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S.F. CHRONICLE

# O.J. Witness Says Shoe Photo

By Stephanie Simon  
Los Angeles Times

## Santa Monica

An amateur photo analyst who said he learned about fake images in the advertising business testified yesterday that a snapshot showing O.J. Simpson wearing Bruno Magli shoes is most likely a fraud.

"My conclusion," Robert Groden told jurors, "is that there is a high likelihood of forgery."

The defense has not disputed that the shoes in the photos are

Bruno Maglis — the same Italian brand that tracked size-12 bloody footprints away from the bodies of Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman. Simpson, however, has sworn that he would never have purchased such shoes, which he characterized as ugly. The photo, he declared in his testimony last month, must be a phony.

To discredit the photo, which surfaced months after Simpson was acquitted of criminal charges, the defense called Groden to the witness stand. Groden pointed out

at least 10 anomalies in the photo's negative that he said indicated possible tampering.

The negative was positioned off-center on the contact sheet, he said, and it was slightly longer than other negatives from the same roll of film. He also said he observed two suspicious squiggles, suggesting someone had retouched the gray pants Simpson is wearing in the photo. And he determined that the tinting in the photo seemed off-kilter, with hues that did not match the other negatives

## NATION

\*\*\*\*\* San Francisco Chronicle A13

# Has Holes

in the roll.

To illustrate his point, Groden passed glossy prints of the photo to jurors, who studied them intently. However, Groden acknowledged that a few of his observations were "very, very difficult to see."

Plaintiffs' attorney Peter Gel-

blum will cross-examine Groden tomorrow. In addition, the plaintiffs have lined up their own expert witness — the retired chief of the FBI's photo analysis division — to vouch for the snapshot, which an Associated Press free-lancer claims to have taken at a football game about eight months before the murders.

In a hearing outside the jury's presence yesterday, Gelblum hinted at the tone of his cross-examina-

tion when he ridiculed Groden as having "feeble qualifications."

Groden now makes his living publishing books and videos on the assassination of President John Kennedy. But he claims expertise in faked photos as well.

His qualifications, he testified, include working two decades ago as an optical technician for a film company, a job that involved inserting titles into movie frames and creating other special effects.

**Desperate O.J. attacks ENQUIRER photo of murder shoes, but ...**

The so-called expert who testified that an incriminating ENQUIRER photo of O.J. Simpson is a fake — is a fake himself!

Robert Groden is a pure crackpot and lied at O.J.'s civil trial, says an expert who's worked with him.

The wacko witness' so-called credentials are that he fixes photo copying machines at one-hour photo shops and gives weird tours of the JFK assassination site.

His bizarre obsession in life is trying to prove the government stole JFK's body and altered his wounds, but true experts laugh at his weird theories.

"Groden's head is full of nonsense. He's a Kennedy conspiracy nut," said G. Robert Blakey, a top University of Notre Dame law professor who was chief counsel and director of the House Select Committee on Assassinations in the late 1970s.

"If Groden told me it was 12 noon, I would look at my watch. I would never rely on him for a factual answer."

Groden, who dropped out of high school, is the only person in the world that Simpson attorneys could find to dispute the ENQUIRER photo.

In fact, at a bench conference out of the jury's earshot, the plaintiff's lawyers declared that another photo consultant used by Simpson's attorneys told them the photo is authentic!

The blockbuster picture we published last April shows O.J. wearing rare Bruno Magli shoes like the ones that left bloody footprints at the murder scene.

It was taken at a Buffalo Bills football game in September 1993, months before Nicole Simpson and Ron Goldman were butchered.

Simpson denied ever owning such a pair of shoes, but our photo proves him dead wrong.

The entire civil trial hinges on this photo, according to legal experts across the country. The defense is desperate to find anyone "on the face of the earth" to say it's a phony and they could find only Groden, said former Los Angeles District Attorney Ira Reiner.

"No legitimate expert in the world could be found that would say that it is not an authentic photograph."

On the witness stand, Gro-

**His ex-boss**  
**says: 'He's**  
**a nut & a**  
**'liar — his**  
**head is full**  
**of nonsense'**



"CONSPIRACY NUT" Robert Groden.

den said he worked for the government's assassination committee, analyzing photos of the JFK assassination to determine if they were genuine.

"That's a lie and I'd submit an affidavit to the court that says so," Blakey told The ENQUIRER. "Groden's ability to interpret photographs is nil."

Groden was simply a go-for the committee, collecting photos and developing prints, said Blakey.

Nevertheless, Groden went

**O.J.'s PHOTO EXPERT IS A PHONY!**



KEY EVIDENCE: ENQUIRER photo of O.J. wearing Bruno Magli shoes is carried into court. Three top experts in photo analysis have verified the photo is real.

public with ridiculous theories about the assassination. In interviews and books he's published, he claimed that Kennedy autopsy photos were faked, as was a famous photo of Lee Harvey Oswald holding the rifle that killed JFK.

"Groden's theory produced smiles on the faces of those people who know better," said Blakey.

"The pictures were sent to the best people in the world, bar none, to check them for authenticity — top labs at Stanford University, the University of Southern California and the Rochester Institute of Technology."

