

Plea Sought for Ex-Mobster

By Robert E. Kessler

STAFF WRITER

A detention hearing for Michael Franzese, once a rising star in the Colombo organized crime family, was delayed yesterday for a third time in federal court as lawyers tried to work out a plea agreement to a host of charges Franzese could now face in New York and California.

Franzese, from Oyster Bay Town, L.I., was arrested in California Wednesday by federal agents from New York and charged with violating his parole for a 1986 Long Island racketeering conviction. The parole violation charge included a number of federal and California accusations, including bank fraud and failure to pay taxes. If the charges are not resolved in a plea agreement, Franzese could be tried in various state and federal courts for the next several years.

In addition to the charges already on the record, federal prosecutors indicated in U.S. District Court proceedings in Brooklyn that they also are looking into the possibility that Franzese also committed other frauds while trying to gain a foothold in the movie industry in Hollywood. On Thursday, authorities in Los Angeles issued a warrant for Franzese's arrest on bank fraud charges.

Sources said Franzese appears concerned that if he does not work out a plea agreement, his wife, Camille, might also be indicted on some of the same charges he could face. Camille Franzese was named in Franzese's federal parole violation complaint as having helped him evade federal income and corporate taxes in 1989 and 1990, but she has not been charged with any crime so far.

Uranium Black Market Feared

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be," said Thomas L. Neff, a specialist on uranium enrichment at MIT's Center for International Studies. "It's not like a civilian reactor, where maybe this stuff has been lying around. This material should not have gotten out of that system."

A U.S. official familiar with intelligence on nuclear proliferation said the Bush administration is investigating the Zurich incident. "It's possible it came from a Soviet production reactor," the official said. "We don't know for sure. We're looking into it. We take these reports very seriously."

An investigation of the case also continues in Switzerland. Andreas Pritzker, head of administration at the Swiss laboratory where two samples of the uranium were analyzed, said that his lab yesterday had

received the remainder of the 65 pounds of seized material. He said all of it appears to be metallic uranium, a form used in some military reactors.

In addition to the Zurich case, Italian police also seized a minute quantity of bomb-grade plutonium in Como, Italy, in mid-October. It has not been determined yet whether the two cases are connected.

Arms control specialists say the two incidents offer the first solid evidence of an attempted traffic in nuclear materials that could be used in a clandestine nuclear program. Plutonium and highly enriched uranium can serve as the core for an atomic bomb. Experts said access to even low-enriched uranium — as was seized in Zurich — can save a bombmaker many steps in the process of turning natural uranium into bomb-grade material.

Experts interviewed yesterday cautioned that they needed additional information on the isotopes — or varieties of elements — in the Zurich uranium before drawing any firm conclusions on its origin. But several said the enrichment level and the form of the material — metallic uranium rather than the ceramic form of uranium used in commercial power reactor fuel here and abroad — argues for a military origin.

"It's exactly at the level that would have been used for plutonium production," said Charles Till, associate director for engineering at Argonne National Laboratory in Chicago.

"In that form and at that enrichment, I can't think of anything other" than a production reactor, said Steve Fetter, a physicist at the University of Maryland who has visited several Soviet military reactors.

Experts tended to discount the possibility that low-enriched uranium would be used in scientific research reactors, which typically use more highly enriched material.

In a military reactor, bomb-grade plutonium is produced as a byproduct of the splitting — or fissioning — of uranium atoms in the fuel used to power the reactor. After a sufficient time in the reactor, the fuel is removed and the plutonium separated out chemically.

In the United States, the "N" reactor at the Department of Energy's Hanford weapons facility in Washington state used low-enriched metallic uranium fuel, said Till and Thomas Cochran, a specialist on military nuclear programs for the Natural Resources Defense Council. The "N" reactor, now shut down, used fuel enriched to 0.95 and 1.25 percent, Cochran said.

The Soviet Union's Hanford-type production reactors have tended to use natural, non-enriched uranium for fuel, but experts said it is likely the Soviets — like the Americans — decided to enrich the uranium slightly to increase reactor efficiency.

TB Testing Extended

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gally" waived the requirement. "There's got to be thousands of children in the city who have active TB, who are not being discovered," Meyer said. "Kids may actually die. We have a health emergency here and someone had better wake up and do something about it."

But city Health Department officials said that the mandatory TB testing did not change, just how it is executed.

"We are trying to gain compliance," said Health Department spokesman Sam Friedman. "We do not want to have significant numbers of children excluded from school. We want to have all children complying with the health code."

