

# FBI documents on Sinatra detail decades of investigations

By Ronald J. Ostrow and Lisa Getter  
Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON - The FBI opened its files Tuesday on entertainer Frank Sinatra, a 1,275-page dossier documenting decades of probes into the singer's life, from his alleged ties to organized crime to a tip from gossip columnist Walter Winchell that he had bought his 4-F draft exemption for \$40,000.

A bureau inquiry found the charge relayed by Winchell to be baseless. But the files, made public under the Freedom of Information Act, detail other probes into Sinatra's life, with frequent mention of his links with such notorious mob figures as Lucky Luciano and Sam Giancana.

Those associations produced no criminal charges against Sinatra, but reportedly were extensive enough to lead President John F. Kennedy to cool his relationship with the famed singer.

The agency investigated allegations that Sinatra had links to the Communist Party, as well as death threats made against the entertainer.

The bureau rejected Sinatra's offer to serve as an informant - an offer

similar to one the bureau accepted during the 1940s from Ronald Reagan and his wife, actress Jane Wyman.

The 4-F inquiry was conducted in 1944 after Winchell forwarded the FBI an anonymous letter outlining the allegations. The FBI concluded that

**This worried man ... added that there are certain sex activities by Kennedy that he hopes are never publicized. (The informant) said he learned that these parties involving the Senator and Sinatra occurred in Palm Springs, Las Vegas and New York City."**

FBI informant

Capt. Joseph Weintrob, the medical officer who examined Sinatra at a Newark, N.J., induction station, was justified in exempting Sinatra from military service because the singer had a perforated left eardrum and related ear problems.

During a psychiatric interview that was part of the medical exam, Sinatra described himself as "neurotic, afraid to be in crowds," leading the examining psychiatrist to find that the bobby-

soxer idol suffered from psychoneurosis.

But because Sinatra was being rejected for physical grounds, the diagnosis was downgraded to a notation of "emotional instability" to avoid "undue unpleasantness for both the

selectee and the induction service."

The agency's review of Sinatra's draft status was conducted under handwritten orders by FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover to do nothing "irregular." In the draft report, the FBI noted that Sinatra had been arrested twice in 1938 in Hackensack, N.J. - first on charges of seduction and then on adultery. The charges eventually were dismissed, but agents added two police mug shots of the singer to the

file.

The FBI dossier includes hundreds of references to Sinatra's ties to "criminals and hoodlums."

Relying on unnamed informants, press reports and secret surveillance, the FBI spent nearly 30 years tracking Sinatra and his associates.

Bugsy Siegel invited him to the opening of the Flamingo Hotel in 1946. Luciano listed him in his address book in 1949. Giancana, Vito Genovese and Thomas Luchese were his guests in Atlantic City in 1959. James John Warjae, who had made it to the FBI's 10 Most Wanted List, had a picture of Sinatra dealing blackjack when Warjae was nabbed in 1960. Joe Fischetti dined with him in Miami in 1968.

Gangsters all, the FBI said. One 1961 memo noted that Giancana and Sinatra liked to have contests to see who could spend the most money buying drinks and trinkets for their friends in Chicago.

But Sinatra told the FBI that Giancana "was only someone he recalled meeting at an airport."

Particularly worrisome to the FBI was Sinatra's relationship with President Kennedy.

As a senator, the FBI noted, Kennedy attended "an alleged indiscreet party" with Sinatra, other guests and several prostitutes.

Even Kennedy's campaign manager was concerned, the FBI reported it was told by a reliable informant. "This worried man ... added that there are certain sex activities by Kennedy that he hopes are never publicized. (The informant) said he learned that these parties involving the Senator and Sinatra occurred in Palm Springs, Las Vegas and New York City."

One informant told the FBI that the underworld was using Sinatra to gain access to the White House.

Indeed, the FBI noted, President Kennedy called Sinatra in Atlantic City in 1962 while Sinatra was attending the wedding of Philadelphia mob boss Angelo Bruno's daughter.

