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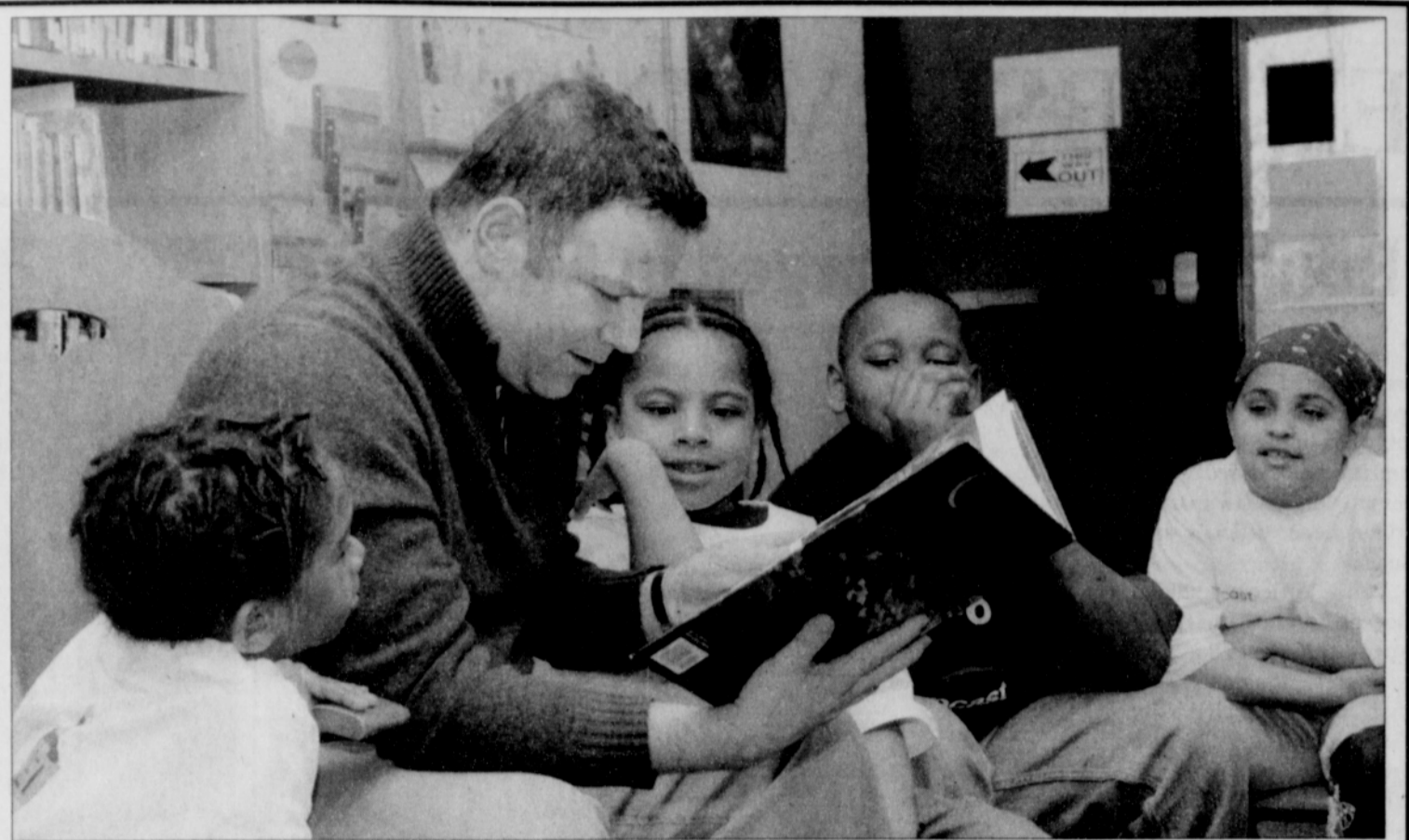
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## News Anchor Reads with SEI Kids

Students at Self Enhancement Elementary get a visit from KATU News Anchor Ken Ackerman during the Comcast Celebrity Reading Hour. The Comcast Foundation donated \$25,000 to the reading literacy program at the north Portland school.

# LAW & JUSTICE

## Superstar Lawyer Johnnie Cochran Dies

(AP) — Johnnie L. Cochran Jr., who became a legal superstar after helping clear O.J. Simpson during a sensational murder trial in which he uttered the famous quote "If it doesn't fit, you must acquit," died Tuesday. He was 67.

Cochran died of a brain tumor at his home in Los Angeles, his family said.

"Certainly, Johnnie's career will be noted as one marked by 'celebrity' cases and clientele," his family said in a statement. "But he and his family were most proud of the work he did on behalf of those in the community."

With his colorful suits and ties, his gift for courtroom oratory and a knack for coining memorable phrases, Cochran was a vivid addition to the pantheon of best-known American barristers.

