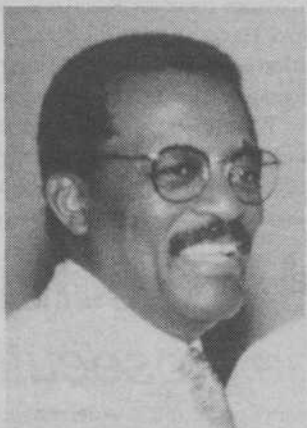


NY Post says Cochran suit should be dismissed

Special to Sentinel-Voice
LOS ANGELES — A *New York Post* columnist was only expressing a "generally negative" opinion most Americans have against Johnnie L. Cochran Jr. when she questioned his honesty in a column she wrote last year, her lawyer said Monday.

Cochran, who represented O.J. Simpson during his criminal trial, is suing the *New York Post* in a \$10 million libel suit. During Monday's hearing, the *Post* asked U.S. District Judge Kim M. Wardlaw to dismiss the case on First Amendment grounds. She was to rule on the request later.

Named as defendants are the *Post* and Andrea Peyser,



JOHNNIE COCHRAN who wrote in one of her columns that the famous lawyer "will say or do just about anything to win, typically at the expense of truth."

"Ms. Peyser is expressing her generally negative view of

Johnnie Cochran and how he handled the trial," said Slade Metcalf, the *Post's* attorney. "And I would hazard to guess that the majority of the U.S. population believes that O.J. Simpson did murder his wife, even though he was acquitted of that charge."

But Cochran's attorney, Deborah Drooz, said "even if we allow that this is an opinion, the fact of it is that it still remains actionable."

In an Aug. 29 column titled "Nightmare Team is Taking Over," Peyser criticized Cochran's decision to represent a Haitian immigrant who was allegedly brutalized and sodomized with a toilet plunger by New York police officers.

Report: Whites abandon limelight power in sports

By Lee Hubbard
Special to Sentinel-Voice

With all the Black athletes playing during the NBA playoffs, one might wonder: Do any White athletes play basketball anymore?

Yes. Their court: the boardroom, according to the ninth annual racial report card by Northeastern University's Center for the Study of Sport and Society.

The report grades the racial composition of the NBA, the National Football League, Major League Baseball and the National Collegiate Athletic Association and looked at the composition of players, coaches and front office employees.

The NBA received an A; the NFL earned a B and MLB scored a C.

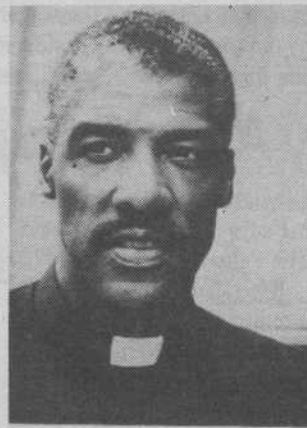
Regarding playing opportunities for minorities, the NBA and NFL received A+ grades and MLB received an A. Concerning coaching opportunities, the NBA got an A, the NFL merited a C+, and MLB a B.

No league scored well on the question of minorities in top management positions: the NBA received a C, the NFL a C and MLB an F.

The report also looked at the liberal bastion of collegiate athletics and found that the NCAA has a worse record than all three of the professional sports leagues when it comes to racial and gender hiring practices.

According to Kevin Matthews, research director for the report, "When you work with or socialize with people in one racial category, you tend to hire the people you know."

Heavy Black and minority playing influence in these



JULIUS "DR. J" ERVING sports leagues hasn't translated into front-office jobs.

"It's an old boys network and most sports executives — the higher up you go, you see a prevalence of White males," Matthews said. "People look at other people in certain roles, and it gives a limiting view of the person's potential or what they can become."

Some qualified Black coaches, like Green Bay Packer offensive coordinator Sherman Lewis, have yet to land a head coaching job. Lewis didn't even get an interview from the 11 teams needing head coaches in 1996, though he called the shots for a high-powered offense that helped the Packers to a 1996 Super Bowl title and a 1997 Super Bowl bid.

"It's been frustrating," said Lewis, who was interviewed for the Dallas Cowboys head coaching job this year after the commissioner Paul Tagliabue and Black athletes on the team went to Cowboy owner Jerry Jones and asked to bring Lewis in.

Lewis was also looked over as Ted Marchibroda's successor. The Indianapolis Colts fired him after the 1997 season and chose former New Orleans Saints coach Jim Mora,

— who led the Saints for 10 years; the team went to the playoffs once. Two of Lewis' former younger understudies with the Packers, Steve Mariucci and Jon Gruden, in consecutive years got head coaching jobs — Mariucci last year with the San Francisco 49ers and Gruden just recently with the Oakland Raiders.

Matthews said he hopes the racial report card can highlight and change some of the racial problems in sports, but he doesn't know if shaming the leagues will be enough.

"In pro sports, I think it will be up to the commissioners to (See Sports, Page 9)

Community cornerstone passes on

Funeral services will be held for Norma Webb Porter, Ph.D., at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, May 19, at the Pentecostal Temple, 1117 "F" Street at Madison.

For visitation times, please call Harrison-Ross Mortuary, 2017 Las Vegas Blvd. North, at 312-8000.

The daughter of the late Harry and Ida Jamison Webb, and widow of Samuel H.



NORMA WEBB

Porter, she lived in Toledo, Ohio, until moving to Nevada in 1950.

A retired psychologist and educator, "Dr. Mom" as she was known to friends, family and her many "acquired children," was a well loved and respected member of the Las Vegas community.

She received her doctoral degree in clinical psychology and education from Trinity Theological Seminary. Besides being a therapist, she was a longtime Clark County School District educator.

Porter's myriad accomplishments include publications, an appointment to the Nevada Martin Luther Holiday Commission and winning the Clark County Educational Mother of the Year Award. She served on the executive boards of Operation Independence, the NAACP and the Miss American Black Teenage Pageants, Inc.

Porter was a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., The Links, Inc. and the American Radio League Amateur Ham Operators and donated her time to many other organizations and projects.

Serving as a role model to many young people, Porter was an inspiration to anyone lucky enough to know her. She leaves behind daughter, Ida Maxine Porter.

Law groups want more minorities

Special to Sentinel-Voice
WASHINGTON, D.C. — Minority leaders in the legal field hope to meet with the Supreme Court to urge justices to hire more nonwhite personnel.

The minority law group will ask justices to widen their searches for qualified law clerks.

Randy Jones, president of the National Bar Association, a 17,000-member black lawyer's group, said the government cannot exist aloof from its constituents and that justice must be level for all Americans.

Jones joins with the Coalition of Bar Associations of Color — which represents Hispanic, Native American, Asian- and Pacific-American lawyers — is pushing the Supreme Court to act in response to a first-ever demographic study of the high court's law clerks.

The report found that of the 394 clerks hired

by the current justices during their tenures, fewer than two percent were African-American; one percent were Hispanic; and four percent were Asian-American. None were Native American and four of the nine justices have never hired a black law clerk. Justices hire up to four clerks each year for important jobs like screening incoming cases and drafting court rulings. Gregory Vega, president of the 22,000-member Hispanic National Bar Association, said the high court needs Hispanic law clerks because a the number of issues the court is considering affects them.

The coalition agreed to write the court to seek a meeting and urge the court to make it clear to law schools and lower court judges, who often recommend potential law clerks to justices, that it is seeing out applications from qualified minority members.

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Neither the State Bar of Nevada nor any agency of the State Bar has certified any lawyer identified here as a specialist or expert. Anyone considering a lawyer should independently investigate the lawyer's credentials and ability.