Schools now will distribute forms to parents whose children have yet to be tested. Within two weeks, parents must return the forms with date, time and place of the test. The parent then must return the results of the test within five days of the appointment. The school must then inform the Health Department.

If not, the child will then be excluded from school.

Many of the estimated 100,000 new entrants who came to school Sept. 11 had their TB tests completed by Oct. 2, officials said. But Board of Education officials said that cuts to the health programs and clinics made it harder for schools to verify test results.

The Health Department instituted TB testing last year, but it was not mandatory.

Catherine Woodard contributed to this story.

Decade of AIDS Is Remembered

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UP, the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power.

Metropolitan Opera stars Leona Mitchell and James Mitchell, and ABC news anchor Peter Jennings, joined about 3,000 people at the cathedral.

Since the federal Centers for Disease Control reported the first AIDS case in 1981, about 126,000 people — some 24,000 of them from New York — have died from the disease.

The vaulted cathedral ceiling was lit like a night sky filled with tiny stars — 126,000 lights placed there to remember the men, women and children who have died.

The campaign, 10 Days 10 Deeds, commemorates the decade with a call to use 10 acts to help end the ravage of AIDS, including discussing condoms, teaching safer sex, learning about AIDS, donating time and money and fighting for treatment. The kickoff precedes a series of events that will end with World AIDS Day on Dec. 1, when important works of art around the world will be covered with shrouds, and church bells will ring for 10 minutes.

"I want to tell you how I survive," said Louis Grant, a GMHC board member who has lived with AIDS for nine years.

"I am selfish with my time, I hoard it for myself, for my survival. Then I turn around and give it away. . ."

The following events were left out of the Weekend Guide in yesterday's Part II.

EVENTS FOR CHILDREN

THE BRONX

BRONX ZOO. Harvest Festival, Native American dancers perform traditional American Indian rituals dances, storytellers tell the legends and tales from our American heritage, hot cider, donuts, pumpkin pie, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday; zoo's regular activities, wild adventure, experience tropical mist of Southeast Asia at JungleWorld and see birds and bats fly freely; take a journey on the Bengali Express Monorail through Wild Asia and over the zoo on the Skyfari; stop in The World of Darkness; golden-headed lion tamarin monkeys on exhibit, seek cobra in World of Reptiles at Children's Zoo, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Saturday; 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. weekends and holidays, Fordham Road, off Bronx River Parkway, \$5.75 adults; \$2 ages 2-12; \$2 for over 65; Wednesday admission is by donation, zoo rides \$1-\$2; Jungleworld 25-50 cents admission, parking \$5, (212) 367-1010.

THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN. Great Gourds, children and adults create holiday table decorations together, learn about gourds, from how they are preserved to how to decorate them in the tradition of American folk artisans, 1-3 p.m. Sunday, 200th Street and Southern Boulevard, \$22 non-members, (212) 220-8982.

BROOKLYN

BROOKLYN CHILDREN'S MUSEUM. See Me Share My World: Understanding The Third World Through Children's Art. Exhibition of a collection of children's drawings from Columbia, Honduras, India and Sierra Leone that create a portrait of daily life in developing countries from a child's perspective, opens Wednesday through Jan. 6; "We're All Family," collection of stories, songs and poems that touches on themes dealing with relationships between parents, children, step-families and sibling, 2 p.m. tomorrow, 145 Brooklyn Ave., \$3, (718) 735-4400. **DANCING FEET.** Performance of modern dance influenced by African and Caribbean cultures by Marie Brooks Dancers and the Bedford-Stuyvesant Restoration Dance Theater, 2-4 p.m. tomorrow, Albee Square at Fulton Mall, Fulton Street, free, (212) 735-4400.

"HANSEL AND GRETEL." Puppet show for ages 3 and older, 12:30 p.m. Saturdays, 12:30 and 3 p.m. Sundays, through Dec. 15, Puppetworks Inc., 338 Sixth Ave., Park Slope, \$5 adults, \$4 children, (718) 965-6058.

NEW YORK AQUARIUM. Featuring craft workshops, conservation conversations, storytime and puppets, habitat and environmental exhibits, 10 a.m.-4:45 p.m. daily, West Eighth Street and Surf Avenue, Coney Island, \$5.75 adults, \$2 kids; free for over 65 after 2 p.m. Monday-Friday except holidays, (718) 265-3474.

