

Extortion found in Cosby case

During three days of deliberations, the jury in the extortion trial of Autumn Jackson hardly talked about Bill Cosby - the person who made the trial headline news, a juror said Saturday.

Cosby was barely discussed, Debra Hyman said, as the jury worked methodically to reach its verdict that Jackson tried to extort \$40 million from the man she claimed is her father in exchange for not going to the tabloids with her story.

"They didn't talk that much about him," the 36-year-old Hyman said in a telephone interview a day after the jury convicted Jackson of ex-

ortion, conspiracy and crossing state lines to commit a crime.

"While his words were important, they weren't the evidence of the crime," she said. "He was a victim. His star status had nothing to do with it."

Hyman, an investment manager and mother of two children, also said she and the other jurors felt sorry for the young woman because they considered her to be a victim, as well as a perpetrator.

"I hope the judge is lenient with her and maybe she gets counseling," she said.

Jackson faces up to 12 years in prison and \$750,000 in fines when

she is sentenced Oct. 22.

She was a victim, Hyman said, because her mother and grandmother had told her for 22 years that she was Cosby's daughter. And whether or not she really is his daughter, she lived all her life "with this knowledge and this pain," Hyman said.

Cosby has acknowledged an affair with Jackson's mother but denied he is the woman's father.

Hyman said jurors believed Ms. Jackson "was ripe pickings for a shyster, that people used her all through her life. Her mother used her to gain leverage on Bill Cosby, her grandmother used her, and now these crooks used her."

Report: Jackson father is former busboy

Autumn Jackson's father may not be Bill Cosby or the man whose name appears on her birth certificate, but possibly a former busboy who was once married to Jackson's mother, Time magazine said.

Jesus Vasquez, whom Shawn Upshaw married in 1973 - a year before Autumn was born - was thought by their co-workers to be the girl's father, according to a woman who worked as a waitress with the couple at a Los Angeles restaurant, Time reported.

"The shape of her eyes and her eyebrows are Jesus," Joan Green said. "And if you look at her baby pictures, Autumn had pin-straight hair."

Upshaw married Vasquez to help the Mexican immigrant gain U.S. citizenship, the magazine reported, quoting former friends it did not identify. A marriage license confirms their marriage, the magazine reported.

Through her attorney, Wanda Akin, Upshaw said she never lived,

or had sexual relations, with Vasquez.

The former busboy has not surfaced since Jackson was arrested in January. She was convicted last month for trying to extort \$40 million from Cosby by threatening to tell a tabloid that she is his daughter.

Cosby, who has denied he is the 22-year-old woman's father, took a paternity test last week to help settle the issue, his lawyer said.

Both Upshaw and Autumn Jackson have declined to take a blood test.



Economic progress in the Walnut Park district is evident as Sgt. Harry Jackson (from left), with his sister-in-law Denise Peterson and Lt. Scott Anderson of the Northeast Precinct welcome Adidas America in the new Harry Jackson Plaza. See related photo and story on Front Metro. (Photo by M. Washington)

Miller heads Albina Rotary

Members of the Rotary Club of Albina, representing north and northeast Portland, recently elected Fred C. Miller as their president.

The club is also diligently working on plans for this year's Gran Prix Race which is scheduled for Sept. 18 at the Cascade Campus of Portland Community College.

Miller is originally from California, but has been a resident of Oregon since 1970 when he attended Pacific University as a psychology major.

He has a dual career as a sales consultant with US West Dex Yellow Pages and an adjunct instructor in psychology with Portland Community College.

Prior career positions include Executive Director of the Northeast Portland YMCA and a youth/family therapist.

Miller has published a journal article on depression as well as a workbook on stress.

He is continuing his graduate education with a fellowship at Oregon Health Science University in the area of caregiving of family members with Alzheimer's.

He has been a member of the Albina Rotary Club for 12 years. Fred has been appointed by the Governor to serve on the Children's Trust Fund. Additionally, he has served on the North/Northeast Skills Center Board and the Multnomah County

Youth Commissions.

His hobbies include photography, hiking and a budding interest in boating. Fred, his wife, Daisy and their standard poodle, Sweetpea, reside in Southeast Portland.

In other Albina Rotary news, the St. Andrew Summer Day Camp received operating funds again this year.

These dollars are used to provide camp experience to inner-north and northeast youth.

The camp has been in existence for the past 25 years. Organizers hope to serve as many as 64 youth this season.

