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NANCY GRACE

Police Continue Search for Trenton Duckett

Aired September 12, 2006 - 20:00:00 ET

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JANE VELEZ-MITCHELL, GUEST HOST: Tonight, the desperate search for a missing 2-year-old Florida boy. He's tucked into his crib for the night by his mother, then disappears while she's in the next room watching a movie. A mysterious clue -- the bedroom window screen is sliced open. His mother now confirmed dead from a self-inflicted gunshot. Tonight, the search for Trenton Duckett. Also tonight, the exclusive, shocking and candid O.J. Simpson tapes -- the latest controversy surrounding the producer behind more than 70 hours of footage of Simpson making appearances all over the country. Now the producer says he wants to use the tapes as part of the wrongful death legal battle. Tonight, he explains why, and he's taking your calls.

But first tonight, where is little Trenton Duckett?

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: We still need to continue our search for Trenton. We still need to continue the efforts with the flyers. We still need to keep his picture out there because there still is this likelihood and this possibility that Trenton is with somebody.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

VELEZ-MITCHELL: Good evening. I'm Jane Velez-Mitchell, in tonight for Nancy Grace.

Where is Trenton Duckett? The 2-year-old vanishes from his bedroom in Leesburg, Florida, after his mother tucks him in for the night. She is now dead in an apparent suicide, and there is no sign of this little boy.

For the very latest, let's go straight out to Marilyn Aciego, a reporter for "The Daily Commercial." She has been

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little boy. A ball of life is how everyone described him.

We are honored to have with us tonight right now, rather spontaneously -- he said he wanted to say a few things we are delighted that he is here with us -- anti-crime crusader Mark Lunsford, who is the father of slain Jessica Lunsford, a man who has been working tirelessly to try to get tougher laws against child predators in this country.

Mark, what are your thoughts on this case and the apparent suicide of this mom?

MARK LUNS福德, DAUGHTER JESSICA ABDUCTED AND MURDERED: Well, you know, it's a huge tragedy, for both sides of the family. I mean, you know, not only is Trenton missing, but now we've even lost Mel. I know, there's no one to blame for suicide. I've had to deal with suicide of a loved one, and there's just no one to blame, and people shouldn't feel that way.

But what people should keep in mind, your viewers out there, is that Trenton is still missing. Some of the answers will be with his mother, may not. We don't know. Let's not question that. There is someone out there between 4:30 Saturday to 9:00 PM on Sunday that may have seen Trenton and his mother, or even just Trenton with someone. And no matter how small you think that piece of information that you have, it may not be worth anything, it may be a big piece together.

Please contact the FBI Leesburg, or FDLE. They're working hard on this to find this little boy and to bring him home.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I'm Yoko Anther (ph), and I represent O.J. Simpson. Norman Pardo, who claims to own hours of filmed tape of O.J. Simpson, wants to sell that tape to the Goldman family in exchange for the Goldman family relinquishing their rights under the judgment they have against Mr. Simpson.

I don't think that Mr. Pardo does own all of the rights to those tapes, because the tapes contain images of Mr. Simpson. Possession is not nine-tenths of the law when you're dealing with film and movie rights. It is certainly not going to be easy for Mr. Goldman to get the tape, and it certainly will not be easy for Mr. Pardo to do this exchange.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

VELEZ-MITCHELL: I'm Jane Velez-Mitchell, in tonight for Nancy Grace. Exclusive footage of the shocking O.J. Simpson videotapes, the one-time murder suspect and former NFL great seen candid and raw in appearances across the country. More than 70 hours of footage.

And the producer joins us tonight to talk about why, why he wants to turn these tapes over to the family of murder victim Ron Goldman.

But first straight out to my good friend and fellow investigative reporter, Pat Lalama. She has been following the Simpson saga for more than a decade.

Pat, bring us up to date on this latest twist.

PAT LALAMA, INVESTIGATOR REPORTER: And do you believe, here we are again yet another chapter.

