

Condé Nast's CFO Tried To Pay \$2,500 for a Night With a Gay Porn Star



Jordan Sargent

Filed to: SEX 7/16/15 8:26pm



My name is David, by the way

1

David Geithner, brother of ex-Obama Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner, is currently the chief financial officer of Condé Nast. This past weekend, he'd planned to go to Chicago—where he planned to meet a gay porn star and escort for “2-3 hours” at a cost of \$2,500.

But this would not be a simple sexual transaction. Geithner, it seems, fucked with the wrong escort. The escort—who does not want to reveal his identity for professional reasons, but whom we will call Ryan—says he bailed on the date with the married (to a woman) father of three because Geithner declined to use his influence to help with a housing dispute.

The thwarted rendezvous began on July 4, when Geithner first contacted Ryan, whose phone number is available on a number of Chicago-area escort websites, via text message. Geithner said that he was going to be in Chicago exactly a week later, and would pay \$2,500—plus airfare and hotel—for “2-3 hours” of Ryan's services.

Text Message
Sat, Jul 4, 3:52 PM

I'm going to be in Chicago for one night - Saturday, July 11. Looking for 2-3 hours from 10:00pm to midnight/1:00 am. Will pay 2,500 cash (50% upfront

). If you are flying in would pay for airfare and separate hotel room at Four Seasons.

I can see you that day I just need you to fly me out of [REDACTED]

You can call me after 5 if you like

Just tried you back. Call when convenient for you [REDACTED]

Oh I'm sorry I just got to the gym I'll call you when I'm done I just tried calling you back

The next day, Geithner told Ryan that he would have FedEx deliver the first half of the money on the upcoming Tuesday to his home in Texas, presumably so that Geithner could establish that he was serious about meeting up in Chicago. Geithner also sent him a gleaming selfie and said, "My name is David, by the way."

