

WEEKEND'S HOTLIST OF...

The most expensive celebrity divorces



1 Michael Jordan When the basketball star's 17-year marriage to Juanita ended in 2006, it was the most expensive settlement ever, costing him nearly £110 million.

2 Neil Diamond The singer handed over half his fortune – £95 million – in 1994, to his wife of 26 years Marcia Murphey upon their divorce – ever the gentleman, he claimed she had been 'worth every penny'.

3 Steven Spielberg In 1989, the director was forced to pay his first wife, actress Amy Irving, £64 million after a judge threw out a prenuptial agreement that had been written on a napkin.



4 Harrison Ford The actor's ex-wife, screenwriter Melissa Mathison, made legal history in 2004 when she was granted the right to a share of any future earnings Ford made from films he'd starred in while they were together – and that was on top of an estimated £54 million settlement.

5 Kevin Costner Following his £51 million divorce from his wife Cindy Silva in 1994, Costner consoled himself by dating Australian supermodel Elle Macpherson.

6 Madonna The only woman to make the top ten, the Material Girl gave Guy Ritchie £49 million from her fortune last year, a sum that included their estate in Wiltshire.



7 James Cameron The Titanic director was holed below the waterline to the tune of £30 million when he split from actress Linda Hamilton in 1999 after she found out he was having an affair. If only she had waited until he had finished filming – the movie made more than £1 billion.

8 Phil Collins It proved to be third time unlucky for the former Genesis lead singer who, in 2008, shelled out £30 million to wife number three, Orianne Cevey. This, on top of the £20 million he had to pay wife number two, Jill Tavelman, who he dumped for a then 22-year-old Orianne.



9 Michael Douglas After treatment for sex addiction, Douglas went through one of Hollywood's bitterest divorces when wife Diandra decided she'd finally had enough of his philandering. After a two-year battle, Douglas handed over nearly £30 million – half his fortune – so he could marry Catherine Zeta Jones.

10 Paul McCartney The most talked about divorce of 2008. Heather Mills got £24 million – £100 million less than she had asked for – from the former Beatle.

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IT HAPPENED TO ME...

I'm allergic to modern life

Former TV producer, Sarah Dacre, 53, had a successful career in London, but, in 1994, she suddenly began suffering from a pattern of mysterious symptoms. When finally diagnosed, her illness forced her to leave both her job and her home. Divorced, with a grown-up son at university, she now lives in Kent. Here she recalls what happened...

It began with the migraines, which I put down to stress. Recently divorced, I was running a television production company, employing more than 70 staff, as well as bringing up my five-year-old son. My lifestyle was fast paced, exciting and affluent, so I wasn't surprised to find that I might be at risk from a stress-related illness.

As the headaches intensified over the next few months, becoming progressively more frequent, I began to worry, especially as I was also experiencing numbness down the right side of my body and bad digestion. My GP thought I was probably overworking and told me to get some rest.

After consulting an allergy specialist, who said I could be suffering from a food intolerance, I cut out wheat and dairy from my diet in an effort to alleviate my symptoms. But nothing I did seemed to make any difference whatsoever. As I'd never had a serious day's illness in my life before, I just kept hoping my problems would gradually resolve themselves.

For the next seven years I continued to suffer from severe headaches and digestive problems, both slowly growing worse. Meanwhile, as modern technology improved, I stocked up my office and home with more and more electronic equipment. I had a mobile, two cordless phones and a laptop, but never did I think that these might be contributing to my illness.

Before I became ill I had a wide social circle and was physically fit – my hobbies included skiing, tango dancing, hillside walking and going to the gym. Having been such an intensely energetic person, I was shocked to find myself now shuffling around the house after the slightest physical exertion.

In 2002, I met my partner, Rod, an engraver, and although he and my son were incredibly kind and supportive, I hated being a virtual invalid, and was determined to find out the cause of my illness and fix it. Over the next two years I visited a succession of doctors and alternative therapists, and I tried all sorts of cures, but found nothing that did me any good.

As the symptoms grew worse, so new ones appeared. By 2003, I'd developed high blood pressure and started suffering from panic attacks and breathlessness. Although I was naturally



The more gadgets I owned, the sicker I became. First it was headaches and chronic exhaustion, then my teeth and hair fell out

anxious about all of this, I knew that my problems were more than psychological, and that my condition was being made worse by worry rather than being the result of it.

Obviously it was by now becoming more difficult for me to continue running a company while feeling so unwell. But I did my best, continuing to function as well as I could, given the constraints of my ill-health. Some days I felt so bad I could barely leave the house and, by 2004, I had started to experience blurred vision, heart arrhythmia, thyroid problems, vertigo, tinnitus, and chronic fatigue.

The following year, hoping to make a fresh start, I moved to a newly built luxury house. Little did I know that I was only making my problem worse. Two weeks after moving in, I found a lump in my breast, which was diagnosed

as a benign tumour. Added to this, my hair started to fall out, my teeth had become loose and my fingernails became so cracked and brittle they broke off under the slightest pressure.

Clearly, I could no longer continue working, so I decided to close the company, hoping it would only be a temporary measure. Desperate for help, my son and partner began searching the internet for a solution to my problem. They found websites that warned of the harmful effects of electromagnetic impulses on the human body, and the symptoms listed were all identical to mine – it is called electro-hypersensitivity, or EHS.

Now I knew what to do. I cleared my bedroom of the phone, TV, computer and electrical wires of any kind, and lined it with foil wallpaper. I also screened the windows with silver radiation-proof fabric, and started wearing a head net to protect against mast emissions. I also began taking numerous nutritional supplements, and avoiding buildings with lots of electronic equipment. Almost immediately, I began to feel better, to have more energy, and to sleep and eat better.

Finally, in 2006, I was diagnosed with EHS by a specialist I found on the internet. The relief of knowing what had caused my mysterious symptoms for 14 years was overwhelming. At last I could prove I was not mad, but ill. But it still remained very hard for me to function in day-to-day life. I could not use, or even be near, mobile phones, microwave ovens, radios, WiFi-enabled computers, or be in public buildings such as airports, railway stations, museums or restaurants; travel on the Tube, or drive on a motorway without triggering symptoms of EHS. I couldn't even visit friends.

Five months ago, I sold my house in London and moved to rural Kent. Within a month, my health improved dramatically. I stopped suffering from

minor infections, slept better and felt physically stronger – I was even able to do heavy lifting work on my allotment. I grow my own vegetables and eat an organic diet. I walk, garden and work, in a limited fashion, on a laptop, helping people come to terms with their own case of electro-hypersensitivity.

I am now physically stronger and healthier than I have felt in years. I have no income, but am working towards the day when I can perhaps once more resume my career in TV by making a programme about EHS. My mission in life has now become to prevent anyone from suffering the way I did. And with our world filled with more and more electronics, there are going to be a lot more people like me out there soon. ■

Clare Campbell

For information on EHS, visit www.es-uk.info

HENLEY ROYAL REGATTA The regatta, which was first held in 1839, begins Wednesday • **It costs £2 million to stage the annual sporting event** • **250,000** spectators are expected to attend the 5-day event • **6,500** people are allowed into the **VIP Steward's Enclosure**, and there is a waiting list of **1,000** hopefuls • **12,000** pints of Pimms are drunk each year and **4,500** bottles of champagne, costing up to **£150** each