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Trump courts Jackson

March 26, 2005



Michael Jackson

Photo: AFP

US mogul Donald Trump could come to the rescue of beleaguered pop singer Michael Jackson by offering the accused and cash-strapped star his own Las Vegas show, *US Weekly* magazine reported.

The magazine said Trump's organisation had spoken to the singer, who is on trial for child molestation, about giving him a permanent show at the billionaire's new Las Vegas resort that opens in 2006.

Trump's office, however, declined to comment on the report.

The magazine quoted New Frontier Hotel and Casino boss Jack Wishna - who along with his billionaire partner Phil Ruffin has teamed up with Trump to develop the new Trump hotel - as saying he had spoken to Jackson's representatives about the proposed gig.

"There'd be moral clauses in the contract," Wishna reportedly said.

The faded "King of Pop" who could face up to 20 years in jail if convicted of sexually abusing a 13-year-old cancer patient in early 2003.

Wishna said a Jackson show could draw more than the \$US80 million that superstar Celine Dion racked up at her permanent Las Vegas show in 2003.

The story also quoted Trump as saying that a Jackson show would be a boon to entertainment in Vegas.

"Everything I do is the best, and everything Phil Ruffin does is the best, and this would be no exception," Trump reportedly said.

Jackson's spokeswoman Raymone Bain could not immediately be reached for comment on the report.

Jackson, who is on trial in California, has pleaded innocent to 10 counts including child molestation, plying a 13-year-old with alcohol to seduce him and plotting to

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