In 1954, the Army refused to allow Sinatra clearance to entertain the troops in Korea, saying he had failed a security clearance because "serious questions existed as to Mr. Sinatra's sympathies with respect to communism, communists, and fellow travelers."

Incensed, Sinatra argued that "he hated and despised everything that

pertained to communism." But at the end of the meeting, the generals refused to change their minds. They did, however, compliment Sinatra on his performance in the film "From Here to Eternity," according to a record of the meeting.

In the midst of writing a book about her father in 1969, Nancy Sinatra wrote to FBI Director Hoover for his help.

"To make my book complete, I feel that true experiences shared with my friends will allow the public to know the real Frank Sinatra," she wrote.

"I would like to know about the moment that you have shared with Daddy that stands out as the most memorable in your mind."

Interestingly, Hoover answered Nancy Sinatra's letter. But he revealed no secrets in his response. Instead, he told her about a conversation he had with Sinatra on Dec. 11, 1963, in which Frank Jr. was returned safely after his kidnapping. Hoover said he asked Sinatra to keep mum until the case was closed.

"Your father, of course, cooperated in every possible way," Hoover wrote.

## Jimmy Swaggart still preaching; few are listening

By Joe Mathews  
The Baltimore Sun

BATON ROUGE, La. - The Rev. Jimmy Swaggart plays a scale on his grand piano and slides off the bench to grab the microphone. "Praise Jesus!" he says, launching a spellbinding two-hour sermon, which he interrupts twice to record 30-second promotional spots for the TV version.

Swaggart yells. He collapses to the floor. He recounts a conversation with God. Seven times, he abruptly breaks into tears. And he lays hands on a partially paralyzed young man. "Jesus will heal you because he can heal you," says Swaggart, weeping again. "I know we have sinned ... but Jesus, please, please help him."

The tears resemble those that fell from Swaggart's face in 1988, when the tele-evangelist, caught with a prostitute, told his congregation, "I have sinned, my Lord."

Ten years later, everywhere Swaggart looks, his eyes see the damage caused by his indiscretion in a New Orleans motel room.

To his left and right, huge curtains block off seats and disguise the fact that his 7,000-seat Family Worship Center on Bluebonnet Road now attracts only 500 to Sunday services. Outside, the 100-plus flag poles that once carried the banners of every country where his sermons were broadcast stand unused. Decorating the stadium-sized, mostly vacant parking lot at the worship center are signs for a shuttle bus that long ago stopped running.

Like Jim Bakker and Oral Roberts, Swaggart, 63, has lost much of his flock and his financial empire, which once enjoyed annual revenues of \$150 million. But Swaggart still preaches the same message from the same place, his 200-acre complex in Baton Rouge. His only public concession to falling popularity is his use of public-access channels (more popular cable outlets largely shun him) to broadcast his message to 250 TV markets at odd hours of the week.

He remains, he says, an "old-fashioned, Holy Ghost-filled, shouting, weeping, soul-winning, Gospel-preaching preacher." He still preaches that Jews and Catholics are going to hell, and he still assails - without a hint of irony or compromise - homosexuality, pornography, psychology and, yes, prostitution and hypocrisy. And he still lives in the same gated mansion.

"We don't discuss the past because we don't live in the past," says his son Donnie, 44, a vice president in Jimmy Swaggart Ministries. "We've moved past that."

Avoiding the past might prove impossible. In a book set to be published next month, Hunter Lundy, the attorney who exposed Swaggart's fondness for prostitutes, suggests strongly that the minister was also a pedophile. Swaggart's old rival, the Rev. Marvin Gorman, has re-emerged, driving a Toyota, doing tent revivals and generally posing a humbler contrast.

"The whole story is tragic," says Gorman over breakfast in the New Orleans suburb of Metairie.

"It's very hard for people who have as much prominence as he and I did in the church to stay humble. Pride goes before destruction and the haughty spirit before the fall. And that crept into each one of us."

Swaggart refused to be interviewed for this article. But his sermon offers a reply to his critics. "You can find things about me you don't like. And frankly, I don't want to hear it," he says. "If you look hard enough, you'll find something good about me and say it."

