

Simpson trial update

Tuesday, Jan. 25, 1995

- ▶ Judge Lance Ito threatened to end TV coverage after an alternate juror leaned forward, into the camera range of Court TV. Ito will rule Wednesday morning.
- ▶ Prosecutors Marcia Clark and Christopher Darden gave opening remarks, showing graphic photos of the victims. They also detailed physical evidence and alleged abuse.
- ▶ Ito said Simpson may not address jurors to declare his innocence, but may show scars on his knee.

Ito threatens to end TV coverage

LOS ANGELES — Of the thousands of hours of television coverage generated by the O.J. Simpson murder case, it was a shot that lasted less than a second Tuesday that threatened to end it all.

A glimpse of an alternate juror during opening statements so angered Superior Court Judge Lance Ito that he cut short the court session, prompting cries of foul from the defense.

The shot in question came as Deputy District Attorney Marcia Clark spoke. As she walked toward the counsel table, the camera followed her and caught a side view of a female alternate juror leaning forward in her chair. The woman's face was clearly seen for eight-tenths of a second before the camera jerked away.

A producer for Court TV, which operates the remote control pool camera that provides the court feed, said

the shot was a mistake.

"We were the first to notify the judge," said Cynthia Glozier, the supervising producer. "We regret it. We will do everything in the future to make sure it doesn't happen again."

Ito himself supervised the installation of the camera system after an earlier dispute over allegations that TV stations had broadcast hallway shots of jurors in other cases. Ito threatened then to yank the court camera but left it in after hearing from media lawyers.

The earlier threat was also related to a TV news report about DNA evidence that the judge deemed inaccurate. However, prosecutors confirmed in their opening statements Tuesday that the results of the blood tests were reported correctly.

Ito told attorneys outside the jury's presence he was not only upset at the camera operator for violating the of-

ten-repeated court order that forbids showing jurors on TV. But he said he was doubly mad because a producer sitting at a "kill" switch missed the shot and didn't black it out.

"Both (the) camera operator and the person on the delay box made an error, and I indicated to all parties that if this would occur, then I would then terminate the television," Ito said, according to a transcript of the proceeding.

With that, the judge ordered the sequestered jurors back into the courtroom. He told them a problem had arisen "that involves directly your welfare" and he sent them back to their hotel early to give him time to figure out what to do.

The abrupt end of the court session came just as defense attorney Johnnie Cochran Jr. was about to deliver his opening statement to answer numerous allegations made by

Clark and fellow prosecutor Christopher Darden in their televised presentation.

After the defense objected to the camera being ousted, Ito asked for the prosecution's position. Clark supported the move.

"The important people to hear from both sides are the jury," she said. "They are the ones who will vote on guilt or innocence. ... We are not playing to the world, we are playing to the jury."

Outside court, defense attorneys were as angry as Ito. "What we saw today was an interference with his rights to due process," Robert Shapiro said. "We were not allowed to proceed to opening statements ... because of the media."

Shapiro said that for Simpson's sake, the defense presentation should be televised when jurors return Wednesday.

Father and son survive blizzard

ANKARA, Turkey — A U.S. Air Force pilot and his young son were found alive Tuesday after disappearing nine days ago in a blizzard, having survived the freezing wilderness by holing up in a cave and eating snow.

Lt. Col. Michael Ronald Couillard, 37, and his son, Matthew, 10, were conscious but their feet were swollen from frostbite.

In a release from the U.S. Air Force, Couillard said he and his son lost their way in snow fog while on a ski trip at the northern Turkish resort of Kartalkaya, 70 miles north of Ankara. When they realized they didn't know where they were, they found a road and skied down it before taking shelter under some trees for the night.

The next morning, they took shelter in a cave and remained there for five or six days. On Sunday, the colonel, a graduate of an Air Force survival course, decided the weather was good enough to try to find help. He left his son in the cave and skied for an hour and a half to a village.

There, he met some woodcutters who went back for his son and took them both to the state-owned forestry administration near Kartalkaya.

Couillard was "very weak" when found but managed in broken Turkish to describe the location of the cave. Yuksel Gul, a forestry official, told Anatolia.

"Their reunion was a touching scene," Gul said. "Although the colonel had difficulty moving, he struggled to his feet and hugged his son in tears."

The survivors' first meal in nine days was a typical Turkish breakfast - tea, bread, butter and jam. "The little boy kept repeating, 'Thank you,'" Gul said.

The father and son were taken to the hospital in Bolu, near the ski resort, and later were flown by U.S. military plane to the Turkish air base at Incirlik.

As they got into the ambulance bound for Ankara, Couillard was overheard saying they ate snow to survive. The boy was smiling and when asked if now he was famous, replied: "Yes, I am."

The pilot's wife, Mary, was in Ankara and she will be reunited with her husband and son. The couple also have a 13-year-old son.

"We are overjoyed by this good news," said a statement from the U.S.



AP/Alex Sibiry

Embassy in Ankara, where Couillard works in the Office of Defense Cooperation. The Embassy thanked Turkish authorities for help in the search.

