

# O.J. Fame Beyond Anything He Ever Had Before

His football glory days were behind him, his acting career going nowhere and his once-lucrative product endorsements dwindling.

Then O.J. Simpson led a fleet of police cars down the freeway in a bizarre low-speed chase while 93 million TV viewers looked on.

Now, almost a year later, Simpson ranks as one of the most famous murder defendants of all time, the star in a courtroom drama that has received more network news coverage than Bosnia, Haiti and the Oklahoma City bombing combined.

"O.J. is now infamous beyond any fame he ever had before," said author Dominick Dunne, who is writing a book about the Simpson saga. "And over time, it's clearly taken a toll."

Indeed, a year behind bars has turned the once-robust, smiling athlete into a gaunt, brooding figure.

The defendant who once declared himself "absolutely 100 percent not guilty" slouches in his chair at the defense table, filling yellow legal pads with scribbled notes and conversing with his lawyers in a growled whisper.

At times Simpson's presence is almost forgotten amid the drone of testimony.

But at other moments, such as when gruesome autopsy photos are shown, all eyes are upon him as he grimaces, puffs out his cheeks and gazes toward the ceiling.

During nearly five months of testimony, the prosecution has worked hard to wipe away the image of an all-American nice guy who worked his way up from a San Francisco ghetto.

In its place, they have painted the picture of a raging tyrant who beat, stalked and threatened his ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson, finally

slashing her to death. Prosecutors say her friend Ron Goldman was killed because he "got in the way."

Simpson remains confined to the "celebrity wing" of the Men's Central Jail occupying a 6-by-9-foot cell — "smaller than the place he used to keep his shoes," as defense attorney Johnnie Cochran once put it.

Friends who defended him early on have fallen silent. Girlfriend Paula Barbieri, the supermodel who used to visit him in jail dressed in leather miniskirts, moved out of town recently, seeking to distance herself from the case.

On the first anniversary of the June 12 murders, the victims' families lashed out at Simpson with increasing bitterness.

Ron Goldman's sister Kim, a mild-mannered regular in the courtroom spectators' gallery, spoke angrily of his "arrogance," saying "he thinks that he'll win and he'll walk."

Nicole Brown's sister Denise told a TV interviewer the Simpsons' 9-year-old daughter Sidney knows her father is on trial for murder and once asked her at bedtime, "Don't they put people like that in the electric chair?"

Once ranked among America's best-loved sports heroes, Simpson has become the butt of TV comedy routines.

For its part, the defense has portrayed Simpson as the victim of a "rush to judgment," accusing police of botching the murder investigation and framing an innocent man.

And judging by comments from jurors recently dismissed from the case, the defense team's conspiracy theories — regarded as far-fetched by many trial watchers — have made an impression on the people who will decide Simpson's fate.

But the American public — treated to gavel-to-gavel coverage of the

case — appears more convinced than ever of his guilt. According to a USA Today/CNN poll, 75 percent believe the charges against him are at least probably true.

Simpson has hired the best defense money can buy, but mounting

legal fees have effectively drained his \$10 million fortune. So he has been quick to cash in on his own notoriety, signing football cards in his cell, authorizing a limited-edition statuette and writing a bestselling book.

As the Simpson saga has developed into a national obsession, the Bronco chase has become a part of pop culture, a media spectacle almost certain to endure as one of the decade's defining tabloid moments.

Millions sat glued to their TV sets on June 17, 1994, as a white Ford Bronco rolled down the freeway, Al Cowlings behind the wheel and his celebrity pal riding in back with a gun pressed to his head.

## Simpson Defense Nears End

O.J. Simpson's attorneys expect to wrap up their case in about a week and a half, according to court transcripts released Friday in the former football star's double-murder trial.

On a day when court was out of session, Simpson was also reported to have been preparing in mock court sessions in case his defense team decides to put him on the witness stand.

