

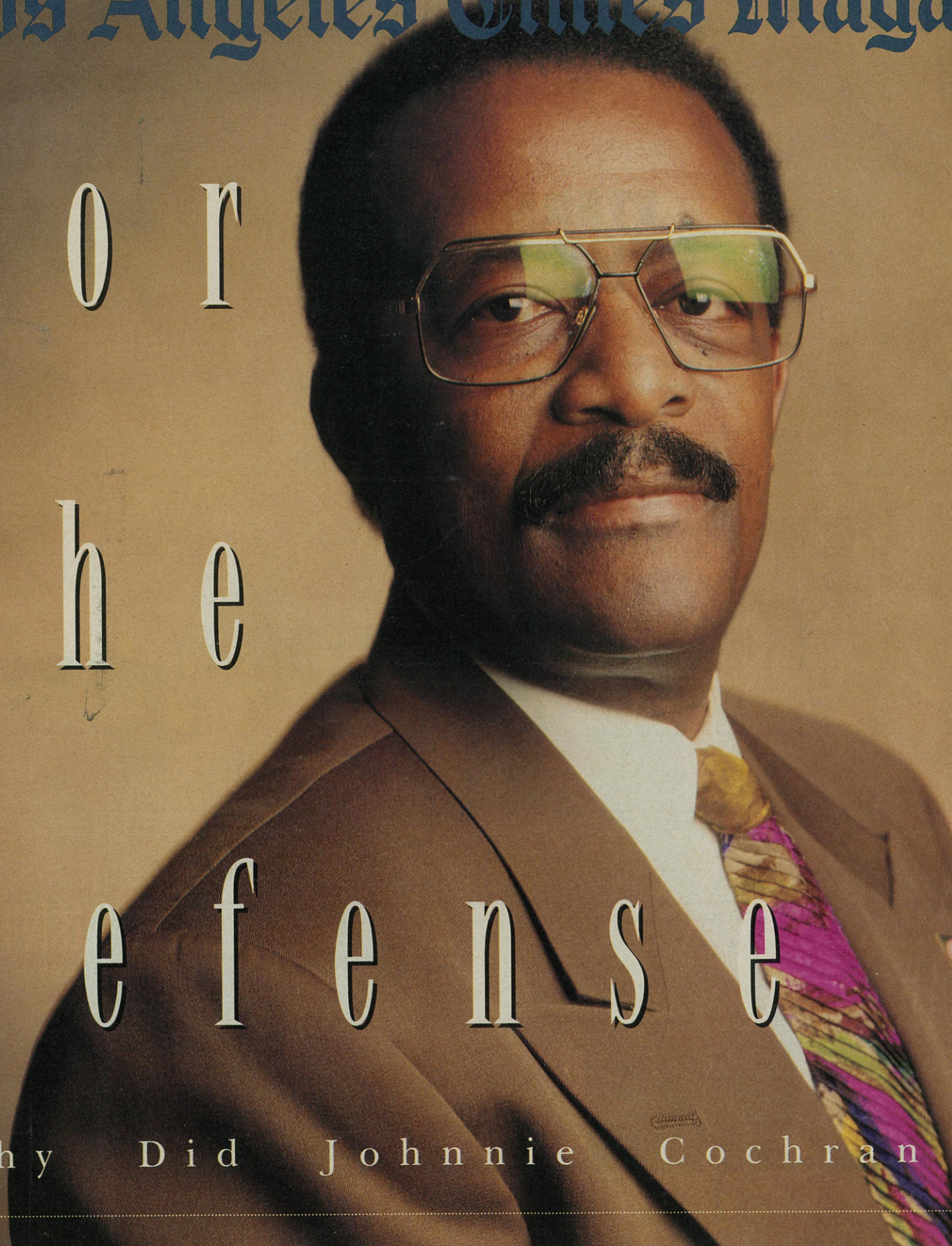
Los Angeles Times Maga

F O R

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D e f e n s e

Why Did Johnnie Cochran





## FOSTERING RESPONSE

The Jodie Foster article was both candid and refreshing ("Jodie Foster's Brilliant Career," by Hilary de Vries, Dec. 11). Indeed, she is having a brilliant career and



probably has not yet shown us her best. This woman would be a worthy role model in any period of time.

C. A. KING  
San Francisco

In making such a fetishistic point of Foster's obsession with fearlessness and strength (begging the question of Foster's obvious fears of vulnerability and dependence), De Vries neglected to answer the question she raised about rumors that the actor-director may be a lesbian.