Anatolia reported that Couillard and his son saw helicopters flying overhead but failed to draw their attention.

A previously unknown group, the Lebanon Freedom Fighters, claimed that the Americans were kidnapped to secure the release of a Shiite Muslim leader held by Israel. Authorities had cast doubts on that claim.

Couillard, assigned to the U.S. Embassy in Ankara, commands the Office of Defense Cooperation. He went to the resort with an embassy group.

News... in a Minute

Twins joined at head separated

TORONTO — Two-year-old Siamese twins joined at the head were in stable condition Tuesday after being separated by doctors in a marathon operation.

Hira and Nida Jamal were separated Monday evening after 11 hours of surgery at Toronto's Hospital For Sick Children. The girls were still in surgery today, as plastic surgeons performed reconstructive work to cover large wounds exposing their brains.

Blood loss "was greater than we expected," said neurosurgeon Harold Hoffman, who headed the team of more than 20 nurses and doctors.

"We are concerned about the blood supply to Nida's brain. It's too early to say what this will mean for her," he said in a statement.

Only about 30 similar operations have been performed on children joined at the head. In two-thirds of them, one or both children died.

Most Siamese twins are joined at the abdomen or hip, not at the head, Hoffman said. The Jamal girls also shared the same circulatory system, which further complicated the operation.

One of Hira's arteries passed into Nida's brain and several veins crossed from Nida into Hira's brain. The artery and veins were closed in an earlier operation. The operation was originally scheduled for Feb. 3, but doctors decided to do it sooner because Hira's heart had started to deteriorate.

Girl Scout cookies won't be taxed

AUGUSTA, Maine — Maine won't get a single crumb of taxes from the Girl Scouts.

Judge Donald Alexander ruled Monday that the state can't slap a 6 percent tax on the cookies the scouts sell each year to raise money. He also chastised state officials as "arbitrary and capricious" in applying the snack tax.

In 1991 the state imposed the tax on cookies, chips and candy bars. Initially, the Bureau of Taxation taxed Girl Scout cookies on the wholesale level, but backed down when challenged and returned \$100,000 to the organization.

In its latest action, the state argued that the Girl Scouts must pay taxes at the retail level because they're running a major retail enterprise.

The state has not decided whether to appeal the ruling. Alexander said the scouts should not be treated differently from other non-profit groups that hold fund-raisers, and should not be penalized simply because their sales are successful.

About 16,000 Maine Girl Scouts are selling cookies this year for \$2.50 to \$3 a box, depending on where they are sold.

Japan's government criticized for slow response to quake

KOBE, Japan — A week after an earthquake devastated Kobe, the Cabinet shouldered huge rebuilding costs Tuesday by declaring the once-vibrant city a disaster zone.

Opposition lawmakers assailed the government of Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama for its slow response to the Jan. 17 quake, which killed more than 5,000 people.

"What were you thinking of?" opposition delegate Akira Kuroyanagi screamed at the prime minister in an emotional parliament session. He demanded Murayama apologize to the nation "for the suffering of the people."

Murayama did not apologize but said the government would spare no effort to improve disaster preparedness. The Finance Ministry unveiled a series of tax breaks for quake victims based on their income and property losses.

As the government came under attack for its response to the earthquake, a newspaper reported a lack of communication and coordination in the key early hours following the quake.

Aftershocks jolted Kobe Tuesday, including one measuring 3.6. Buildings swayed and glass shattered, but there were no reports of major damage or injuries.

The aftershocks gave new urgency to the task of demolishing heavily damaged structures, some apparently on the verge of collapse. Police roped off areas around precarious buildings to keep pedestrians away.

Japan's Kyodo News Service reported that nearly half of the 3,936 dead who have been identified were more than 60 years old. They included two men aged 103 and 100, the agency said.

City officials said the dead included at least 142 foreigners, most of them Koreans and Chinese.

One week after the quake, the death toll stood at 5,063 with 68 still missing. The government said 26,500 people were injured and at least 56,000 buildings damaged or destroyed in the Jan. 17 earthquake, which had a magnitude of 7.2.

The Health Ministry today relaxed restrictions on foreign doctors who have volunteered to help in Kobe, allowing them to treat

quake victims even though they lack Japanese medical licenses.

Fallout from the quake continued to shake Japan's political and financial establishments.

Share prices on the Tokyo stock exchange rallied somewhat today, after plunging 1,054.73 points, or 5.60 percent, on Monday in the steepest single-day slide since Sept. 26, 1990.

Analysts blamed the market's troubles on investor concern about rebuilding costs and the impact on the nation's economy. The quake has virtually shut down Kobe harbor, which had been Japan's busiest container port.

Kosaku Inaba, head of the Japan Chamber of Commerce, said the overall cost of the quake to the nation's economy would amount to more than \$100 billion.

"In addition to the direct damage, you have shipping problems," he said in a telephone interview. "Things aren't delivered, schedules are out of whack. Vehicles can't pass. That means industries can't ship their products, and those companies will suffer."

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