

# Conviction Overturned in Cosby Case

By LARRY NEUMEISTER  
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NEW YORK (AP) - Autumn Jackson, imprisoned for allegedly trying to extort \$40 million from Bill Cosby by threatening to tell the tabloids she was his illegitimate daughter, could soon be free on bail after a federal appeals court overturned her conviction.

Ms. Jackson, 24, was sentenced in 1997 to two years and two months in prison after she was convicted of extortion, conspiracy and crossing state lines to commit a crime. She has served just over half of the sentence.

The 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals on Wednesday ruled the trial judge improperly instructed the jury on the law of extortion. The court also overturned the convictions of two accomplices for the same reason, ordering the case returned to the lower court for retrial.

Still, the appeals court said "evidence at trial was plainly sufficient to support verdicts of guilty had the jury been properly instructed."

The appeals court said the judge should have told jurors that in order to convict Ms. Jackson, they needed to find that she had wrongful intent. That would have allowed the jury to consider whether Ms. Jackson truly believed she was Cosby's daughter and therefore did not have any wrongful intent.

One of her lawyers, Robert Baum, said he would ask for Ms. Jackson to be freed on bail as soon as today. Prosecutors indicated they would not oppose the request.

Marvin Smilon, a spokesman for U.S. Attorney Mary Jo White, said prosecutors hadn't decided whether to appeal the ruling. A lawyer for Cosby said the entertainer would support whatever decision they make.

Prosecutors said Ms. Jackson demanded the money from Cosby on Jan. 16, 1997 - the day Cosby's 27-year-old son, Ennis, was shot to death in a robbery while changing a flat tire on a Los Angeles highway. If Cosby failed to comply, she said, she would tell her story to the supermarket tabloids. The slaying of Cosby's son

was unrelated to the alleged plot.

Two days later, Ms. Jackson and Jose Medina were arrested in New York in an FBI sting after signing a \$24 million payoff agreement with Cosby's lawyers.

The case tarnished Cosby's wholesome TV image as husband and father when he was forced to disclose that he had an affair with Ms. Jackson's mother, Shawn Upshaw, in the 1970s. He had provided her with more than \$100,000 in support over the years.

But he repeatedly denied he is Ms. Jackson's father, telling jurors that he told Ms. Jackson: "I will be for you a father figure, but I am not your father."

The issue of paternity was ruled irrelevant to the charges. Cosby took a paternity test after the trial to try to settle the dispute, but Ms. Jackson and her mother declined to take blood tests.

The appeals court also overturned the case against Medina, who was sentenced to five years and three months in prison, and Boris Sabas, who got three months behind bars.

# Yugoslav troops begin withdrawal from Kosovo

By ZORANA VUCICEVIC

PRISTINA, Serbia, June 10 (Reuters) - Yugoslav army troops began pulling out of Kosovo on Thursday and the top regional commander said the withdrawal should be completed as promised in 11 days.

A few hundred trucks carrying several thousand troops, anti-aircraft weapons, howitzers and light armament pulled out of Kosovo's provincial capital Pristina and headed north towards the Serbian border with the southern province.

Later in the afternoon the first convoy of police left Kosovska Mitrovica, the independent Beta news agency reported. It said police trucks, jeeps and buses filled with troops travelled in a line headed north.

The soldiers — some of whom were tearful — flashed their lights, honked horns and gave the three-fingered Serbian salute as they pulled away to fulfil promises by the Yugoslav government in a deal with NATO agreed on Wednesday night.

"According to the declaration of the Supreme Command, the withdrawal of part of the troops is beginning today from Kosovo," said Major General Vladimir Lazarevic, commander of the army's Pristina Corps.

"In the next 11 days the whole corps should be relocated...to their new posts on the border between Kosovo and Serbia," he said.

Lazarevic said that NATO peace-keeping troops, due to move into the shattered province as soon as there is a verifiable sign of withdrawal, faced a tough challenge.

"Ahead of us is a time of peace but also of great challenge because the foreign troops...will have to take on the responsibility of securing the citizens of Kosovo...and other political questions."

Beta quoted him later as saying he hoped "there will be a little more wisdom in peacetime."

Earlier, Foreign Ministry spokesman Nebojsa Vujovic told reporters in Belgrade that army and police troops had started to pull out in line with the peace plan.

"Yugoslav army and police units started their withdrawal from Kosovo in absolute order, implementing a very accurate and precise mechanism for a withdrawal," he said.

Vujovic attended marathon talks in Macedonia between senior NATO and Yugoslav army generals who signed a plan detailing the withdrawal of Serb forces from Kosovo.

Under its terms, Belgrade has until late on Thursday to start moving its troops out of Kosovo and must have withdrawn all its forces within 11 days.

Correspondents driving from Belgrade to Pristina said traffic jams along the main road between the two cities slowed the withdrawal which took place at times under the watchful eyes of pilots in NATO aircraft flying overhead.

