

## Judge orders potential jurors to keep themselves secluded

LOS ANGELES — An explosive new book threatens O.J. Simpson's right to a fair trial, a judge said Tuesday as he abruptly suspended jury selection and ordered prospective jurors to avoid newspapers and TV, and to stay out of bookstores.

Earlier, Superior Court Judge Lance Ito handed the prosecution a major victory in refusing to throw out DNA tests on a bloody glove and other key evidence.

Ito dismissed prospective jurors for four hours while he and lawyers reviewed the book "Nicole Brown Simpson: The Private Diary of a Life Interrupted," which was released Monday and co-written by Faye Resnick, a friend of Ms. Simpson's. Afterward, he sent them home until Thursday.

The book portrays Simpson as stalking his ex-wife and threatening to kill her if she ever slept with another man.

Simpson, 47, is accused of the June 12 murders of Ms. Simpson and her friend Ronald Goldman.

"There are certain recent developments regarding the publication of a book that caused the court great concern about the ability of Mr. Simpson to get a fair trial," Ito told the jury pool.

"Because of the change in the intensity of the coverage, I'm going to have to increase the restrictions to you," he said. "I am going to order you not to read any newspapers, any magazines, or watch any TV or listen to any radio."

Later, he added: "You are to stay out of bookstores."

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### LANCE ITO

Superior Court Judge

Ito apologized for the inconvenience but said the restrictions may last for some time.

"Keep in mind those who are selected to serve on this jury may be de facto incommunicado for a significant period of time," he said.

Ito said he would talk to the attorneys on the case and "other authorities" before deciding what to do next.

Mike Walker, the book's co-author and general editor of the National Enquirer, defended the book's release.

"Does it influence the trial? I can't imagine with the billions of words that have been spoken about this case, it can have an undue influence," Walker told reporters.

In his DNA ruling, Ito said he could find no proof that prosecutors acted in bad faith, and no law that would allow him to punish them for waiting to begin some genetic tests until three months after the slayings.

O.J. Simpson's lawyers had asked

that the DNA results be thrown out, arguing that prosecutors dragged their feet in order to ambush them with an "avalanche" of test results at the last minute.

The judge suggested that some of the lawyers' complaints may have been of their own making because they pressed for a speedy trial.

Among the evidence at risk were tests on a bloody glove found on Simpson's estate, on blood found at his estate and on blood on his Ford Bronco. Prosecutors say the glove at the estate matched one found at the murder scene.

Ito suggested the defense may have pushed for a speedy trial to catch prosecutors with their DNA results incomplete.

"The court notes that the soundness of tactics, like beauty, are often in the eye of the beholder," he wrote in his three-page ruling.

He also rejected a request to set a deadline after which DNA tests would not be accepted.

The ruling was a stunning contrast from last Friday, when the judge warned prosecutors that they hadn't given him an acceptable reason for delaying the tests. At the time, he had warned prosecutors, "You are going to lose."

"I'm pretty surprised at his backtracking like this," said Loyola University Law School Professor Stanley Goldman.

"I think he just reconsidered it and decided the delay wasn't enough to find bad faith. ... He rethought it and said, 'I can't do this.'"

## Thousands of people displaced as floodwaters inundate Texas

HOUSTON — A firefighter's coat draped over her shoulders, Oma McCalister clutched her metal cane and a few other possessions Tuesday as she was lifted in a rescue boat from floodwaters that had reached doorknob level.

"In 18 years no water's ever been in my house," said the 56-year-old Ms. McCalister, who lives down the street from Sims Bayou.

She and thousands more across southeast Texas were driven out of their homes by three days of rain that have swollen rivers and other waterways.

The floods were blamed for at least eight deaths, including that of a 2-month-old baby. Two other people were missing and presumed drowned.

In southeastern Houston, where Ms. McCalister lives, scores of people stood on high ground Tuesday and flagged down rescue trucks or boats. With daytime nearly as dark as night, some people shined flashlights to show their positions. Outside the city, some people were plucked from rooftops.

Fire Department boats dodged snakes and floating colonies of fire ants to make the rescues. One fire truck was stranded.