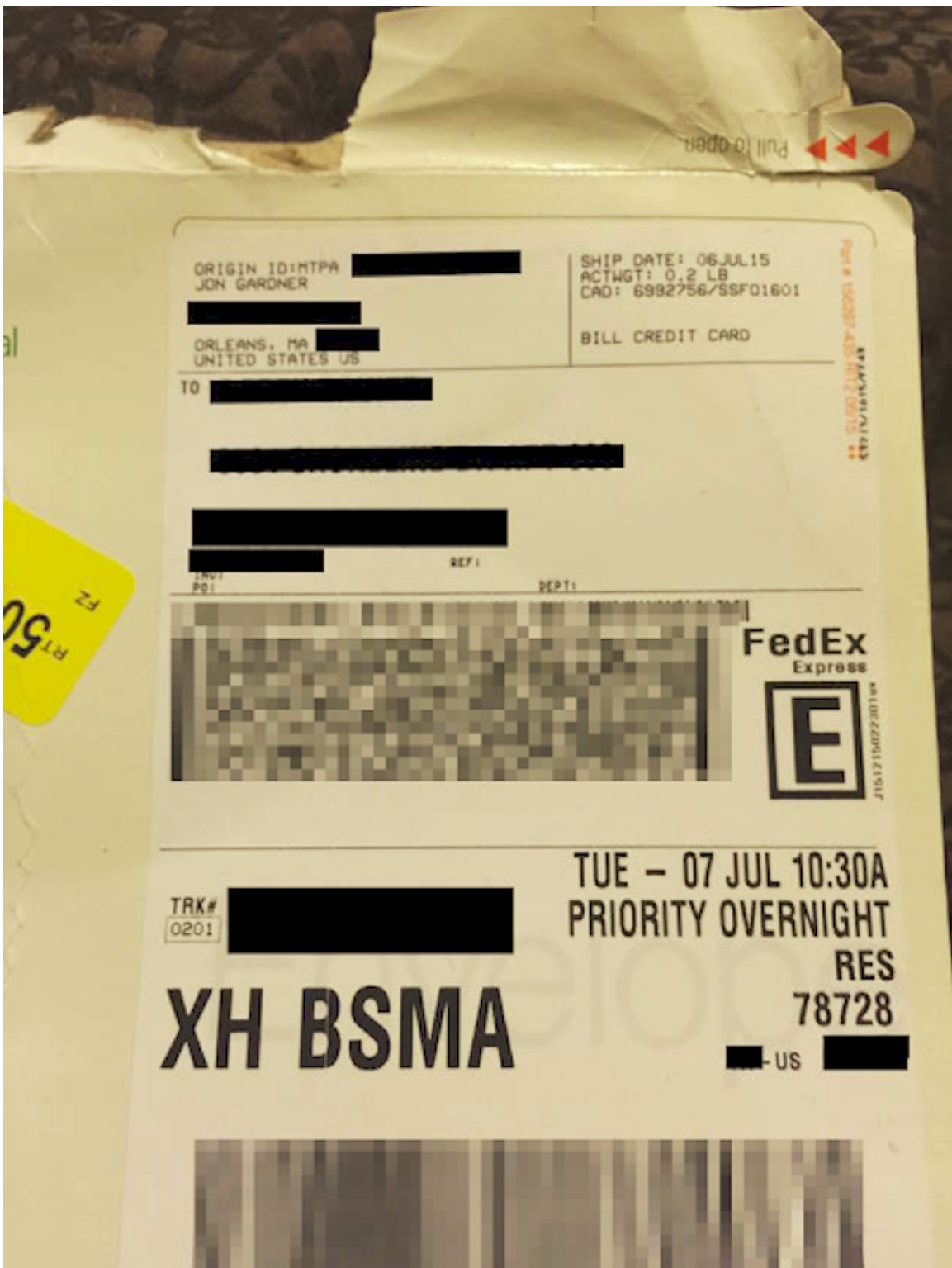
Sun, Jul 5, 6:10 AM

Thanks for the info. Will fedex tomorrow for Tuesday delivery. The Four Seasons Chicago is on [120 East Delaware Place](#). Hope you had a good 4th.



My name is David, by the way

Inside the package, according to Ryan, was \$1,250 in cash. He sent us a photo of the envelope he received.



We’ve redacted Ryan’s name and address, as well as the package’s tracking number, but in the upper lefthand corner you can see that the package was sent by a “Jon Gardner” from Orleans, Mass. There are no records of a “Jon Gardner” in Orleans—but the return address on the envelope, which we have also redacted, instead matches a home that has been in the Geithner family for years. Records show that in 2005, Deborah, the patriarch of the Geithner family, turned the house over to David and his siblings, Timothy, Sarah, and Jonathan. When we called the number Ryan was texting, the person who answered identified himself as David Geithner.

The two continued texting over the weekend. Ryan told Geithner that he looked like Tom Cruise. He told Geithner that he was listening to Elton John at the gym, and Geithner responded by saying he enjoyed everything from Top 40 to Dire Straits to Latin music. Ryan sent him a photo of his penis, to which Geithner responded, “You are killing

me.”

< Messages

Details

I think Elton is great. I like a really wide range of music from top 40 to older bands like Dire Straits and Bruce Sprinsteen to Country to Latin etc.

That's a good mix I like a variety of music myself.

Sun, Jul 5, 4:55 PM



You are killing me

Mon, Jul 6, 11:09 AM

FedEx should arrive by 10:30 am tomorrow (7/7).

Hey good morning sorry I didn't text back I had a long day yesterday ok thanks for giving me the heads up I'll see you soon:) Lets try to FaceTime early this week .

You have a I phone ?

If not we can Skype

I'll call you Tommorow when I receive the FedEx

Thanks. Yes, I have an iPhone. I'm on meetings most every day but you can try anytime. And I'll call back if I'm not available.