At least, Swaggart adds, he has the ability to survive.

Jimmy Lee Swaggart, born poor near the Mississippi River in Ferriday, La., started preaching on the revival circuit in 1958 with his wife, Frances, and a beat-up Plymouth. God, he says, has spoken repeatedly to him since he was 8 years old. The Lord instructed him to begin a TV ministry in 1973.

By 1986, his TV shows reached 510 million people in 145 countries, and his complex in Baton Rouge made him one of the city's largest employers. He mailed 7 million fund-raising letters a day, raised \$135 million annually in contributions, and used the money to build schools, churches and his own Bible college, while providing a lavish lifestyle for his family.

His 1984 autobiography proclaimed, "There are no skeletons in the Swaggart closet," but recounted a warning from a longtime friend. "There are men who can't stand prosperity. They can't stand fame. It goes to their head. They start to think they are God."

Swaggart seemed to ignore the advice. After pronouncing divine judgment on tele-evangelists Jim Bakker and Marvin Gorman for their sexual indiscretions, Swaggart was investigated by Gorman, who discovered

Swaggart's weakness for prostitutes. Swaggart apologized, famously: "I have sinned against you, my Lord, and I would ask that your precious blood would wash and cleanse every stain until it is in the seas of God's forgetfulness, never to be remembered against me." Swaggart received as much money from that single broadcast as he did in three months.

Ten years later, that speech haunts him. Gorman won \$1.85 million from Swaggart in a defamation suit. In 1991, Swaggart lost more followers when he was stopped with a prostitute in Indio, Calif.

A lack of financial contributions forced him to close dozens of churches, schools and medical programs overseas, and to lay off hundreds of staff in Baton Rouge. He liquidated other assets to pay off debts such as the \$1.4 million court judgment in Dallas for failing to pay for Bibles.

Right now, Jimmy Swaggart Ministries resembles nothing so much as a real-estate enterprise. Many of the buildings on the 200-acre campus have been leased to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality or to private businesses. Swaggart's Bible college is open, but enrollments have declined and the college recently dropped its founder's name.

Swaggart, his son says, feels vindicated by the troubles of President Clinton. "A lot of people said he should confess his sin like Jimmy Swaggart," says Donnie. Swaggart takes heart from several dozen new members who have begun attending services since 1991.

"Everyone has trouble. It's not for us to judge his personal life," says Judy Washington, a Family Worship Center member from Port Allen, La. Adds Diane Bouche, who helps teach Sunday school: "I've done things in my past that are worse. They just didn't happen on TV. And he never gave up."

And he never stopped selling. On a recent Sunday, the church bookstore stayed open during services, and volunteers distributed copies of Swaggart's magazine, the Evangelist, complete with the Swaggart gift catalog.

As he preached, ushers gave out tithe envelopes that ask for a credit-card number. Younger visitors were offered admissions materials for the Bible college.

## Berkeley to clamp down on homeless street youths

By Edward Wong and Maria L. LaGanga  
Los Angeles Times

BERKELEY, Calif. - Here in the land of free speech and the home of the brazen, a City Council of legendary liberalness is poised to choose capitalists over street kids.

Tuesday night, Berkeley's council is expected to ratify an ordinance aimed at taking the city's colorful main commercial streets back from bands of homeless street youths and their dogs who have turned parts of Telegraph and Shattuck avenues into urban campgrounds.

"What we're trying to do is ensure sidewalk accessibility," said Council Member Polly Armstrong, who co-authored the proposed ordinance. "We continue to be an extremely liberal city, and we're proud of that. But there's a difference between liberal and lawless."

The proposed rules - which bubbled up from complaints by business owners about aggressive panhandling and open drug dealing - would prohibit people from sleeping or lying on Telegraph and Shattuck during the day. In the canine corollary, the regulations would ban three or more dogs from standing or lying within 10 feet of

each other.

Some students at the University of California campus, which sits at the top of Telegraph Avenue, welcome the proposed Berkeley ordinances.

