

SPITZER OUT, PATERSON IN | Get the latest at newsday.com

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LONG ISLAND

★★★★SPORTS FINAL

MEET 'KRISTEN'

The call girl
linked to Spitzer



MYSAPCE PHOTO

She has been identified as Ashley Alexandra Dupré, 22, who grew up in New Jersey and wants to be a singer.



NO DEAL

NEWSDAY PHOTO / ALEJANDRA VILLA



NEW DEAL

AP PHOTO



RAW DEAL

AFP / GETTY IMAGES PHOTO

COVERAGE OF THE GOVERNOR'S RESIGNATION BEGINS ON A2-8

Now, time to move on THE CAPITOL

BY MELISSA MANSFIELD
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ALBANY — As the governor announced his resignation, most in the State Capitol held their breath. Televisions throughout the building attracted crowds, and a hush descended. Politicians of both parties voiced concern for his family, and the need for the state to move forward.

In the press room, many lobbyists for good-government groups watched Gov. Eliot Spitzer apologize and quit.

"A lot of people looked to the governor for the leadership to take New York to a new era, and the intelligence and energy he brought to state government, the high-quality staff, created the expectation of real promise," said New York Public Interest Research Group counsel Russ Haven.

In the Legislative Library, about 25 staffers gathered around a TV set brought in for the week. The moment Spitzer was done, everyone filed out silently.

Looking ahead, Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno told dozens of reporters he had spoken with Lt. Gov. David Paterson several times over the past few days and that he was looking forward to working with him.

"I've had an excellent relationship with David Paterson when he was minority leader," Bruno said of Paterson's tenure leading the Democrats in the Senate. "David has always been very open with me, very forthright, and I look forward to a positive productive relationship as soon as possible."

Many thought the occasion would further damage the public perception of politicians.

"This state is bigger than just one person," said Sen. Craig Johnson (D-Port Washington). "Eliot Spitzer's resignation was the only choice that would ensure that the needs of all residents are not lost as this scandal continues to unfold."

City Council Speaker Christine Quinn voiced similar concern, and said, "When the connection of the very fragile thread that connects voters to their government is broken, it's very hard to repair that, and that's our job now," she said.

Staff writer Karla Schuster contributed to this story.

The rise and fall of Eliot Spitzer

BY JENNIFER SMITH
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THE FIGHTER

Eliot Spitzer battled his way into public life, squeaking into the office of attorney general only after a six-week recount and questions over the financing of his campaign.

In that contest a decade ago, clues to his character emerged: Spitzer possessed ambitious public goals, yet his bullish personality and dogged determination to prevail raised hackles and led, at times, to ethical shortcuts that he tolerated little in others.

Spitzer's downfall came as his credibility suffered crippling damage from accusations that the finger-pointing Democratic prosecutor was involved in a high-end prostitution ring. Not so long ago, he had pledged to clean up Albany.

"What he forgot to understand was that he was mortal,"

said political consultant Hank Sheinkopf, who worked on his 1998 attorney general campaign.

As he announced his intention to leave public life, Spitzer, 48, said he regarded his 15-month governorship "with a sense of what might have been." Some observers called the implosion tragic, both for the man and for the public whose mandate for reform swept Spitzer to victory in 2006 with 69.5 percent of the vote.

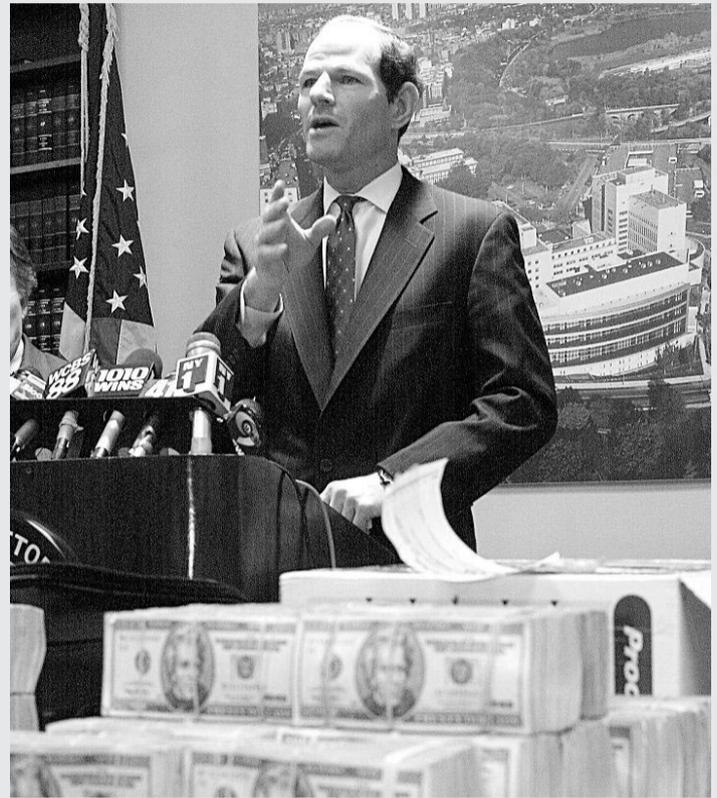
Once considered White House material, Spitzer failed to achieve much of the agenda that drove his run for governor.