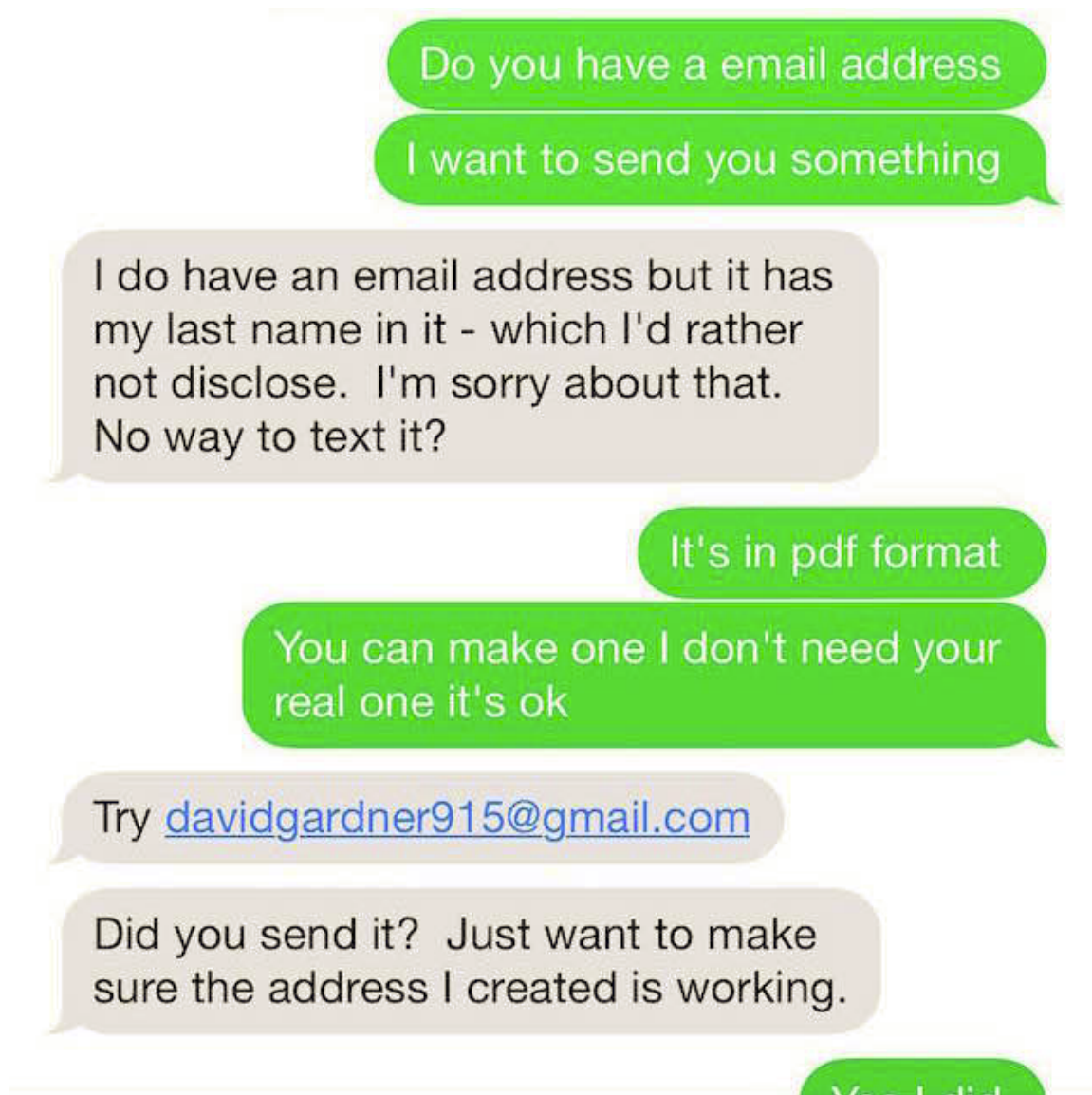
Tue, Jul 7, 12:32 PM

I got the package I'll book everything tommorow

I'll see you soon:)

But before they could meet, things got weird. At some point, Ryan searched for his new friend's phone number on Facebook and discovered that the "David" he was talking to was David Geithner, an important and politically connected figure. And Ryan, as it happened, needed some legal help.

The day before the two were supposed to meet in Chicago, Ryan asked Geithner if he could send him something by email. Geithner said that he could, but that he would rather not give Ryan his email address because it contained his last name, which he didn't want to tell him. Ryan told Geithner to create a burner account, and Geithner complied.



This is where things get a little hairy. The documents that Ryan sent Geithner regarded an ongoing discrimination lawsuit between Ryan and his landlord. In 2013, Ryan was evicted from his luxury apartment building in Texas. He says it was because the company that owns the building discovered he was a gay porn star, but in legal documents his attorney stated that Ryan was kicked out for owning an emotional assistance dog to help ease his PTSD, which was against the building's rules.

