

## NEIGHBOHOOD BRIEFS

### Bar dean

Neil T. Shayne, a leading Long Island trial lawyer, was appointed Tuesday as dean of the Nassau County Bar Association's program of Continuing Law Education. The program offers specialty courses to keep lawyers on their toes.

### Mail-order biz

A one-session workshop, "How to Begin a Professional Mail-Order Business," sponsored by the Bellmore-Merrick Adult Education Program, will be held March 26 at 7 p.m. at Brookside Junior High School. The fee is \$20. For information, call 623-8900.

### Fashion show

The Sunrise East Chapter of the American Business Women's Association will hold a Spring Fashion Show March 19 at 7 p.m. in the Coral House, Baldwin. Proceeds will go to scholarships for women currently attending college. For information, call 561-8118 or 295-4469.

### Seek volunteers

The Long Island Multiple Sclerosis Chapter is looking for volunteers for clerical assistance and fundraising, as well as doctors and nurses, members of Advisory Boards, and visitors to the homebound. The chapter also needs help in writing, transportation, and general office work. For information, call 421-3857.

### Antique auction

The restoration committee for W.K. Vanderbilt's Idle Hour will hold its spring consignment auction of antiques and collectibles March 21. There will be more than 100 articles; admission is \$1. For information, call 589-2713.

### Hodgkins talk

The Hodgkins Disease and Lymphoma Organization will hold an open meeting today at 8 p.m. in Room 107 at the Nassau County Medical Center, East Meadow. A senior social worker will discuss, "Dealing with the Emotional Difficulties of Chronic Illness." For information, call 667-7517.

## Major league pal



**METS CATCHER** Gary Carter takes time out from spring training to cuddle a pup at the North Shore Animal League shelter. For adoption information call 516-883-7575.

# Murphy trial could be a sitcom plot

By **JERRY CASSIDY**

Daily News Staff Writer

The Eddie Murphy trial is becoming more and more like the Eddie Murphy Show, and it may be a long-running one if the first week is any indication.

So far, the plaintiff in the case, Irving (King) Broder, who claims he has a valid contract with the television and movie star, has the stage, but Murphy has the spotlight.

Broder, the only witness to testify so far, contends that Murphy owes him \$30 million, which translates into one quarter of Murphy's four-year earnings.

"The reports of my income have been grossly overrated," said Murphy.

But as Broder seems to have trouble remembering his lines on the witness stand—his most frequent answer is, "I don't remember"—Murphy has been upstaging him during the recesses.

Yesterday, Murphy spent his morning sketching the CBS-TV trial artist Jane Rosenberg.

### Art critic

"Yesterday (Tuesday) you made me look too fat," Murphy told her. "You made me look like a football player."

Then Murphy took her chalk and proceeded to improve on yesterday's sketch. "The eyebrows should be darker," said Murphy, darkening the brows, "and I have more hair on top," he added, chalking in more hair in the sketch.

"Everyone is an art critic," said Rosenberg with a laugh, but then she asked the comedian to autograph the line sketch he had done of her.

Murphy took center stage at the lunch break, too, telling reporters that the trial is a nuisance. "I have to get up at 7 a.m. every morning and make the trip from Engewood, N.J. I'm paying more in legal fees than it would have cost me to settle with Broder, but it is a matter of principle. He's just rolling the dice," he said.

## \$1½M in 'Bolshoi' bargain

By **EDWARD KIRKMAN**

Daily News Staff Writer

The combined coffers of Nassau and Suffolk Counties are \$1.5 million richer today, thanks to admissions by a ringleader of the "Bolshoi Bootlegger Band"—a group of Russian immigrants who, aided by the Mafia, have defrauded the state and government out of hundreds of millions of dollars in gasoline taxes, according to District Attorney Patrick Henry.

To help pay the Long Island fines and another \$1.75 million to the federal government, the Bolshoi boss, David Bogatin, 41, of 104 Amherst St., Brooklyn, will give the agencies a \$5 million mortgage on his five Trump Tower condominiums, valued at nearly \$6 million.

The financial bonanza for the island came as a result of a plea-bargaining session between Bogatin, who has been in this country for 10 years, and assorted state, local, and federal law-enforcement agencies. In addition to the fines, Bogatin will receive concurrent 2½-to-8-year state

and 5-year federal prison terms.

Bogatin, according to Assistant District Attorney Ray Jermyn, the deputy chief of Henry's Rackets Bureau, is a member of a criminal consortium who allegedly skim vast sums of money off bogus gasoline sales.

The group includes many recent Russian immigrants, including three men indicted last July by Henry's office for allegedly skimming \$16.5 million in federal and state petrol taxes. That group, as did Bogatin, had a Mafia partner who protected their operation from others seeking to take it over.

Bogatin's protector, according to Jermyn, was Michael Franzese, 35, of Roslyn, the son of John (Sonny) Franzese, a long-time captain in the Joe Colombo Mafia Family. The younger Franzese recently pled guilty to federal racketeering charges and is now serving a 10-year prison term on Terminal Island, Calif.

Bogatin's operation, according to State Attorney General Robert Abrams and

State Tax Commissioner Roderick Chu, was complex and effective.

The gas-tax skimmers set up a series of dummy firms through something called "Shoppers Marketing, Inc." of Brooklyn. Acting as president of the firm was a Polish house painter who spoke little English. A series of paper transactions were begun reportedly for the sale of 15 million gallons of gas, which in reality, never moved from its storage tanks. Papers from the dummy firms, however, duly recorded that taxes were paid on the non-existent transaction.

"In that way, the consortium was able to keep the funds allegedly spent on taxes and then undercut legitimate dealers by as much as \$.10 cents a gallon."

As a means to stop gas-tax scamming, a new law making the first person importing gasoline liable for all taxes has now been put on the books. Upon adoption of the law, gasoline taxes increased \$160 million annually, Chu said.

Asked his impression of Broder back in 1977 when they first met, Murphy replied, "It was one of those old movies where this guy with a big cigar tells the kid, 'I'm going to make a big star out of you.'"

"If that's how he feels, he's entitled to his opinion," said Broder about the dice remark.

Murphy said he recently finished filming the sequel to Beverly Hills Cops—he just got in from L.A. last week—and added that he is anxious to testify in this trial.

"I can't wait to get up on the stand," said the comic. "I can't wait to have my say."

Murphy was asked if he was friendly with Broder back in the late 1970s.

"Oh sure, we were a friends. A 16-year-old black kid from Roosevelt and a 57-year-old Jewish guy from Woodmere."

"It sounds like a bad TV script. The mother asks, 'Where are you going, son?' and the kid answers, 'I'm going up to Woodmere to hang out with Irving. We're going to hang out.'"