

Simpson Jurors Write Books, Six Figures Paid

Jurors in the O.J. Simpson case are writing books defending their speedy "not guilty" verdict, saying the defense did not win the sensational trial — the prosecution lost it.

At least two such books are planned. One written jointly by three panelists will be out soon.

Black juror Lionel Cryer and New York lawyer Donald Cayea say they want to dwell on how an initially impressive prosecution case fell apart, creating wide areas for reasonable doubt over whether Simpson murdered his ex-wife Nicole and her friend, Ronald Goldman.

Their book will offer an extensive critique of the trial system, especially sequestration of juries in controversial cases and how televising trials turns them into circuses.

Cryer says sequestration made him feel like a prisoner — "meat on a hook" — and at times he wondered if the guards could tell the difference between the jurors and the criminals they usually supervised. "I wanted out of there. I would say that sequestration was a contributing factor to the speedy verdict," he said in an interview.

The mostly black jury has been criticized for reaching a verdict within hours of getting the case. Their verdict, finding the black football hero not guilty of killing his ex-wife and her friend, both of whom were white, also exposed a gaping racial divide in America.

The book by the three jurors, forewoman Armanda Cooley, Carrie Bess and Marsha Rubin-Jackson, will be published by Dove, a Los Angeles publishing house that has turned the Simpson case into a cottage industry.

"This book will really change everyone's view of the jury," Dove publisher Michael Viner said. He said the three jurors received a six-figure advance.

Viner said there was comment in the book on how the prosecution failed and on the hardships, cliques and frictions created by sequestering the jury.

These points are also strongly made by Cryer, who in notes made during the trial wondered if two jurors were developing a romance. The jurors' writing plans come at a time when almost everyone involved in the case except Simpson himself has a book deal or is reportedly looking for one.

Prosecutor Marcia Clark has a reported \$4.2 million book deal and her associate Christopher Darden has a \$1.3 million contract. Defense attorney Johnnie Cochran has a \$3 million agreement, his bitter former associate Robert Shapiro has a \$1.5 million deal and Alan Dershowitz, another defense lawyer, has a contract for less than \$1 million.

Publishers have said they had feelers from "representatives" of Judge Lance Ito, something of which the jurist said he was not aware.

Publishers Weekly News Editor Maureen O'Brien said Simpson tried to pitch a book with Lawrence Shiller, with whom he collaborated on an earlier bestselling book in which he answered letters about the case. But she added, "At this point he appears shut out of the book business."

Publishers said they doubted there was anything more Simpson could say. But some said they feared a major backlash both from readers and from their own authors — so strong was the feeling that Simpson was guilty.

These books are in addition to ones planned by four writers who

covered the case — Vanity Fair's Dominick Dunne, the New Yorker's Jeffrey Tobin, Joe McGuinness and Joe Bosco.

Cryer said flatly he does not know if Simpson was guilty or not — all he knows is that the prosecution never proved its case beyond a reasonable doubt, as it had to do. He said he was impressed initially with the prosecution case and its star witness, Los Angeles police detective Mark Fuhrman, who told of finding a bloody glove at the Simpson estate.

Cryer, in a note dated March 16, wrote, "The defense will need an extremely credible witness to dispute his (Fuhrman's) testimony if they want me to believe that he made

derogatory statements about blacks..."

At the time, Cryer dismissed defense attacks on Fuhrman as a racist as nothing more than "a dog and pony show" designed to deflect attention from the strong prosecution case.

But he said once it became clear that Fuhrman had lied about frequently using the racial epithet "nigger," he began to think the detective may have lied about everything. "I thought it was possible he had planted the glove," he said.

Cayea said Cryer wanted to write the book because the jurors were being criticized for being too stupid to understand the evidence in the case. Instead, he said, they understood it only too well.

Promotion Helps Area Schools

TCI of Portland raised \$12,000 for area school districts during their recent consumer promotion.

Customers who signed up for cable or added to their service during the cable operator's Fall campaign received a lower-priced installation and TCI donated up to \$5 for each installation to the school districts.

This was the second year TCI has conducted such a promotion. The 1994 campaign raised \$6,000 for local schools and \$1.4 million dollars nationwide.

As a result of the promotion, area teachers will be awarded expense-paid grants to attend the J.C. Sparkman Center for Educational Technology in Littleton, Colorado. The center is one of the leading

technology education facilities in the United States, offering individualized courses for teachers and parents on advanced communications technologies, such as CD-ROM, the Internet, interactive video and distance learning.

Additional funds will be used toward the purchase of computers and other equipment for the school districts.

Computers are an integral part of today's multimedia learning environment, allowing teachers and students access to on-line services such as Ingenius Xchange, a real-time global news resource delivered to schools via cable.

Dr. Jack Bierwirth, Superintendent of the Portland School District

said, "Like modern life, modern education is tied to technology. We also know that our future depends on being able to connect resources outside the traditional bounds of the classroom. TCI provides resources outside the traditional bounds of the classroom. TCI provides both the access and the partnership to move all of our youngsters forward."

"I wish to thank Superintendent Bierwirth and his staff for their support of this program. We were thrilled to see the response from our customers, as well," said Bill Tierney, General Manager of TCI stated:

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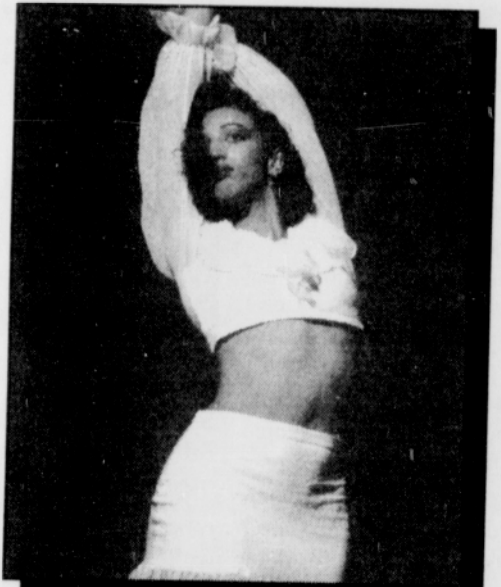
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PDC
PORTLAND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

COMMISSION MEETING
Date: January 17, 1996
Place: PDC - Commission Rm.
1120 SW Fifth Avenue
Suite 1100
Portland, Oregon
Time: 9:00 A.M.

Commission meetings are open to the public. A complete agenda is available at PDC or by calling 823-3200. Citizens with disabilities may call 823-3232 or TDD 823-6868 for assistance at least 48 hours in advance.

PDC is the City of Portland's urban renewal, housing and economic development agency.