

Expert: '100 percent' sure TV gloves similar to evidence

LOS ANGELES — With a new jury problem arising, an expert gave the strongest testimony yet linking O.J. Simpson to two bloodstained gloves, saying Tuesday he's "100 percent certain" Simpson wore the same uniquely styled gloves in TV appearances.

Richard Rubin, a former executive of Aris Isotoner, looked at photos and videos of Simpson working at NFL games and identified the gloves on Simpson's hands as Aris Lights, a model that is "quite rare."

Jurors were attentive but took few notes. After they were dismissed for the day, the defense demanded that a juror with a newly disclosed financial problem be dismissed from the panel.

Hours earlier, defense attorney Johnnie Cochran Jr. disclosed the problem and said that the judge had offered public funds to keep the panel member from bailing out of the case.

Cochran opposed the plan, saying it would taint the juror's opinion. Few details of the plan were released. In court papers, the defense referred to a juror losing \$1,500 a month in rental income, but it was unclear whether this was just an example raised to make a point.

Judge Lance Ito told him to appeal if he objected. Cochran said he would.

Later, defense attorney Robert Shapiro said the juror should be ousted. Ito took no immediate action.

Jury problems hampered the trial during the first six months, and just two of the original 12 alternates are left. But since June 5, no juror has been dismissed.

Also Tuesday, a jail nurse said in a videotape played outside the jury's presence that he erred when he testified in the preliminary hearing that he took 8 milliliters of blood from Simpson the day after the murders.

Thano Peratis, who didn't testify at the trial because of health problems, said the amount was closer to 6.5 milliliters, which, if accurate, would undermine the defense claim that there was blood missing from Simpson's vial that could have been planted on evidence.

"I was wrong," Peratis said.

Peratis is seen in the video sitting on a sofa and re-enacting the withdrawal of blood from Simpson by withdrawing water from a purple coffee cup. The rambling presentation, in which Peratis fumbled through boxes of syringes and vials, drew muffled

laughter in the courtroom.

Defense attorney Peter Neufeld denounced the video as "rank, staged hearsay" and said jurors shouldn't see it.

The judge ruled that prosecutors could show an edited version of the tape with the parts where Peratis talks about his previous testimony and about the amount of blood he now believes was in the syringe.

Before Rubin stepped down, one of the evidence gloves, a new glove of similar size and color and a photo of Simpson wearing gloves was set on a white board and passed to jurors.

Police found one bloody, brown, extra large Aris Light glove near the bodies at Ms. Simpson's condominium and the apparent mate on Simpson's estate.

Rubin said a video of Simpson at a Jan. 6, 1991, Oilers-Bengals playoff game showed Simpson wearing Aris Lights with a distinctive Brassier stitching.

"How certain are you of that?" Deputy District Attorney Christopher Darden asked.

"I'm 100 percent certain," Rubin said.

O.J. Simpson gloves

An expert testified today he was "100 percent certain" the gloves O.J. Simpson wore during a 1991 football broadcast were the same unique style as those found by murder investigators.

About the gloves:

- Distinguished by their stitching
- A special hem at the wrist
- A V-shaped vent in the palm
- Thin leather and lining



Source: AP research, Court TV

AP

Daily Nebraskan

FAX NUMBER 472-1761

The Daily Nebraskan (USPS 144-080) is published by the UNL Publications Board, Nebraska Union 34, 1400 R St., Lincoln, NE 68588-0448, Monday through Friday during the academic year; weekly during summer sessions.

Readers are encouraged to submit story ideas and comments to the Daily Nebraskan by phoning 472-1763 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The public also has access to the Publications Board. For information, contact Tim Hedegaard, 436-9253, 9 a.m.-11 p.m.

Subscription price is \$50 for one year. Postmaster: Send address changes to the Daily Nebraskan, Nebraska Union 34, 1400 R St., Lincoln, NE 68588-0448. Second-class postage paid at Lincoln, NE.

