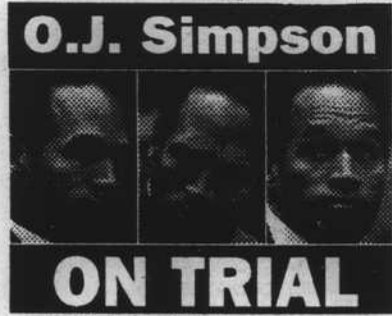


Delays leave jurors in dark



O.J. Simpson
ON TRIAL

LOS ANGELES — The opening statement by O.J. Simpson's lawyer has had more stops and starts than some space shot countdowns. Johnnie Cochran Jr. has yet to finish his remarks to the jury, and now the prosecution wants him to take back some of his words — stuff the cat back in the bag. Unring the bell. His misdeed was to mention witnesses and evidence not shared with the other side as required by law. The most recent halt came Wednesday, and Judge Lance Ito is expected to

rule today on possible sanctions against the defense. Is unringing the bell possible? What will jurors think about this? And did the defense lose ground? Cochran, a master showman, probably gained an advantage, some experts say. As they sit out the latest delay in their hotel rooms, the sequestered jurors have had plenty of time to think about Cochran's themes — that the killers are on the loose and the prosecution is obsessed with convicting Simpson, lawyer Gigi Gordon says. "The defense should be ordering up champagne toasts," Gordon said. "This delay left jurors with Johnnie Cochran's words ringing in their ears." The TV audience may be more concerned about the gaps in proceedings than the jurors. Insulated as they are, it's unlikely jurors know about the fight over the defense's admitted discovery violation.

Neither would they know that prosecutor William Hodgman was hospitalized Wednesday night complaining of chest pains. He is now resting at home and expected back in court this week. Indeed, the 12 jurors and 10 alternates must be getting the idea that their role is to hurry up and wait. They checked into a hotel Jan. 11. A hearing on domestic abuse evidence was held without them and, except for brief quizzes by Ito on what Simpson headlines or rumors they might have seen or heard, they weren't brought to court for a week and a half. But when it came time for Cochran to speak, they were hustled back to their hotel two hours early — the courtroom TV camera had caught an alternate juror leaning forward. The prosecutors demanded a 30-day delay to study the new evidence and a chance to address jurors again. The judge instead asked both sides to propose admonitions for the jury. The jurors will be waiting.

Statements begin in terrorism trial

NEW YORK — The largest terrorism trial in U.S. history starts this week with opening statements and a warning from the judge that religion is not on trial. Prosecutors will try to show that Sheik Omar Abdel-Rahman and 11 other Muslims planned a "war of urban terrorism" in America that could have killed thousands of people. Prosecutors will argue they plotted to blow up the World Trade Center, the United Nations, the FBI's New York headquarters, two tunnels

and a bridge, and to kill Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and other politicians and judges. After 13 lawyers deliver their opening statements beginning today, U.S. District Judge Michael Mukasey will instruct the jury on seditious conspiracy, the rarely used Civil War-era charge used in the case. The judge told lawyers last week he would tell the jury the defendants are not accused of trying to overthrow the U.S. government, only of trying to wage a war against it. He also will

advise them that if someone breaks laws, "the fact that it is undertaken in the name of religion is no defense whatsoever." "There is no religion on trial here," the judge said in a preliminary draft of his jury instructions. Lawyers for Abdel-Rahman, the 56-year-old blind cleric alleged to have headed the conspiracy, charge that he's being prosecuted for his beliefs. If convicted, he could face life in prison.

News... in a Minute

Navy pilot missing after crash

SAN DIEGO — The pilot of a Navy fighter was missing Sunday after his plane plunged into the ocean, the fourth Navy jet to crash off the California coast in three months. The twin-engine FA-18 Hornet went down Saturday while taking off from the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln on a training flight. Lt. Cmdr. John Brindley, a spokesman for the commander of Naval Air Pacific, said he didn't know if any debris from the aircraft had been found. He said such training operations were conducted 50 to 100 miles offshore.

Government forces lose ground

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina — The Bosnian government's army lost ground to anti-government forces Sunday in a fierce assault around an embattled northwestern town, U.N. officials said. In some of the worst fighting since a month-old truce between the Muslim-led government and Bosnian Serbs silenced most guns, U.N. spokesman Maj. Koos Sol reported 701 artillery and mortar blasts around the town of Velika Kladusa. Sol said Croatian Serbs and rebel Muslims pushed the government's Fifth Corps up to three miles farther southeast from Velika Kladusa. Croatian Serbs and Muslims loyal to Fikret Abdic, whose native stronghold is Velika Kladusa, are allied with the Bosnian Serbs but did not sign the truce.

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SEMINARS CONDUCTED ON SELECTED TOPICS IN PALACE "A"
PRE-FAIR SEMINAR
9:30-10:00 "How To Get The Most Out Of A Career Fair" Ms. Beth Kuhlmann & Mr. Patrick Clark- Career Fairs Inc.
10:00-10:30 "Resumes That Win Interviews" Mr. Mike Young- Executive Writing Service
10:45-11:15 "How To Interview To Get The Job!" Mr. Gary Schaben- MetLife
11:30-12:00 "Are You Prepared To Sell Yourself?" Mr. Kenny Engelmeyer- Primerica Financial Services
12:15-12:45 "The Interview- The Key To Finding A Job" Mr. Bill Humbert- McLeod Telemanagement
1:30-2:00 "Successful Interviewing Techniques" Ms. Ann Hacker- Radisson Hotels International
2:00-2:30 "Into The Future" Ms. Debbie Jones- Prairie Systems
2:45-3:15 "Have We Got Opportunities In Store For You - Careers In Store Management" Mr. Dwayne Callahan- Target
3:30-4:00 "Survive A Job Change-What You Need To Know" Mr. Jim Turner- Rent-A-Center
4:15-4:45 "I.S. Job Searching-Finding The Right Niche" Ms. Linda Burke- PKS Information Services, Inc.