They verified the photos were real.

Three top experts in photo

analysis verified for The ENQUIRER that the O.J. photo is real. The victims' lawyers will call FBI photo expert Jerry Richards to the stand to blow Groden's testimony apart.

What's more, the magazine Pro Football Weekly found and published a copy of the same photo. It was sitting in the magazine's photo library for months BEFORE the murders — additional proof that The ENQUIRER's photo is totally genuine.

"When it comes to the Simpson case, The ENQUIRER is head and shoulders over the rest of the world's press," said Blakey. "The others follow you!"

— DON GENTILE

7-7-97

# Jury sees photos of Simpson in Magli shoes

30 prints allegedly show him in footwear similar to that at murder scene

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SANTA MONICA, Calif. — Six weeks after O. J. Simpson pronounced a picture of himself in Bruno Magli a fake, the jury was shown 30 new photos of Simpson yesterday, wearing the same kind of shoes that tracked blood around the bodies of Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald L. Goldman.

Lawyers for the plaintiffs' side in the wrongful-death trial were all smiles as they unveiled the photos, but an expert witness for the defense said they didn't change his opinion that the earlier picture taken the same day had been doctored.

Simpson showed no reaction to the new photos, but his lawyers were outraged, complaining they were "sandbagged" because they weren't shown the new pictures until the opposing attorneys came to court after a two-week recess.

Reports about the pictures surfaced during the holiday break, but plaintiffs' attorney Daniel Petrocelli said he didn't receive the blowups and contact sheets until Saturday.

Dan Leonard, an attorney for Simpson, asked Judge Hiroshi Fujisaki for time to examine the photos and challenge their authenticity. But the judge refused.

In November, Simpson denied under oath that he ever wore Bruno Magli shoes like those seen in the photos. The shoes, according to the FBI, are the same kind that left bloody size-12 prints near the bodies. Of the picture, Simpson said: "It's a fraud."

Yesterday, Petrocelli argued that when Simpson took the stand and claimed the initial photo was a fake, "You take the chance you will be caught red-handed."

On the witness stand, Robert Groden, a Dallas-based photo technician, took a quick glance at each of the pictures and said they didn't change his mind about the earlier picture, which he said was probably doctored to place the rare shoes on Simpson's feet.

He said he had not had time to analyze the new pictures but had studied the earlier one and concluded the chances were 90 percent or better that it was faked.

The shoe photos are a center-

piece of the plaintiffs' case against Simpson. They surfaced months after he was acquitted of killing his former wife and her friend.

Like the photo Groden called a fake, the new pictures were supposedly taken of Simpson on Sept. 26, 1993, at Rich Stadium in Orchard Park, N.Y., before a Buffalo Bills football game against the Miami Dolphins. The pictures were taken by free-lance photographer E. J. Flammer.

A poor-quality version of one of the pictures appeared in the November 1993 issue of the Bills' official publication, *Buffalo Bills Report*. It is impossible to make out what kind of shoes Simpson is wearing in the published photo.

In the higher-quality original prints, it appears Simpson is wearing the same clothing he has on in the single disputed picture taken by free-lancer Harry Scull.

However, in Flammer's photos Simpson is wearing a pocket handkerchief; in Scull's photo he is not.

In another development, former Detective Mark Fuhrman

claims in his new book that prosecutors ignored or failed to follow up on potentially important evidence he found, including a bloody fingerprint at the crime scene, an empty knife box in Simpson's bathroom, dark clothes in the washing machine and a blood-stained light switch in the maid's room. *Vanity Fair* magazine reported in its February issue.

A synopsis of the book has Fuhrman delivering harsh words for prosecutors: Marcia Clark was "a victim of celebrity who allowed her personal life to interfere with her work," while Christopher Darden was "a brooding, self-absorbed young man who had no business prosecuting a major murder case."

Telephone messages seeking reaction were left for Darden and Clark through their publicists.

Fuhrman describes lead detectives Philip Vannatter and Tom Lange as cops who "destroyed the case through inattention, laziness and critical mistakes." The book, "Murder in Brentwood," is due out late this month.

## 2 Say Simpson Photos Are Real; Testimony Ends

Associated Press

SANTA MONICA, Calif., Jan. 16—Testimony ended in the O.J. Simpson civil trial today with plaintiffs' experts saying there was nothing fake about the photographs of Simpson wearing the same type shoes as the killer.

The last two witnesses—current and former FBI agents—identified the shoes on Simpson's feet in the 31 photos as the same Bruno Magli Lorenzo style that the killer wore when he tracked blood around the bodies of Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald L. Goldman on June 12, 1994.

The defense maintained to the end that the pictures are frauds and were concocted by people trying to make money on the Simpson case.

After both sides rested, Superior Court Judge Hiroshi Fujisaki told the jury, "Ladies and gentlemen, that concludes the evidence in the case." In addition to his usual admonition, he urged jurors to stay away from computer Internet sites.

He told jurors jury instructions would be argued Friday so they should return Tuesday for closing arguments. He also told them they could plan on getting the case next Thursday.