

Simpson legal eagle Johnny Cochran to speak at WSSU

By JERI YOUNG
THE CHRONICLE

One of America's best-known barristers will speak at Winston-Salem State University next week.

Johnny Cochran will give the final address of the university's James A. Gray "Religion and Ethics in 21st Century America" symposium April 15.

The event begins at 9:45 a.m. and will be held in Kenneth R. Williams Auditorium.

Cochran, author of the New York Times Bestseller "Journey to Justice," will discuss ethics and the law.

Born in Shreveport, La., Cochran first rose to national prominence in the late '60s with his one-man battle to end police bru-

tality in Los Angeles. Cochran successfully defended members of the Black Panther Party accused of conspiring to kill police officers. He also won landmark decisions against several California cities that eventually led to changes in the way police handle suspects.



Cochran

But it is for his work in the sensational double-murder trial of NFL Hall of Famer O.J. Simpson that Cochran will always be remembered. During the almost

two-year ordeal, Cochran took center stage in his defense of Simpson. Simpson was eventually found not guilty in the murder of his wife, Nicole Simpson and her friend Ronald Goldman.

Since the 1995 Simpson verdict, Cochran has divided his time between his law practice and his weeknight talk show "Cochran and Company" on Court TV.

Cochran received his bachelor of science from the University of California at Los Angeles and J.D. from Loyola University School of Law. In 1992, he was named one of the "10 most successful litigators in the country" by the National Law Journal. He is also a member of The American College of Trial Lawyers, an organization of the top one percent in the nation.

Conference for service minded groups in Winston-Salem

Special to THE CHRONICLE

The Soul of Service II - Building Global Communities of Goodwill, to be held April 29 - May 2 in Winston-Salem, is featuring speakers from across the United States and from around the world, well-known for their contributions to the field of humanitarian service. Participants will be offered the opportunity to build new visions of what is possible in the field of voluntary service, develop practical skills, meet with kindred spirits and be uplifted. For information and registration, call Human Service Alliance (HSA) at (336) 761-8745.

Conference speakers include: Lou Tice, founder of the Pacific Institute in Seattle, Wash.; Elizabeth Hoodless, executive director of Community Service Volunteers, UK; Balbir Mathur, founder of "Trees for Life"; Dr. Stuart Lord, executive director of the Hartman Center for Civic Education and Leadership at DePauw University and executive director for the Presidents

Summit For America's Future; Myron Kellnor-Rogers, a principal of Kellnor-Rogers & Wheatley Inc. and founder of the Berkana Institute; Gladys Sylvestre, director of the Foundation for Children of Haiti; Bill Mosher, executive director of the highly-acclaimed PBS documentary series "The Visionaries"; Josefina Magno, MD, mother of the Hospice movement in the United States; Rev. Robert J. Spitzer, SJ, President of Gonzaga University in Spokane, Wash., and founder and director of the Institute of Professional Ethics at Seattle University; and Dmitri Morozov, founder of Kitezh Children's Community in Kaluga, Russia.

All of the speakers are donating their presentations. Each one comes from a background of active voluntary service — not just talking about serving — actually initiating projects worldwide.

Participants are coming from all across the United States and from many countries, including Ghana, Chile, Portugal, India,

Canada, Australia, the UK, Haiti, Russia and more.

Conference sessions will address a variety of topics related to service: "Service and Healing," "Using Volunteers to Achieve Excellence," "It's Happening Now—All Over the World," "Attracting Money for Service," "Change Ourselves—Change the World," "Living the Life of Service—Filling the Void," "Becoming a Totally Responsible Person," "The Next Step—Moving from Vision to Action," "Ordinary People, Extraordinary Results" and more.

The Soul of Service II conference is co-sponsored by Human Service Alliance and the University for Human Goodness.

The conference will also feature live entertainment, opportunities for international networking, a bookstore and much more. For more information, call 336-761-8745 or e-mail inquiry@HSA.org or visit HSA's web site <http://www.hsa.org>.

Roundtable to host Community Forum

FROM STAFF REPORT

The Black Leadership Roundtable will sponsor a community forum Saturday at the Anderson Center on the campus of Winston-Salem State University.

The forum, billed as "a time to reflect, evaluate and implement," will last for four hours, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., covering a wide range of topics pertinent to the African American community.

Administrators from the city-county school system will be on hand to discuss with parents the challenges facing students in the system. They will also address the problems created by the redistrict-

ing plan and the high rate of suspensions among black students.

The economic future of East Winston will also be discussed at the forum, according to organizers, including an update on the much talked about Eastside Cafeteria project.

During a portion of the event dedicated to the political needs of the black community, the controversy surrounding the method that will be used for the 2000 census will be discussed. Organizers say accurate census data will help blacks in a variety of ways.

The forum will also address the growing diversity in the city and ways to better relationships

between people of different backgrounds.

The event will proceed as follows:

8 a.m.—8:30: Registration and Welcome

8:45—9:45: Education and Political Needs

10—11: Economic Development and Political Needs

11—12 p.m.: "Where do we go from here?" (How to implement the goals)

For more information about the event or to register, call 724-2971 or 767-6355.

Black farmers protest loan denials

By LARRY O'DELL
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RICHMOND, Va. — A half-dozen black farmers gathered outside a U.S. Department of Agriculture office Monday to protest what they claim is racial discrimination in a lending program for entrepreneurs.

John Boyd of Mecklenburg County, president of the National Black Farmers Association, complained that the USDA has made no business and industry loans to blacks in Virginia in eight years. He called the record "a national disgrace."