"I don't mind them cracking down, because it gets really annoying here," says 20-year-old senior Weijean Strand. "This is a college town, and I know people come here because of the freedom. But at the same time, you want to upkeep the community."

The homeless, however, are less than impressed. Shane Scully, a 27-year-old with a large blue star tattooed on his forehead, calls the sidewalks of Telegraph Avenue home and has no plans to leave.

"Why should I go someplace else to be happy when I'm happy here?" asked Scully, a native Rhode Islander who lounged on a green blanket one recent day with his Rottweiler, Isabelle.

Sometimes called the "People's Republic of Berkeley," this city has stood since the 1960s as a symbol of tolerance. Nothing embodies that spirit more than Telegraph Avenue, with its colorful array of bookshops, cafes and street vendors who sell everything from pottery to "I Love Hemp" T-shirts. But a coalition of merchants has demanded that the city sweep the streets clean of these young wanderers and their canine companions and threatened they would move their businesses elsewhere.

"I think there's a time when the community just has to come together and say, 'Hey, we're being victimized here,'" said Marc Weinstein, owner of Amoeba Music, which has been on Telegraph Avenue for nine years.

Kriss Worthington, the city council member who represents Berkeley and cast the sole vote against the new rules, suggests that the city needs to work on more long-term solutions, including homeless shelters, detox programs and enforcement of existing laws "rather than making up a host of new laws."

Kain Wesson, 20, from Ogden, Utah, said he's been in Berkeley five months and insists he and his Rottweiler, Jezebel, won't be chased away.

"I don't care what they are trying to do, I'm going to do whatever I want with my dog. My dog has just as much right as I do," said Wesson, who was wearing a black knit cap, Army fatigue pants and a T-shirt with a cannabis plant logo.

## UNICEF: Illiteracy dooms 1 billion to poverty

By John M. Goshko  
The Washington Post

UNITED NATIONS - One billion people - nearly a sixth of humanity - will enter the 21st century doomed to poverty because they are unable to read a book, write their names or master other skills necessary to hold a job, UNICEF reported Tuesday.

"The consequences of illiteracy are profound - and even potentially life-threatening. For millions and millions of children, education is literally a matter of life and death," UNICEF Executive Director Carol Bellamy wrote in the agency's annual report on illiteracy, "The State of the World's Children 1999."

In underdeveloped countries, an estimated 130 million children, about 40 percent of the elementary school age population, either never enter school or drop out, the report says. Of that total, 73 million are girls.

Even in many industrialized countries, 15 percent to 20 percent are functionally illiterate, unable to understand a job application, much less operate a computer or develop other

skills necessary to survive in the competitive global economy.

Using statistics from a variety of sources, UNICEF found that children with no basic education will face difficulties that go far beyond supporting themselves and their families. Education is vital in helping people achieve fundamental human rights, such as health, nutrition and safe childbirth, the report says.

It also says literacy helps people learn to manage conflict and respect diversity in society: "On a society-wide scale, the denial of education harms the cause of democracy and social progress and, by extension, international peace and security."

The goals of expanding access to and improving childhood education, agreed upon at a 1990 world conference, have progressed more slowly than hoped, the report noted. The lag is particularly acute in providing education for girls and women.

Individual national governments hold primary responsibility, the report concludes. While education was declared a human right under the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the

Child, "there has not been sufficient political will" in many countries to make the necessary investment of money and effort, it says.

"To achieve education for all children, the world would need to spend an additional \$7 billion a year over the next 10 years," the report notes. "This is less than is annually spent on cosmetics in the United States or on ice cream in Europe."

Among Third World countries, the report finds that the greatest improvements during the last 10 years in Latin America and Asia. But even in these areas, vast disparities remain between haves and have-nots.

The report cites isolated "bright spots" where innovative efforts are being made to expand literacy. In the Philippines, itinerant teachers lug backpacks over rugged terrain to bring classes to children in isolated provinces. In Cambodia, teachers from different villages share materials. And in many countries - among them Nepal, Nicaragua and the Dominican Republic - efforts are being made to expand teaching over the radio.

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