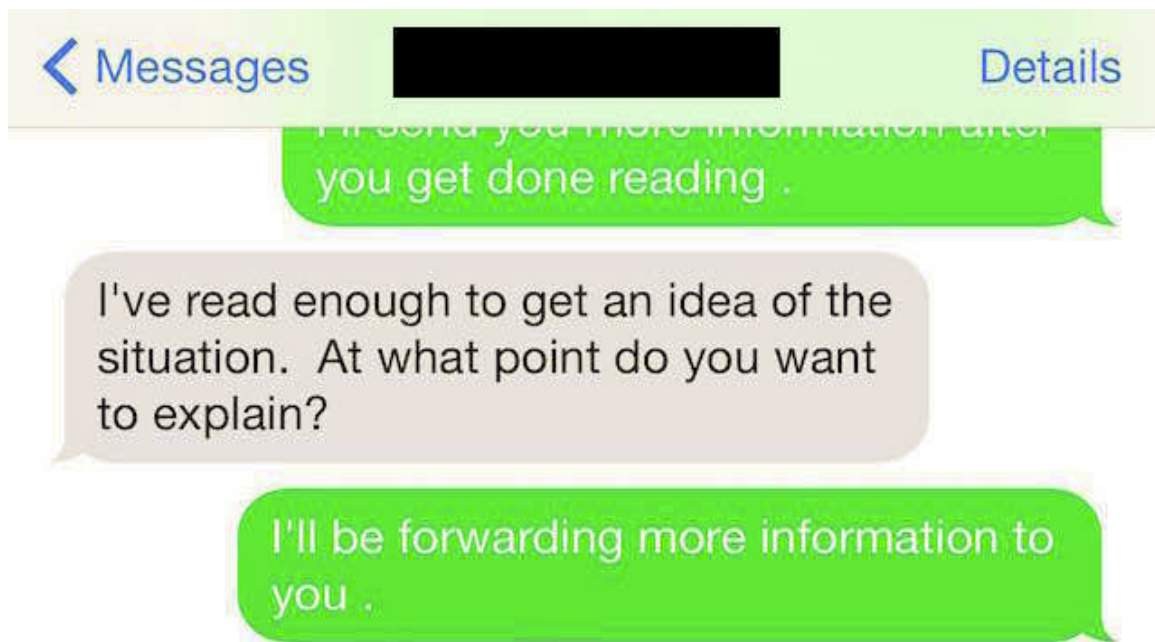
On April 21, 2014, the United States Department of Housing and Development (HUD) issued a "determination of no reasonable cause" regarding Ryan's discrimination claim. The decision was appealed by his attorney to no avail, and so Ryan began investigating other methods to reverse the ruling, including contacting the FBI and, he says, officials in the Obama administration.

He also sought help from his local senator, Ted Cruz. On April 7 of this year, Cruz's office sent Ryan a letter telling him that they had "initiated an inquiry" with HUD on Ryan's behalf. On May 6, Ryan received another letter from Cruz's office, stating that HUD had made a "final determination" on his case in May 2014, at which point HUD closed his case. Enclosed was a letter from a HUD field office director, stating that HUD could not initiate any

further investigation into Ryan’s case unless he provided “new and relevant information.” Ryan felt this response was insufficient, and that several government agencies had sided with his landlord in discriminating against him because of his sexuality. (Cruz’s office has continued to stay in touch with Ryan, he tells us. He says that an employee of Cruz’s called him this afternoon to say that the senator had personally called the HUD director on his behalf. It seems as if Cruz, in the midst of his Presidential campaign, sees an opportunity to help a veteran with PTSD who has been crushed by Washington bureaucracy.)

During their correspondence, according to Ryan, Geithner mentioned to him that he was a CFO. Thanks to a Facebook search of the phone number sending him the texts, Ryan was able to piece together Geithner’s identity—and specifically, that his brother was once a high-level official within the Obama administration. Ryan, whose Facebook page contains a number of videos and photographs advocating for a variety of conspiracy theories, felt Geithner might be able to use his influence to overturn HUD’s decision.

Geithner, though, didn’t know Ryan’s plan when he opened the email the day before the two were set to meet. Geithner—to his credit—read at least some of the documents, though he didn’t quite understand what Ryan was getting at.



But right as Ryan opened the door, he closed it. In a subsequent message, he revealed to Geithner that he had “figured out who you was”:

I want you to know my past before we meet for various reasons.

Late Last night I figured out who you was and like I said you are a nice guy and I like to be perfectly honest with nice people . Because I don't want them to go through what I'm going through .



