

By Michael Fleming, Karen Freifeld and Linda Stasi



AP Photo  
Phyllis Diller: Many talents.

### Move Over, Picasso

**DILLER DATA:** Are you ready for this? Phyllis Diller's about to become a movie queen of sorts. She's just completed a movie called "Boneyard," and yes, it's a monster flick. In it, she plays the night receptionist in a morgue, and no, it's not a comedy. Truth is indeed stranger than fiction. When she's not performing in a movie she's producing one, apparently. She's about to go into production on a western called "The Last Posse." And if that's not enough, she's also launching a painting career. She says she does faces (not portraits, but made-up faces) that are line drawings. "Like Picasso line drawings." Pablo would be glad to know his art didn't die when he did. . . . **MURPHY'S LAW:** When Eddie Murphy speaks, people laugh and also queue up to pay for those laughs. This month he starts shooting "48 Hours II" with Nick Nolte. Not that anyone's particularly worried about any film he's in making money. "Harlem Nights," which opened to some reviews that would have caused a lesser man to drink glass, did in fact rake in \$16 million in its first three days.

### Quits Mob, Lives To Write About It

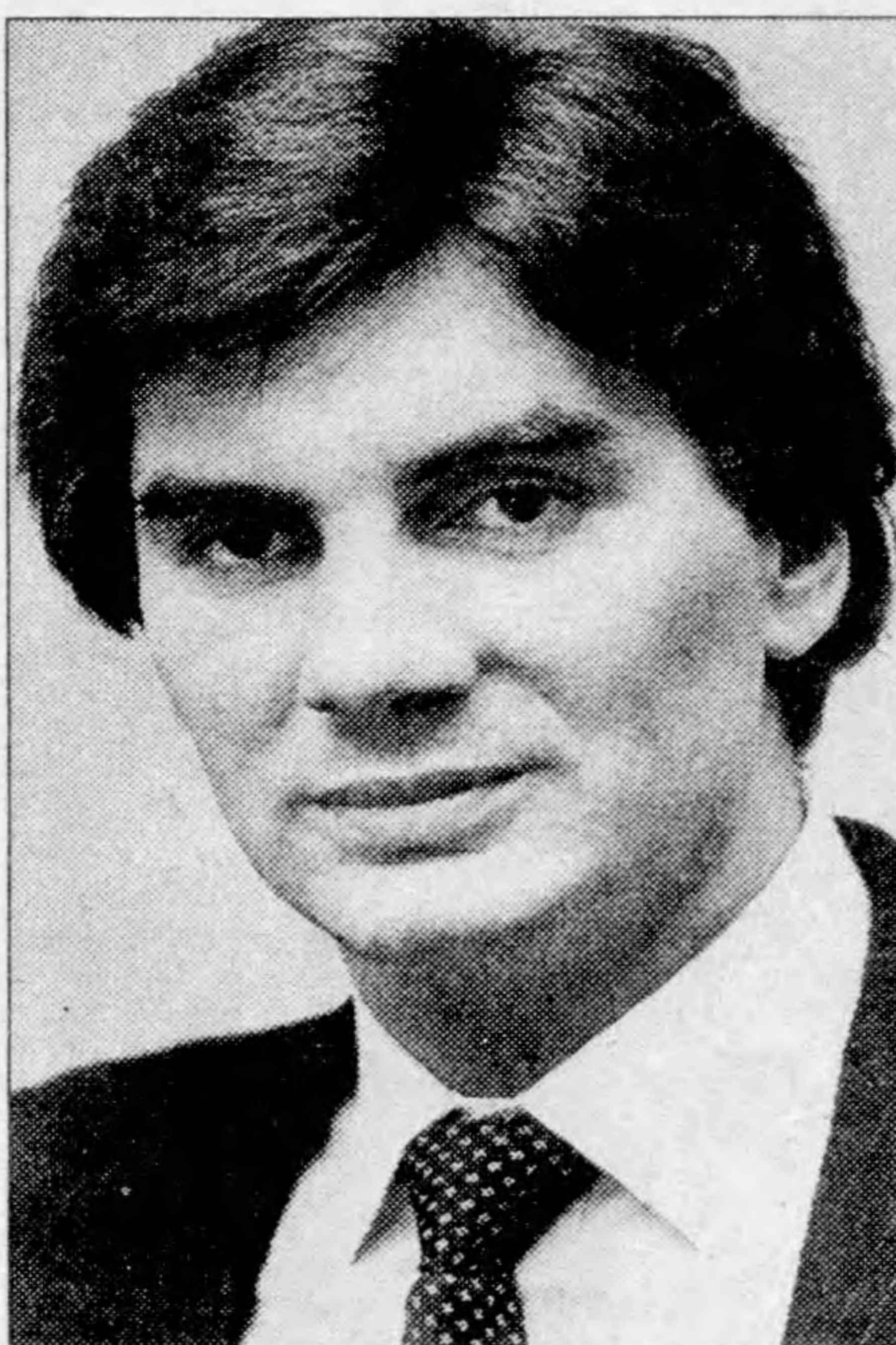
What's a don to do when he leaves the mob and moves to Beverly Hills? Write his memoirs — his very dangerous memoirs, and then sell them for big bucks, that's what. We've learned that Michael Franzese, dubbed the Yuppie Don and named by Fortune magazine as one of the 50 most important Mafia bosses, has just signed an agreement with Harper & Row to put pen to paper and tell — if not all — then a lot.