The camp theme is "Becoming a Person for Others."

Carroll O'Conner also wins; are stars unbeatable?

In a society enamored of celebrities, do stars always win in court?

It looked that way Friday when Carroll O'Connor and Bill Cosby came away victors in two highly publicized cases. But the overall record is not as clear.

O'Connor's nemesis, Harry Perzigian, angrily berated a jury for being swayed by star power in rejecting his slander suit against TV's Archie Bunker.

"It shows L.A. loves celebrities," said Perzigian. "You're not going to get a fair

shake in L.A. if you sue a celebrity."

Perzigian, a convicted drug provider to O'Connor's dead son, couldn't resist aiming a zinger himself, saying, "I've exposed Carroll O'Connor as the hateful, vengeful person he is."

Those who watched the trial are more likely to remember O'Connor's grief as he told the story of his son, Hugh, who shot himself to death at age 32 on March 28, 1995, after a long battle with cocaine addiction that drove him into de-

pression, paranoia and delusions. He said he lashed out at Perzigian because he knew he had been providing the younger O'Connor with cocaine.

"I don't think Carroll O'Connor won this case because he's a celebrity; I think he won it because he's a father," said noted Florida attorney Roy Black. "I'm surprised this case ever went to trial, it's ridiculous. There never would have been a lawsuit if it wasn't Carroll O'Connor."

Good Summer Reading II

By Prof. McKinley Burt

Oh, have I got a good one for you this week -- in case you missed it in 1994: "Berry Gordy: To Be Loved, an auto biography." The Music, The

down roads and byways I've travelled before--but aided this time with new perceptions of people, places and institutions: Chinva Achebe, Fanon, Cabral, Soyinka, Rushie,

This spellbinding book dares you to imagine a world without the Supremes, Smokey Robinson, Marvin Gaye, Stevie Wonder, Diana Ross, Michael Jackson, Lionel Richie, the Temptations and the Four Tops.

Magic, The Memories of Motown.

This spellbinding book dares you to imagine a world without the Supremes, Smokey Robinson, Marvin Gaye, Stevie Wonder, Diana Ross, Michael Jackson, Lionel Richie, the Temptations and the Four Tops. And that's neither the beginning nor the end of the magic Gordy wove over the years, interweaving musical genius and a fantastic ability for organization to create his "Detroit hit factory."

You won't be able to put this 445 page paperback down until you finish. As Smokey Robinson says, "'To Be Loved' captures the spirit of those magical years... I know it's all true because I was there from the beginning." Warner Books, Inc., N.Y. 1994.

Are you ready, perhaps, for a little headier stuff. If you believe that colonialism and slavery of what we have euphemistically called the "Third World" (most of mankind) were not accomplished with 'smoke and mirrors' but by the greed-driven ambitions of Europeans, then by all means you should get the following eloquent yet analytical study of imperialism.

"Culture And Imperialism", Edward W. Said, Vintage Books, N.Y., 1994. This time I found the publisher's blurb to be quite accurate: "Grandly conceived, urgently written and urgently needed... No one studying the relations between the metropolitan West and the decolonizing world can ignore Mr Said's work." The New York Times Book Review.

This erudite professor from Columbia University has taken me

Conrad, Dickens, Walter Rodney and C.L.R. James, he gives a classic picture of the subjugation of both Ireland and Algeria (among other places). And you know I agree with his observation "Historians have ignored the development of French culture in terms of Napoleon's Egyptian expedition." How many times have I stated this very fact of an African genesis? with documentation.

I see that there is a new (and very expensive) book out on the eternal questions about President Thomas Jefferson and his black mistress; "Thomas Jefferson and Sally Hemings: An American Controversy." The only thing controversial is the exact degree of hypocrisy exercised by the racists who still deny the dehumanizing effects of American slavery -- which permeated every level of this society.

To read an accurate and well documented story of this affair which began on the continent when Sally was fifteen and saw this black slave taken to Paris for sprints at the finest shops and moonlight row boat rides on public lakes, get "Sally Hemings" by Barbara Chase-Riboud, Avon pb. 1979 (or later edition).

In line with American ethnic protocol, the publishers insisted that the book be described as a "novel", when all of us who have studied the matter know that the French newspapers of the day carried the stories of this liaison and are easily accessible in the archives. Ms Chase-Riboud includes a family tree that allows one to trace this lineage to the present day -- As did Ebony Magazine.

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