Well, this comes, this newest offer interestingly, Janie, comes in the wake of a motion filed by Ron Goldman that excuse me, by Fred Goldman, the father of the deceased Ron Goldman, that could be quite precedent setting on how it worked.

Nine years ago, a little bit after O.J. was acquitted in the murder case, a civil jury, remember, a civil jury said, you know what? Maybe he wasn't found guilty by the standards of law of murder, but we do believe he's liable. In other words, responsible for the death of Nicole and Ron. Therefore, we're going to award him punitive damages and compensatory damages.

Well, it totaled a little bit over \$19 million. Guess what, do you think the Goldmans have seen much of that? Re about \$600,000. But if that is true, it's alleged that they had to spend it all on legal fees. So it's been a horrible process for the Goldmans.

So what happens, take us up to date, is this. An intellectual property attorney came up with what I think is an idea. He said, "You know what? Simpson's out there signing autographs. He's going to conventions. He's put his name on helmets from his great days as Mr. O.J. Simpson, and he's got to be making some money from that intellectual property. But guess what, that has value. So we want to take -- we want the courts to order that Mr

Simpson turn over what's known as with celebrities a right of publicity."

You go out there and use your name and your likeness, you're making money, send it over to us. And that's e what it's about.

VELEZ-MITCHELL: Right, Pat. And the funny part about this is that even though Norm Pardo wants to exchan footage with the Goldmans in return for their portion of the judgment. If they win that legal battle, they might ge footage anyway.

And we want to go out to Norm Pardo, the producer himself. Hear it from the horse's mouth.

Why do you want to hand over more than 70 hours of footage it took you four years to accumulate over the co 20 cities? And what do you think you're going to get from Fred Goldman that's of value to you?

NORM PARDO, PRODUCER: Well, I want to trade it for the judgment. The Goldmans are never going to get r They're never going to get a dime from my tapes, and they can do whatever they want in court. I've already h tapes. O.J. agreed to do the tapes five years ago. You can't back date things. I'm not worried about that.

So if they want money from the tapes, their other option is to get the deal from, you know, go to court, get the i agree that they can have his signature and then try to catch him at autograph sessions for another 10 grand. T never was the reason. I think the only reason they're in court is over my tapes, but they're not going to get tho they want them, I'm willing to trade them.

VELEZ-MITCHELL: Fascinating. And we're trying to figure out exactly how this works.

Maybe I should go straight out to prosecutor Holly Hughes. This -- we're not talking about trading baseball car Is this even legal? Can you trade video for a person's judgment that they were awarded in court? Is that even even possible?

HUGHES: Not that I'm aware of, Jane. What happened was the judgment was levied against O.J., and Mr. Pa third party who was not part of the judgment one way or the other. He wasn't the plaintiff or the defendant.

So I think that any kind of trade he's making does not necessarily alleviate O.J.'s responsibility, as he was ord court to pay that money.

VELEZ-MITCHELL: All right. Now, by the way, the footage you've been seeing of O.J. Simpson in this fancy F Royce is exclusive, and you're seeing it here for the first time. It has never apparently been aired.

Let's go to Marc Beginin. He is the attorney for the producer you just heard from, Norm Pardo.

Now, thanks for joining us, Marc. Let me read what O.J. Simpson's attorney has said about your effort. "You c expect a legal fight before any deal made to exchange the tapes for the Goldmans' legal judgment."

Simpson's attorney says it is not clear that your client, Norm Pardo, owns these tapes. Possession is not nine the law when it comes to movie and video images. Your response?

MARC BEGININ, ATTORNEY FOR NORMAN PARDO: You know what, possession is not nine-tenths of the l my client has a contract with O.J. Simpson that includes his rights of publicity at that time.

So additionally, O.J. Simpson knew he was being videotaped the whole time. There was no question about it. was what the quid pro quo was on it, that my client gets the videos, O.J. gets to promote himself for a number

VELEZ-MITCHELL: Let me jump in here. Is it possible that O.J. Simpson traveled for four years to 20 cities an got any ownership rights of all the video that was being shot of him hour after hour?

