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Released inmate longs to go back

Brandley wants a return to death row in order to teach

HOUSTON (AP) — He was among the most celebrated inmates on Texas' death row, viewed by supporters as an innocent man unfairly convicted of murder and cited as a vivid example of what's wrong with capital punishment.

Five years ago, Clarence Brandley, accompanied by a horde of media and beaming advocates, walked through the gates of the Ellis I Unit prison northeast of Huntsville a free man.

And, after trying for 10 years to leave death row, it's ironic Brandley is complaining about the trouble he's having getting back.

Brandley wants to administer to the spiritual needs of men he used to consider colleagues.

"It's important to me because that's what really kept me going when I was there," Brandley, 43, said. "And I still want to introduce somebody to Christ no matter what the end might be."

He's made the nearly 100-mile drive from Houston to the Ellis Unit, chatted outside with guards he knew, showed a certificate of ordination but was denied entry.

"He's not gone through the procedures he's got to have approved," Texas Department of Criminal Justice spokesman David Nunnelee said. "Any kind of volunteer minister needs to fill out an application. It needs to be approved by the prison chaplaincy. And it's never been submitted."

Brandley was freed Jan. 23, 1990 after the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals threw out his conviction for the murder of Cheryl Dee Fergeson. The 16-year-old girl was raped and strangled while attending a volleyball tournament at Montgomery County's Conroe High School, north of Houston, where Brandley worked as a janitor.

The victim was white. Brandley is black. His first trial ended in a hung jury. An all-white jury convicted him of capital murder in his second trial and sentenced him to die by injection. He once got to within five days of execution.

Brandley's lawyers argued he was the victim of racism and Texas courts lent support to charges he was accused falsely.

A judge in 1987 recommended a third trial, citing discrimination against Brandley. And the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, in a ruling a month before his release, characterized him as the victim of "blatant unfairness."

> **"I think they owe me a public apology and compensation for my time. Really, you can't put a price on what they've done."**
>
> *– Clarence Brandley*

"It's not like a bad dream," Brandley says now. "The saddest part about all this ordeal is that nobody has contacted me and apologized to me and said they were going to compensate me for what they done. They never did.

"I think they owe me a public apology and compensation for my time. Really, you can't put a p[rice] on what they've done."

Montgomery County pro[se]cutors asked the U.S. Supre[me] Court to reinstate the murd[er] conviction, but the high co[urt] in December 1990 refused, [ef]fectively putting an end [to] Brandley's case.

The Fergeson slaying r[e]mains unsolved.

Brandley, who lives in Hou[s]ton, still frequents Conro[e] where his mother lives.

"I shouldn't be the one w[ho] can't come and go when [I] want," he said. "This is su[p]posed to be America. And [I] haven't broken any law and [I] haven't done anything."

Still, he believes his notor[i]ety continues to haunt him.

Other than his preaching d[u]ties, he can't find steady work [as] an electrician, a trade he learn[ed] since his prison release.

"They say fill out the appl[i]cation and they'll get back [to] me," he said of employme[nt] prospects. "They never do."

Despite his unemployment, [he] said he's being ordered to conti[n]ue child support for two childr[en] from an earlier marriage.

Chief prosecutor on Simpson case 'born for battle'

Colleagues say Clark has good head on her shoulders, high endurance

LOS ANGELES (AP) — It was an audacious act of derring-do. Soon after being assigned the case of slain actress Rebecca Schaeffer, Marcia Clark snatched the murder suspect from under the nose of his Arizona lawyer and had him hauled back to Los Angeles for trial.

The bold, and entirely legal, maneuver was typical Marcia Clark and illustrates the take-no-prisoners style of attack she surely will exhibit Monday when the prosecution lays out its murder case against O.J. Simpson, colleagues say.

"She was born for battle," says Deputy District Attorney Harvey Giss, Clark's mentor in her early days as a homicide prosecutor.

Long before she was appointed chief prosecutor in the Simpson case, the 41-year-old Clark, a veteran of more than 20 trials, was a well-known opponent among Los Angeles' criminal defense attorneys.

In 1991 she persuaded a judge to convict and sentence Robert John Bardo to life in prison without possibility of parole for killing Schaeffer, the co-star of television's "My Sister Sam."

After Bardo's arrest, Clark learned that his public defender had filed the papers opposing extradition from Arizona in the wrong court. She quickly had Bardo turned over to Los Angeles police and whisked to Los Angeles.

