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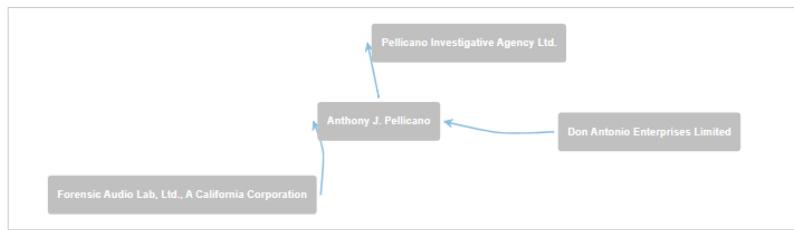
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But in 1994, Joseph Byrnes, a Forest Park police lieutenant, told *Los Angeles* magazine a different story. "Seven patrolmen and I, walking shoulder to shoulder, searched every inch of that small cemetery, and we found nothing," he said. "The very next day, Pellicano makes a big deal of finding the remains in a spot we had thoroughly checked."

Kurtis, too, thinks it unlikely that police could have missed Todd's remains. "The police had to have gone over that ground," he says. "Whoever took [the remains] must have returned them. They were getting too hot to hang on to."

That doesn't mean Kurtis thinks Pellicano was the thief, although he hasn't entirely dismissed that possibility. But he has difficulty accepting a scenario that involves Pellicano stealing Todd's remains with the intent of later returning them to the cemetery where he could dramatically "find" them. To Kurtis, that just seems like too much work.

One thing Kurtis doesn't doubt is Pellicano's craving for the limelight. He notes that 30 years ago, in the pre-cable era, the local nightly news on Channel 2, which paired Kurtis with Walter Jacobson, was the biggest show in town. "Maybe the reason Pellicano called me is that we were so hot," says Kurtis. "It would give him maximum exposure. He loved the publicity—and it was a hell of a story."

Six years after finding Todd's remains, Pellicano turned his back on Chicago and headed for California, where—according to Jeannette Walls's *Dish: How Gossip Became the News and the News Became Just*

Nearly a year after she triggered a media uproar by stepping into Eddie Murphy's Land Cruiser, Atisone Seiuli was found dead on the sidewalk outside her Koreatown apartment. A collective shiver passed through L.A.'s transgender community. Candace Watkins created a memorial Web site for Atisone, writing that she'd been pushed out of a window in her five-story building and was a victim of foul play. Candace also tipped the *Globe*, hoping news coverage of Atisone's demise would forestall possible foul play against other trans women of the night — especially her. The *Globe* quickly weighed in with a story headlined Eddie Murphy Drag Queen Murdered. It said the Murphy scandal had shattered Atisone's life, turning her into a pathetic paranoid who feared she was being pursued by hit men. Atisone's brother David told the tab that she grew hysterical at the mere mention of Murphy's name, and had recently traveled to New York and New Orleans under the noms de drag Gina Addison and Linda GoLightly.

Despite the *Globe*'s headline and Candace's assertions, there was exactly zero evidence that Atisone was murdered or that Murphy was in any way involved in her April 22, 1998, death. But that's not to say the circumstances of her demise weren't pretty weird.

Atisone died in a predawn fall from her apartment house on Berendo Street, where she'd been sharing digs with a man then visiting his mother in El Salvador. Her body was found in a pool of blood, clad only in a black bra padded with silicon pouches and a black leather bikini thong. (Both garments, noted an apparently fashion-conscious investigator from the coroner's office, were from Frederick's of Hollywood.)

The young trans woman struck the pavement with such force that her nasal bone was driven through her skull into her brain. The coroner's report said a towel was found tied to a railing atop Atisone's building, just above an open window in her fifth-floor unit. The towel ended about two feet short of the window, and fingernail scrape marks trailed eerily down the building's facade. Neighbors reported that Atisone and her roommate sometimes accidentally locked themselves out and entered the apartment by climbing down from the roof on a fire escape and through a living-room window. But the landlord had recently nailed that window shut following a burglary.

On the night of her death, Atisone, who'd worked at a local club until 4 a.m., had left her keys

Kurtis grabbed a cameraman and rushed out to Forest Park. At some point—he can't recall exactly when—he also called police. At the cemetery (which Kurtis describes as resembling a savanna, with thickets of ash and oak trees and only a few graves), Pellicano and Kurtis headed for Todd's grave. Pellicano recited aloud the instructions he had received and began pacing off distances from the grave. Finally, when he had walked about 75 yards, he cried out. "He yelled, 'I think this is it!'" recalls Kurtis. "I came running over, and sure enough, it was."

Though Kurtis aired the story that night, he says he was already "a little leery" of Pellicano—as were the police. "They had looked all over the cemetery," says Kurtis, "and now [Pellicano] walks right up to it. It must have been embarrassing to the policemen [who had conducted the search]."

According to news stories at the time, Pellicano found a rubber bag containing the remains beneath a pile of branches, leaves, and dirt. He told the *Sun-Times* he had relied on a tip he had received from someone likely acting on behalf of the thieves. "I think they felt they made a tremendous mistake," he said. "The information was volunteered to me. I'm a public figure, and I've handled many, many missing figures."

Pellicano went on to reveal a possible motive. Other sources, he said, "told me the reason these people perpetrated this horrendous act is they were looking for a ten-carat diamond ring that allegedly was given to [Todd] by Elizabeth Taylor." As it turned out, no ring or other valuables were in the grave with Todd. "I think [the crime] was very, very silly," said Pellicano.

So exactly who looted Mike Todd's grave? And how could Forest Park

you can go without going too far, and to be perfectly honest with you, I took that to the limit. But not far enough that it would have landed me in prison. I was too good at it. For the most part it was all bluff, it was all show. It was acting!"

Barresi moved sharply higher on the Hollywood notoriety scale in 1990 when the *National Enquirer* ran a front-page story showcasing his claim that he'd had a two-year love affair with John Travolta. Barresi told the tabloid he'd met Travolta in 1982 when the actor followed him into the shower room of an L.A. health club. They later had sex dozens of times, Barresi said. The star, he said, often showed up at his apartment for bedroom calisthenics, implored Barresi to tell him dirty stories over the phone, and told the porn actor he was sexier and more macho than Burt Reynolds and Clark Gable combined. Barresi said he'd gone to bed with other celebrities, too. "From time to time I've let them use me in hopes of furthering my acting career," he said. But several months later Barresi retracted his story, saying in a letter to Travolta's attorney that he'd never engaged in homosexual activity with Travolta.

Barresi said in subsequent interviews that his life had been turned upside down when copies of the *Enquirer* piece were sent anonymously to his parents, brothers and fitness clients. At one point, Barresi blamed the Church of Scientology, of which Travolta has long been a high-profile member, for the mailings.

In the early '90s, Barresi's career morphed again, as he became an unlicensed private eye and a retailer of tabloid news. In 1994, he got involved in the Michael Jackson child-molestation scandal when he was approached by two of Jackson's servants who claimed they'd seen the performer rubbing a young boy's thighs in an inappropriate way. The couple wanted Barresi's help in selling their story to the tabloids, and Barresi says he obtained a \$150,000 offer from the *Enquirer*. He was to receive a 10 percent commission. But the servants, Barresi says, screwed him by hiring a Beverly Hills lawyer who promised he could get them much more tabloid cash, as well as book and movie deals. Angry at being cut out of the action, Barresi decided to sell the couple's story without them. He taped them several times as they related their tale of supposed celebrity perversion. Two of the tapes were made surreptitiously, with Barresi slipping a recorder into his pocket before joining the Jackson hirerlings at their lawyer's office. But with each retelling, Barresi says, the details of the alleged molestation grew more lurid. "Every time they told the story, they would add a little more," he says. "[Jackson's] hand went from outside the kid's pants to inside the kid's pants. It was outside the kid's pants when they were offered fifty grand, and inside the kid's pants when they were offered a hundred thousand."

