

... Man about town



ST. NICK makes appearances at Fifth Ave. and 58th St., where film makers dumped some snow yesterday to delight of Volunteers of America San-

ta. And (page opposite) Mr. Whiskers turns up at New York Hospital-Cornell burn center Yule party for kids. **TOM MONASTER AND RICHARD CORKERY** DAILY NEWS

A mob guy's troubles

Faces jail on probation violation

By **FRANCES McMORRIS**
Daily News Staff Writer

Michael **Franzese**, the some-time movie producer and one-time "Mafia Prince" was called a "one-man **fraud** machine" yesterday in Brooklyn Federal Court.

Franzese, 40, was to be sentenced for violating his federal probation by bilking banks and landlords in California.

Federal prosecutors said he lived a lavish lifestyle replete with big homes, expensive cars, maid service and private schooling for his children.

But sentencing was postponed until Dec. 27 after defense lawyer Bruce Kelton argued that death threats prompted **Franzese** to use fictitious names to rent mansions in California's exclusive Bel Air section of Los Angeles.

Franzese, 40, had pleaded guilty to two charges of pro-

bation violation, including bank **fraud** and conspiracy to impede the collection of taxes.

Just 'didn't pay rent'

Kelton challenged six other charges, which included failure to pay rent and conspiracy to **defraud** landlords. "While he did violate probation, he did not lead the **fraudulent** lifestyle that the government painted," Kelton said. "He was a tenant who didn't pay rent."

Assistant U.S. Attorney Joseph McCann pointed out that **Franzese** had given interviews to Vanity Fair and Sports Illustrated.

'High profile'

"For someone who is concerned with his personal safety he certainly has taken a high profile in this matter," McCann said.

Franzese's book, "Quitting the Mob," is due out in Feb-



Michael Franzese

ruary. In it, he describes being reared as the stepson of former Colombo crime family underboss John (Sonny) **Franzese**, who is serving a prison sentence for a parole violation of his 50-year bank robbery term.

Dinkins restores salary cut

By **JOEL SIEGEL**
Daily News Staff Writer

Mayor Dinkins signed a directive yesterday scrapping a 5% pay cut he had imposed on himself and 800 other city big shots, citing fears it could hurt pensions.

Dinkins said he rescinded the "temporary" pay cut on the advice of the corporation counsel. He imposed the cut last year to save money.

With the restoration, Dinkins' salary returns to \$130,000. The pay of his commissioners will range from \$97,000 to \$110,000.

Some other elected city officials who control their own salaries, and who cut their own pay 5% after the mayor issued his order last year, said yesterday they would not restore their own pay cuts. They include City Council President Andrew Stein and Manhattan Borough President Ruth Messinger, both potential mayoral rivals of Dinkins in 1993.

City Controller Elizabeth Holtzman, who pulled back on restoring her 5% pay cut last spring after the move generated criticism, said she would keep the 2% pay cut she has had since restoring 3% of her salary in August.

Dinkins ordered the pay cuts on Oct. 21, 1990, in a symbolic act of austerity as the city's fiscal crisis deepened. He extended the order on July 1. All city officials earning \$70,000 or more were affected.

A \$3.5M savings

It saved \$3.5 million, a tiny fraction of the cuts and efficiencies needed to help balance the budget.

The city must pare its work force by thousands to help plug a \$7 billion deficit over the next four years.

"I intended this as a temporary measure and, of greater importance, I did not intend for it to put at risk the pension rights of our employees," Dinkins said.

Later in the day, the administration released a memo to Dinkins from top aides noting another reason: the "significant adverse impact on morale" in light of raises given other city employees.

The current city budget contains money for the restoration, Dinkins said.

The decision comes only three weeks after Dinkins rapped City Council Speaker Peter Vallone (D-Queens) for granting raises to his top staffers, some of whom saw

their pay frozen for two years.

At the time, Dinkins said Vallone's action sent a "strange" signal to voters.

Is bias sole goal?

By **ALEX MICHELINI**
Daily News Staff Writer

The federal government moved yesterday to block a newly formed upstate New York village from illegally fencing out Orthodox Jews.

In what is believed to be the first anti-discrimination lawsuit of its kind, Attorney General William Barr charged the Village of Airmont was incorporated solely to keep out Orthodox Jews through zoning laws preventing the establishment of synagogues.

Orthodox Jews, it was noted, must walk to houses of worship because they are forbidden to travel by car on the Jewish Sabbath and certain holy days.

The 5-square-mile village has a population of 9,500, including 300 to 400 Orthodox Jews. Part of the Town of Ramapo in Rockland County, it was incorporated last April. About 23% of the town's nearly 100,000 residents are Orthodox Jews.

Rabbi Yitzchok Leblanc-Sternberg has been battling his Airmont neighbors in the courts over the conversion of his garage into a synagogue.

Airmont's attorney, Dennis Lynch, branded the allegations in the lawsuit "completely false," noting that the area's Orthodox Jewish population had increased since the village was incorporated.