

## Simpson trial tapes reveal chilling words from Fuhrman

LOS ANGELES—The calm, controlled voice of Detective Mark Fuhrman sliced through the O.J. Simpson courtroom Tuesday, spouting racial hatred and advocating police violence, including murder, on tapes he made with a screenwriter.

It was the same voice jurors heard months earlier when the investigator who found the bloody glove swore under oath that he had not spoken the word "nigger" in the last 10 years. On the tapes recorded since 1985, he is heard saying the word repeatedly.

The tapes were played to help Judge Lance Ito determine if they are relevant to Simpson's murder trial.

For the Los Angeles Police Department, the tapes were the worst blow since the Rodney King beating case set off an investigation of racism and brutality that culminated in the 1992 riots.

Jurors were not present to hear the racial rhetoric roll off Fuhrman's tongue as casually as any other words he used in the hours of tapes recorded by screenwriter Laura Hart McKinny.

They also did not hear Fuhrman's declarations about the probable cause police need to arrest blacks.

"Probable cause?" he asked sarcastically. "You're God."

The last tape that Fuhrman made a month after the murders of Simpson's ex-wife Nicole and her friend Ronald Goldman revealed his feeling of self-importance at being involved in the investigation.

"I'm the key witness in the biggest case of the century," he said. "And if I go down, they lose the case. The glove is everything. Without the glove - bye-bye."

In the tapes, he says an attorney told him: "For the rest of your life, this is you: You're 'Bloody Glove Fuhrman,' that's it."

Referring to the unidentified attorney, Fuhrman adds: "He says you might as well make it pay off. If you don't make it pay off, all you're doing is going through all this heartache for nothing. Go for Shapiro. He's an—"

Fuhrman has filed a lawsuit against

defense attorney Robert Shapiro for allegedly leaking information about Fuhrman's past.

On the tapes, Fuhrman says: "If I'm wrestling around with some nigger, and he gets me in my back, and he gets his hand on my gun, it's over."

In the hushed courtroom, Simpson wiped tears from his face.

*"I'm the key witness in the biggest case of the century. And if I go down, they lose the case."*

**MARK FUHRMAN**

recorded on tapes he made with a screenwriter

As shocking as Fuhrman's racist statements were, they were upstaged by his pro-violence stance.

"Most real good policemen under-

stand that they would love to take certain people and just take them to the alley and blow their brains out," Fuhrman declares.

In another excerpt, he boasts: "We shoot to kill 'em. ... The only way you can stop somebody is to kill the son of a bitch. And what's the big deal? If you've got a reason to shoot somebody, you've got a reason to kill him."

Fuhrman, who recorded the tapes with McKinny for her work on a fictional screenplay about the Los Angeles Police Department, spoke of gaining a feeling of "control, power."

The tapes were played as McKinny, a North Carolina screenwriting professor, sat on the witness stand with a pained expression. During one portion of the taped interviews, she was heard laughing at Fuhrman's remarks.

Simpson attorney Gerald Uelmen gently questioned her about the circumstances of the taping as he projected onto courtroom screens transcripts of sections that were heard and others from tapes that had been erased.

As members of the courtroom au-

dience flinched at some of Fuhrman's language, Uelmen asked McKinny: "Do you remember any discomfort in hearing that?"

"Yes, very uncomfortable," she said in a near whisper. "But I was in the journalistic mode ..."

The tapes were uncovered late in the trial, and the defense won a legal battle for access. They turned out to be the most powerful weapon in a defense assault on Fuhrman as the pivotal figure in an alleged plot to frame Simpson.

The defense contends the tapes portray Fuhrman as a liar and show he is capable of planting evidence against Simpson. It was Fuhrman who reported finding the bloody glove behind Simpson's house the morning after the June 12, 1994, murders.

Loyola University law professor Laurie Levenson called the tapes "appalling," and said it renews anxiety over racism that has troubled the LAPD for years. She said Fuhrman's comments could cast doubt on all police testimony against Simpson.

## News... in a Minute Photographer shoots one too many

SANTA FE, N.M. — A lawyer in town to lecture on sexual harassment said a man sneaked up while she was shopping, pointed an instant camera up her skirt and took a picture.

When the same "creep" did it to her again about 10 minutes later Friday, three to five young men chased him down and pinned him in the parking lot, she said, and the police were called.

"I'd say it's slightly more than ironic to be there discussing sexual harassment and the workplace and to have this happen," said 43-year-old Diana P. Scott of Los Angeles.

Richard Marquez, 38, was arrested on charges of creating a public nuisance and disorderly conduct.

Scott - who said she has "very good legs" and was wearing a very short skirt - was browsing in a shop when she heard a whirring click.

She said she turned and realized a man had taken a picture up her skirt. She said the man ran out, but when she heard the click again, she got angry.

Police Capt. Ray Rael said officers found photographs on the man, and Scott identified herself as one of several subjects in the photos. Rael said the man was photographing women's underwear.

Scott was in Santa Fe to lecture at the American Law Institute.

## Satanism rumors bring suit

CINCINNATI — Procter & Gamble Co. sued an Amway Corp. employee Monday for allegedly spreading rumors linking P&G to devil worship.

The Cincinnati-based consumer products company filed the federal lawsuit in Salt Lake City against Randy Haugen of Ogden, Utah, seeking more than \$50,000 from the high-ranking Amway distributor. Amway is a competitor of P&G.

The lawsuit claims Haugen used Amway's voice mail system to spread the rumors to other Amway distributors.

"We have been fighting this outrageous rumor for over 15 years," said James J. Johnson, P&G senior vice president and general counsel. "Throughout that time, people associated with Amway have played a role."

