

NEWS DIGEST

your quick guide to news from around the world

Cosby witness had no additional information

1 LOS ANGELES — The goateed man depicted in a police sketch as another possible witness to the Ennis Cosby slaying was candid and cooperative, police said Tuesday, but unable to give them any help in finding the killer.

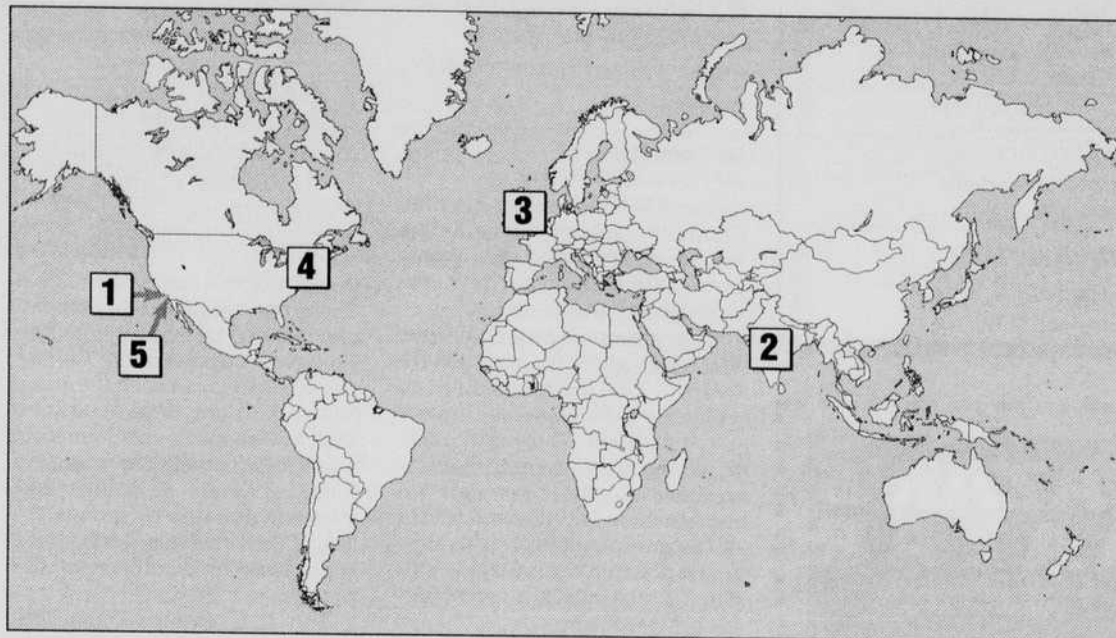
"He did not have any additional information of substance to offer," said police Cmdr. Tim McBride.

Meanwhile, CBS reported Tuesday night it had received a threatening fax, purportedly from the same woman police arrested in New York over the weekend for allegedly trying to extort \$40 million from the victim's father. Authorities said she claimed to be entertainer Bill Cosby's illegitimate daughter.

The elder Cosby has denied being related to the woman, identified as Autumn Jackson. Police said they don't believe the extortion case is connected to the killing.

CBS said the fax it received threatened the network with extortion if a woman identified as Autumn Jackson Cosby "doesn't receive a fair settlement." The network carries the entertainer's show, "Cosby."

Meanwhile, the man police had hoped might help them solve the murder case was released after being questioned for eight hours. He had been surrounded by officers in a parking lot in suburban Torrance Monday afternoon because his car was similar to a blue hatchback seen by a security guard near the crime scene.



Second O.J. trial sees closing arguments

5 SANTA MONICA, Calif. — Pointing his finger at an unflinching O.J. Simpson, a lawyer angrily mocked the football star's explanations and told jurors Tuesday: "There's a killer in this courtroom."

"That's the man who attacked them, confronted them and who killed them," attorney Daniel Petrocelli said in closing arguments in the wrongful-death case against Simpson.

Again and again, Petrocelli raised images of blood, fiber and hair, a hat, gloves and shoes that he said were indisputable proof that Simpson killed ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Ronald Goldman on June 12, 1994.

"Did Mr. Simpson explain why his blood and DNA were found next to the victims?" Petrocelli asked. "Did he explain why his glove was found ... why his knit cap was at the scene. Did he explain any of that? Not one word."

Petrocelli made it clear that his most prized new evidence — which he believes will turn the case around — is a collection of photos showing Simpson wearing the same kind of Bruno Magli shoes the killer wore.

As Petrocelli showed jurors bloody pictures of the victims, he declared: "These pieces of evidence are the voices of Ron and Nicole speaking to us from their graves, telling us, telling all of you, that there's a killer in this courtroom."

Simpson's attorneys were to give their closing arguments after Petrocelli finished Wednesday.

World wide hot air balloon trip cut short

2 NUNKHAR, India — Adventurer Steve Fossett packed up his giant silver balloon in rural India on Tuesday, surrounded by villagers who had initially taken the American for a monkey god in a floating temple.

Most villagers had never seen a hot-air balloon until Monday, when Fossett's landed in a mustard field at the end of a failed round-the-world attempt. Many said they took the balloon for a floating temple and its pilot for a human incarnation of their monkey god Hanuman.

"We offered him pure cow milk, and we were pleased that he took two sips," villager Shayam Bahadur Singh said.

Beatles' memorabilia auction televised

3 LONDON — "All You Need is Love," the Beatles sang in the 1967 summer of love, at a concert that launched global television broadcasts.

Thirty years later, the Beatles will be part of another innovation in television — and this time, all you need is cash.

A Mar. 22 satellite auction of Beatles memorabilia will mark the debut of a British-based auction channel, London's Bonhams auction house said Tuesday.

Bonhams hopes as many as 25 million viewers will tune in to watch bidding on Beatles guitars and other souvenirs, auction house manager Christopher Elwes said Tuesday.

New Mass. law allows pot for medicinal uses

4 BOSTON — Massachusetts residents suffering from glaucoma, asthma or chemotherapy's side effects could legally possess marijuana for medicinal purposes, under a state proposal unveiled Tuesday.

The Department of Public Health proposal would not let doctors prescribe pot for patients, but would certify they had exhausted other methods. A certificate would be defense against marijuana possession charges.

Similar laws passed in November in Arizona and California, and at least 35 other states have laws providing greater tolerance for the medical use of marijuana, but many are little-known and little-used.

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