NATIONAL

Release of O.J. Simpson 911 Tapes Continue to Raise Furor

LOS ANGELES (AP) — O.J. Simpson will not plead insanity to charges he murdered his ex-wife and her friend, and has an alibi for the night they were stabbed to death, his lawyer said Sunday.

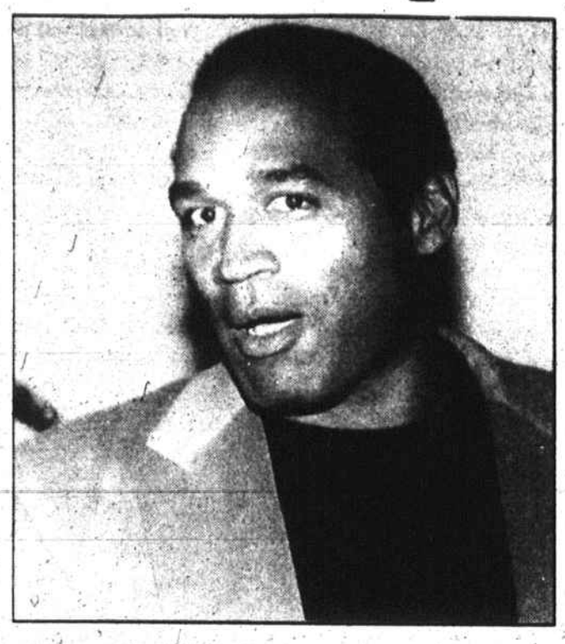
F. Lee Bailey, who recently joined Simpson's high-powered defense team, also said prosecutors are pinning much of their case on the results of DNA tests from blood samples. The tests could either help clear Simpson or link him to the slayings.

"If the DNA comes back and is not a match then the police had better get busy opening the investigation they may have prematurely closed," Bailey said on CNN's "Late Edition."

Simpson has been charged with murder in the June 12 slayings of Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Ronald Goldman. He has pleaded innocent.

"He says he was at home waiting for a limousine to take him to the airport," Bailey told The New York Times. "So, if he was home, he couldn't have done it, could he?"

Bailey also said he wouldn't be surprised if prosecutors sought to



O.J. Simpson

delay today's preliminary hearing to be able to complete tests on some of the evidence, the newspaper said. If the hearing is delayed, Simpson would have to be allowed out on bail, he said.

Suzanne Childs, a spokeswoman for the district attorney, said the hearing will not be delayed and that the prosecution plans to go beyond just presenting evidence, as is often the case at preliminary hearings.

"The rules permit us just to put on the investigating officers," Childs told the Times. "But we intend to put on other witnesses."

Meanwhile, a coroner's report obtained Sunday said Nicole Simpson, 35, was found lying in a fetal position wearing a black dress and no shoes when her body was discovered. Goldman, 25, was dressed in blue jeans and a light-colored cotton sweater. Both had been stabbed and slashed repeatedly.

Alan Dershowitz, another famed lawyer who has signed on to defend Simpson, said before joining the legal team that Simpson's likely defense would be insanity. But Bailey said Simpson will not plead he was insane.

"He got sucked in . . , that all the evidence that the DA leaked and you people published was true," Bailey said of Dershowitz on the CBS news program "Face The Nation." "He is outraged to now find out that it is now admitted that it doesn't exist."

Bailey also criticized the release of 911 tapes from October 1993 on which a sobbing Nicole Simpson pleaded for help from police after O.J. Simpson broke into her house. He said Simpson would have trouble getting a fair trial, but he told the Times that the defense would not seek to move the trial.

Police and prosecutors blamed each other for the tapes' release. Police say Deputy District Attorney David Conn authorized the release, but prosecutors say police never mentioned the tapes in a discussion about a media request for the information.

The release prompted a judge two days later to end a grand jury investigation of Simpson amid complaints that jurors had seen the relentless news coverage.

The coroner's report by an investigator for the Los Angeles County coroner's office was obtained by the syndicated TV show "American Journal" for a report scheduled to air Monday and provided to The Associated Press on Sunday.

The document, which had few details not previously reported, said eyeglasses belonging to Nicole Simpson's mother were lying at the feet of Goldman in a white envelope. Previous reports indicated that the glasses belonged to Nicole Simpson.

Goldman had gone to Nicole Simpson's Brentwood condominium to return the eyeglasses left at the Mezzaluna restaurant where he waited tables.

The report said Nicole Simpson was last known to be alive at about 11 p.m. when she spoke to her mother on the telephone about the glasses.

A neighbor discovered the bloodied bodies near the gated entrance of the home at about 12:30 a.m. after seeing Nicole Simpson's dog wandering around the neighborhood, the report said.

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NAACP Leader Criticizes Settlement in Lawsuit

ROANOKE, Ala. (AP) — Attorneys for a mixed-race student were too quick to settle her lawsuit against the white high school principal who criticized interracial dating and called her a "mistake," a local NAACP leader said.

Charlotte Clark-Frieson, president of the Randolph County chapter of the NAACP and a member of the county school board, said Friday that the attorneys should have worked harder to remove principal Huland Humphries.

Humphries allegedly threatened to cancel the high school prom if interracial couples planned to attend. The school board suspended him for two weeks, then reinstated him. Clark-Frieson and another board member dissented.

Humphries was sued by Revonda Bowen, a 17-year-old student who has a white father and black mother. Bowen claimed that Humphries humiliated her in front of classmates when he told her that her parents' marriage and her birth were a "mistake."

She settled the lawsuit for $25,000 last week.

Richard Cohen, the Southern Poverty Law Center's legal director, said Clark-Frieson's complaints are foolish.

"We represented the Bowens for free," he said. "We didn't take one dime of the settlement, and we're not even trying to recoup our expenses."

The Justice Department has also filed a lawsuit that seeks to have Humphries removed or reassigned.

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