If Foster is so fearless, why did she dodge De Vries on that point? On one hand, it isn't anybody's business if she is homosexual; but on the other, if she is, why doesn't she simply set the matter to rest by saying, "Yes, I am, and what of it?"

MICHAEL LIGHTCAP  
North Hollywood

In her basically respectful and compelling feature on Foster, De Vries strayed toward the end and started to get personal. Shouldn't a journalist be aware that a rumor repeated is a rumor fueled?

Foster is entitled to express the visions that drive her, and we are entitled to

witness the work. The rest is none of our business.

JEANINE D'ELIA  
Granada Hills

Now that Foster is a superstar, it's too bad she feels the need to trash the careers of others. Her remark that Meryl Streep's presence was the only reason she would go to see a film by Curtis Hanson was both unnecessary and confusing, coming, as it did, from the co-star of "Maverick," perhaps 1994's most mindless summer movie.

Hanson's film "The River Wild," while perhaps failing to meet Foster's criteria for a "meaningful" film, reveals twice the craft of her own indifferently received directorial debut ["Little Man Tate"]. Foster might do better to get off her high horse and study the art of crisp direction, regardless of the genre in which such lessons might occur.

HELEN SLIDE  
Los Angeles

I have always admired Foster's work and have no concern as to whether she is porcelain or lesbian. But where were her vaunted brains when she gave an interviewer an opportunity to quote her about the wounded bird?

It should have been a pleasant change to read a non-adulatory article about a Hollywood person, but this was just too in-your-face, even to a non-bird lover.

RUTH TRAGER  
Pacific Palisades

Does Foster feel about sick or injured people the way she does about her hypothetical injured bird? She comes off as not only cold but cruel as well.

SHAMMA DAY DAVIS  
Santa Monica

Perhaps Foster's attitude defines, in one sad sentence, the state of mind that one must have to succeed in

the entertainment industry.  
ANNIE CAROLINE SCHULER  
West Hollywood

Foster may be a good actress, but she is neither a good person nor a worthy role model. Her display of selfishness and cruelty is alarming. Yale obviously taught her nothing.

TERRI LYNN  
Westwood

Hey, weakness really, really bugs me, too. It bugs me so much, in fact, that if I were to find Foster flopping on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, wounded by one of her psychotic admirers, I'd have no choice but to kick her—all the way to France.

S. H. PAUL  
Long Beach

## THIS IS YOUR FBI?

What a worthy report on FBI shenanigans in our state capital ("The G-Man, the Shrimp Scam and Sacramento's Big Sting," by Mark Gladstone and Paul Jacobs, Dec. 11)! It's clear that the taxpayer's crime-fighting dollar is being shortchanged when FBI Special Agent James J. Wedick Jr. opts out of fighting dangerous street crime and/or armed bank robbers so that he can instead dream up schemes to entrap public officials. It's sure a lot safer for Wedick than fighting crime.

We know that our public officials are not all choirboys and choirgirls, and we don't need an \$80,000-a-year agent-*provocateur* to tell us that.

MARIANNE G. STILES  
Los Alamitos

The FBI in the last 20 years has lost sight of its original mission: to protect Americans from violent criminals. With bloated budgets, the FBI has pushed into so-called white-collar crime to intimidate the business

community. Instead of being tenacious crime fighters in the Eliot Ness tradition, they seem to be "creating" crimes themselves while misusing authority.

Wedick created a fictional business and targeted former Republican Assembly Leader Patrick Nolan, a man whom even the FBI never accused of seeking personal profit. Nolan, an ideological conservative, was more interested in electing Republicans. Wedick was used by one of Nolan's arch-enemies and doesn't realize he was manipulated by a faction of the Sacramento political community.

Wedick and his team have managed to ruin some careers, but they have not put a stop to corruption.

SHAWN STEEL  
Los Angeles

I'm confused. Wedick seems pleased that he's responsible for the 1990 ballot initiative "that bars honorariums like the one that [state Sen. Frank] Hill took from an undercover agent." It appears to me that it was legal, in 1982, for Hill to accept an honorarium for \$2,500. That's extortion?

Also confusing: Watson "arranged for Frank Hill to co-author a bill for \$10,000 . . ." So why only \$2,500? Even less, when you consider that the check was declared as income and taxes were deducted. That's money laundering?

Hill continues to have his defenders, undoubtedly because many, such as I, have witnessed his thoughtfulness, his pride and his devotion to work, community, family and friends.

MAUREEN KROCK  
Whittier

**The authors respond:** *Honorariums were indeed legal in California as payment for speeches and appearances. However, a jury found that Hill violated federal extortion law by taking the money in exchange for official action.*