Most journalists would shy away from basing a news story on taped voices that couldn't be positively identified. But the tabs were in frenzied pursuit of Jacko, and Barresi figured out a clever way to assuage any qualms they might have about the recordings. He called the *Globe* and said he was going to present the tapes as evidence to the L.A. County district attorney's office. Did the paper want copies? Did it want to assign a reporter to accompany him downtown when he delivered the tapes? It sure as hell did.

On the day the *Globe* story came out, Barresi met again with the servants and their lawyer, his recorder again whirring quietly in his pocket. The woman retainer angrily confronted him, demanding to know if he was the source of the *Globe* story. Barresi smoothly lied through his teeth. "I already got fifteen grand in my pocket from [selling the story], but I say, 'Of course not,'" he recalls happily. "The attorney jumps in, [saying] 'Of course not, he wouldn't be sitting here right now if he did.' And I'm so calm. I'm just sitting there. I go, 'Search me.' And I had the recorder going."

Meanwhile, Barresi contacted noted Beverly Hills private investigator Anthony Pellicano, who was working for Jackson to try to quash the scandal. Barresi told Pellicano about the tapes, saying they contained inconsistencies that would help undercut the servants' allegations. "It was great because after that I took all the information to Pellicano and just discredited the shit outta them. They didn't make a dime."





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The Bagman

On a spring day in 1997, a veteran porn actor, bodybuilder and strong-arm man named Paul Barresi picked up a supermarket tabloid and spotted a 24-karat opportunity. What caught Barresi's eye was an intriguing story about vice cops stopping actor Eddie Murphy just before 5 a.m. in a West Hollywood neighborhood known for its abundance of transgender prostitutes. Sitting next to Murphy in the front seat of his Toyota Land Cruiser was a gorgeous, 21-year-old streetwalker from Samoa. "Eddie Murphy's Sick Obsession With Drag Queens!" shrieked the *Globe*. "H'wood Stunned by Superstar's Secret Double Life as Cops Catch Him With Transsexual Hooker."



Eddie Murphy, 90s

The article said a number of transgender hookers and drag queens claimed carnal encounters with Murphy dating back to the early 1980s; the star, it said, had "disguised his shameful double life" for years. Drag queen Karen Dior dished that he and Murphy had performed oral sex on each other in the backseat of the actor's limo. A transsexual called Summer St. Cerely opined that Murphy "seems utterly obsessed with men dressed as women and the way [they] live." Another trans woman called Tempest gave a deliciously detailed account of her alleged dalliance with Murphy, saying he was particularly fond of feet and derived audible pleasure from licking her toes. "He was grunting and groaning, enjoying himself," Tempest told the tabloid. She further divulged that Murphy smelled of Drakkar cologne and wore "cream-colored briefs." Similar stories appeared on the same day, May 20, 1997, in the *National Enquirer* and the *Star*.

The *Enquirer*'s coverage included an interview with the preoperative transsexual who'd been stopped with Murphy. Atisone Kenneth Seiuli had been trolling for johns, dressed in tight bell-bottoms and a black tank top, when Murphy drove up. After Seiuli got in, she claimed, Murphy placed two \$100 bills on her leg and asked if she liked to wear lingerie. "'I said yes,' said Seiuli. 'He said, 'Can I see you in lingerie?' I told him, 'Whenever I have the time.' He said, 'I'll make the time.'" Murphy also wanted to know what kind of sex Seiuli liked, and she replied that she was "into everything."

The stories in the three tabloids — which have a combined circulation of more than 4.5 million — amounted to a PR holocaust for Murphy, making him look like a sexual sicko just as he was trying to jump-start his flagging career with a string of family-oriented movies. The year before, he'd regained star status with *The Nutty Professor* and was in L.A. making another family-friendly movie, *Doctor Dolittle*, when the cops pulled him over. The actor's explanation that he was merely doing a good deed by offering what he thought was a lone woman a ride home from a dicey neighborhood became fodder for comics and talk-show hosts across the land. His old

Who's Behind The Blog



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Anthony "The Pelican" Pellicano, 90s

Working both sides of the street proved highly lucrative for Barresi. By first spreading ugly rumors about Jackson and then casting doubt on them, he pocketed nearly \$60,000. He got a sweet bonus, too: revenge on two people who'd dissed him.

"It's very simple," says the Sicilian welder's son. "If someone's not gonna give me respect, I'm not gonna respect them. If someone fucks with me, I'm gonna fuck with them."

It didn't take Paul Barresi long to find the transsexual ex-dominatrix who once went by the handle of Carnal Candy.

Carnal had made herself a major player in the Murphy/she-males scandal. A sort of den mother to local transsexuals, she'd been incensed when Murphy claimed he didn't know that Atisone Seiuli, the tranny hooker he'd been stopped with, was actually a tranny hooker. Carnal's girlfriends had been telling her of their alleged liaisons with the actor for years. She'd heard so many such anecdotes, in fact, that she was writing a book, *In the Closet With Eddie Murphy*, which she later published online.

These days Carnal goes by the name Candace Watkins and lives in a small, dingy house in Altadena with three enormous black royal standard poodles. She's articulate and shrewd, if not altogether convincing, with her broad shoulders and six-foot-plus height, as a feminine specimen.

After running away from home at 16, she became a prostitute on the streets of Chicago. She later moved to New Orleans, where she tended bar, worked as a stripper, turned tricks and had an oil-field roustabout as a boyfriend. In the early '80s she relocated to L.A. and got involved in blue movies, rising to underground stardom as a transsexual dominatrix, then a new porn genre. In 1983, she underwent surgery to make her, as she puts it, a complete woman.

Following Murphy's little spin with Seiuli, Candace put several transsexual friends — including Tempest, who'd described the actor's cologne, underwear, and toe-licking habits in such engaging detail — in touch with the *Globe*. Candace got dolled up as a streetwalker and, she says, posed for two staged photos that accompanied the *Globe* piece. The tab paid Tempest \$1,500, which she split with Candace. Candace also made introductions for Sylvia Holland, a black transsexual porn actress ("I look like Diahann Carroll") who claimed to have trysted with Murphy. Holland subsequently surfaced in the *Enquirer* story, in which she boasted of two sex encounters with the star — once in an alley, and the second time in his car.

Through his porn-biz connections, Barresi soon located Candace at the North Hollywood apartment building where she then lived. She had moved there to be close to another transgender pal, Valerie Gale, who also claimed her share of frolics with Murphy. Candace was in the process of interviewing Valerie for her e-book about Murphy. Valerie was seriously ill with HIV and, according to Candace, a bit flighty, and Candace wanted easy access to her. The two girlfriends were together in Valerie's apartment when Barresi called. His objective was simple and nefarious: to pay the them to reverse their stories and swear Murphy had never had sex with them or any other transsexuals.

The actor's lawyer, Marty Singer, was evidently cranking up for a courtroom showdown with the *Enquirer* and the *Globe*, and the stakes for both sides were high. Sworn statements from the trans women saying they'd lied about Murphy would give Singer the legal equivalent of a B-52 bomber in his battle with the tabs. "If he had affidavits from the people who were our sources, at first blush you'd have to say we have a truth problem," says one tab lawyer, who asked not to be identified. "You'd have to worry about how could it be that these people told our reporters x' when they've just sworn not x,' unless they're talking out of both sides of their mouth."

With their sources' credibility shot, the tabs might have to run up a white flag, paying Murphy big bucks to make the libel suits go away and even pledging to write no more stories about him and transsexuals. Perhaps more important, no other media outlets would ever believe them again, and the Murphy/kinky sex scandal would come to a screeching halt.

Barresi fully understood all this. "I think that was [Murphy's lawyers'] goal, to just simply discredit them," he says. "Although the actor had already taken a serious PR hit, his camp wanted to make sure there would be no further damage," says Barresi.