"He really does care about policy and making the world a better and more progressive place," said Brooke Masters, author of "Spoiling for a Fight: The Rise of Eliot Spitzer," a 2006 biography. "He wanted to accomplish things. Giving that up, he's a governor who did nothing."

Spitzer's inauguration in January of last year was a high point in the career of a man whose crusades against misdeeds in the banking and insurance industries earned him the nickname "The Sheriff of Wall Street."

The son of self-made real estate tycoon Bernard Spitzer, he was born in 1959 and grew up in Riverdale with the advan-

Vice President Al Gore runs with Spitzer in 1999.



NEWSDAY FILE PHOTO / JIRO OSE

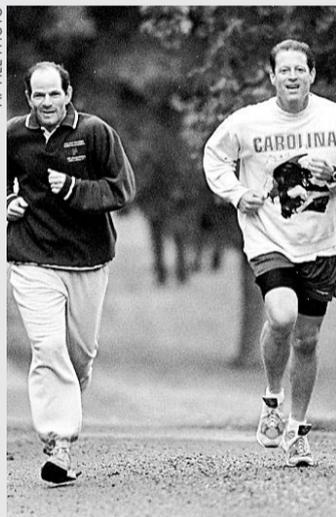
Then-Attorney General Eliot Spitzer touts his office's seizure of \$1.5 million in drug trafficking profits in 2001.

tages conferred by wealth. Spitzer was a brainy athlete who attended the private Horace Mann School. At home, he honed his lawyerly chops during lightning-round political debates at the family dinner table.

Elected student body president at Princeton, he earned a law degree at Harvard, where he met his future wife, Silda Wall. After graduation, he

worked in private practice and spent six years at the Manhattan district attorney's office, where he prosecuted racketeering cases.

Spitzer failed to secure his party's nomination for attorney general in 1994, then won the job in 1998 after a fierce contest with incumbent Dennis Vacco. Members of Spitzer's campaign team remember their candidate as



AP FILE PHOTO

In jeopardy: His standing as

BY ANTHONY M. DESTEFANO
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DISBARMENT

Even if Gov. Eliot Spitzer is never convicted in the Emperors Club prostitution case, he still could lose his law license, legal experts said yesterday.

Disbarment is automatic for any lawyer convicted of a felony under New York State law, but patronizing a prostitute is only a misdemeanor. If a lawyer is convicted of a federal offense, then state lawyer disciplinary officials hold hearings to see if the crime is similar to

a New York crime.

But officials don't even need to wait for a conviction to go after a lawyer like Spitzer, said Barry Kamins, president of the New York City Bar Association.

"The disciplinary committee can still look at the underlying conduct and determine how heinous it is and determine if they want to discipline him," said Kamins, who once chaired the grievance committee in

Brooklyn, which also handles lawyer disciplinary matters.

Spitzer is still registered as an attorney and was admitted to the bar in 1985 after graduating from Harvard Law School, state records show. Any disciplinary action against him would likely be handled in the First Department, based in Manhattan.

Any punishment all the way up to disbarment is possible, Kamins said.

He said he thought it was still too early to say how disciplinary officials might regard Spitzer's patronizing prosti-

tutes or accusations that he structured monetary transactions to evade financial reporting requirements.

Monroe Freedman, professor of legal ethics at Hofstra University, said if Spitzer illegally structured monetary transactions it could hurt his standing as a lawyer.

"Conduct involving [structuring] could certainly be viewed as dishonesty, [and] the fact he didn't do that as a lawyer would not be material," said Freedman.

While he said that sex between consenting adults is usual-



NEWSDAY PHOTO / J. CONRAD WILLIAMS JR.

Spitzer at his peak, gesturing after completing his gubernatorial inaugural address in Albany on Jan. 1, 2007.

strong-minded and decisive, sometimes to a fault.

"It always amazed me that Eliot never said he was wrong," said political consultant George Arzt. "He just goes straight on to the next thing. He would never apologize."