PIPS COMEDY CLUB. Kids Magic Matinee, 1-3 p.m. Sundays, 2005 Emmons Ave., Sheepshead Bay, \$6.50, (718) 646-9433.

PROSPECT PARK CAROUSEL. Open noon-6 p.m. Fridays-Sundays, Empire Boulevard/Flatbush Avenue entrance to Prospect Park behind Lefferts Homestead, 50 cents, (718) 965-8951.

QUEENS

CHANUKAH FAMILY WORKSHOP. Create Chanukah decorations, personalize dreidels, sing songs, learn some exotic and interesting features of Chanukah from Rabbi Geoffrey Botnick, 2-4 p.m. Sunday, Hillcrest Jewish Center, 183-02 Union Tpke., Flushing, \$2 donation, (718) 380-4145.

RODZ PUPPETS. Tells the story of Oafus, an imaginary wild animal that only wants to "oaf" around in the wilderness, but stalked by a hunter with music and audience participation, noon and 1:30 p.m. tomorrow, Jamaica Arts Center, 161-04 Jamaica Ave., \$5 adults, \$3 children, (718) 658-7400.

STATEN ISLAND

STATEN ISLAND MALL. Santa's Train Rides, all day, today-Jan. 2, and Santa's Arrival Parade, 7 tonight, Center Court, Lower Level; Sprucester the Talking Tree, today-Dec. 24, Sears Stage, Lower Level, 2655 Richmond Ave., (718) 761-6800.

HOLIDAY MAGIC. Christmas workshop, create holiday cards each based on original 19th-Century Christmas card, 10 a.m.-noon, Richmondtown Restoration, 441 Clarke Ave., (718) 351-1611.

LONG ISLAND

WALT DISNEY'S WORLD ON ICE. Disney double feature, feature one begins on a tropical island with Baloo and Louie on holiday and Mickey and Minnie Mouse, Donald Duck and Goofy join in the fun; feature two stars Roger Rabbit and his video machine also featuring Chip 'N' Dale, Daisy Duck and Dorkwing Duck, 7:30 tonight; 11 a.m., 3 and 7:30 p.m. tomorrow and Sunday, Nassau Coliseum, Hempstead Turnpike, Uniondale, \$15, \$12.50, \$9, (212) 307-7171.

BAZAARS & SALES

MANHATTAN

BELLEVUEVIEW. Bellevue South Park Crafts Show and Farmers Mart, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. every Tuesday, 27th Street between First and Second Avenues.

EAST SIDE. Flea market, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. tomorrow, St. Joseph's School, 404 E. 87th St., \$1 admission.

— Annual Christmas fair, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. tomorrow, Park Avenue Methodist Church, 106 E. 86th St., \$5 entry free at 9 a.m., free or donation at 10 a.m.

— Holiday shopping fair to benefit handicapped, homeless and AIDS stricken children, 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday and Tuesday, Merrick's Castle School, 316 E. 88th St.

GREENWICH VILLAGE. Flea market, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. tomorrow, PS 41 PTA, in schoolyard, Greenwich Avenue at Charles Street.

— Holiday craft fair, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. tomorrow, Little Red School House, 196 Bleecker St.

UPPER EAST SIDE. Holiday fair, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. tomorrow, All Souls Unitarian Church, 1157 Lexington Ave., \$1, 472-0231.

QUEENS

BAYSIDE. Holiday market place, noon-4 p.m. Sunday, Parenting Place, Bay Terrace Center, YM-YWHA, 212-00 23rd Ave.

ELMHURST. Christmas sale, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. tomorrow, Italian Charities of America, 83-20 Queens Blvd.

FLUSHING. Giant flea market, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday, Flushing Jewish Center, 171st Street and Northern Boulevard.

— Flea market, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. today and tomorrow, Embassy Room, Deborah Center, 135-25 Northern Blvd.

GLENDALE. Holiday craft fair, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. tomorrow, Sacred Heart School, 84-05 78 Ave.

HOWARD BEACH. Flea market, 9 a.m. today, Our Lady of Grace Schoolyard, at 100th Street between 158th and 159th Avenues.

QUEENS VILLAGE. Rummage sale, 7:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m. Sunday, Belle Park Jewish Center, 231-10 Hillside Ave.

RIDGEWOOD. Rummage Sale, noon-6 p.m. today, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. tomorrow, Brooklyn Music School Parents Association, 126 St. Felix St.

WHITESTONE. Annual bazaar, 6 p.m. tomorrow, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday, Clearview Jewish Center, 16-50 Utopia Pkwy.

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