Text Message

Send

The next time Geithner texted Ryan, it was to regretfully cancel their hook up.

< Messages

Details

thinking anything negative about me

I only speak the truth even when it sounds crazy

To people with no knowledge

Well - looks like I might not be able to make it. We're number 18 for take off and crew is running out of hours. If you get to Chicago I was able to ge

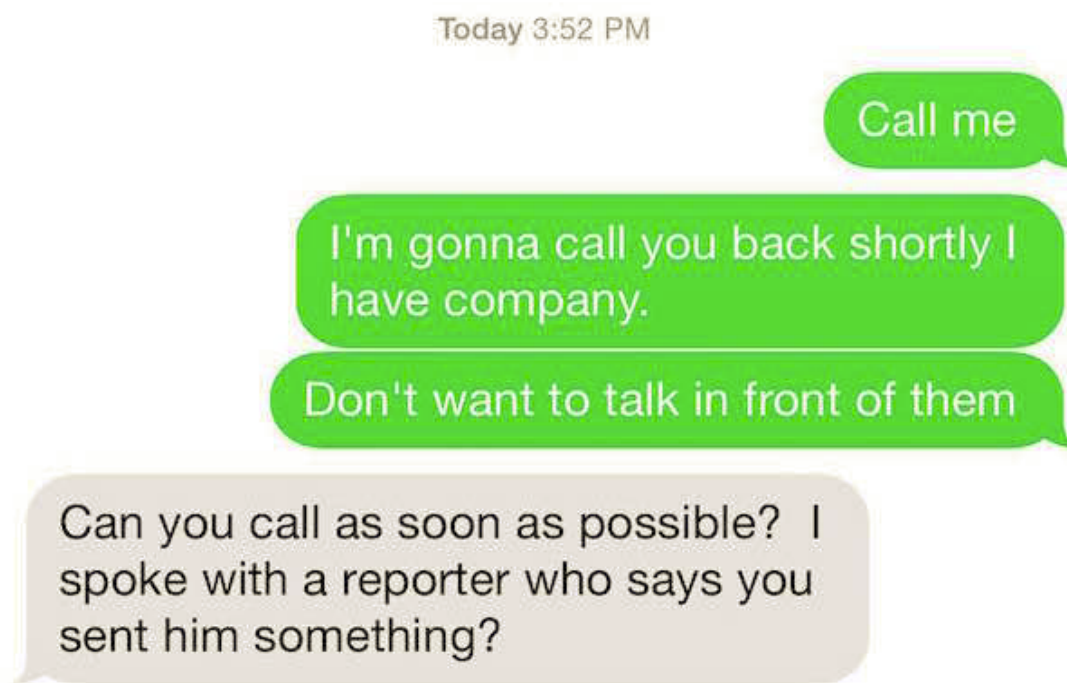
t you a room at Trump. It's under your name and already paid for. And I can send you the balance of what I owe you by mail. Damn.

Why Geithner bailed on Ryan while on the runway in New York is open for speculation. It's possible that his plane was indeed delayed. Or, of course, he could have gotten spooked by an escort with an agenda who had discovered exactly who he was. After all, Geithner had booked Ryan until midnight or 1 a.m.—one figures it would require an

excruciating delay to get in that late. Plus, his escort, booked at a four-star hotel, probably wouldn't have minded waiting around.

Alas, Ryan didn't go to Chicago, either. The way he tells it, he decided to bail on his flight after deciding that Geithner didn't care enough about his personal plight. On that Saturday afternoon, Ryan texted Geithner: "I guess the only time most people think about injustice is when it happens to them." Ryan says that he has no vendetta against Geithner specifically—instead, he just wants to publicize his case against HUD.

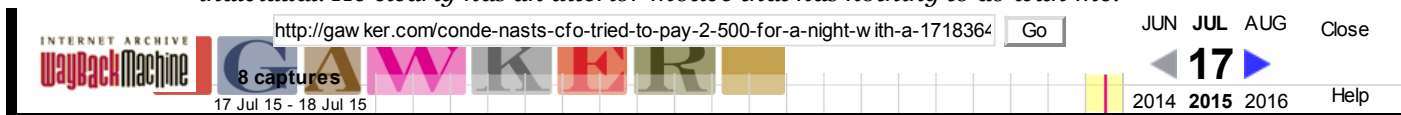
This afternoon, Ryan reached out to Geithner, because he felt Geithner deserved to know that he had gone to the press. He didn't receive a response until after I contacted Geithner for a statement, at which point Geithner texted Ryan and asked him to call immediately.