Boyd's organization had said civil rights pioneer Rosa Parks would join the demonstration, but reporters were informed at mid-afternoon that she could not make it. No explanation was given.

The black farmers and a few supporters stood outside the USDA offices holding signs with

such messages as "USDA Stop Discrimination Now" and "USDA Unfair Lending is Wrong." Boyd brought along his two mules, Struggle and 40 Acres.

"We're going to stay here until we have a commitment for five loans," Boyd said.

According to Boyd, the USDA has rejected all six business and industry applications from black Virginians. Meanwhile, only three of 22 applicants of other races were denied loans or loan guarantees, he said.

"We're entitled to this money," said Philip Haynie II of Northumberland County, vice president of the black farmers' group. "It's our tax dollars."

Haynie's wife, Belinda, is among the half-dozen blacks whose applications have been rejected. She wants to open a grain and fertilizer business. Haynie has resubmitted her application for a \$500,000 loan.

Lloyd A. Jones, state director

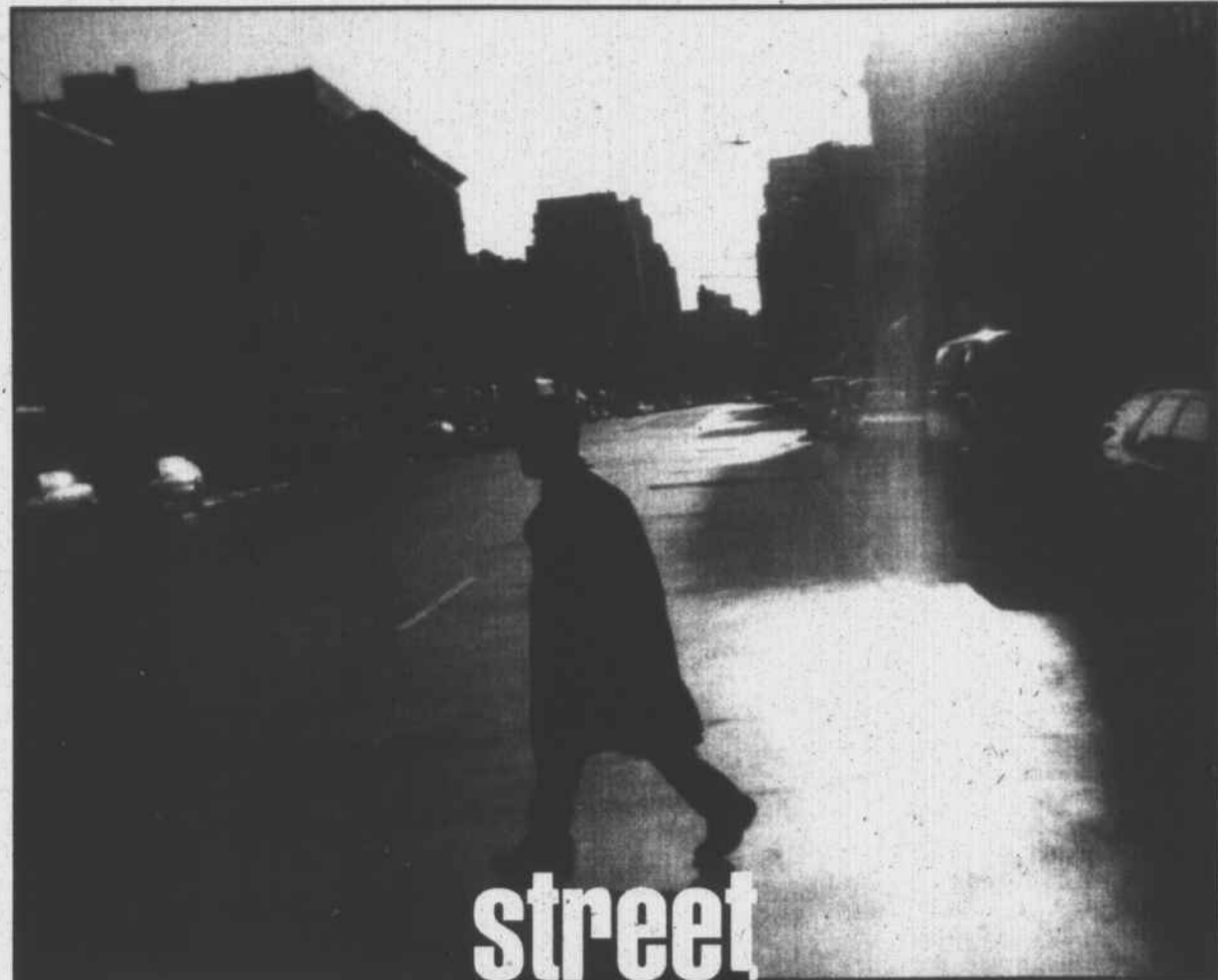
of the USDA's Rural Development Office, said applications from blacks either were withdrawn or were rejected because they failed to meet program criteria, including credit quality, equity and collateral.

"We're looking to make quality loans. We have a fiduciary responsibility," he said.

Nevertheless, he said he is dissatisfied with the program's minority lending record. He said the agency is beginning a minority outreach and education initiative.

The black farmers also participated in a telephone conference call with Dayton Watkins, USDA administrator for rural business and cooperative services in Washington, D.C. Watkins said efforts are being made to address the black farmers' concerns, but Boyd was not satisfied.

"You should be ashamed of yourself for not getting on top of this and making sure black folks get some loans," he told Watkins.



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