

Marshall cooperated with FBI

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releasing copies over the weekend, USA Today said.

Marshall's son, Thurgood Marshall Jr., who was given an advance copy of the file, told the newspaper that documents indicating a cooperative relationship between his father and J. Edgar Hoover, the FBI director, were an "ironic twist" in light of their earlier animosity.

One FBI official noted in a 1961 memo reviewing Marshall's files, that after years of "unfounded" criticism of the bureau in the 1940s, Marshall

"conferred with the bureau on several occasions in connection with his efforts to combat communist attempts to infiltrate the NAACP."

In early files, informants linked Marshall with the National Lawyer's Guild, then viewed as a communist front, USA Today



Marshall

reported. Marshall also was pictured getting a check from an American Communist Party official to fight "Jim Crow" laws.

The FBI file suggests that while Marshall publicly criticized the FBI before becoming a federal appeals court judge in 1961, he maintained a private relationship that was friendly enough to keep Hoover from unleashing on Marshall his feared power to destroy reputations, the newspaper said.

"He seemed to rely (on the FBI) for a lot," Marshall's son said.

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Check out the 1996-97 version of The Black Guide

NAACP election and challenge were not totally unexpected

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tainly will want to meet with the pastors and I would want the executive committee of NAACP to meet with us."

With incumbent Alfred Alexander's decision to not run, this election was viewed as a chance to settle much of the recurring strife characteristic of the local branch in recent years and end control by the Alexander family.

An agreement to install a slate of uncontested candidates was worked out between Woodard and Pridgen. Under the agreement, Pridgen would be unopposed for president, while candidates supported by Woodard for secretary and treasurer, Andrea Huff and Elaine Grier, would also be unopposed.

However, Huff's membership was questioned and her name was removed from the ballot. Then, according to the chal-

lenge, three names were added inappropriately to the list of executive board candidates. The other complaint questioned whether members were properly notified of the elections at least 10 days before election day.

No action has taken by national NAACP officials on the challenge, which was sent to William Penn, national director of branches.

Rehabbing O.J.'s image

Defense lawyer has a tough job in California civil trial

By Michael Fleeman
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SANTA MONICA, Calif. — O.J. Simpson's defense will try to counter his bruising days on the witness stand and present an alternative story.

The plaintiffs in the wrongful death trial may finish up this week after calling 32 witnesses — including some of Simpson's closest buddies — to contradict his testimony. For an emotional finale, the lawyers plan testimony from the relatives of Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman.

Then it's Simpson's turn, and his lawyers face an uphill battle.

The trial resumes on Tuesday.

Jurors headed into the Thanksgiving break carrying a final image of Simpson denying yet again — during questioning by the plaintiffs' lawyers — that he stabbed Nicole Simpson and Goldman.

With a heavier burden of proof and so much physical evidence to explain away, it is understandable that lead defense lawyer Robert Baker chose not to ask Simpson any "rehabilitative" questions last week, analysts said.

"The defense needs to tell their story to the jury before calling Mr. Simpson back to the stand," UCLA law professor Peter Arenella said. "What you're going to see in the defense is an instant replay, in an abbreviated fashion, of the garbage-in-garbage-out theory, combined with a more aggressive attack on Ms. Simpson's character, to suggest why someone other than O.J. Simpson committed the murders."

As it did in the criminal trial, the defense likely will promote the theory that police planted or contaminated evidence. Expect to see more of criminalist Dennis Fung, a favorite target of the defense for his alleged sloppiness.

Simpson's lawyers also are expected to bring back former Detective Phil Vannatter, a brief witness in the plaintiffs' case, for questioning about a blood allegedly lying on a search warrant affidavit and for violating police policy by carrying around a vial of Simpson's blood.

As for an explanation of why there was so much blood evidence against Simpson, defense attorneys will likely present testimony from Dr. Henry Lee, star defense witness from the criminal trial.

Lee is expected to repeat his suggestion that something was wrong in the police crime lab. Lee's power as a witness, however, will be diminished since he will appear only on videotape.

Forensic pathologist Dr. Michael Baden will likely testify that the killings took longer than the plaintiffs have suggested, and that Simpson, under the tight time line, didn't have time to kill.

A photographic expert may be called in to denounce as a fake a photo of Simpson wearing shoes similar to those that left bloody prints at the scene.

The defense also will try to portray Nicole Simpson as an emotionally unhinged woman who in her final weeks was

running with a crowd of drug abusers and prostitutes.

Her friend, Cora Fishman, may be a key witness. She testified in a deposition that Nicole Simpson "was leading, like, a dangerous life" and that she "was coming on to guys."

Simpson himself will likely be a final defense witness. Analysts expect to see a different man from the somber witness of last week, who issued numerous denials and made little or no attempt to explain anything.

"By the time he gets back on the witness stand," said Loyola University law professor Laurie Levenson, "everyone else will have explained things for him, and all he has to do is use his charm."

Meanwhile, Newsweek suggested in this week's edition that a tape recording of Simpson's cell phone conversation the day of his slow-speed chase may have been overlooked by the prosecution. Portions of a transcript of the tape were read to jurors last week, and the entire transcript, on which Simpson tells Detective Tom Lange, "Tell them I was sorry," was made public for the first time.

The magazine said the tape "was sitting in a box among a jumble of other evidence and exhibits in the prosecutors' offices." It quoted prosecutor Christopher Darden as telling the "Rivera Live" television show that he was unaware of the tape.

The article did not say whether prosecutors other than Darden were aware of the tape, or whether prosecutors were aware of the conversation with Lange from some other source, such as Lange himself. Unlike the plaintiffs in the wrongful death trial, prosecutors opted to bring up no evidence from the June 17, 1994, Bronco chase at the criminal trial.

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