BEGININ: Exactly. He assigned his rights of publicity so Norman Pardo would take him around the country an promote and get O.J. back out there when nobody else was willing to do it.

With regard to what the other person was saying about assigning rights to a judgment, it's done every day. Yo always sell a judgment to anybody, assign it. What we're talking about here is assigning the rights to the videoc rights to the judgment.

And this all came about because just a week ago on the NANCY GRACE show, it was -- my client was accuse selling millions of these tapes, making millions of dollars and that the money might be going offshore and funn way back into O.J.'s account. And as a matter of fact, up to that time, not one video has been sold. Not one vi been sold to today.

VELEZ-MITCHELL: Let me go back to Norm for a second, your client. Norm, did you guys have a falling out, y O.J. Simpson? Because from what I understand, when you first started you said you were going to rehabilitate image.

And then, over the course of things, the theme kind of shifted, and suddenly it was discovering the real O.J., th and disturbing picture. Judge for yourself whether or not he's guilty. That kind of sounds like you had some kir falling out.

PARDO: Well, I never planned on rehabilitating his image. I just wanted to see the public's reaction. I was ver. And I wanted to film it.

So it wasn't an effort to rehabilitate him. It was just to get him out there, get the film. We put him in strange loc doing strange things. Nothing was ever scripted. I just wanted to see what would the public do if they met up w

VELEZ-MITCHELL: But this was to make money. Because on your web site, you're selling tapes for what, \$12 something and \$19 something?

PARDO: Yes.

VELEZ-MITCHELL: I mean, this is -- you're selling these tapes.

PARDO: Yes, I wasn't going to make money at first until they said I made millions. Then I put them all up for s

VELEZ-MITCHELL: All right. I want to go to Kato Kaelin who has known O.J. Simpson for a long time. He's th "Eye for an Eye". Obviously, he was a witness at the O.J. Simpson trial and goes down in the history books fo with O.J. Simpson on the night of the infamous murders.

Welcome, Kato.

KATO KAELIN, HOST, "EYE FOR AN EYE": Hi, Jane.

VELEZ-MITCHELL: Good to have you here. How are you doing?

KAELIN: Good to be here.

VELEZ-MITCHELL: You know, I'm hoping you can peek into the mind of O.J. and give us a sense.

KAELIN: I can let you in, and I'll tell you what, with Norman talking, all this stuff. He loves to be adulated by pe he loves to be adulated for things that he did before when he did -- broke records in football.

I think that's sort of a pain that he's in right now, is that I don't think people are coming out to see him becaus football records. It's because of this murder trial. And I think that's causing him much pain because here's a g was adulated forever for all his records, and now he's got none of that. And I know...

VELEZ-MITCHELL: I want to ask you...

KAELIN: OK, Jane.

VELEZ-MITCHELL: Yes, I want to ask you about some of the disturbing things that he has done tacky referen crime itself. Like on "Juiced", another DVD that's not connected with Mr. Pardo, I believe, but he plays a used salesman who is selling a Ford Bronco, saying, "It helped me get away." This is an obvious reference to his ini slow speed chase.

KAELIN: Yes, it's...

VELEZ-MITCHELL: How is it possible, considering he has two children who lost a mother, that he is capable c something like that?

KAELIN: No, it is -- it's incredible. I don't know if he's getting paid for that sort of thing. But that is just -- you ki his agent. It's just terrible things that he's doing. And it's -- it's not right.

So I don't know the money situation, Jane. But I don't think people really want to go out and see O.J.

(NEWSBREAK)

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

VELEZ-MITCHELL: Let's head over to Headline Prime's Glenn Beck.

Hi, Glenn. What's up?

GLENN BECK, HOST, "GLENN BECK": Coming up, today's attack on the U.S. embassy in Damascus, Syria, example of how dangerous our enemies really are. Hello, time to wake up to the reality of our war with radical

Also tonight, outrageous politicians. I know. Shock for you. Democrats and Republicans, are they using the war and yesterday's 9/11 anniversary, for political advantage? It's got to stop.