Later, Ryan tells me, Geithner promised him that if he could get Gawker to kill the story, Geithner would bring his HUD complaint to President Obama.

After being informed of this story, Geithner provided the following statement to Gawker:

I don't know who this individual is. This is a shakedown. I have never had a text exchange with this individual. He clearly has an ulterior motive that has nothing to do with me.



Contact the author at jordan@gawker.com.

 Really? Yikes! > Jordan Sargent
7/16/15 8:30pm

Seriously? Why is this news? The eighties called and wants its *guerrilla outing techniques* back. ETA: Well we know which brother got the looks in that family, but still. . . . Really? Yikes!



PrivateBurke > Really? Yikes!
7/16/15 8:35pm

Yup, what the capital Fuck? Y'all bitch about "progressive" things but then pull this fucking garbage?



squidgod2000 > Really? Yikes!
7/16/15 8:43pm

Itching for another lawsuit, I assume.



Pat McGee > Really? Yikes!
7/16/15 8:47pm

Exactly. This story is not in the public interest, you just humiliated a man and his family to get clicks. You should be ashamed of yourself Jordan.



Really? Yikes! > Really? Yikes!
7/16/15 8:47pm

Here's the family you just destroyed dude.



Sunshine > Jordan Sargent
7/16/15 8:41pm

Wow, that is seriously fucked up. What kind of escort screws with his clients like that? Aren't escorts supposed to be discreet? Boohoo. Your client wont help you with you Hud complaint so you're going to blackmail him and ruin his life. Asshole. I don't blame you for not wanting to reveal your identity. I suspect that karma will get you. This just made me sad. Fuck you and your HUD complaint.



Life is a Playlist > Sunshine
7/16/15 8:56pm

Actually, the same recently happened [NSFW] with the billionaire founder of MagicJack.

The escort got greedy and ended up fucking himself BIG TIME.



Manny > Sunshine
7/16/15 8:57pm

They should the escorts name too. If he's a pornstar he's probably famous to be asking \$2,500. His name will come out eventually too.

Foldercolor > Life is a Playlist
7/16/15 8:59pm

holy shit that's a NSFW link.



Life is a Playlist > Foldercolor

7/16/15 9:08pm

Ah, you're right. Sorry about that. It's been years since I've been in a workplace. I was able to edit and tag as such.

PootMcFruitcakesJr > Jordan Sargent

7/16/15 8:53pm

Hurrah! Man attempts to blackmail man. Gawker takes blackmailer's side, ruins victim's (admittedly complicated) life.

No doubt Gawker paid the man trying to extort him too! Good work boys and girls! And protect his identity! Can't have the criminal's good name besmirched! Unlike the victim! Fuck the victim! It's clickbait and I've got a deadline!

cbabgeae > PootMcFruitcakesJr

7/16/15 9:09pm

Yeah, and that's the difference between this and the Hulk Hogan story—Jordan basically just publicly admitted to being an accessory after the fact to a felony, helping to blackmail and extort someone...I don't do too much criminal law, but I can see both state and federal charges here, especially because Gawker is based in NY so the blackmail crossed state lines and used the internet as an extortion tool...plus the civil suit could easily morph into a RICO claim with Hogan as Exhibit A, it demonstrates a pattern of recklessness and bad faith by an ongoing criminal consortium...not for nothing, but if Gawker doesn't fire Jordan in the next 24 hours its CEO could very realistically end up in prison and the company shut down

And before someone chimes in with the First Amendment, that actually is the law that I do, and I feel pretty confident in saying that there's not a chance in hell that argument would work here...basically, if he sues, Gawker is finished, as are all of its writers, since he can probably make a good claim for individual liability too

Lawyer Cat > cbabgeae

7/16/15 9:16pm

I hope you're right. I don't do either crim or 1A law.

