

Michael Jordan lawsuit claims \$5 million extortion attempt by a former lover

CHICAGO – Michael Jordan filed a lawsuit recently, claiming a woman was trying to extort \$5 million from him to keep quiet about a relationship they had more than 10 years ago.

The basketball star acknowledged in the lawsuit that he had had a relationship with the woman and paid her \$250,000 "under threat of publicly exposing that relationship."

But Jordan, who plays for the Washington Wizards but spent most of his career with the Chicago Bulls, said he never agreed to pay any more than that.

Jordan's attorney, Frederick Sperling, refused to say whether the athlete took the allegations to the police. He also refused to answer any questions about the nature of the relationship.

"The complaint says everything Michael has to say," Sperling said.

Jordan and his wife, Juanita, have been married more than 12 years. She filed for divorce last January. But the Jordans withdrew the divorce case one month later and said they were attempting a reconciliation.



Jordan

Law school suspends Pulitzer Prize-winning author of acclaimed MLK book

ATLANTA – An Emory University professor who won the Pulitzer Prize for a book on the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. has been suspended following his arrest last month on a simple battery charge.

Law school professor David Garrow was charged with simple battery after an alleged Sept. 19 altercation with Gloria Mann, the law school's director of operations.

According to Mann's complaint, Garrow "went into an uncontrollable rage," verbally abused her and, when she tried to walk away, "grabbed (her) by her wrists and pushed her backwards."

It is unknown if Garrow, 49, will be paid during his suspension.

Garrow won the 1987 Pulitzer for his biography of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. titled "Bearing the Cross: Martin Luther King Jr. and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference."

His lawyer, Keegan Federal, told The Atlanta Journal-Constitution that Garrow will appeal the suspension and might sue the university.

"We're considering all of our options, and we certainly are including that as a possibility," the newspaper reported in recent editions.

This is the second time Garrow has been accused of verbal abuse. In March 2000, a secretary complained about his "loud" hallway reprimand. Garrow agreed to apologize in writing.

Courthouse to be named for C.B. King

ALBANY, Ga. – A U.S. courthouse in Albany, Ga., will be named after civil rights attorney C.B. King, marking the first time a federal courthouse has been named for an African-American in the former "Jim Crow" South.

"It's fitting that C.B. King becomes the second Black civil rights lawyer and fourth African-American in this country's history to have a U.S. courthouse named in his honor," Rep. John Lewis (D-Ga.) told reporters.

A two-day celebration will honor King beginning Nov. 8 beginning with a commemorative march through Albany to retrace the steps of civil rights demonstrators who were jailed and represented by him in 1961.

A diligent activist, King is credited with eliminating the all-white jury system in Georgia. He has mentored activists such as Angela Davis and former Congresswoman Elizabeth Holtzman (D-N.Y.), who sat on the Watergate committee.

King died of cancer in 1988. He is survived by his wife, Carol R. King, and five children.

Belafonte stands by Powell remarks

Harry Belafonte has refused to back down from his recent comments that described Secretary of State Colin Powell as a "house slave."

"To some people, my words may have seemed extreme," Belafonte told reporters. He added that his comment demonstrates the country's great unmet need for healthy debate on issues of "history, race and economic oppression."

During an interview with a San Diego radio station, Belafonte said, "There's an old saying, in the days of slavery, there were those slaves who lived on the plantation and there were those slaves that lived in the house.... Colin Powell's committed to come into the house of the master."

Belafonte, an outspoken activist, has been ridiculed by civil rights leaders because of his remarks.

In a letter he received from Abraham Foxman, director of the Anti-Defamation League, a Jewish rights organization, Belafonte was asked to "refrain from references to slavery," no matter how he feels about positions promoted by Powell. Belafonte stands by his position. "Why are references to slavery demeaning?" Belafonte told reporters. "Slavery is an important part of this nation's history – an absolutely critical part of any analysis that is done in defining black Americans. Not only the oppression and degradation of it, but our character, our courage, our spirit, our language, our songs and our culture are all born in that environment."



Belafonte

– Compiled from staff and wire reports

'Soul Food' star speaks at NCSA

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

Irma P. Hall never went to acting school or even took a workshop. The actress, whose face in probably more recognizable than her name, said that when she needs to delve into a character she relies on the active imagination she began developing as a child when she pretended that her mud pies smelled as good as the real thing and her stick pony could gallop like the wind.