The "if it doesn't fit" phrase would be quoted and parodied for years afterward. It derived from a dramatic moment during which Simpson tried on a pair of blood-stained "murder gloves" to show jurors they did not fit. Some legal experts called it the turning point in the trial.

Soon after, jurors found the Hall of Fame football star not guilty of the 1994 slayings of his ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Ronald Goldman.

For Cochran, Simpson's acquittal was the crowning achievement in a career notable for victories, often in cases with racial themes.



Defense attorney Johnnie Cochran Jr. puts on a pair of gloves in this Sept. 27, 1995 file photo, at the Los Angeles Criminal Courts Building, to remind the jury in the O.J. Simpson double-murder trial that the gloves Simpson tried on did not fit him. "Remember these words," Cochran said.

He was a black man known for championing the causes of black defendants. Some of them, like Simpson, were famous, but more often than not they were unknowns.

"The clients I've cared about the most are the No Js, the ones who nobody knows," said Cochran, who proudly displayed copies in his office of the multimillion-dollar checks he won for ordinary citizens who said they were abused by police.

"People in New York and Los Angeles, especially mothers in the African-American community, are more afraid of the police injuring or killing their children than they are

Cochran helped Pratt win his freedom in 1997 he called the moment "the happiest day of my life practicing law."

He won a \$760,000 award in a wrongful death lawsuit filed by the family of Ron Settles, a black college football star who died in police custody in 1981. Cochran challenged police claims that Settles hanged himself in jail after a speeding arrest. The player's body was exhumed, an autopsy performed and it revealed Settles had been choked.

His clients also included Haitian immigrant Abner Louima, who was tortured by New York police, and Tyisha Miller, a 19-year-old black woman shot to death by Riverside police who said she reached for a gun on her lap when they broke her car window in an effort to disarm her.

But the attention he received from all of those cases didn't come remotely close to the fame the Simpson case brought him.

After Simpson's acquittal, Cochran appeared on countless TV talk shows, was awarded his own Court TV show, and traveled the world over giving speeches.

He remained a beloved figure in the black community, admired as a lawyer who was relentless in his pursuit of justice and as a philanthropist who helped fund a UCLA scholarship, a low-income housing complex and a New Jersey legal academy, among other charitable endeavors.

## Man Shot in Face After Attempted Robbery

Parry Low, 47, told police that three men shot him in the face just after 5 a.m. on March 30 as the victim was walking over an Interstate 5 bridge. He stated he was leaving a 7-11 store to pick up a job application.

Three African-American men were on the bridge, and the victim claims the three men demanded money. The victim then turned and attempted to run off, but one of the suspects allegedly shot him in the face.

According to Sgt. Brian Schmutz, the victim ran to his house and called 911.

A K-9 unit was unable to pick up a scent, but bullet casings were found. There is some speculation that the three men left North Port-

land on MAX in order to flee the crime scene and they are still on the loose.

Low was taken to Emanuel Hospital for injuries but authorities believe they are non-life threatening.

## Road Rage, Racial Slurs Lead to Stabbing

Authorities say Travis Ayotte and Jared Nelson, both 24, chased a black driver Willard Johnson Jr. down the Sunset Highway 26 on last Wednesday evening.

The two men allegedly flashed their headlights, and the passenger leaned out the window to shout racial slurs at Johnson.

Johnson, 54, exited at 185th Avenue and thought he lost the suspects. However, when Johnson reached his house, the two men approached him. Johnson stabbed Ayotte in the chest in what he said was self-defense. Police say he will not face charges.

The two attackers face robbery and intimidation charges.

## Teen Raped at Columbia Park

A 12-year-old girl claims a young black man raped her on March 29 at Columbia Park in north Portland.

The suspect allegedly asked her for the time and then drug the girl at knifepoint into the Columbia Cottage bathrooms. The suspect frightened the girl with a five-inch blade and proceeded

to rape the victim, according to Sgt. Kim Keist.

The victim was taken to Legacy Emanuel Hospital for an examination. The suspect is a young black man in his early '20s. He is about 6-feet-tall and wore a black baseball cap, white T-shirt, black puffy jacket and dark denim jeans.

## Shooting Suspect Arrested

A year-old murder case came closer to being solved last Thursday when Portland Police arrested 17-year-old Birgilio Marin Arellano.

Arellano was wanted for shooting and killing 16-year-old Alexx Alexander on June 6, 2004 in what has been described as a gang-related attack.

Alexander was shot inside a car he was

riding in after a low-rider show at Expo Center in north Portland. Evidence from two Portland homes and one Milwaukie home was collected on Thursday but it was not said what clues led them to Arellano. They found the suspect at the intersection of SE 162<sup>nd</sup> Avenue and SE Foster Road.

Anyone with information can contact Detective Cheryl Kanzler at 503-823-0457.