

Police a real drag on racers

By JAMES PETERS and DON GENTILE

Daily News Staff Writers

Drag racers face prosecution and loss of their cars if their reckless behavior continues on a Queens roadway where a college student died when he crashed his speeding car after an irate resident allegedly soaked the strip with oil.

"It's a drastic measure, but something has to be done," Police Capt. John Laffey, commander of the Flushing stationhouse, said yesterday. Laffey said the intense police effort is aimed at stopping drag racing in Whitestone and Flushing on Francis Lewis Blvd. between Northern Blvd. and the Cross Island Parkway.

Radar guns

Additional cops with radar guns will be stationed along the strip, he said.

If a driver is caught speeding and is found to be ignoring traffic controls and threatening pedestrians, a charge of reckless endangerment can be lodged, Laffey said. Under state law, the car can be impounded.

"With this program, we hope to end this irresponsible drag racing," said Stavisky, "and put an end to vigilante action by those who take the law into their own hands."

Stavisky was referring to Andrew Romano, 58, an insurance broker who was charged last week with the killing of Ken Miret, 20, a student at St. John's University.

On Nov. 3, Romano, bothered by the constant drag racing near his home on 25th Ave., allegedly poured motor oil on Francis Lewis Blvd. just before Miret and another driver raced down the strip.

Miret, the brother of a Queens assistant district attorney, was killed when his car skidded out of control and struck a tree.

Wind, sleet & snow frost the Big Apple

By RUBEN ROSARIO

Daily News Staff Writer

The first storm of the season greeted the city yesterday with a wind-whipped frenzy of snow and freezing rain that turned Veterans Day into a slushy mess for motorists and pedestrians alike.

The storm was expected to dump about 2 inches of snow in the city overnight before giving way to clearer skies and temperatures near the 40-degree mark later today.

A picturesque sprinkling of giant snowflakes began falling yesterday afternoon, hours after wind-driven sleet pounded city roads and caused massive traffic tieups.

Bridges closed

Ice patches and multi-car collisions forced the closing of two city bridges and portions of the Major Deegan, Bruckner Boulevard and Cross-Bronx Expressway in the Bronx within a one-hour span yesterday morning.

Nowhere was the going rougher for motorists than at the ice-covered Triborough Bridge, city officials reported.

A breakdown in salt spreading equipment followed by a minor five-car collision forced officials to close the bridge in both directions for nearly three hours.

The traffic overflows led to backups at the Queens Midtown Tunnel and the 59th St. Bridge, which was also closed to traffic for a brief period.

"The weather we got was in some respects worse than getting hit with a major snowstorm," said Samuel Schwartz, the city's deputy transportation commissioner.

More than 80 traffic agents were called in on their day off to handle the traffic jams.



THIS THE SEASON of snow, as Leslie Sherry (l.) of Biloxi, Miss., and Mary Mavar, formerly of Biloxi and a New Yorker now, found out shopping yesterday. DAVID HANDSCHUN DAILY NEWS

U.S. banking on real prison movie

By DANIEL HAYS

Daily News Staff Writer

Michael Franzese, the imprisoned movie mogul mobster, is planning a Hollywood film deal to help raise the \$14.7 million he owes the government, his attorney said yesterday.

Franzese, 36, the stepson of reputed Colombo crime family underboss John (Sonny) Franzese, agreed to pay \$14,748,112 in fines and forfeitures in July 1986 after pleading guilty to racketeering charges.

But authorities say he hasn't paid a penny yet.

Beverly Hills lawyer Bruce Kelton, however, says Franzese is negotiating a deal that would allow him to repay his debt from Terminal Island federal penitentiary in California.

Kelton said Franzese is discussing a film concept with unnamed producers and directors and "there is very serious interest in locking up an agreement."

He said he could not explain what the movie would

be about, nor would he identify the prospective producers. "Speculating is going to hurt the project," he said.

Brooklyn Assistant U.S. Attorney Kathleen Haggerty, who has discussed a repayment deal with Kelton, said she believes the movie "will be a fictional account of Michael's life story."

Franzese, serving a 10-year sentence, has produced "Mausoleum," "Night of the Zombies" and "Savage Streets," among other films.

The former Brookville,

L.I., resident, was charged in sophisticated schemes including using his movie companies to launder \$1.5 million in illicit funds.

As part of his plea, he turned over the rights to his movie on youth gangs, "Knights of the City." But the film bombed and Haggerty said the government probably won't see any cash.

"We're skeptical but we want to get paid," Haggerty said of Franzese's latest movie plan. "We'd be happy to take his money."



Michael Franzese