

# FBI's Gotti net drags in a few odd fish

**T**HE FBI'S EFFORTS to get the goods on John Gotti is causing a lot of grief lately for Greek and Albanian immigrants who allegedly run gambling operations in Queens and the Bronx.

Court records indicate the feds are looking for witnesses to augment the "mother lode" of tape-recorded conversations, involving Gotti and his men, that the FBI picked up from a well-placed bug this year.

As the Daily News revealed last week, law enforcement sources said the bug picked up "mountains of evidence" against Gotti — including evidence linking him to the 1985 slaying of former Gambino crime family boss Paul Castellano.

Last week, FBI agents picked up Michael (Big Mike) Tzounkarkis on a six-year-old Greek arrest warrant after Tzounkarkis refused to cooperate in the federal racketeering probe of Gotti.

After appearing in court, Tzounkarkis, 30, was remanded to the Metropolitan Correctional Center, where he joined Peter Mustafa, an Albanian immi-

## GANG LAND

JERRY CAPECI



grant who was jailed three months ago for refusing to testify before the federal grand jury that's hearing evidence in the Gotti case.

Mustafa and his brother, Zeff, are associates of Gotti's reputed underboss, Frank (Frankie Loc) Locascio, and allegedly help run a Bronx gambling operation under Gotti's control, sources said. Court records indicate that while Peter Mustafa has refused to testify, Zeff Mustafa has testified.

The Mustafas' lawyers, Peter Peluso and David Greenfield, declined to comment.

Tzounkarkis, who is charged with stealing \$500,000 in Greek currency in 1981, was first arrested two months ago on suspicion of running a high-stakes gambling emporium above a storefront on 31st St. in Astoria, Queens.

On Wednesday nights, starting at midnight, Big Mike hosted a high-stakes poker game, while every night, high rollers played Barbut, "a Middle Eastern gambling game involving dice," said FBI agent Mark Roberts in an arrest complaint.

Roberts, who visited the gambling den with one of three informants, said that based on his experience investigating organized crime, he believes that "Big Mike pays a portion of the house winnings to Gotti, the boss of the Gambino organized crime family."

Tzounkarkis and two aides, identified only as "Terry" and "Crazy Tony," each carried a gun to protect the gambling operation, which grosses about \$100,000 per week, \$6,000 of which is paid to "Gotti's people," said Roberts.

"My client's relationship with John Gotti," said Tzounkarkis' lawyer, Matthew Mari, "is the same as your relationship with Mikhail Gorbachev. He does not have a relationship with Gotti; he doesn't know his friends, nor do they know him."

When they first picked him up, said Mari, FBI agents told Tzounkarkis he would not be arrested if he "was willing to give them information about John Gotti." The gambling charges were dropped, but Tzounkarkis did not cooperate and was told "his problems weren't over," said Mari, referring to the Greek arrest warrant. "Mr. Tzounkarkis certainly has problems now."

Assistant U.S. Attorney Laura Ward declined to comment.

"I don't know who these people are," said Gotti's

lawyer, Bruce Cutler. "All I know is: If they have a new case, bring it. We're ready today, tonight, yesterday, and the day before. Call me up, John and I will be there before the courthouse doors open."

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**T**URNCOAT COLOMBO family capo Michael Franzese, the former man about town and movie producer, made his local debut as a federal witness yesterday — against a former porter.

Franzese spent the afternoon in the Uniondale, L.I., courtroom of Judge Thomas Platt telling how Ornge Tutt, a janitor for one of Franzese's former friends, helped Franzese when he was the target of a federal grand jury.

Tutt, whose girlfriend was a member of the grand

jury that indicted Franzese on racketeering charges in 1984, allegedly earned \$1,000 for the details he gave about the probe and the witnesses who testified.

Franzese, whose testimony in Chicago helped convict former talent and sports agent Norby Walters on racketeering charges, is said to be making a movie about his life to help pay about \$15 million he owes the government in restitution and fines.

Tutt's trial is expected to last a week.

Franzese was tentatively set to make his local debut as a federal witness against New Jersey Mafia boss John Riggi, but wasn't called. Last week, Riggi and an associate were convicted of extortion and accepting illegal labor payoffs after a lengthy trial in Newark. Another associate and Riggi's sons, John J. and Vincent, were acquitted.

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## Spill didn't waste beaches

Preliminary results from water sampling show no impact on the city's swimming beaches due to raw sewage spilled into the East and Harlem rivers Sunday, city environmental officials reported yesterday.

Millions of gallons of sewage were discharged into the rivers after an electrical fire shut the Wards Island sewage treatment plant.

Water samples taken at Orchard Beach and beneath the Verrazano Bridge showed fecal coliform bacteria levels well within state bathing standards late Sunday, and additional samples were taken at Coney Island beaches yesterday.