Bardo's lawyers accused Clark of violating his rights, but a judge ruled her maneuver broke no laws.

In the midst of the 2 1/2-year-long case, Clark gave birth to the first of her two sons, now aged 5 and 2.

"She's got a good head on her shoulders, she's articulate, well-schooled, pleasant to look at and, the most important thing, is she's got the endurance to go the route. She's an athlete. That's the key in a big case," Giss says.

Most recently, she got death penalties in 1993 for Anthony Oliver and Albert Lewis, convicted in the shotgun killings of two women during evening services at a church.

In 1986, by eliciting precise ballistics evidence from an expert witness, she helped Giss convict John Hawkins of slaying two people while he was out o[n] bail awaiting trial for an earli[er] slaying.

Since the Simpson case p[ut] her in the spotlight, Clark ha[s] been equally tenacious in pr[o]tecting her privacy. The few d[e]tails of her private life to emerg[e] have mostly come from friend[s] and colleagues.

She's been married twice. She was divorced from profe[s]sional backgammon playe[r] Gabriel Horowitz in 1981, near[ly] two years after she graduat[ed] from Southwestern Univer[si]ty Law School. She separated from her second husband, computer programmer Gordon Clark, in late 1993 and filed for divorce a few days before Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman were killed.

Simpson: Cochran takes control of Simpson case quickly

Continued from Page 1

plates: "JC JR."

He's active in Democratic Party politics and contributes quietly to a number of causes, among them Cochran Villa, a 10-unit, low-income complex dedicated to his parents, and the Johnnie L. Cochran Sr. Scholarship for UCLA African American Males, set up to honor his father.

Born in Shreveport, La., Cochran came to Los Angeles with his family in 1949 and was one of two dozen black students integrated into Los Angeles High School in the 1950s. He graduated from UCLA and Loyola University Law School and spent two years in the city attorney's office before starting his own practice.

In the 1970s, he left private work briefly to work as a special assistant to the Los Angeles district attorney. There he set up a unit to prosecute domestic violence cases, years before such crimes were widely acknowledged.

Cochran represents white trucker Reginald Denny in his pending $40 million lawsuit against the city. Denny alleges the police failed to rescue him even when television showed his savage beating in the 1992 riots that followed the first verdict in the Rodney King case.

"I've learned to live in a white world," Cochran says. "I don't go around every day thinking I'm black."

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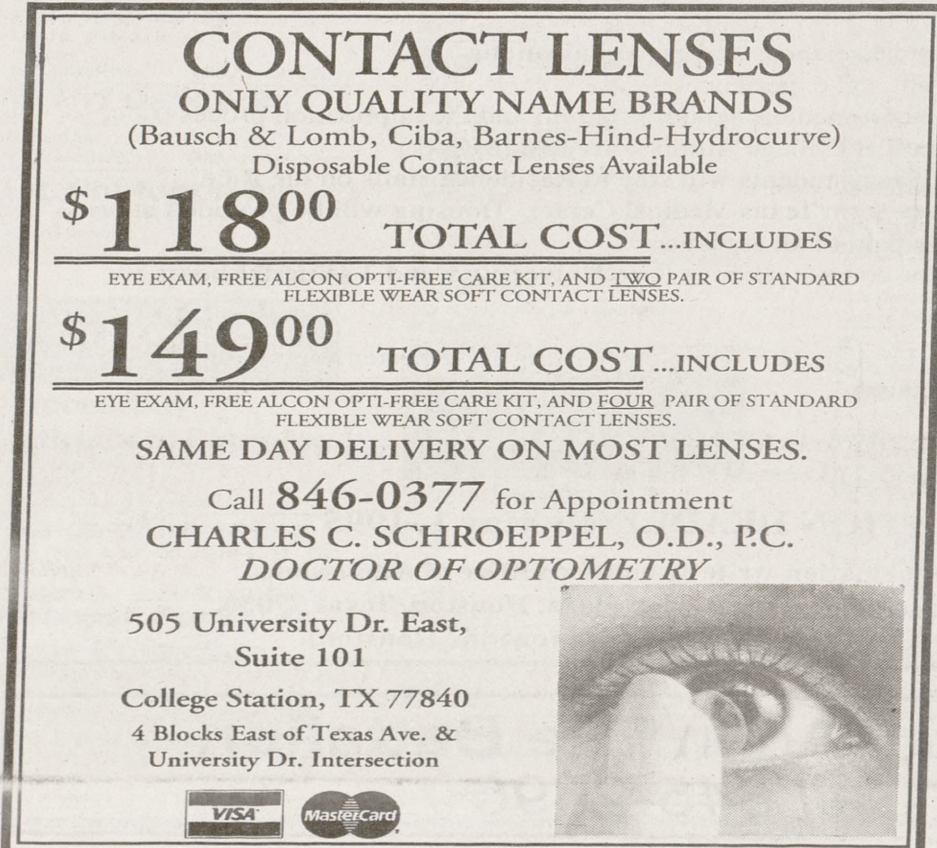