Barresi began what he describes as a gradual courting process of Candace in mid-July 1997. "I knew she had a powerful influence over the others," he says. "She's like the queen bee. If she wanted them to jump, they would say, 'How high?' She's the leader; she had the strength. She was more intelligent than the rest. She was their protector, their guardian, their adviser. But the irony here is that she always had her own interests at heart."

Irony here is that she always had her own interests at heart.

After a couple of phone conversations, Barresi visited Candace at her apartment and began laying on the sweet talk -and the money. He told her he'd seen her movies and praised her as an absolute star. "I remember this line," he says. "This is a good one; you should use it sometime. I said, 'Candace, you're younger and more beautiful than you've ever been.' I got her guard down."

Barresi moved cautiously. He was too slick to bluntly offer Candace and Valerie bribes right out of the box.

Instead, he suggested ways they could rationalize lying, or at least make their recantations sound plausible. The tabloids, he said, were infamous for embellishing stories; maybe that had happened in Murphy's case. But the two of them, he says, insisted that what the tabs printed was true. Then Barresi took another tack, trying to appeal to their sense of decency. Murphy's career and marriage, he said, could be ruined by the stories they were telling. But that approach didn't work, either. Finally, Barresi got to his bottom line.

"In the same way that the tabloids were able to offer you money for your story, I am in a position to offer you money," he told them. "How much?" asked Candace. As soon as he heard that, says Barresi, "I knew I had her."

Barresi freely admits offering the trans women money to lie under penalty of perjury. "Sure it was a payoff," he says. "I was very, very direct with [Candace]. I don't know if we used the word payoff, but I know it was about her being paid to change her story around."

They quickly arrived at a price, in the five figures. But when Barresi phoned Singer for approval, he says, the attorney went through the roof, saying, "I'm not gonna give those things that kind of money!" Barresi went back and bargained for lower fees, and the deal was on.

Barresi promptly began coaching Candace and Valerie on how best to lie when they were interviewed by Murphy's lawyers. The investigator worked from a list of questions he drafted himself. "I said, 'OK, let's do a practice run,'" he recalls. "Let's talk a little bit about the tabloids. Who interviewed you for the tabloids? They said the [reporter's] name – Blackman, I think his name was. I said, 'Did at any time you feel that Blackman was pressuring you to embellish your story?' 'Yes.' Were you told that unless you exaggerated your story that there wouldn't be a story?" 'Yes'... And then I just flat out said, 'Did you just sell this story to the tabloids for the money?' 'Yes.' 'So you never did have sex with Eddie Murphy, did you?' 'No. Never.'

Barresi says he typed up his questions and the trannies' answers and sent the transcript to Brian G. Wolf, one of Singer's partners. Barresi also claims he sent Wolf a memo indicating that Sylvia Holland was willing to change her story and outlining what she would say. Barresi says he never told Singer or Wolf he was coaching the trans women to lie, nor did the attorneys ever order him to obtain perjured testimony. Indeed, Barresi says, Singer specifically told him to get the truth. Barresi says he ignored that admonition because I understood what [the attorneys] wanted to hear. "I never used the words 'look, Marty, if we pay her this hush money, she'll lie and change her story,'" says Barresi. "I never had that kind of dialogue with the attorneys... What I presented to the attorneys I always presented as truthful and legit. And what I discussed with Candace was completely the opposite."

On July 17, Barresi drove Candace and Valerie to Singer's office, where, in signed declarations, they took back everything they'd told the tabs. Candace wrote that she'd referred Valerie and Tempest to the *Enquirer* purely for money; that the two other trannies had lied about having sex with Murphy, also for money; and that an Enquirer reporter had coached and intimidated them to make false statements. "I have never met Eddie Murphy, nor do I know anyone who has had sex with Eddie Murphy," Candace declared in her statement.

Despite the coup of obtaining Candace and Valerie's recantations, "Singer couldn't wait for the two trannies to leave," Barresi says.

"Singer was thoroughly disgusted, felt like creepy crawlers were going up his neck," recalls Barresi. "I could tell he was very shaken and disturbed. Just being in their presence repulsed him. And he conveyed that to me outside the office: 'Just get this over with, get them outta here!'"

For her efforts, Candace was paid \$15,000 by Singer's firm, according to an IRS document she provided to *New Times*. Valerie says she was paid \$5,000. Sylvia Holland, who gave Barresi a videotaped statement at her West Hollywood apartment denying any sexual relationship with Murphy, says she received \$2,500.

Asked about Barresi's tactics, Singer initially insisted that Paul Barresi has in no way been employed by our firm. Told later that Barresi provided *New Times* with pay stubs indicating he received at least \$3,451 from Singer's firm for work on the Murphy/Enquirer account, the attorney conceded that Barresi had been retained as an investigator. Singer also acknowledges hiring

The impostor story came in handy when the trans women gave their statements to Singer. Candace swore with absolute certainty that she'd had sex not with Murphy but with a well-known impersonator and Eddie Murphy look-alike who frequented transsexual clubs in the Hollywood area, according to her declaration. (This even though she'd never claimed to have trysted with Murphy herself; she said friends had.) Valerie Gale lied similarly. "They paid us to say it was an Eddie Murphy impostor," she says. Asked if her sex partner might actually have been Tripp, Valerie adds: "Oh, please. I dated the man three different times. I don't date impostors, honey. The first time he came up, alone, [he] was in a cream-colored Rolls. I dropped the keys down to him and he came up to our apartment, and we got busy. It was definitely Eddie Murphy."

But as Barresi continued down his list of talkative gender benders, he began running into people who wouldn't accept payoffs. One was Atisone Seiuli, the Samoan transsexual the cops had stopped with Murphy.

Atisone went by the street name of Shalimar ("After the perfume — it's so sweet," she told the *Enquirer*) and performed at local drag clubs, sometimes as a dominatrix nun complete with chains and snakes. She told friends of schmoozing with Charlie Sheen, Demi Moore and other film stars who came to see her, and boasted that she'd someday be bigger than drag sensation RuPaul. Atisone had made herself a prime target for Barresi by giving an interview to the *Enquirer* following the police stop.

"Eddie's claim he was just giving me a lift makes me laugh!" the tab quoted her as saying. "I'm a transsexual hooker and he knew that!"

Barresi says Singer wanted a sworn denial from Atisone because she was thinking about writing a book on her encounter with Murphy. (Singer says he can't recall if he sought Atisone's denial.) At Barresi's urging, Candace contacted Atisone and passed along his offer to pay her if she'd switch her story. But Atisone wanted nothing to do with Murphy or his money, Candace says. "After I told her that they wanted to talk, she said no," recalls Candace. "She was afraid to talk to him. She wanted to just drop him. They wanted to give her \$10,000 to never talk about it again." Barresi confirms Candace's account.

Barresi then approached Karen Dior, the drag queen whose given name is Geoff Gann. Gann grew up in a Missouri farm town, where he learned the art of makeup by peddling Mary Kay cosmetics as a high school senior. The farm wives he doted on loved him, and he earned \$100 an hour lugging his wares around town in a distinctive pink case. His father, a Republican state legislator, was horrified. "He said, 'Can't you at least have brown cases, instead of the pink ones?'" recalls Gann, laughing. "My parents said, 'What are we gonna tell our friends?' I said, 'Tell your friends that I'm making more money than you are.'"

At 21, Gann moved to L.A., got a job at a Beverly Hills beauty salon and began performing in drag shows at a West Hollywood bar. A fellow drag queen was also a porn director, and Gann soon found himself acting in bisexual and transsexual videos. (His first role was in a flick titled *Sharon and Karen*.) He's also appeared in numerous TV commercials and shows, including an episode of *Xena: Warrior Princess*, in which he plants a long, soulful kiss on Lucy Lawless. The scene caused a brief stir in fanzines and the tabs since Gann has AIDS.