And trust me, I think this is a shitty shitty thing that Gawker and Jordan just did. But I'm struggling with the accessory after the fact theory. Wouldn't the blackmail/extortion have to be completed to have an accessory after the fact?

cbabgeae > Lawyer Cat

7/16/15 9:25pm

Or conspiracy to commit blackmail/extortion...it all turns on what he knew and when he knew it—if Jordan was aware that Ryan was attempting to shake Geithner down by threatening to go to Gawker and ran the story anyway, he intentionally participated in the crime in order to profit (from the page views/clicks)...in fact, you would have a decent argument even if he didn't know, as long as he had ulterior motives for hurting Geithner (a version of "intent follows the bullet")—if you were to link Gawker's obsession with Reddit

(formerly owned by CondeNast) to the posting of this story, it doesn't necessarily matter what he knew, it just matters that he freely participated in order to cause harm and profit from it (it might also open them up to suit from CondeNast and/or Reddit on those grounds as well)

PootMcFruitcakesJr > cbabgeae
7/16/15 9:27pm

Wow... if what you're saying is well grounded... crikey.

I was just thinking "Tsssk, Gawker showing pisspoor editorial judgement... again", not "Kinja-calyipse: The Final Chapter".

[Chapter 7]

Wishbone of Arc > Jordan Sargent
7/16/15 8:34pm

You feel good about publishing this, Sargent?

Was the chance to publicly out people a significant source of inspiration for you when deciding to go into journalism?

Fiends and Friends > Wishbone of Arc
7/16/15 8:48pm

This story is gross and I regret reading it.

CharlieKellyKingofTheRats > Wishbone of Arc
7/16/15 8:56pm

I would guess Gawker offered to help Ryan with his housing troubles.

HeyLadyTherelsaRatOnYourHead > Wishbone of Arc
7/16/15 8:57pm

You just *know* when a tip like this comes through, the whole room stares at Sargent.

Sean Brody > Wishbone of Arc
7/16/15 8:58pm

I'm trying to understand it.

Gawker wants to actively cause a family this much hurt?

For some clicks and a 'fuck you' to Conde Nast?



raincoaster > Jordan Sargent
7/16/15 9:06pm

Well, that's the end of SOMEBODY's lucrative escort career. "Hi, I'll be a clingy, high-maintenance person with a mental illness, then if you don't bend the President to my will I'll sell you out to Gawker, and that's BEFORE we meet."

Interestinging > raincoaster
7/16/15 9:14pm

Oh SHIT. Good stuff hahaha. Yep no sympathy, cheating on your wife and using your money and power when convenient for you, fuck this guy

Sean Brody > raincoaster
7/16/15 9:19pm

I wonder how it feels as a blogger to call some guy to tell him his world as he knows it is gonna end.



raincoaster > Sean Brody
7/16/15 9:26pm

Unfortunately, I know what it feels like. Just today I got to write up the arrest and extradition request of somebody I consider a close friend. I've got a pretty big vocabulary, but it'll take me a number of years to come up with the words for this feeling.

Sean Brody > raincoaster
7/16/15 9:27pm

Unfortunately, I know what it feels like. Just today I got to write up the arrest and extradition request of somebody I consider a close friend. I've got a pretty big vocabulary, but it'll take me a number of years to come up with the words for this feeling.

Ugh. Sorry, man.

TayTayTruther > Jordan Sargent
7/16/15 8:36pm

What the fuck did I actually just read?

This isn't news, it's gossip. Like, for real, ridiculous, spiteful, biblical scripture against it, gossip.

Dude is cheating on his wife. AND???? Extra points cuz he gay? AND?

Stop this shit.

tjw > TayTayTruther
7/16/15 8:44pm

This isn't even gossip. It's hearsay. And hearsay from the rantings of a seemingly crazy person with an agenda and an axe to grind. All of the information Ryan has is publicly available including the phone number and address. There's nothing here that could in any way be described as "proof."

My guess? Ryan went to Geithner to try to get his story published or maybe to get it to somebody higher up, got burned, and then concocted this story because he knew it would get Gawker to bite.

JonBenet Ramsey's Hymen > TayTayTruther
7/16/15 8:49pm

This is the grossest thing I've ever read here in a decade, and that's even when they were just a spiteful gang of nerds who couldn't get hired with real publications.

Binky > TayTayTruther
7/16/15 8:57pm

I didn't see anything about cheating on his wife... she's on record somewhere about him not being aloud to touch other people with his dick?