In an indication that the defense

team is plowing through its witness list faster than expected, Simpson lead attorney Johnnie Cochran told the judge during a sidebar conversation: "I'm telling you, I'm going to finish in another week and a half."

According to Los Angeles television station KCAL, Simpson's lawyers have hired a woman defense attorney to play the part of prosecutor Marcia Clark and put the defendant through a mock cross-examina-

tion.

The first practice session was held earlier this month at the Men's Central Jail, KCAL cited defense sources as saying. More practice sessions are scheduled as Cochran and other members of the team get closer to deciding whether Simpson will take the witness stand, KCAL reported.

Opening trial statements began in late January, and the defense start-

ed calling witnesses about two weeks ago, after the prosecution rested its case.

Simpson's attorneys had originally estimated that it would take them four to six weeks to present their witnesses.

Simpson has pleaded not guilty to charges that he murdered his ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Ron Goldman the night of June 12, 1994.

## Jury Salaries

For a trial that could take as long as six months, you'll probably be surprised to know the O.J. Simpson trial jury will get only \$5 a day for their work:

This salary is the lowest in the nation. Here's a glance at what states pay jurors across the nation:

STATE	PAY
Alabama	\$10
Alaska	\$25, half day

Arizona	\$12	Massachusetts	\$15	South Carolina	\$10
Arkansas	\$20	Michigan	\$15	South Dakota	\$40
California	\$5	Minnesota	\$15	Tennessee	\$10
Colorado	\$50	Mississippi	\$15	Texas	\$30
Connecticut	\$50	Missouri	\$6	Utah	\$17
Delaware	\$15	Montana	\$25	Vermont	\$30
D.C.	\$30	Nebraska	\$20	Virginia	\$30
Florida	\$15	New Mexico	\$4.25 / hour	Washington	\$25
Georgia	\$35	Nevada	\$30	West Virginia	\$15
Hawaii	\$30	New Hampshire	\$30	Wisconsin	\$16
Idaho	\$10, half day	New Jersey	\$5	Wyoming	\$50
Illinois	\$15	New York	\$50		
Indiana	\$50	North Carolina	\$30		
Iowa	\$10	North Dakota	\$25		
Kansas	\$10	Oklahoma	\$12.50		
Kentucky	\$12.50	Ohio	\$10		
Louisiana	\$12	Oregon	\$10		
Maine	\$10	Pennsylvania	\$25		
Maryland	\$15	Rhode Island	\$15		

**NOTES:**  
• Salaries can vary by county.  
• All federal courts pay \$40 a day.

**SOURCE:** National Center for State Courts.

## CRIME STOPPERS



### Reward Offered In Curry Murder

Portland Police and Crime Stoppers are asking for the public's help in solving a homicide.

On Monday, June 26, at about 10:40 p.m., Patrick Curry, a 16-year-old black male, was riding a car with four companions in the area of Northeast 12th and Failing Street when another vehicle pulled along side.

Curry was struck when multiple gunshots were fired from the suspect vehicle.

He was taken to a local hos-

pital where he later died of his injuries.

The suspect vehicle is described as being similar to a yellow or light color Chevrolet Monte Carlo with a sunroof.

Crime Stoppers is offering a cash reward of up to \$1,000 for information, reported to Crime Stoppers, that leads to an arrest in this case, or any unsolved felony crime.

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Call (503) 648-8606/TTY (503) 693-4898 for information. County application and supplemental application forms required. Apply to: Washington County Human Resources Division 155 N. First Avenue, Suite 210 Hillsboro, Oregon 97124 Women, minorities, and people with disabilities are encouraged to apply.

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City of Eugene \$1,887-\$2,311/mo.

Responsible for clerical and reception duties including system information and financial data. Requires minimum of two years' experience. Closing Date: August 18, 1995. Obtain application packet from Human Resource and Risk Services, 777 Pearl Street, Room 101, Eugene OR 97401. (503) 687-5061. AA/EOE

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