Senator Zaffirini did an excellent job pointing out how people's driver's license photos often do not resemble the actual people. Here's related documentation.

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From: Yannis Banks <yannis.banks@yahoo.com>
Date: January 25, 2011 2:27:02 PM CST
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Subject: Fw: Blank 33

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Race, Racism and the Law
Speaking Truth to Power!!

Why are Cross-Racial Eyewitness IDs Especially Unreliable?

Checkout: Reclamationgallery.com

John P. Rutledge

Complete Survey: Race Realities #51
Submit for Periodic Updates
Update List

excerpted from: John

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Justice and Racism
P. Rutledge, They All Look Alike: the Inaccuracy of Cross-racial Identifications, 28 American Journal of Criminal Law 207-228, 211-214 (Spring 2001)(173 Footnotes Omitted)

In general, there is a much greater possibility of error where the races are different than where they are the same . . . .

A cross-racial ID occurs when an eyewitness of one race is asked to identify a particular individual of another race. The last half-century's empirical study of cross-racial IDs has shown that eyewitnesses have difficulty identifying members of another race, though the degree to which this difficulty affects the accuracy of an eyewitness ID is
not certain. Likewise, it is unclear whether all races are affected.

Known as the "own-race" effect or "own-race" bias, eyewitnesses experience the "cross-racial impairment" when attempting to identify individuals of another race. The "own-race effect" is "strongest when white witnesses attempt to recognize black subjects," and apparently less influential to black witnesses. In fact, four separate studies found that black eyewitnesses do not experience any cross-racial impairment. And another found that blacks make better witnesses in general. But five other studies
found that white eyewitnesses simply experience the impairment more often than blacks. Regardless of the degree to which each race suffers from the impairment, a leading scholar on the subject has concluded that "it has been observed so many times" that "it seems to be a fact."

Concern about the frequent inaccuracy of cross-racial IDs is extensively documented in case law and social science data. And some judges believe the cross-racial nature of an identification may affect accuracy in the same way as proximity to the perpetrator and poor lighting conditions. As one federal judge