The correspondents described the hasty exodus as "orderly chaos" and counted more than 300 military vehicles on the road in the last 40-mile (60-km) stretch into Pristina.

At least 40 civilian cars loaded down with personal possessions were interspersed among the military vehicles. It seemed some Serb families, possibly fearing revenge attacks by Kosovo Liberation Army guerrillas or returning Kosovo Albanian refugees, were leaving the province.

Some international organisations have voiced concern for minority Serbs in the face of possible retaliation by returning ethnic Albanian refugees. Serbs numbered just under 10 percent of the population before the air strikes and mass exodus from Kosovo began in March.

# Court Strikes Down 'Street Gang' Law

## Chicago Law Targeted Gangs Hanging Out in Public

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WASHINGTON - The Supreme Court today struck down a Chicago law aimed at preventing street gang members and their friends from hanging out in public. The 6-3 decision ended a constitutional dispute that captured the attention of states and communities across the nation.

The court said the 1992 anti-loitering ordinance, which resulted in 45,000 arrests in the three years it was enforced, violated the rights of the people police arrested under it because it did not give them adequate notice about what was forbidden.

The ruling limits communities' options in battling problems caused by street gangs.

The ordinance required police to order any group of people standing around "with no apparent purpose" to move along if an officer believed at least one of them belonged to a street gang. Those who disregarded the order would be arrested.

The Illinois Supreme Court had struck down the law, calling its language too vague and ruling that it gave police officers too much discretion in deciding whether there had been a violation.

Today's decision said the state court was right.

"Since the city cannot conceivably have meant to criminalize each instance a citizen stands in public with a gang member, the vagueness

that dooms this ordinance is not the product of uncertainty about the normal meaning of 'loitering' but rather about what loitering is covered by the ordinance and what is not," Justice John Paul Stevens wrote for the court.

Stevens, the highest court's only Chicago native, said the law required police to tell people to move on without inquiring about their purpose in standing around.

"It matters not whether the reason that a gang member and his father, for example, might loiter near Wrigley Field to rob an unsuspecting fan or just to get a glimpse of Sammy Sosa leaving the ballpark," he said. "In either, if their purpose is not apparent to a nearby police officer, she (the officer) indeed, she 'shall' - order them to disperse."

In finding fault with Chicago's anti-loitering law, Stevens was joined by Justices Sandra Day O'Connor, Anthony M. Kennedy, David H. Souter, David H. Ginsburg and Stephen G. Breyer.

O'Connor, Kennedy and Breyer wrote separate opinions explaining their views.

Justice Antonin Scalia, who dissented along with Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist and Justice Clarence Thomas, took six minutes to read aloud from the bench part of his strongly worded opinion.

"The citizens of Chicago have de-

cidated that depriving themselves of the freedom to 'hang out' with a gang member is necessary to eliminate pervasive gang crime and intimidation - and that the elimination of the one is worth the deprivation of the other," he said. "This court has no business second-guessing either the degree of necessity or the fairness of the trade."

He called the invalidated ordinance "a perfectly reasonable measure."

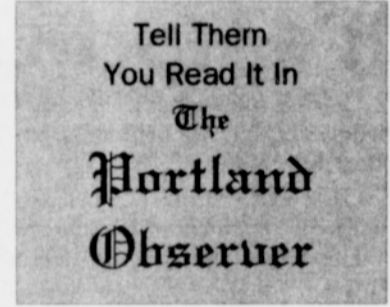
# Northwest Attendants Agree to 5-Year Contract

ST. PAUL, Minn. (June 10) — Northwest Airlines Corp., the fourth-largest U.S. carrier, and the Teamsters union agreed tentatively on a new five-year contract covering 11,000 flight attendants, averting a possible strike.

The agreement follows 2 1/2 years of negotiations that focused on wages, pension benefits and job protection in the final days. Details of the new contract weren't disclosed.

St. Paul, Minnesota-based Northwest's agreement with the union allows the airline to avoid repeating the summer strike scenario it encountered with its pilots last year. Flight attendants voted last weekend to give their union leaders the option to call a strike if necessary.

"This is the agreement that our members sent us to negotiate," said Billie Davenport, president of Teamsters Lo-



cal 2000. The flight attendants were seeking more benefits to compensate for pay cuts they took in 1993 as the carrier neared bankruptcy. Salaries for Northwest flight attendants range from about \$15,000 to \$59,000 a year.

Talks between the two sides have been overseen by the National Mediation Board since October.

Davenport said earlier this week before the talks resumed in Washington on Tuesday that the final discussions would focus on pension benefits and provisions for allowing flight attendants to retire at an earlier age. In addition, the union was still pushing the company to agree to using more U.S. flight attendants for flying in Japan, she said.

Northwest pilots struck the airline in late August last year, shutting down the carrier for two weeks and causing it to post a loss for the year.

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