In drag Gann makes a very convincing woman, and the *Globe* ran a fetching photo of him on its cover on May 20, 1997, alongside the headline Eddie Murphy's Drag Queens Tell All. In the accompanying story, Gann claimed a 1990 assignation with the star in his limo. "I asked Eddie what he liked," Gann told the tab. "He said: 'I'm straight, but I like girls like you.' And I said: Well, girls like me are boys."

At the *Globe*'s insistence Gann took a lie-detector test, which he passed, according to a copy of the examiner's report obtained by *New Times*.

"I have this annoying habit of telling the truth," says Gann, 33, sitting in his West Hollywood apartment. "And I guess I'm still kind of naive. I didn't really think it would be a big deal." It was a big deal, however, to Marty Singer, who swiftly named Gann a co-defendant in his \$5 million libel suit against the *Globe*. That scared the bejesus out of Gann, who was very ill at the time. "I was spending a lot of money on medicine and doctors' visits," he says. "I'd had AIDS since 1995. So at times I'd been really well and at times I'd been really sick. He's suing me for \$5 million, and really all he could hope to get from me would be my dresses and the rest of my T cells."

Barresi was acquainted with Gann from the porn business and phoned the drag queen under the pretext of helping him broker his Murphy story to a tabloid TV news show. Barresi eventually revealed he was working for Murphy's lawyers and asked if Gann was willing to recant for money. Gann was, says Barresi, but insisted on \$100,000 — a fee Barresi knew Singer would never agree to.

Gann tells a different story. He's known Barresi since the early '90s.

"He was known in the gay porn industry as being kind of...unpredictable," says Gann. "He would get mad at the models and scream at them and throw the camera at them. He saw a picture of me somewhere in drag and started calling me up and wanted me to go on a date with him or have sex with him. And I'm like, 'Well, thanks but no.'"

Gann says Barresi first offered to pay him to simply shut up about Murphy, which Gann was more than willing to do. "I said, 'You know what? He doesn't have to pay me. I have no desire to talk about it anymore.' Anytime anybody writes anything about me, it starts out with, Karen Dior, the drag queen that slept with Eddie Murphy..." Then it goes on to say whatever the story is. I'm tired of hearing it. I'm almost as sick of it as he is, probably." But later, says Gann, Barresi insisted he sign a statement saying he'd lied to the *Globe*. Gann refused. "I looked deep within myself and I said, 'You know, I just can't do that, because it's not true,'" he says.

Gann says Barresi then tried to pressure him by claiming Murphy's camp had hired a private eye to spy on him. The investigator supposedly learned Gann was turning tricks and found evidence of illegal drug use while sifting through his trash. "And I'm like, 'Well, if they're watching me, then they know that the only drugs in my garbage would be my AIDS drugs bottles that I'm throwing out,'" Gann says he retorted. Barresi denies saying a P.I. was watching Gann, but admits making a veiled threat that the drag queen was walking on thin ice because of all of the skeletons in his closet. Such skeletons, Barresi added, could easily be dug up by an investigator — and badly damage Gann's lucrative acting career. Gann, however, stuck to his story.

Stung by the horrendous publicity from his tranny pickup, Eddie Murphy launched a charm offensive in the media. At the time the scandal blew up, the actor had been trying to revive a career that had stalled in the early '90s. Following his rise to fame as a Saturday Night Live regular in the early '80s, he moved on to movies, becoming one of the world's biggest stars with hits like 48 Hrs. and Beverly Hills Cop. Later flicks, such as Metro, bombed.

In 1996, Murphy's prospects improved noticeably with the success of *The Nutty Professor*. By the time of the Seiuli scandal, he was in the midst of a remake of the children's classic *Dr. Doolittle*, which earned him a reported \$17 million. Murphy had a very big incentive to make sure Middle America didn't conclude he was some kind of wife-ditching night crawler with a taste for freaky sex.

Soon after the Seiuli business hit the newspapers, Murphy gave a lengthy interview to *People* magazine, claiming: "This is an act of kindness that got turned into a f-king horror show." His wife and children were visiting her parents in Sacramento on the night in question, he said, and he'd been unable to sleep. In the course of looking for something to read at an all-night newsstand, he spotted Seiuli and — not knowing she was arguably a he — offered a ride home.

Murphy said he often drove around at night when he felt restless, sometimes handing out wads of cash to hookers and street people. Murphy also appeared on TV's *Entertainment Tonight*, saying he was embarrassed by the whole mess and denying he'd picked up Seiuli for sex. "I love my wife and I'm not gay," he said. "If I was soliciting, I would have picked this girl up and pulled over to some dark corner or dark alley and did whatever I was going to do." He ended by pledging to never, ever, ever play good Samaritan again.

Meanwhile, Singer's multimillion-dollar lawsuits against the tabloids had been widely reported in the mainstream media. But only a few months after filing them, the attorney quietly dropped the suits. Murphy publicist Arnold Robinson said in August 1997 that the *Enquirer* suit was withdrawn because the paper did not publish its article about Mr. Murphy with malice and recklessness — legal elements that must be proved for a libel action to succeed in court. What Robinson didn't say was that Murphy had not only dropped his suit against the *Enquirer*, but had agreed, after secret negotiations, to pay the tab's legal fees — an extremely rare concession in such circumstances. "You can't win bigger than that when you're defending against a lawsuit," crows *Enquirer* attorney Gerson Zweifach, of the influential Williams and Connolly law firm in Washington, D.C. "To have the other guy agree to go away and pay your fees — it's a happy day in the tabloid wars!" Zweifach refuses to say how much Murphy paid or to reveal other details of the confidential out-of-court settlement.

Singer dropped his suit against the *Globe* so quickly that the paper didn't have time to file a response in court, one of its attorneys says. Gann, a defendant in that suit, never even received an official notice that he was being sued. And two tabloid lawyers say Singer never threatened to use the trannies' false declarations against them in court.

What in the name of Axel Foley was going on here?

"Only about 1 percent of all lawsuits are settled with the plaintiff paying the defendant's legal costs," according to USC law professor Daniel Klerman, an expert in civil procedure. "Usually in the settlement of lawsuits, money flows from the defendant to the plaintiff," he says. "Singer's cancellation of the suits," adds Klerman, "suggests that Eddie Murphy realized somewhere along the way that [the lawsuits were] harming him more than helping him."

From The Los Angeles Times:

A Los Angeles police sergeant has been suspended for allegedly tapping into confidential police databases on behalf of Anthony Pellicano, a Hollywood private investigator who has worked for some of the biggest names in show business, law enforcement sources said.

FBI agents and Los Angeles Police Department investigators who served search warrants on Pellicano obtained records that led to Sgt. Mark Arneson, a 29-year veteran of the force.

The logs indicated that Arneson had accessed personal information about Anita Busch, a Los Angeles Times reporter who was investigating actor Steven Seagal and his ties to an alleged Mafia associate. The records Arneson had access to included Busch's driver's license, car registration and driving record, police sources said. Pellicano has been under investigation for alleged involvement in an effort to threaten Busch.

11/11/03

The Scoop On The Chameleon Group, [Anthony Pellicano](#), [Anita Busch](#)

Ross Johnson, the last of the truth tellers, writes:

1. [Chameleon Group](#). The snitch that burned Alex Proctor on the Pellicano case initially tried to shake down Jules Nasso's lawyers by giving them the wrong lead about who whacked Anita Busch's car. The snitch was trying to work the feds, Nasso's lawyers, and possibly the LA Times for payment for the information. But the snitch had to snuff out the wanna see factor, so he told the Feds and the mob lawyers that it was a bunch of Israeli muscle guys from a security agency that screwed with Busch's car. Nasso's lawyers narrowed the search to Chameleon, which may be a totally legit operation. (their cool web site is for those who want to know what ex-Mossad members do when they move to Hollywood) My sources close to the U.S. attorney's office (whose information I shuttled to you so that you could scoop everybody on the Pellicano story) checked out Chameleon, found out they were not to be messed with, and left it at that.