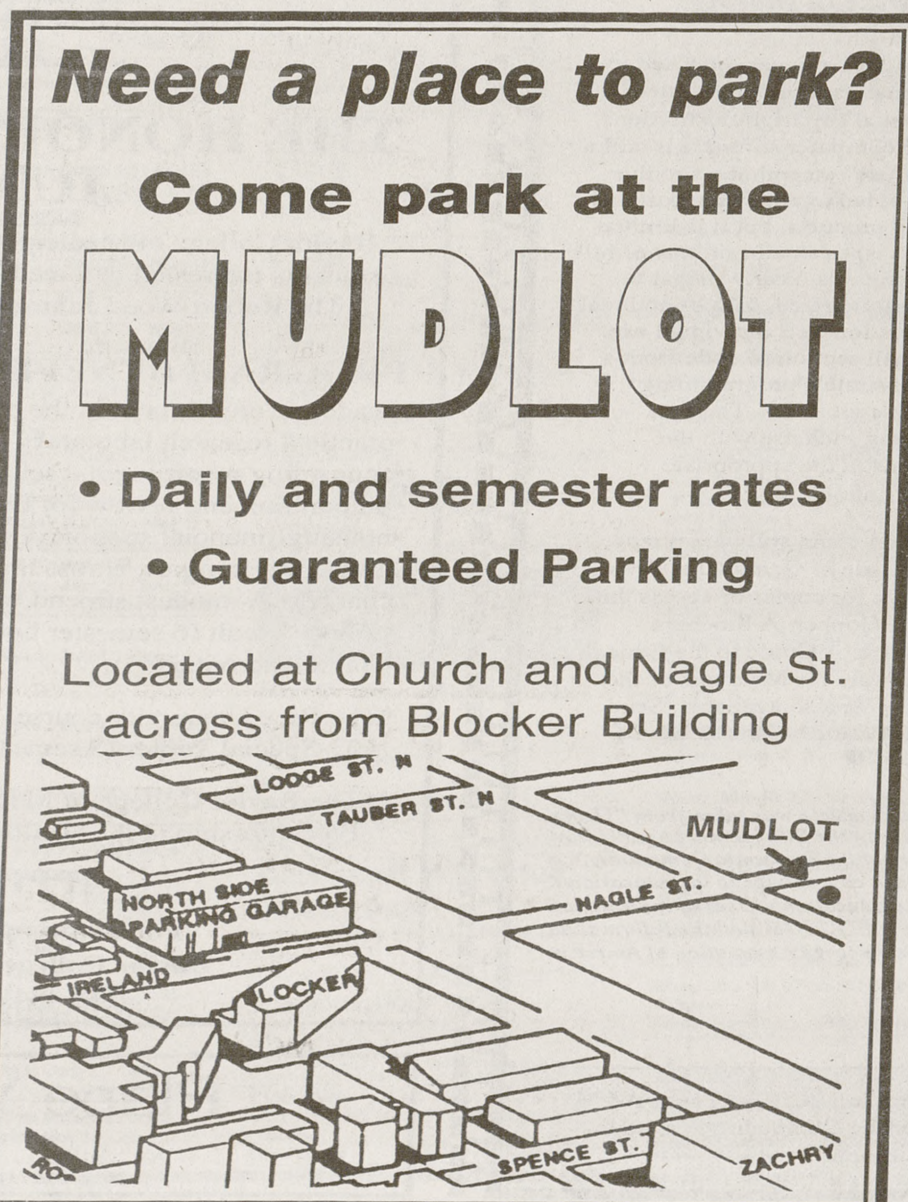

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