About 10,000 people were out of their homes and 30 counties were threatened by floods. The Red Cross opened at least 30 shelters for the homeless.

"My mama just got her home remodeled and got a new car," said Dante Thomas, 25. "It's in the driveway, under water."

Velma Brown was too distraught to talk. "It's bad, bad," was all she would say.

The storm that hit Sunday brought as much as 30 inches of rain to some areas and was expected to continue at



least until Wednesday.

"It ain't over yet, folks," said Ed Schaefer, assistant coordinator for the state Emergency Management Division. "It will probably get worse in terms of impact before it gets better."

"Pray for these people," Gov. Ann Richards said after touring the Lake

Livingston area about 65 miles north-east of Houston.

"There's an awful lot of water out here and a lot of people out of their homes."

Among the people killed was a man trying to drive through high water in Grimes County, 40 miles

## News... in a Minute

### Rwandan diplomat disappears

NEW YORK — After failing to appear at several meetings, Rwanda's foreign minister-designate paid his hotel bill in cash and vanished last week, along with \$187,000 that was to be delivered to his country's U.N. Mission, officials said Tuesday.

There was no evidence of foul play in the disappearance of Jean Marie Vianney Ndagijimana, but a communique from Rwanda's premier said his government feared for his life.

"Our fear is that he might have been harmed," Claude Dusaidi, the director general of the Rwandan foreign ministry, said Tuesday. "But if he hasn't been attacked, he is certainly a common thief."

Ndagijimana, an experienced diplomat, arrived in New York City with a Rwandan delegation Oct. 5 and was expected to leave five days later. He missed several meetings Oct. 8 and Oct. 9, and failed to appear with the money at his country's mission the following day. When officials called the hotel, they found he had checked out a day earlier.

### Vietnam vets die young

WASHINGTON — Vietnam veterans, particularly those who used drugs in Vietnam, have a far higher mortality rate than those in their age group who did not serve in the war, a study shows.

The preliminary study by the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis found that by their mid-40s, former enlisted men who used drugs in Vietnam are more than nine times likely to have died than nonveterans. For soldiers with no confirmed report of addiction in Vietnam, the mortality rate is three times higher.

The research joins previous findings of higher rates of suicide and other traumatic deaths among Vietnam veterans, many who suffered severe adjustment problems when they returned from the war.

### Agreement angers Arab neighbors

JERUSALEM — PLO chief Yasser Arafat condemned the Israel-Jordan peace accord Tuesday, calling it an "outrageous infringement" of the PLO's peace agreement with Israel and a betrayal of Palestinian interests.

The Jordanian prime minister said his country made a separate peace with Israel because it could not wait for other Arab states to move, and urged Syria to move toward peace with Israel.

Syrian President Hafz Assad said the formula used to resolve the land dispute between Jordan and Israel would never work when it came to Syria's claim on the Golan Heights.

The arrangement calls for Israel to return most of the 152 square miles of border land it seized from Jordan in 1948, but allows Israel to lease areas where there are Israeli settlements or farms. Israeli officials have suggested it could be a model for a similar arrangement with Syria.

Assad said Tuesday that Syria would never agree to such a lease-back plan. Israel seized the Golan Heights in the 1967 Middle East war and Syria insists it must be returned in full.

### Bosnian Serbs kill convoy driver

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina — Serb soldiers shot to death a food convoy driver Tuesday, a day after comrades hijacked a medical supply convoy in some of the worst back-to-back blows to this year's U.N. relief effort.

The two actions underscore the Bosnian Serbs' determination to make their Muslim foes on government-held territory share their suffering.

Bosnian Serbs are increasingly short of supplies since being cut off by their former patrons in Serb-led Yugoslavia for rejecting a peace plan that would reduce their war-won holdings in Bosnia by one-third.

U.N. officials still were fuming about the theft of medical supplies Monday when they learned of the attack that killed a driver in Gorazde.

The three-truck convoy was attacked as it was carrying food and seed from Gorazde to outlying villages. One Bosnian driver was killed; there were conflicting reports about whether another driver was wounded.

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