses race that was part of the French Independence Day

celebration. The point was to run two blocks carrying a tray with a bottle of water and a full glass of water and to arrive at the finish line with all the water in the glass. Mr. Blumer ultimately lost because of spillage.