There was one reporter at [Alex Proctor's](#) arraignment: yours truly. I got a tip that [Anthony Pellicano's](#) attorney, Don Re, wanted to rep Proctor, and the feds told Re that it was a total conflict of interest. So in walks another mob lawyer, who is there to snuff out if Proctor has any money, like cash money, to get a defense going. Well, Pellicano didn't have a way to get cash to Proctor, so Proctor had to use a federal public defender. Still, Proctor didn't make a deal to rat out Pellicano on the Busch hit. Why? The whole Busch fish caper read great in the papers, but it was a vandalism beef, at the end of the day. Proctor is going to do a little time on a drug beef, and he'll never rat out Pellicano.

How did I know Pellicano was in on the Busch car hit? The mob lawyer gave me the 4-1-1 on Proctor. Proctor has worked for Pellicano for years in Pellicano's wire tapping business. Pellicano and Proctor go back almost twenty years.

Now let's talk about Pellicano's wire tapping business. The only two reporters at Pellicano's first bail hearing was moi and Gina I-forget-her-last-name from Reuters. Who did we see there? Two very well-known lawyers, one a pit bull that's been featured in your column and the other one of Hollywood's toughest divorce lawyers. They ain't there out of the goodness of their heart. The message to Pellicano was this: keep quiet and his extended family will be taken care of while Pellicano does his bit in the pen on the explosives rap resulting from the C-4 and hand grenades that were found in Pellicano's office.

The Hollywood lawyers at Pellicano's bail hearing knew that the feds had found the transcripts of Pellicano's wiretaps done on the behalf of the lawyer's clients.

Don't expect these transcripts to ever become part of the public record, because Pellicano will plead guilty to the illegal wiretapping. It's perfectly legal for lawyers to use information from a p.i. as long as the p.i. doesn't tell them he got the information illegally. The feds may be talking to Bert Fields et al, but nobody's gonna roll on Pellicano because these lawyers are all one step removed (wink-wink) from Pellicano's wiretapping.

But there is one rub. What the feds want is to get one of Pellicano's electronic operatives to roll. Pellicano never planted the bugs himself, he got an operative to do it. And these guys are like Proctor, they're ghosts. They live in the shadows, like Travis Bickle.

What's the story here? The big one is how dirty stars play when they go through a divorce. Man, it's ugly. The forensic accounting is nothing compared to the dirt digging. Do you think for one second Tom Cruise didn't have a full file on Nicole Kidman's every phone conversation when they were going through a divorce?

Another thing that Pellicano is great at is illegally wiretapping the women who sleep with stars and come back either pregnant or psychotic. Remember the woman who sued [Steven Seagal](#) for all sorts of stuff after she slept with him on location (you have her name, I forget.) Nobody knew this was the same woman who had faked her own death years earlier on an insurance fraud scam until Pellicano went to work. And why is it that after Pellicano goes to work, all the subjects of his investigations are suddenly under the gun for taking anti-depressants? Read any deposition of someone suing a star that Pellicano has worked for that star (through the star's attorney), and it's all about the poor plaintiff looking deranged because they're taking Xanax or Prozac. If you think Pellicano finds out about these people's prescription drug use by anything other than wiretapping, then you believe in the tooth fairy. Pellicano is not some great sleuth with tons of investigators going through public records. HE gets his information putting bugs on phones and paying off cops. That ain't shoe leather, amigo. The reality is so far from Phillip Marlowe it's a joke.

Why am I telling you this? You owe an apology to [Anita Busch](#). I want you to say, "I'm sorry, Anita." How would you like to be a single woman who, by the nature of her profession, has to be paranoid? And then goes online at Lukeford.net to read how crazy she supposedly is? You crossed the line, Lukie Boy. I believe in the power of the Web to get to the truth, but you can't torture people like Anita. She was deeply hurt by what you wrote, and she's not even a public figure.

11/17/03

Will Somebody Wake Up Bill Keller?

Paul Barresi writes Luke 11/15 at 44:45PM: "Punk"

XXXXXX writes: I've been on this [Anthony Pellicano-Alex Proctor-Steven Seagal-Jules Naso-Anita Busch](#) story since June 20, 2002. I've talked to every wacko between here and Brooklyn so many times that I'd pretty much lost interest in the whole stupid mess. But what I saw in [today's edition of the NY Times](#), in a story by-lined by Laura Holson and Bernie Weinraub, just made me fall out of my chair.

Fact: [Singer works for Stallone and Schwarzenegger](#). Pellicano works for Singer. The idea that Pellicano would hire Barresi to dig up dirt on two of Marty Singer's favorite clients makes no sense. It's just a pathetic attempt by someone to distance Stallone and Schwarzenegger from Singer-Pellicano.

Will somebody wake up Bill Keller, the new executive editor of the NY Times, and tell him there is something very, very wrong with his reporters on this Pellicano story?

2/11/04

The Pellicano Brief

Vanity Fair reporter [John Connolly](#) and Howard Blum produce a gripping article on private detective Anthony Pellicano in the March issue.

There are no bombshells in the article but many interesting details.

Connolly placed the first story in the New York Daily News about the threat on [Anita Busch](#)'s car in June 2002. He continues his friendly relationship with Busch in this article, placing her in a good light, and in exchange getting details about her in that painful month. The VF writers do not question why anybody would want to threaten Busch when neither she nor her writing partner Paul Lieberman came up with anything original on the [Steven Seagal - Julius Naso](#) story despite weeks of work.

I can't recall the last time the LA Times broke a big story on the entertainment industry.

"What's the happiest day in a politician's life?" asks Mickey Kaus. "When he finds out he's being investigated by the LA Times."

Anita's homicidal friend [Dave Robb](#) is also placed in a heroic light and was surely a source for the article.

Busch complained to FBI agent Stan Ornelas that her phone was bugged, something that Pellicano could be suspected of doing.

A security expert testified at a deposition, "It is pro forma for you to advise clients to conduct sweeps of their telephones in any matter in which Bert Fields [leading Hollywood lawyer and employer of Pellicano] is involved as the opposing counsel."

Bert Fields writes novels under the name D. Kincaid about legendary attorney Harry Cain who has a close relationship with private eye Skip Corrigan, who frequently breaks the law.

Five of Pellicano's former employees have been given limited immunity from prosecution and are cooperating with the federal investigation. One of them told VF: "I had been in hiding. The F.B.I. made me leave town. I am a pivotal part of this and must watch my ass. I have a gun in my home. My house has been damaged... He called my parents...and said, 'I know your daughter's testifying and that's a damn shame.' That's when the F.B.I. told me to leave. I went to live with my bodyguard."

1/12/05

A source writes: "Well the LA Times once again scoops everyone (not). This piece is remarkable in its lack of use of both adjectives and adverbs, a style so typically characteristic of this particular newspaper. It also contains a surprising number of real facts, another riveting departure."

By David Rosenzweig, Times Staff Writer

For the last two years, FBI computer specialists have been combing through the equivalent of nearly 2 billion double-spaced pages of text, enough to fill 245 rooms measuring 10-by-12-by-10 feet.

Those computer files were seized during a raid on the Sunset Strip offices of famed private detective [Anthony Pellicano](#). Also confiscated were two hand grenades and a quantity of C4 plastic explosives, resulting in a 30-month federal prison sentence for Pellicano.

Although the contents of the files have not been disclosed, they may be relevant to a pending federal wiretapping probe involving Pellicano, a number of rogue police officers and some big-name entertainment lawyers. If so, that investigation could be significantly affected when a three-judge panel of the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals decides on a request by Pellicano's lawyers to declare the search illegal, suppress the seized evidence and overturn his conviction.