Also, we'll talk to stage and screen star Brian Dennehy about his latest film. Don't miss it.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Twelve years ago it, Ron and Nicole were murdered. Murdered by the man whose name to this day refuse to use. To this day, he has never been punished for that act in any form.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

VELEZ-MITCHELL: I'm Jane Velez-Mitchell, in tonight for Nancy Grace. We are showing you exclusive video shocking and candid O.J. Simpson tapes. The producer followed O.J. all over the country in a bid to revamp his show. Although apparently, he's now denying that.

Now he wants to hand those tapes over to murder victim Ron Goldman's family. But are there strings attached?

Let's go straight out to noted attorney Gloria Allred, who once represented the family of Nicole Brown Simpson.

You've been listening to all of this, Gloria. What's your take on it? Is the Goldman family's search for justice getting mired down in publicity seekers?

GLORIA ALLRED, ATTORNEY: Now I think that they are employing a creative and appropriate approach, Jan. Seeking to acquire his right of publicity is an important property right and they should have a right to acquire it.

After all, they are owed multimillion of dollars from the judgment of the civil case, in which -- in which the jury decided by clear and convincing evidence that they were entitled to a multimillion dollar judgment because O.J. Simpson is responsible for the wrongful death of their son.

And so they're going after it. It's an intangible property right. And rather than having Mr. Simpson enjoy the right to exploit his image, exploit his photographs, exploit the value in his name, such as it is, let's give it to the Goldman family and/or the estate of Nicole Brown Simpson if they seek it, and let them get the money that flows in as a result of that judgment.

VELEZ-MITCHELL: Well, correct me if I'm wrong. Apparently, O.J. Simpson's judgment was originally \$20 million because of interest, because he hasn't paid, it's ballooned to about \$40 million. Now, does that get divided 50-50 between the Brown family and the Goldman family?

ALLRED: Well, actually the Brown family never sued O.J. Simpson. They sued on behalf of the estate of Nicole Brown Simpson, and the beneficiaries of that judgment of the estate are, in fact, the children, Sydney and Justin, the children of Nicole Brown and O.J. Simpson, not the Brown family.

Lou Brown did that civil case in order to be able to get an amount that is -- and get justice for the children. And when he attempts, when O.J. Simpson attempts to evade and avoid the responsibility of satisfying that judgment, that is, by not paying any income, any property that he has to satisfy the judgment, he is really shortchanging and depriving the children, as well as the estate of Ron Goldman.

VELEZ-MITCHELL: Well, that's an absolutely fascinating point, Gloria. I want to ask Kato Kaelin about a related point.

You knew Sydney and Justin when they were much younger. How do you think, knowing what you do about them, how they're reacting to all of their father's inappropriate behavior, given the fact that he's making references to a movie that involved their mother? Now they're teenagers. They're old enough to think for themselves.

KAELIN: Yes, I've got a feeling that being around kids in her high school or college now, I know she made a 9 out of 10. I think she's probably going through the most stress right now.

Justin, I think, was sort of the -- kind of the low key guy. Now he's playing football. I always thought Justin was bit closer to his father.

And I think Sydney's probably, if she doesn't have some problems already, she may have. I mean, I don't know many people would actually get on 911 to call to report their father for whatever the reason was.

So I've got a feeling that kids can be pretty mean, and now that she's older, I think there's probably some scary. And but once again, they're great kids.

VELEZ-MITCHELL: I think you are absolutely right.

I want to go back, we're looking at JudgeOJ.com video. This is O.J. Simpson sitting in a bus stop where he so about how low he's fallen.

Let me go back to the producer of all this, Norm Pardo. You know, it says judge O.J. My understanding was that we were going to get footage that was going to give us an inside peek into his guilt or innocence so that the public judge for itself.

Now we've seen a lot of extraordinarily tacky behavior like O.J. Simpson getting a lap dance from several women same time, including a woman who appears to be a Nicole Simpson look-alike. But I'm not getting any inside information on the case itself. What are you holding back? Do you really have anything?

