
'The Notebook' author is a rampaging bigot: suit

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Nicholas Sparks

Photo: AP Photo/Evan Agostini

World renowned romance novelist Nicholas Sparks is a bigot who allegedly tried to ambush a former CEO of his North Carolina private school—by holding him captive in a room while assaulting and threatening him, a new lawsuit claims.

In papers filed Thursday, Sparks summoned Saul Hillel Benjamin to the conference room at The Epiphany School of Global Studies in order to fire him from his \$168,000 a year gig.

But things quickly got out of hand during the Nov. 2013 incident.

“Sparks and others physically intimidated, threatened and assaulted Mr. Benjamin while keeping him trapped in a room for hours without even access to a bathroom,” the suit says.

Benjamin was brought to tears.

According to the suit, Sparks who penned “[The Notebook](#)” and “A Walk to Remember” endorses “vulgar and discriminatory views about African-American, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals.”

The former CEO, Saul Hillel Benjamin, was often on the receiving end of Spark’s vile remarks about non-Christians while he was still employed by the school, the papers say.

On one occasion, Sparks allegedly told Benjamin that he brought “disrepute to Epiphany” for mingling with African Americans at a public event.

On another, Sparks explained away the school’s lack of diversity to the fact that “black students are too poor and can’t do the

academic work,” according to the documents.

When Benjamin tried to inject diversity into the school, Sparks “ridiculed” his efforts – and condoned bullying of several homosexual students while referring to them as the “gay club,” the suit states.

Sparks then allegedly launched a campaign to embarrass and ultimately fire Benjamin.

He and members of the school’s board repeatedly showed contempt for Benjamin’s Jewish heritage, the suit says.

They even “forced” Benjamin to recite his deeply held religious beliefs before the entire student body and their parents, who hurled insults and threats at him, the suit says.

Benjamin was fired in the fall of 2013 after the alleged assault by Sparks in the conference room.

His lawsuit lists several defendants, including Sparks, his foundation and the Epiphany school.

His lawyer, Douglas Wigdor, told The Post, “Apparently, despite the efforts our society has made, Mr. Sparks wants to travel back in time and vilify those who promote diversity and tolerance of all people regardless of their sexual orientation and race.”

Sparks’ entertainment attorney, Scott Schwimer is speaking in defense of his client. “As a gay, Jewish man who has represented Nick for almost 20 years I find these allegations completely ludicrous and offensive,” he said in a statement to The Post.

Theresa Sprain, Sparks’ counsel in the matter also told The Post, “We deny these allegations as presented in the complaint. We will vigorously defend this matter and look forward to pursuing any available remedies.”

The Epiphany School did not immediately return a call for comment.