A hearing is set for Thursday in Pasadena, but any ruling could be months away.

1/13/05

The day after I publish the above story (fewer than twelve hours later) and leave town for six days to Las Vegas, three men in plain clothes come to the house where I live. They flash LAPD badges to my landlady. They say they see my car. They want to speak to me. They reveal various information about me. She says I am not home. They want access to my place. She says no. They leave. I suspect they were fake credentials and probably people wanting to intimidate and harass me.

Some Insights Into Pellicano's Life:

* Therese DeLucio, the woman he married two days before going into prison, was a striptease dancer at a bar. He's divorcing her.

* One of his daughters has refused contact with him for years.

[From the website SinHablar.com:](#)

Pellicano is attempting to get released early from federal prison. A hearing occurred on Thursday, January 13, 2005 in Pasadena of the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. A three-judge panel will render an opinion within three months on a request by Pellicano's lawyer, Donald Re, to declare the search illegal, suppress the seized evidence and overturn his conviction. If successful, this could effectively nullify the ongoing federal probe into Pellicano's use of wiretapping and extortion in the service of his celebrity clients.

There are essentially three facets to Pellicano's argument:

- (1) The warrant authorizing the search and seizure was unconstitutionally overbroad in scope.
- (2) The prosecution acted in bad faith when it obtained the search warrant on grounds of a possible Hobbs Act violation (the federal extortion statute).
- (3) The grenades found in Pellicano's office were "homemade" weapons. Precisely BECAUSE Pellicano had turned the relatively harmless practice grenades into lethal weapons by sealing the vent holes with adhesive plugs and filling the interior chambers with explosive powder for his own personal use, this DOES NOT constitute a crime because as "homemade" weapons (not intended for sale) Congress has no jurisdiction since its authority to tax or regulate interstate commerce should not apply.

June 9, 2005

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) - A federal court on Thursday ruled that prosecutors can comb through transcripts of wiretaps found in the office of celebrity sleuth Anthony Pellicano, in a case that could involve some of Hollywood biggest stars. The ruling by the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals rejected Pellicano's argument that the November 2002 search of his Hollywood office was illegal, and that evidence seized there could not be used to convict him. The court also confirmed Pellicano's conviction on charges that he had unregistered firearms, grenades and enough plastic explosives to bring down an airliner in a safe in the office. Pellicano, a private eye for more than two decades, called himself a "sin eater" for Hollywood stars and was often called on to keep his clients' names out of the press.

2/7/06

[Pellicano faces bug charges](#)

By Jesse Hiestand for the Hollywood Reporter:

Hollywood sleuth Anthony Pellicano was charged Monday with wiretapping and conspiracy for allegedly leading a scheme to secretly bug the phones of Sylvester Stallone, Keith Carradine and more than a dozen others.

The 110-count indictment against Pellicano, three associates and three former clients also alleges racketeering and wire fraud for the illegal access of dozens of people's criminal and driving records.

What remains unanswered is whether the lawyers who hired the Pellicano Investigative Agency were aware of the wiretapping and other tricks that, prosecutors allege, gave them a tactical advantage in court. Authorities now hope the threat of long prison terms will persuade the defendants to speak -- even if Pellicano maintains his silence.

"We'll do the investigation and see what the facts show," acting U.S. Attorney George Cardona said in announcing the case at the agency's Los Angeles offices. "These charges allege a disturbing pattern of criminal conduct in which money flowed freely to sworn law enforcement officers to violate their oath and uphold the law to provide the means for Pellicano and his associates to violate the rights of others."

One law firm, Greenberg Glusker Fields Claman Machtlinger & Kinsella, acknowledged Monday that attorney Bert Fields and others used Pellicano on at least two of the cases referenced in the indictment, adding that "if Mr. Pellicano engaged in any illegal activity, he did so without their or the firm's knowledge or authorization."

[From TheSmokingGun.com 2/3/07:](#)

FEBRUARY 3--An illegal wiretapping and information gathering network run by disgraced Hollywood private eye Anthony Pellicano allegedly recorded Sylvester Stallone's telephone calls and accessed confidential law enforcement records pertaining to other entertainment industry figures, including actors Garry Shandling, Kevin Nealon, and Keith Carradine, journalists Anita Busch and Bernard Weinraub, and powerful agents Bryan Lourd and Kevin Huvane. Pellicano and six associates were named in a 110-count federal racketeering indictment unsealed today in Los Angeles. A copy of the 60-page indictment can be found below. According to prosecutors, Pellicano, 61, used contacts in the Los Angeles and Beverly Hills police departments and at the phone company to illegally wiretap phones as well as to gain access to the confidential National Crime Information Center (NCIC) database. The indictment does not specify what Pellicano did with information improperly culled from the NCIC records, which contain detailed individual criminal histories and other law enforcement information. Pellicano, the indictment alleges, was "responsible for securing clients who were willing and able to pay large sums for the purpose of obtaining personal information of a confidential, embarrassing, or incriminating nature." While the Pellicano group's "investigative targets" would often include "opponents or witnesses in criminal or civil litigation," the indictment does not name any lawyers as being part of the illegal scheme. Charged along with Pellicano is Mark Arneson, a former LAPD officer, who allegedly was paid to tap into

the NCIC system, and Rayford Earl Turner, a retired phone company worker who helped facilitate the bugging operation. Kevin Kachikian, a software engineer, was indicted for allegedly designing a computer program (dubbed "Tele sleuth") which Pellicano used to wiretap conversations of Stallone, Carradine, and dozens of others mentioned in the indictment. Also named in the indictment is ex-cop Craig Stevens, who allegedly took money from Pellicano in exchange for tapping into Beverly Hills Police Department computers. Last week, Stevens pleaded guilty to six felony counts in connection with the Pellicano scheme. A former phone company manager, Teresa Wright, is identified in the indictment as a Pellicano source for toll records, phone numbers, and home addresses. On January 9, Wright pleaded guilty to a single felony count of unauthorized access of protected computer information, a felony. Both she and Stevens are believed to be cooperating with federal officials. (60 pages)

2/7/06

Lawyer to Celebrities Is Subject of Inquiry

The names cited in an indictment of private eye Anthony Pellicano read like a road map leading to Bertram Fields and his famous clients.

His name is nowhere in Monday's 60-page indictment of celebrity gumshoe and alleged wiretapper Anthony Pellicano.

But the shadow of 76-year-old lawyer Bertram Fields, who for years employed Pellicano as an investigator, looms over the case. Listed throughout the indictment are a host of alleged victims, including such prominent names as actor Sylvester Stallone and comic Garry Shandling, who battled with Fields' clients.

2/15/06

Entertainment Lawyer Indicted in Pellicano Probe

A federal grand jury today indicted prominent Los Angeles entertainment attorney Terry Christensen on wire-tapping and conspiracy charges in connection with the ongoing investigation of former private investigator Anthony Pellicano.

The two-count indictment alleged that Christensen paid Pellicano at least \$100,000 to wiretap the wife of billionaire investor Kirk Kerkorian during a bitter child support dispute in 2002. Authorities charge that Pellicano listened to the phone calls of Lisa Bonder Kerkorian and shared the information with Christensen.

2/25/06

From The NYT:

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 24 — Bert Fields, the Hollywood superlawyer, who frequently employed the disgraced private eye Anthony Pellicano, and his law firm are in talks with prosecutors to try to avoid charges in the wiretapping investigation that has already led to the indictment of at least 13 people, lawyers briefed on the case said.

On Friday, a lawyer involved in the case confirmed that the celebrity divorce lawyer Dennis M. Wasser, who has handled the marital breakups of Hollywood powerhouses like Tom Cruise, Jennifer Lopez and Steven Spielberg, was the lawyer who government investigators say had steered Mr. Pellicano to the lawyer for Kirk Kerkorian, the Las Vegas mogul and former owner of MGM. The objective was "going after" the lawyer for Mr. Kerkorian's ex-wife in their paternity and child support battle.

