

Ex's claim on 'Bachelor' babe

Page Six®

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Richard Johnson is traveling.

A MAN claiming to be the secret boyfriend of "The Bachelor" finalist **Gia Allemand** says they carried on a romantic relationship while she was vying for the heart of pilot **Jake Pavelka** on the ABC show. But Allemand insists he's lying and using her to promote himself.

Domenick Pierno, a partner in Lynbrook, LI, restaurant La Tavola, told Page Six he and dark-haired beauty Allemand continued to date while she was seeking long-lasting love with Pavelka.

After making it to the final three, Allemand — who once dated often-injured Yan-

kee pitcher **Carl Pavano** — was dropped on Monday's episode and maintained that she was still single on Thursday's "Ellen DeGeneres Show"

Pierno said, "We had been dating four or five years off and on — but mostly on — when she decided to go on the show.

"She had done some modeling here and there, and from there she was hoping other things could come about," he continued. "I didn't see her during filming, but as soon as she got back, we were together.

"We still see each other," Pierno said. "We're still dating. It's been a long relation-

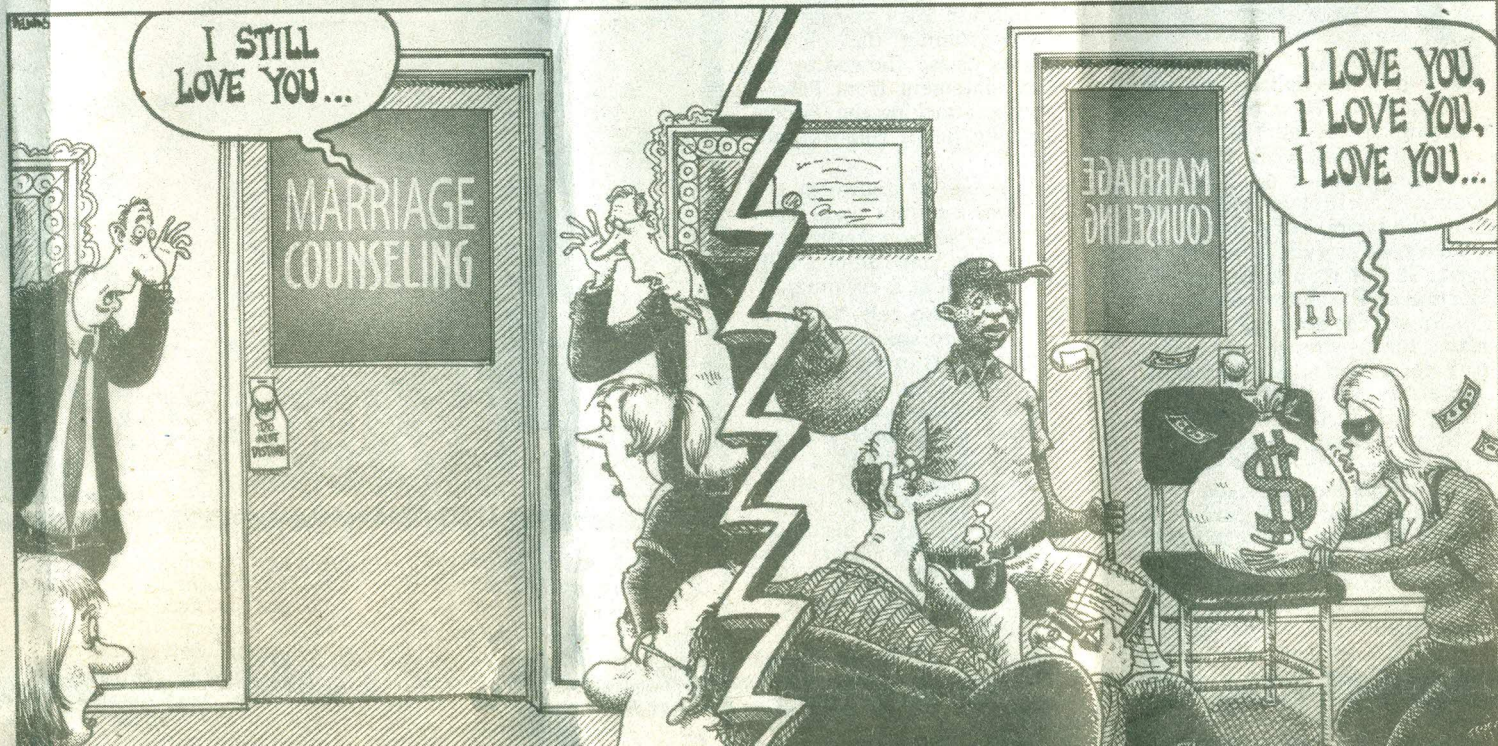
ship that goes back and forth. I saw her a couple of days ago. I went to her apartment in Manhattan."

While Allemand admits that she dated Pierno on and off for a few years, she says they split three years ago and she began dating Pavano.

"We have not been an item for three years," she told us. "Since then, we have been acquaintances."

Allemand added that she heard from Pierno for the first time in months last week, when he called her out of the blue.

A rep for ABC declined to comment.



Time to reflect

TRACK star **Sanya Richards** ran into Bridal Reflections on Fifth Avenue on Friday afternoon for her final fitting for her wedding gown. The Olympic gold medalist is getting hitched to Giants cornerback **Aaron Ross** next week in Texas. While trying on her custom-made gown, Richards remarked that she "loves the way the dress shows off her figure" and cooed that "she feels like a princess." Richards' also had a camera crew in tow filming her for a WETv show on over-the-top nuptials, "Platinum Weddings."

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