Who the fuck thought it was okay to run this shit?

marineglass > TayTayTruther
7/16/15 9:02pm

Dude is cheating on his wife. AND????

Not even. Dude planned to cheat and then backed out... Making this shitty story even less newsworthy and even more disgusting.

Cherith McCutestory-Chapman > Jordan Sargent
7/16/15 8:47pm

He seems like a nice enough guy. He was respectful in all of the communications shared, he read through the stuff he sent, he offered to send him the balance of what he owed when he bailed. I don't see the point.



Life is a Playlist > Cherith McCutestory-Chapman
7/16/15 9:09pm

Clicks, man.

rmric0.wedding.photographer > Cherith McCutestory-Chapman
7/16/15 9:13pm

Yeah, it's all fun and games when you're outing an anti-gay politician for picking up tricks in an airport bathroom or hiring his boyfriend to photograph his embezzling adventures but this is what? If anything it should be about what a crappy escort this our informant is

JonBenet Ramsey's Hymen > Cherith McCutestory-Chapman
7/16/15 9:29pm

Y'know, and what are they going on, really? Some texts and a return address, which they were able to find on google. Sounds legit, it's not like you can just write any address you want in the sender field or anything.

gramercypolice > Cherith McCutestory-Chapman
7/16/15 9:36pm

Yeah, it's really hard to see why this would've been published at all. I would say in all seriousness that Jordan should be suspended or even fired for basically aiding and abetting a blackmailer's threats, but these tweets indicate no reservations or caution about it at all. Very strange. They're going to need to explain this, and that's not going to be easy. This is something you might expect to see in a reddit thread.

Hey check out this story <http://t.co/vBUd1o6ClN>

July 17, 2015

And this must be a new policy, because it literally makes no sense at all.

given the chance gawker will always report on married c-suite executives of major media companies fucking around on their wives

July 17, 2015

This tweet makes more sense, and the replies are pretty spot-on, as well:

Man Has Conflicted Personal Life, Is Blackmailed For It

July 17, 2015



Life is a Playlist > Jordan Sargent
7/16/15 8:39pm

Why is this published here?

Why is Gawker outing him?

Where is the **proof** he offered to bring it to Obama's attention if the story was killed? That is the only thing that would make this newsworthy. Even then I'd give him a pass because of how fucked up the entire situation is.

7/16/15 8:42pm

Yeah, he jumped the gun. Should have at least gotten those texts.

SlamboxNumbaFive > Life is a Playlist

7/16/15 8:46pm

What kind of person does this, and what kind of person decided to publish it?

Luffa > Life is a Playlist

7/16/15 9:00pm

Yep, I'm okay with a lot of the shady shit this site posts. But this guy is not a public figure/government official/military, someone that would be newsworthy of possibly being corrupted through blackmail.



Life is a Playlist > Luffa

7/16/15 9:28pm

I just noticed that they both say they have iPhones, but the chat bubbles are green and not iMessage blue. Now I'm really questioning the authenticity of everything.



Richard Blakeley > Jordan Sargent

7/16/15 8:53pm

dat green txt bubble dot

Wishbone of Arc > Richard Blakeley

7/16/15 9:20pm

Seriously? This is a featured comment for this post? lol. Jordan is so pathetically desperate right now. I hope he loses his fucking job.

blue_tetris > Wishbone of Arc

7/16/15 9:37pm

We can hope. Gawker media was having a lot more success using the Reddit-angle in its attacks on Conde Nast. This is ham-fisted, antiquated homophobia that somehow made it from concept to execution without anyone saying: "Wait a minute, maybe *we're* the illiberal bigoted fuckshits no one believes."

ShowMeYourShithole > Wishbone of Arc

7/16/15 9:40pm

Seriously, the four featured comments are like the only four that aren't criticizing this shit article and it's dick head author.

Wishbone of Arc > blue_tetris

7/16/15 9:47pm

Wow. At least Read's honest, if obliquely, about the fact that outing Geithner is a business tactic.

given the chance gawker will always report on married c-suite executives of major media companies fucking around on their wives

July 17, 2015

NeverOddOrEven > Jordan Sargent

7/16/15 8:33pm

Hey, fuck you for running this “story.”

LifelsAGift > NeverOddOrEven

7/16/15 9:23pm

No response from the author. Is there an editor that wants to explain? This article should come down tonight.

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