

Private eye has dollar signs in both

WHAT A difference a few years and "major bucks" can make for an auto-crime cop turned private eye.

A few years ago, when Bruce Milau was a police officer, he got into a brawl with Carmine Agnello, John Gotti's son-in-law. This happened because Agnello took exception to Milau handcuffing him to a chain-link fence while cops looked for stolen auto parts in his junkyard.

Last week, they were buddy-buddy as Milau showed up in Queens Supreme Court to testify for Agnello's brothers, Joseph and Michael, who were on trial for selling stolen auto parts at chop shops in Brooklyn in Queens.

"We couldn't believe it when we saw them hugging outside the courtroom," said one prosecution team member, who recalled how Milau was the key witness against Carmine Agnello in a 1984 trial in which Agnello was convicted of felony charges — later thrown out — and lesser charges, which were upheld.

Milau, who retired in 1987, was called last week as a defense expert. But prosecutor Peter Crusco established that Milau's last instruction in auto-crime technology was in 1984, and Justice Pearle Appelmann ruled Milau could testify, but not as an expert in the rapidly changing field.

After his testimony, Milau said he got "major bucks" for his court appearance.

"You didn't get your money's worth," cops told the Agnellos. They were convicted of felonies that could land them in prison for four years.

Sources say the state attorney general's office will soon hit the Agnellos with tax-evasion charges.

Milau told Gang Land that Crusco called him, too. "But he didn't want to pay me," Milau said. "I do private investigation, and I get paid for it. No matter who calls, I tell the absolute truth. I don't lie for anyone."

Manhattan federal prosecutors got a

break in a stalled probe into bid-rigging at LaGuardia High School of Music and Arts when a contractor walked into the middle of a racketeering probe by Brooklyn feds.

Sources say contractor Martin Singer was caught on tape speaking to a wired-up mob associate. The associate was working undercover in a probe of bid-rigging and bribery in the awarding of millions of dollars in city Housing Authority contracts.

Singer, sources say, admitted to ob-



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structing justice in a conversation he had with general contractor Peter Savino, a five-time killer who stung high-ranked mobsters in four crime families during the 18 months he worked undercover.

Singer; his attorney, Louis Cantor, and Manhattan federal prosecutor James McGuire refused to comment.

In the Brooklyn probe, as the Daily News reported last October, the feds have targeted Luchese boss Victor Amuso and underboss Anthony (Gas Pipe) Casso; Genovese underboss Venero (Benny Eggs) Mangano; Colombo underboss Benedetto (Benny) Aloï, and Gambino consigliere Salvatore (Sammy Bull) Gravano.

The grand jury probes on both sides of the East River are winding down. Stay tuned.

For an hour last week, at the trial of six reputed drug dealers, an FBI agent was sitting at the prosecution table conspicuously looking the wrong way — that is, toward the spectators.

Later, he moved to a less conspicuous position — up near Manhattan Federal Judge Peter Leisure — but his steady gaze was not on the witness stand.

At Leisure's suggestion, the agent is watching Salvatore Lobuglio, who, Assistant U.S. Attorney Frances Fragos said, mouthed the threat, "You are finished," in Sicilian to prosecution witness Phillip LaRosa.

Lawyer Jack Evseroff denied any threats by his client, in any language. And citing reports that LaRosa was "undergoing extreme psychiatric treatment," he said the witness may have been a "little nervous or whatever."

Just like he promised, Jesse (Doc) Hyman and former Colombo capo Michael Franzese will soon be back on

the witness stand.

Hyman, the dentist who got tired of filling teeth and hooked up with the mob, and Franzese will testify in Newark at the federal racketeering trial — currently in jury selection — of reputed New Jersey Mafia boss John Riggi.

Hyman and Franzese will testify about a "sitdown" of the three men that was called to resolve a dispute over an alleged bond scheme in which they were partners, sources say.

"Now that Michael is cooperating," Hyman told Gang Land last year, "I think there's going to be a few more cases coming down."

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Fernandez cans District 27 principal

Schools Chancellor Joseph Fernandez removed the principal of a Queens public school yesterday after he was told that suspended School District 27 board members selected the man for political, not professional, reasons.

The Board of Education's inspector general's office cited evidence that George Eaton, principal of PS 146 in Howard Beach, was hired last August because he supported the campaign of Frank Gulluscio, then board president. Eaton reportedly was Gulluscio's campaign manager. —Lizette Alvarez

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