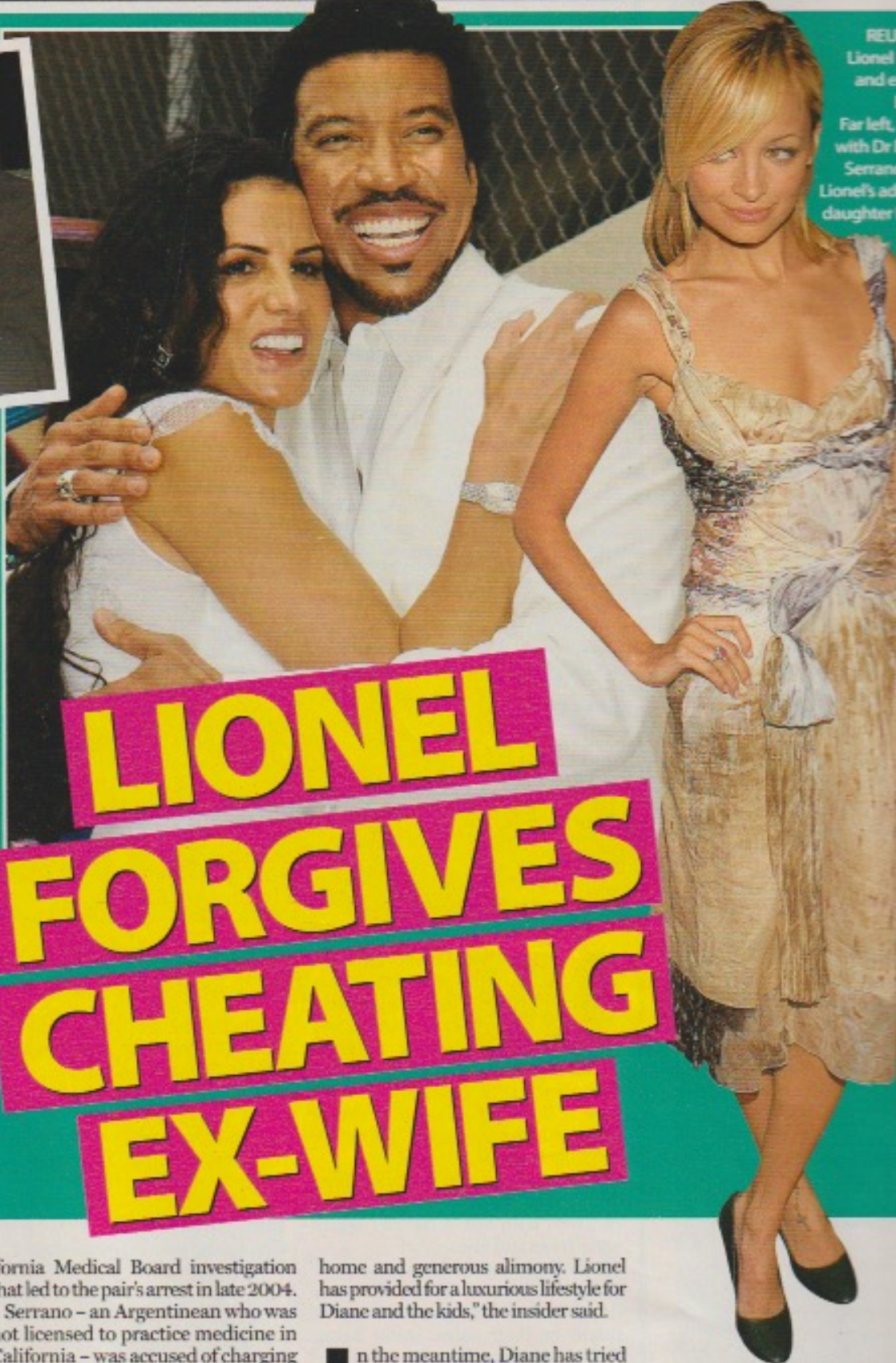
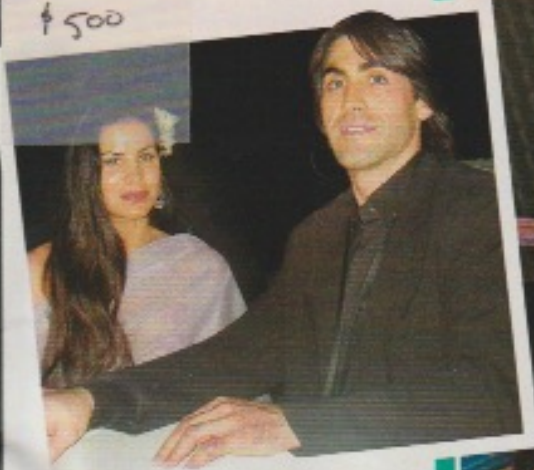


\$500



REU
Lionel
and e
Far left,
with Dr
Serrano
Lionel's ad
daughter

By **ROBIN MIZRAHI**

Legendary singer Lionel Richie and his ex-wife Diane are reuniting for a paradise vacation - after going through one of the most bitter divorces in Hollywood history.

The couple split last year amid a legal scandal in which Lionel instigated the arrests of Diane and her lover for their involvement in unlawful cosmetic surgery practices. But friends say the two have overcome their differences and are now rebuilding the frayed relationship.

There is even talk of a rekindled romance between Lionel, 56, and Diane, 39, as they plan a family getaway to the Ocean Club in the Bahamas with their two children Miles, 11, and Sophie, seven, next month.

An insider said: "Lionel and Diane are getting along beautifully. They're starting to see more and more of each other. And the kids couldn't be happier."

"Lionel's thrilled to have Diane back in his life again. It's hard for him to stay angry with anyone for too long."

Sources say Lionel - who adopted and raised *The Simple Life* star Nicole Richie with first wife Brenda - had a lot to forgive with Diane. She ran off with Dr. Daniel Serrano - also known as Dr. Dan - a close friend of the couple.

It is said that Lionel was so furious that when he found out Diane was allowing Serrano to practice cosmetic medicine illegally in her home, the singer propelled the joint FBI and Cal-

ifornia Medical Board investigation that led to the pair's arrest in late 2004.

Serrano - an Argentinean who was not licensed to practice medicine in California - was accused of charging patients thousands of dollars to inject them with anti-wrinkle drugs that were not approved by U.S. drug regulators. Diane was charged with aiding and abetting Serrano and spent two days in jail. Nonetheless, according to the insider, Lionel's divorce settlement was extremely generous to Diane.

"She ended up with a \$5 million

home and generous alimony. Lionel has provided for a luxurious lifestyle for Diane and the kids," the insider said.

In the meantime, Diane has tried to put the whole scandal behind her. "Although Dr. Dan remains under indictment and will most likely be deported when the investigation is over, Diane is pretty much in the clear now because she cooperated with federal authorities," added the insider.

Lionel, who was lead singer of the Commodores, has become cozy again

with Diane now that the scandal died down, according to the insider.

"Lionel and Diane are really enjoying each other's company these days but he's taking it slow with her," the insider said. "He likes his freedom. He was burned badly by her before. I wouldn't be surprised if Lionel and Diane fall back in love all over again." mizrahi@nationalenquire.com

FAST FACT.....

There are instructions on the internet on how to build a clay bust of Lionel Richie, like the one in the video of his hit single Hello