Although it's understood that it generally isn't good for one's health or limbs to leave a career in the high paying fast-paced world of organized crime, Franzese had a worse threat: his wife Cammy Garcia. She was supposed to have made him an offer he couldn't refuse: either he could find a legit business or find a way to live without her. So, Michael, stepson of reputed crime enforcer Sonny Franzese and heir apparent to the Colombo crime family, cut a deal with authorities to pay back millions without disappearing into the witness protection program. His book, "Quitting The Mob," will discuss his life and how he brought modern biz techniques to the big biz of crime. Seeing how he's the only living don to quit (quite something at the ripe old age of 36) the book should jump to the top of the lists as soon as it's published. His co-writer, Dary Matera, is the hotshot writer who wrote the current, well-received, "Get Me Ellis Rubin" as well as the best-selling "Are You Lonesome Tonight?"

So what else can a don do when he gets bored? Sell the whole thing to CBS for a miniseries. And guess who may play this real-life Michael Corleone? That Saturday night special, John Travolta.

### Fur Real Party

New Year's celebrations came early for People For The Ethical Treatment Of Animals at PETA's Washington, D.C. office as "Fur Is Dead" campaign workers toasted the bankruptcy announcement by Antonovich Furs. Antonovich, the third largest publicly traded fur company in the United States, filed Chapter 11 bankruptcy proceedings Friday morning. This comes on the heels of the an-



Newsday File Photo

Michael Franzese, left, goes public. John Travolta: starring as the Yuppie Don?



Newsday File Photo

nouncement last November by the Fur Vault (the nation's second largest furrier) that it planned to sell all its retail operations, having suffered whopping losses of \$7.2 million over two years.

PETA, along with other anti-fur campaigners, has apparently turned the tide in the fur wars. With the likes of Liza Minnelli, a past fur model, joining the ranks of fur protesters, the "real" fur retail business may have a future about as bright as a mink on a fur farm. In fact, this may be the only successful "Just Say No" campaign in America.

### Ballet Dub Job

Composer Robert Folk, whose next project will be writing the score for "By the Sword," a fencing flick with F. Murray Abraham, will likely have an easy time — compared to his last project. Folk was hired to score a film of a ballet entitled "To Dream of Roses," featuring dancers from the American Ballet Theatre. The film will become the first high-definition TV project to be transferred to 70-mm film and shown at the Sumitomo Pavilion at the 1990 World's Fair in Osaka, Japan.

The difficult part was that Folk didn't get to shape the ballet around

his music; rather, he received finished footage of the ballet and was told to write an original score, which could have resulted in the balletic equivalent of a badly dubbed karate film. "It certainly wasn't easy," said Folk, who just completed the task. "It's hard to do it that way, but it worked out well."

### Oldies but Goodies

The team of Bob Whitmore and Henry Weinstein has a thing about resurrecting film classics. The duo, which co-produced "Texasville," the "Last Picture Show" sequel that brings back original director Peter Bogdanovich and stars Jeff Bridges, Cybill Shepherd and Timothy Bottoms, just optioned rights to the classic film "Black Orpheus" and are planning a remake. The original, directed by Marcel Camus, won an Oscar for Best Foreign Film in 1959. The film is about the Greek myth of Orpheus and his ill-fated love for Eurydice, updated and set in Rio de Janeiro. The film, originally done in Brazilian Portuguese, will be recast and done in English.

Edited by Linda Stasi

## PEOPLE

Edited by Al Cohn

### Zsa Zsa Heckled at Rose Parade

Feisty Zsa Zsa Gabor, whose police-slapping trial earned her negative publicity and jail time, was soundly booed by spectators yesterday when she rode her horse in Pasadena's Tournament of Roses Parade.



Reuter Photo  
Zsa Zsa Gabor

"Go to jail, you floozy," some in the crowd screamed when she rode by on her Tennessee walking horse, Silver Fox. Gabor was convicted and sentenced to jail last year for slapping a Beverly Hills police officer who stopped her Rolls-Royce.

"My mother and my sister Eva didn't want me to ride, but what the hell," Gabor said. "A couple of people will hate me, but I love America."

The 72-year-old Hungarian-born actress did concede, however, that the negative publicity of the trial caused her to have "third and fourth thoughts" about riding with the Belles and Beaus of the 1800s equestrian unit.

Gabor, who is appealing her conviction, said she slapped the officer because he roughed her up during a traffic stop. She was sentenced to three days in jail, 120 hours of community service and a \$12,837 fine.

### Fast-Break for Peace

A New Year's Eve peace gathering in Los Angeles drew Ron Kovic, whose story is told in the film "Born on the Fourth of July."

Kovic, a disabled Vietnam veteran known for his

antiwar activism, was in Santa Monica to help local peace advocate Jerry Rubin — no relation to the former Yippie leader — break a protest fast with ice cream.

Rubin's Alliance for Survival group sponsors the annual event at the Church in Ocean Park and he fasts several times a year to protest such issues as TV violence, environmental destruction and U.S. involvement in Central America.

After the fast-breaking ceremony, Rubin tossed a large globe into a crowd of about 300 people. "It gives everyone a chance to hug the planet Earth," he said.



Photo by George Rose  
Ron Kovic