Spitzer's transformation from relative unknown to viable candidate turned on a well-financed campaign paid for, in part, by loans from the elder Spitzer. Vacco had said the loans violated state campaign finance laws. Spitzer eventually conceded that his father financed much of the campaign, but it remained unclear whether the maneuvers were illegal.

Spitzer outlined an ambitious agenda for the office, saying the attorney general should protect the public interest as well as fight crime. During his tenure, he filed aggressive legal actions on behalf of consumers and against federal

agencies, including the Environmental Protection Agency, that he saw as failing to protect New Yorkers.

"I was really impressed with his firm moral compass," Arzt said. "He ran a great office."

Still, the tactics that served Spitzer well as a prosecutor — among them, using the threat of public humiliation to settle cases — hampered his efforts to transform Albany's entrenched political culture.

The prostitution scandal broke as the governor was working to regain political ground lost during his first year in office, when clashes with legislative leaders and a series of missteps short-circuited his plans for change.

Three weeks after taking office, the governor told Assembly Minority Leader James Tedisco (R-Schenectady), who complained he had been excluded from legislative negotia-

tions, "Listen, I'm a — — steamroller, and I'll roll over you and anybody else." Spitzer then alienated many Assembly Democrats the next month when he called their choice for comptroller, Long Island Assemblyman Tom DiNapoli, "totally unqualified" and criticized a Syracuse lawmaker in his own district for backing DiNapoli.

By summer, already strained relations with Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno (R-Brunswick) turned irreparably toxic. A state investigation found that two Spitzer aides had improperly asked state police to gather information on Bruno's travels. "Troopergate" further tarnished Spitzer's image as a reformer, said David Birdsell, dean of the Baruch College School of Public Affairs.

In September, Spitzer announced a new policy to make 500,000 to 1 million undocumented immigrants eligible for

New York State driver's licenses. The plan drew strong opposition from Republican lawmakers and overwhelming disapproval from New York voters. And it proved to be a political liability for presidential candidate and fellow New York Democrat Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton. Spitzer abandoned the proposal in November.

By December, Spitzer's approval ratings had dropped to 36 percent, an astonishing plunge from 75 percent when he entered office.

Still, while difficult, none of those setbacks were the sort of career-wrecking offense presented by this week's salacious revelations, Birdsell said.

"This is the moral crusader caught out at his own game," Birdsell said. "Now he adds his own poignant example to the litany of cases" that Spitzer himself would have seized upon as reason for reform.

Liers react

Area residents sounded off yesterday about Gov. Eliot Spitzer's resignation:



Peter Xanthus, 28, teacher, Mineola

"I think he had no choice because he went against everything he said. It makes him look like a complete fraud."



Anna Bonich, 81, retired, Westbury

"I think it's terrible. It's a shame. I feel bad for his family. It's a disgrace."



Jessie Acosta, 27, sales associate, Westbury

"I'm very happy he resigned, especially him being a prosecutor. I think it was about time. . . . I think that there are certain people, you feel like you're above the law, that you're untouchable. I don't feel bad for him."



Sherease Lyle, 26, sales associate, Hempstead

"I think we should have given him a second chance. Everyone deserves a second chance."

lawyer

ly not used to penalize a lawyer, he said that Spitzer's possible violation of the Mann Act — which prohibits having women travel over state lines for prostitution — could be used to attack Spitzer's ability to practice law.

Attorney Jeffrey Hoffman of Manhattan said lawyers he has represented have never been disciplined for consorting with a prostitute. State court records indicate a handful of lawyers have been disbarred for promoting prostitution or committing statutory rape with an underage prostitute.

Langone not surprised

BY CELESTE HADRICK
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ENEMIES

Ken Langone, the multibillionaire cofounder of Home Depot, said he never doubted that Eliot Spitzer would get his.

The pugnacious Wall Street financier told numerous reporters over the years that he was gunning for Spitzer after the former governor, as the state attorney general, accused Langone, of Sands Point, of duping the board of the New York Stock Exchange into over-

paying its chairman, Richard Grasso — a charge Langone angrily denied.

"One way or another, Spitzer is going to pay for what he's done to me and the havoc he's caused in the New York business climate," Langone told New York magazine in 2005.

Langone, 72, a longtime Republican, and his family sank at least \$64,000 into Nassau County Executive Thomas

Suoizzi's failed primary race against Spitzer two years ago for the Democratic nomination for governor.

After Spitzer's alleged visit to a prostitute was revealed on Monday, a CNBC reporter asked Langone: "Would you say that you were surprised by this news?"

"Not at all," Langone replied. "I had no doubt about his lack of character and integrity. It would only be a matter of time, I didn't think he would do it this soon or the way he did it."