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Man blows up car, killing family

ESSEX, Md. — Betty Louise Clark had agreed to meet her estranged husband one last time: He said they'd take her three children shopping for school clothes and talk.

A day later, all that was left of Mark A. Clark's station wagon was a crumpled, burned-out shell in the parking lot of a strip mall in suburban Baltimore.

Police believe Clark packed his car with dynamite and blew up his family and himself, shaking the neighborhood and sending debris and body parts raining down blocks away. The glove compartment was found half a mile from Monday's blast.

The Clarks, their 4-year-old daughter, Krysta Clark, and Mrs. Clark's other children, Malissa Ray, 11, and Ricardo Valdez, 6, all died.

Neighbors said Tuesday that Clark, 32, had threatened to kill himself and his family Sunday and Monday.

"We all just thought he was blowing hot air," said Pamela Pierce, who lived upstairs from Mrs. Clark.

Mrs. Clark, 32, moved in with her sister in Essex earlier this year. She had a new boyfriend and was studying to be a medical secretary.

Neighbors saw Clark talking to himself out-

side the building when he visited his estranged wife on Sunday. He also visited on Monday.

"When I asked what he was talking about, he said, 'You'll find out soon,'" said Mary Thomas, another upstairs neighbor.

"Sunday and yesterday he went out to the car a thousand times looking in the car, looking in the trunk. Last night when we saw the wreck on the TV news we put two and two together," Thomas said.

Mark Edward Weitzel, 30, who had been dating Mrs. Clark since May, said she had agreed to meet with her husband one last time to take the children shopping. He picked them up from Weitzel's house.

"We knew he was unstable," Weitzel said. "But we didn't think he would actually do something like this. Yesterday I had a family—a girlfriend and three kids. Now I have nothing."

Police said they had no reports of domestic violence.

"You hope that if they're having these problems that they would call us. That's what make it so sad since there was no hope of intervention," said Capt. Brian Uppercue, a police spokesman.

Doctor in botched abortion gets 25 to life for woman's death

NEW YORK — A doctor convicted of murder for a fatally botched abortion was sentenced today to 25 years to life in prison by a judge who called his actions "depraved, indifferent murder."

Dr. David Benjamin, 58, found guilty in an extremely rare criminal case stemming from a medical malpractice, received the maximum sentence from state Supreme Court Judge Robert J. Hanophy.

"This was not a political case or malpractice," Hanophy said. "It was depraved, indifferent murder."

The murder conviction was the first of its kind in New York state, and authorities could cite only one other case nationally where a doctor was prosecuted and convicted on murder charges for botched work.

Benjamin was convicted Aug. 8 of second-degree murder in the July 1993 death of Guadalupe Negron, a 33-year-old mother of four who bled to death from a 3-inch rip in her uterus.

The jury deliberated for just three hours, rejecting lesser charges of manslaughter or criminally negligent homicide. Ordinarily, such incidents are handled through malpractice suits or disciplinary hearings.

Benjamin's attorney, Brad Leventhal, acknowledged his client erred during the abortion, but said Benjamin did everything he could

to save Mrs. Negron. The defense claimed she caused the tear by sitting up during the abortion.

Appealing appealed for his client to receive the minimum sentence of 15 years to life, Leventhal said: "Judge, he's no threat. This man brings no danger to society. He's a man who tried to do his job."

In pronouncing sentence, the judge said, "This was not a political case or malpractice. It was depraved, indifferent murder."

Benjamin testified he thought Mrs. Negron was about 13 weeks pregnant and didn't realize until midway through the abortion that she was 20 weeks along. His receptionist testified that that was a lie and that he ignored the woman for more than an hour after the abortion.

The state said he also lied to the two paramedics who arrived on the scene. The district attorney said the cover-up was one reason for pressing charges.

Benjamin is appealing the conviction.

One month before Mrs. Negron's death, the state had revoked Benjamin's license for gross incompetence and negligence for abortions performed on five women in 1990. Benjamin was allowed to continue practicing while appealing the revocation.

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