"I can still do that," Hall said, referring to playing pretend.

Hall is in the area for Greensboro's Triad Stage's production of "A Lesson Before Dying." She came to Winston-Salem Monday to talk to a crowd of more than 200 students at N.C. School of the Arts. The 67-year-old actress has appeared in numerous television shows, movies and stage productions over the last 30 years, including the films "Beloved," "Patch Adams," "Nothing to Lose" and "A Family Thing." She is perhaps best known for her role as Mother Joe in the film and television series "Soul Food."

Hall stumbled into acting in the early 1970s when she met a director who told her that she had star potential. An English teacher at the time, Hall balanced teaching students and after-school acting gigs for more than 15 years. "I learned by acting," Hall said. "Everything I learned, I learned on camera and on stage. I still want to know what they teach at acting schools."

The Triad Stage production is based on Ernest Gaines' best-selling book. The book is being read throughout Greensboro as part of a communitywide reading project. Hall plays Emma Glenn, a role she also took on in the award-winning HBO film based on the book.



Irma P. Hall chats with director Michele Shay after a discussion at NCSA.

Photo by Kevin Walker

Hall is being joined on the stage by Ron Dortch, a NCSA alumnus and Greensboro native.

Dortch returned to his alma mater to join Hall for the free-flowing discussion, which was moderated by Gerald Freedman, dean of the School of Drama. Since becoming one of the first graduates of NCSA in 1971, Dortch has worked steadily in front of the camera and on stage. Dortch, who plays Rev. Moses Ambrose in the Triad Stage play, recently appeared in the film "Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood"

and on stage in August Wilson's "Jitney." Dortch told the students that the acting profession should not be taken lightly. He shared horror stories about having to learn new pages of script 10 minutes before showtime. To drive home how much devotion the craft takes, Dortch told the students that he shaved his hair for "A Lesson Before Dying" because in the book his character is described as balding.

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Businesses raise millions for school technology

BY COURTNEY GAILLARD
THE CHRONICLE

More than 2,000 computers will be distributed to 67 area public schools this year due to the Touched by Technology campaign spearheaded by the Winston-Salem Chamber of Commerce. Local businesses, foundations and community leaders together contributed \$8 million to the campaign, which will enable Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools (WS/FCS) to infuse technology into its schools and bring them to the national forefront of technology access and usage.

The Touched by Technology initiative, launched in 2001, is the result of a collaboration between the chamber and WS/FCS to implement the "Blueprint for Technology" strategic plan to allow the school system to become a world-class district in incorporating technology in the classroom.

A Victory Luncheon was held Tuesday at the Piedmont Club to celebrate the fund-raising goal, which was met thanks to the generosity of local donations. Donny Lambeth, Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Board of Education chair; Murray Greason, Winston-Salem Chamber board chair; and Schools Superintendent Donald L. Martin were on hand to honor all of the donors who made the campaign a success.

Lambeth mentioned that a grant given by IBM to the project was one of only two given by IBM in the world, the other grant going to a Florida school district, for technological advancement of schools.

"There are a lot of issues in some schools with not having the funding they need, and so this helps start (all the schools) on an even playing field, and they have the right equipment and the right training, and we think it's going to

make a big difference," said Amy Egleston, senior vice president of community relations for the Winston-Salem Chamber. She said that schools are already able to access the funds to begin purchasing the necessary technological tools.

According to Egleston, the Winston-Salem Chamber conducted a study in 1997 to identify what the needs were in the community and determined that technological education was critical.

Despite the budgetary crisis, foundations and businesses were willing to contribute the money needed to put local classrooms up and running on the

information highway.

"We were just absolutely blown away with the support we got (from local donors), and even though we really started the campaign during a tight time as far as money (with the economic slowdown, we were afraid that would impact and it did throw us. It took us a little bit longer than we thought, but we found that people were very receptive. They understood the need, the importance of

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Garrow



Dortch



Lambeth



Martin

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The Chronicle (USPS 067-910) was established by Ernest H. Pitt and Ndubisi Egemonye in 1974 and is published every Thursday by Winston-Salem Chronicle Publishing Co. Inc., 617 N. Liberty Street, Winston-Salem, NC 27101. Periodicals postage paid at Winston-Salem, N.C. Annual subscription price is \$30.72.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: The Chronicle, P.O. Box 1636 Winston-Salem, NC 27102-1636

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