PARDO: We've got a lot.

VELEZ-MITCHELL: Like what? What about the -- what about the case? What inside information that will allow judge O.J., as in JudgeOJ.com?

PARDO: Well, this is to judge him now. I'm not going back in time. I wasn't at the trial. So I don't have the film from the trial. This is strictly now. You know, after the trial, you know, within five years.

VELEZ-MITCHELL: But how does it help people judge O.J. and his guilt or innocence?

PARDO: Well, his mannerisms. O.J. In general, just the man.

VELEZ-MITCHELL: Right. But you promised extraordinary information, and what we've seen is extraordinarily behavior. I mean, there is a little bit of difference there.

I mean, you know, somebody sitting at a bus stop talking about how low they've fallen or getting a lap dance from women at once or calling names, calling Oprah Winfrey and other people horrible names, that's tacky and it's scary. And we already know he's a jerk. But it doesn't really tell us anything about the case.

PARDO: This isn't about the case.

VELEZ-MITCHELL: Well, it is JudgeOJ.com.

PARDO: Yes. This is to judge him now. Not past. Now. To watch the film.

At the time, we were just going to do the film. People could watch it and judge for themselves what they see in Simpson, what the media says about O.J., what O.J.'s doing, what the people's reaction to him and his reaction people. It never was meant to be a Kato Kaelin type thing where everybody get on the news and talks about that.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

O.J. SIMPSON, FORMER NFL STAR: I love my life! Isn't life wonderful? Thank you, Jesus!

(END VIDEO CLIP)

VELEZ-MITCHELL: I'm Jane Velez-Mitchell, in tonight for Nancy Grace. The legal twists behind the exclusive Simpson videotapes.

I want to go straight back out to Kato Kaelin, because the producer, Norm Pardo, kind of accused you of being publicity seeker. But I think the big difference is he inserted himself into this case. You just happened to be by accident at a very significant point with O.J.

KAELIN: He doesn't realize -- he doesn't realize you've got Gloria Allred in the other room. He'd better be car

VELEZ-MITCHELL: Yes. Exactly.

You know, how has this changed your life, Kato? I mean, this is obviously something you're going to be remem for, for the rest of your life, simply by the action of being there at that time.

KAELIN: Right. Jane, and you know what? I don't fight it, but I've been out here from Wisconsin forever trying into show business. I've been an actor. My SAG card for 20 years now.

And life is wonderful now. I work for "National Lampoon". I've got a TV show. I've got a new one called, "Oh, r Kato." It has nothing to do with the trial. It's stuff that I strive to do, and I'm -- I'm becoming very successful.

VELEZ-MITCHELL: I wish you the very best of luck.

KAELIN: Thank you, Jane.

VELEZ-MITCHELL: We're going to give Gloria Allred the final word. Will there ever be justice for the Goldman Brown family?

ALLRED: There never will be justice, because they'll never be able to bring back their loved ones.

But I hope and expect that they will follow O.J. Simpson for the rest of his life. Make his life miserable, try to ex their judgment and satisfy it and recover at least whatever they can, because they can't bring back their loved But they can make Mr. Simpson pay and pay and pay, and that day of payment is now long overdue.

VELEZ-MITCHELL: And sometimes the ultimate payment is just living in your own skin and being who you are perhaps that is the form of justice that he will get and continues to get. Thank you, Gloria.

Tonight, we remember Army Staff Sergeant Paul Pabla, who's 23, from Fort Wayne, Indiana. Pabla put his stu Ball State University on hold to join the National Guard.

On his first tour of duty, he trained Iraqi police officers and bought toys for young Iraqi children. He leaves beh loving, grieving family. Paul Pabla, an American hero.

We want to thank all of our guests tonight for their insights. And thanks to you at home for tracking these very cases with us. I'm Jane Velez-Mitchell, in for Nancy Grace. Nancy will be back tomorrow night, 8 p.m. sharp E Until then, have a terrific and a safe evening.

END

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