More than half a dozen other prominent Los Angeles lawyers, meanwhile, have retained defense counsel in connection with the Pellicano case. They include Charles N. Shepard, the head of litigation at Greenberg Glusker; David S. Moriarty, a former Greenberg Glusker associate who worked on several cases in which Mr. Fields was the lead partner and Mr. Pellicano was the investigator; and Daniel G. Davis, a Beverly Hills criminal lawyer who gained fame in the 1980's representing the main defendant in the McMartin preschool child molestation case.

4/25/06

LAT:

Chris Rock Turned to Pellicano in '99 Suit

The private eye allegedly checked police files on a model who filed a paternity claim.

Private investigator Anthony Pellicano allegedly searched confidential criminal databases for incriminating information on a Hungarian model after she asserted a paternity claim against comedian Chris Rock, court records and interviews show.

The disclosure adds the biggest celebrity name thus far to the list of people whom Pellicano purportedly sought to help by intimidating courtroom foes.

The model, Monika Zsibrita, 33, was named in a February indictment as one of numerous victims of Pellicano's alleged wiretapping and racketeering conspiracy on behalf of A-list Hollywood attorneys and other prominent clients.

Pellicano's Unsung Targets

[This website by Nomi Fredrick](#) was named best website of the month by the May issue of Los Angeles magazine.

[Here's an excerpt from April 25:](#)

Anthony Pellicano committed many heinous crimes, the least of which is probably wiretapping. So why is the present media hullabaloo about the disgraced P.I. concerned primarily with the rich people he snooped on for other rich people? Frankly, who really cares?

...Let me share some of the stories I've learned since doing this website and blog...and no, I will never give out names. There was the unwed mother who had a history of drug use who Pellicano kept in servitude to a certain producer by threatening to report her to Child Services. There was a screenwriter whose handicapped child was directly intimidated. There was an optician who knew too much and was stalked and hounded till she lost her professional license and custody of her children. There was a paralegal that was raped and desperately keeps trying to just get on with her life. There was a professional musician who was involved in a certain famous murder, who endlessly has gone on Internet discussions since 1995, searching for someone, anyone, to believe his story.

From Page Six May 3, 2006:

Los Angeles Times has never been known for aggressive coverage of Hollywood's dirty laundry, but its out-to-lunch performance in the Anthony Pellicano case has Tinseltown folks scratching their heads. The paper has been scooped regularly in its own back yard by the New York Times. "This is the biggest scandal in the history of the entertainment business, and the L.A. Times has completely dropped the ball," said an insider. "Is it just that they are lame, or have important people leaned on them to lay off?" Private eye Pellicano was arrested in 2002 after FBI agents raided his office and found explosives in his safe. The feds also confiscated a huge cache of illegal wiretaps, which has led to the indictment of 14 others. Some of the biggest names in Hollywood have been questioned and may face charges. The N.Y. Times, which has been leaked transcripts of FBI interviews, has detailed Pellicano's relationships with CAA founder Michael Ovitz, lawyers Bert Fields and Dennis Wasser, Paramount boss Brad Grey and Universal chief Ron Meyer. The L.A. Times hasn't broken any stories. There was a rumor the paper was hamstrung because it had a relationship with Pellicano, but a spokesman told us, "The Los Angeles Times has never hired Anthony Pellicano."

5/9/06

From the LAT:

Federal prosecutors alleged Monday that Hollywood private eye Anthony Pellicano recently conspired with known mobsters in Chicago to put a prison "hit" on the man [Proctor] he allegedly hired to threaten a Los Angeles Times reporter.

...But records and interviews show that Proctor, 62, was moved in recent months from a federal prison in Greenville, Ill., to a federal facility in southeast Georgia, where he continues to serve a 10-year sentence for drug trafficking.

They also show that the purported plot was uncovered early this year when Pellicano was about to be released from a prison near Bakersfield on explosives charges stemming from the November 2002 search of his office, where FBI agents found two illegally modified hand grenades and C4 plastic explosives.

December 17, 2007

The Los Angeles Times reports (Greg Krikorian and Chuck Philips):

Attorneys allege that a 35-year veteran of the federal agency included false information in an affidavit.

...In requesting the search, [FBI agent Stanley] Ornelas contended that [Pellicano](#) hired [an ex-convict](#) to try to frighten two journalists out of writing unflattering stories about actor [Steven Seagal](#). In one of the incidents, then-Los Angeles Times reporter [Anita M. Busch](#) found a dead fish and a red rose on the punctured windshield of her car below a note that read: "Stop!"

The affidavit suggested Seagal had been implicated in the scheme. The actor was never charged, and federal authorities have privately told reporters they have no persuasive evidence against him, although the FBI has not publicly cleared him.

The defense says Ornelas failed to disclose false statements by the ex-convict. An informant taped the ex-convict saying he shot a bullet through Busch's windshield and left a fish in a plastic pan on the reporter's car.

"[Luke Ford reports all of the 'juicy' quotes](#), and has been doing it for years."

[Historian Marc B. Shapiro \(4/4/12\)](#)

"I recently ran into a guy named Luke Ford, who I had lost over time. When I caught up with his website at lukeford.net, he was shredding some shreddable industryite or another. But after more digging, I found that Luke has done some pretty unusual journalistic work... He is building a database of in-depth [interviews with Hollywood producers](#), the least interviewed group of high-profile industry players. The list he's developed is pretty jaw-dropping."

[David Poland, TheHotButton.com \(8/15/02\)](#)

"I didn't realize just how irresponsible we normally are in everyday private conversations until I encountered L.A. blogger Luke Ford. Ford goes around to parties with a tape recorder and immediately posts snatches of dialogue on the web. His reporting is impeccable. He has faithfully quoted me libeling dozens of people on two separate occasions."

[Mickey Kaus, Slate.com \(10/28/03\)](#)

"Luke Ford is the Andy Kaufman of bloggers,"

[Allan Mayer, former editor of Buzz magazine](#)

"...[H]uman Echelon Project,"

[Mickey Kaus, Slate.com \(4/27/05\)](#)

[On 11/14/03, The New York Times apologized for its plagiarism](#) of a paragraph of Lukeford.net by Hollywood correspondent [Bernard Weinraub](#). "That paragraph was reproduced nearly verbatim from a Weblog compiled by a Los Angeles journalist, Luke Ford..."



BOARD

LICENSE TYPE

LICENSE NUMBER

 Search

BUSINESS NAME

 Business

FIRST NAME

 Anthony

LAST NAME

 Pellicano

ADVANCED SEARCH

5 RESULTS (SHOWING 5)

SEARCH FILTERS

BOARD/BUREAU (+ MORE) (CLEAR)

- Barbering And Cosmetology, Board Of
- Security And Investigative Services, Bureau Of

LICENSE TYPE (+ MORE) (CLEAR)

- Private Investigator (3)
- Company Principal (1)
- Cosmetologist (1)
- Private Investigator Qualified Manager (1)

LICENSE STATUS (+ MORE) (CLEAR)

- Revoked
- Active
- Cancelled

COUNTY (+ MORE) (CLEAR)

- Los Angeles

PELICANO, ANTHONY J

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE DETAILS](#)

TYPE: PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR QUALIFIED MANAGER

CITY: LOS ANGELES STATE: CALIFORNIA COUNTY: LOS ANGELES ZIP: 90069

[MORE DETAIL](#)

PELICANO, ANTHONY J

LICENSE NUMBER: 9643 LICENSE TYPE: PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR

LICENSE STATUS: REVOKED EXPIRATION DATE: JUNE 30, 2004

SECONDARY STATUS: N/A

CITY: LOS ANGELES STATE: CALIFORNIA COUNTY: LOS ANGELES ZIP: 90069

[MORE DETAIL](#)