The rumors typically claim that P&G's moon-and-stars trademark is a satanic symbol.

## Deadheads sue for injuries

ST. CHARLES, Mo. — Four Deadheads are suing for injuries suffered when a deck collapsed at a campground after a Grateful Dead concert.

The lawsuits, each seeking more than \$25,000 for negligence and personal injury, were filed against campground owner Pinewoods Enterprise Inc. and promoter Douglas Bledsoe. Calls to the company and promoter Tuesday weren't immediately returned.

## Magnesium-based medicines pose serious health risk, experts say

CHICAGO — Swilling antacid or gobbling tablets for your upset stomach could cost you your life.

Fourteen deaths, 31 hospitalizations and four cases of disability linked to magnesium poisoning have been reported since 1968, researchers from the Food and Drug Administration reported in the August issue of the American Medical Association's Archives of Family Medicine.

"Maalox and Mylanta - people just drink them like water," said Dr. Man C. Fung, lead author of the report. "They don't even think about it."

Consumers and doctors often underestimate the danger and may not recognize the symptoms of magnesium poisoning from overuse of antacids and other medications, wrote Fung and Drs. Michael Weintraub and Debra L. Bowen. Symptoms can include clumsiness, weakness, paralysis, drowsiness, confusion and coma.

Magnesium is an important nutrient in foods and in drinking water. It is common in over-the-counter antacids, laxatives and pain relievers.

Taken as directed, such prod-

ucts are safe, Fung said by telephone from the University of Pennsylvania Cancer Center, where he is now on staff.

Excessive use, though, especially by susceptible people, can lead to magnesium poisoning, he said. Susceptible people include the elderly, longtime diabetics, people who have had digestive surgery and anyone taking medications that slow the digestive system, such as narcotics and some antidepressants.

Elderly people are susceptible because their kidneys, which rid the body of magnesium, are not as efficient. Longtime diabetics sometimes suffer nerve damage to the bowel, which allows more magnesium to be absorbed by the body.

Relatively high levels of magnesium are found in many laxatives containing citrate of magnesia, milk of magnesia and Epsom salts, the researchers said.

Many antacids contain lower but still significant amounts of magnesium, including, in many cases, Maalox, Mylanta, Gaviscon, Di-Gel, Gelusil and Rolaids, the researchers said.

However, Tums and some types of Maalox and Mylanta contain no

magnesium. Fung said brand name alone doesn't always indicate whether a product contains magnesium; consumers should look at the list of ingredients on the label.

Pain relievers containing magnesium include Doan's, Arthritis Pain Formula, Ascriptin and Bufferin.

Robert Kniffin, a spokesman for Mylanta's manufacturer, Johnson & Johnson-Merck Consumer Pharmaceuticals Co., said, "Our product is safe when used in accordance with the package labeling, which is quite clear."

In one case reported by the FDA researchers, a 69-year-old woman with a history of heart disease, diabetes and digestive surgery developed slurred speech and weakness. She was taken to the hospital, where she rapidly fell into a coma and nearly died.

The symptoms suggested a stroke. But a lab test revealed her blood-magnesium level was more than five times higher than normal. Doctors treated her for magnesium poisoning and she recovered completely. The woman had been consuming up to two large bottles of Maalox daily for indigestion and constipation.

## Postal shooting leaves two hurt

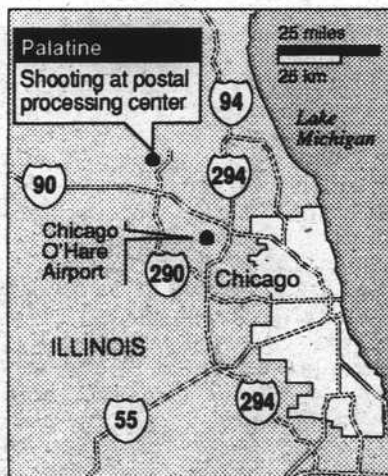
PALATINE, Ill. — A postal worker described by co-workers as a "beautiful guy" walked into work Tuesday and shot and wounded two men he regularly joked and ate lunch with, police and fellow employees said.

Dorsey S. Thomas, 53, was arrested 20 miles away near his home in Northlake. He was to appear before a U.S. magistrate in the afternoon.

Co-workers at the mail-processing center had no idea why Thomas, who union officials said had an exemplary record in about 20 years of service, would shoot his friends. Police offered no theories.

"I can't figure out why he did it," said clerk Maude Kelly, who had worked with Thomas and the victims for about 20 years. "We've been here for a long time. He was just a beautiful guy. We would joke and laugh together."

Thomas arrived for the start of the 7 a.m. shift in this suburb 31 miles northwest of Chicago, walked to the second-floor sorting area and fired two rounds into the chest of clerk



Steve Collura, witnesses and police said.

Thomas then ran downstairs and shot clerk Mike Mielke in the jaw and chest, then hit him with the semiautomatic pistol, according to witnesses.

Collura, 45, and Mielke, 41, were hospitalized in stable condition.

Worker Cynthia Murray said she was on the first floor when she heard two quick shots, then saw panicked employees trying to leave the building.

"People were just falling all over each other," she said. "I saw people trample over people and I saw the smoke from the gun."

Thomas, a tall man with graying hair, processed registered mail and had little contact with the public.

Co-worker Willie Little said she had seen no indication of tension among the three men.

A recent report by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that murder was the second leading cause of death on the job for postal workers and third for all workers.

On July 9, a postal worker was accused of killing his boss at a mail processing center in City of Industry, Calif. On March 21, a former postal worker killed four people and wounded another at a Montclair, N.J., post office.

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