PELICANO INVESTIGATIVE CONSULTANT (PREVIOUS NAME)

LICENSE NUMBER: 9643 LICENSE TYPE: PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR

LICENSE STATUS: REVOKED EXPIRATION DATE: JUNE 30, 2004

SECONDARY STATUS: N/A

CITY: LOS ANGELES STATE: CALIFORNIA COUNTY: LOS ANGELES ZIP: 90069

[MORE DETAIL](#)

ANTHONY J. PELICANO

LICENSE NUMBER: 9643 LICENSE TYPE: PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR

LICENSE STATUS: REVOKED EXPIRATION DATE: JUNE 30, 2004

SECONDARY STATUS: N/A

CITY: LOS ANGELES STATE: CALIFORNIA COUNTY: LOS ANGELES ZIP: 90069

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Filing Type:	Articles of Incorporation
Status:	Inactive
State:	California
State ID:	01877493
Date Filed:	Wednesday, December 15, 1993

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1

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TELESLEUTH

TELESLEUTH - Trademark Information

By [Pellicano Investigative Agency, Ltd.](#)

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The TELESLEUTH trademark was assigned a Serial Number #75015055 – by the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). Assigned Trademark Serial Number is a Unique ID to identify the TELESLEUTH trademark application in the USPTO.

The TELESLEUTH mark is filed in the category of Computer Product, Electrical & Scientific Products . The legal correspondent for TELESLEUTH trademark is JILL A. COSSMAN, Greenberg, Glusker, Fields, et al., 1900 Avenue of the Stars, Suite 2000 Los Angeles, CA 90067 . The current status of the TELESLEUTH filing is **Abandoned - No Statement of Use filed**.

Based on Pellicano Investigative Agency, Ltd., the TELESLEUTH trademark will be used in the following business: computer hardware and computer software which will be used for the monitoring and/or recording and subsequent playback of telecommunications .

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On Saturday, October 30, 1999, the status for the TELESLEUTH trademark changes to **Abandoned - No Statement of Use filed**

On Monday, November 6, 1995, Pellicano Investigative Agency, Ltd. filed a U.S. Federal trademark application for TELESLEUTH trademark. Pellicano Investigative Agency, Ltd. is located in Los Angeles, CA .

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Loyola Law School professor Lawrence Solum agrees and suggests two possible explanations for why Murphy backed off. One is that the libel suits may have been frivolous — that is, that the actor knew he couldn't prove his allegations against the tabs. "Murphy could have faced hefty financial penalties for filing such a suit," says Solum. (Singer vehemently denies that the suits were meritless.)

The other possibility is that the actor worried that the tabs had more transgender sex workers lined up to testify against him or some other ammunition to use if his case actually went to trial. (Indeed, Murphy's suit against the *Globe* contains the intriguing statement that he has not paid for sex with transsexuals for more than ten years — implying he might have trouble warding off allegations that he'd done so prior to that.) And a trial, of course, would have triggered more gleeful tabloid coverage — not to mention stories in the mainstream press — and kept the scandal alive that much longer. Singer refuses to discuss his motives for withdrawing the lawsuits, saying only: "We made resolutions that were satisfactory to my client."

Although Murphy flack Robinson claimed the *Enquirer* suit was dropped because the tab hadn't published its Murphy story recklessly, Singer says the trans women's declarations demonstrated exactly the opposite. "Their about-faces," he says, "proved they would say anything for money and therefore were unreliable sources. And for both tabs to have relied on them in printing their Murphy stories indicates a high degree of recklessness." "When we interviewed these transvestites, reliability is not one of their strong suits," the lawyer says. "You give them a sandwich, they'll tell you anything. You don't have to give them \$5,000; you can give them lunch."

But several tab sources say they believe the lawsuits were merely a PR tactic to help Singer knock down the tranny scandal as quickly as possible. "If an embarrassing story were published about someone, and that someone didn't want the public to believe it, a good way to defuse the situation is to file a lawsuit, get a lot of publicity about the lawsuit on TV, so that everyone says, 'Oh, that story's not true,' and then dismiss the lawsuit very quickly so that you don't have to defend it," suggests one tabloid attorney, who requested anonymity. "Because it's a good way to have all the tabloid television shows report on your lawsuit and the fact that the story is probably not true."

A former *Globe* editor insists the libel suits didn't intimidate the paper into shying away from additional articles on Murphy's accusers. "I don't recall that any stories were killed," says the editor, who also requested anonymity. But neither did the *Globe* or the other tabs print anything more about the Murphy/tranny imbroglio in 1997. The scandal was, for all practical purposes, over.

Nearly a year after she triggered a media uproar by stepping into Eddie Murphy's Land Cruiser, Atisone Seiuli was found dead on the sidewalk outside her Koreatown apartment. A collective shiver passed through L.A.'s transgender community. Candace Watkins created a memorial Web site for Atisone, writing that she'd been pushed out of a window in her five-story building and was a victim of foul play. Candace also tipped the *Globe*, hoping news coverage of Atisone's demise would forestall possible foul play against other trans women of the night — especially her. The *Globe* quickly weighed in with a story headlined Eddie Murphy Drag Queen Murdered. It said the Murphy scandal had shattered Atisone's life, turning her into a pathetic paranoid who feared she was being pursued by hit men. Atisone's brother David told the tab that she grew hysterical at the mere mention of Murphy's name, and had recently traveled to New York and New Orleans under the noms de drag Gina Addison and Linda GoLightly.

Despite the *Globe*'s headline and Candace's assertions, there was exactly zero evidence that Atisone was murdered or that Murphy was in any way involved in her April 22, 1998, death. But that's not to say the circumstances of her demise weren't pretty weird.

Atisone died in a predawn fall from her apartment house on Berendo Street, where she'd been sharing digs with a man then visiting his mother in El Salvador. Her body was found in a pool of blood, clad only in a black bra padded with silicon pouches and a black leather bikini thong. (Both garments, noted an apparently fashion-conscious investigator from the coroner's office, were from Frederick's of Hollywood.)

The young trans woman struck the pavement with such force that her nasal bone was driven through her skull into her brain. The coroner's report said a towel was found tied to a railing atop Atisone's building, just above an open window in her fifth-floor unit. The towel ended about two feet short of the window, and fingernail scrape marks trailed eerily down the building's facade. Neighbors reported that Atisone and her roommate sometimes accidentally locked themselves out and entered the apartment by climbing down from the roof on a fire escape and through a living-room window. But the landlord had recently nailed that window shut following a burglary.

On the night of her death, Atisone, who'd worked at a local club until 4 a.m., had left her keys inside the apartment and apparently tried to lower herself to the open window with the towel. "Supposedly, this had happened before, and what she would do was go up to the roof and climb down to an open window on her balcony, but this time, that window was shut," says LAPD homicide detective Andy Cicoria, who investigated the death. "So she had to try to swing into

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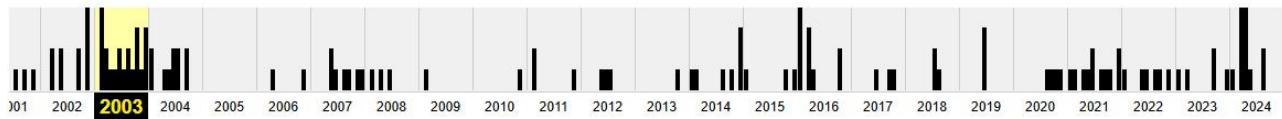
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JAN				FEB				MAR				APR			
1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	30	31	31
26	27	28	29	30	31	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29
MAY				JUN				JUL				AUG			
1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30	27	28	29	30	31	24	25
SEP				OCT				NOV				DEC			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30		26	27	28	29	30	31	23	24	25	26	27	28

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