

Few doubt Simpson's guilt, poll reports

□ A recent Associated Press poll found that one-third of those surveyed would oppose a retrial.

NEW YORK (AP) — Most Americans are fairly sure O.J. Simpson is guilty, although one-third think murder charges should be dropped if the jury can't reach a verdict, according to an Associated Press poll.

Twenty-one percent believe Simpson killed his ex-wife and her friend — up from 14 percent in January — and an additional 40 percent think he probably did. Twelve percent say the charges are probably not true and 6 percent say definitely not.

The rest are uncertain. "Don't know" responses dropped just 5 points after four months of testimony.

If the jury deadlocks, 59 percent say the prosecution should start over with a new jury, as would ordinarily be done in a murder case. But 33 percent would oppose a retrial, including six in 10 blacks, five in 10 of those who are following the case very closely, and even two in 10 of those fairly sure of Simpson's guilt.

The poll found evidence of declining interest in Simpson's trial, with 29 percent saying they're following it closely, down from 38 percent in January.

Results have a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points. ICR Survey Research Group of Media, Pa., part of AUS Consultants, polled a random sample of 1,004 adults by

phone May 17-21.

The trial by then had shifted into repetitive, arcane testimony about scientific blood analysis. And for the four previous weeks, the Oklahoma City bombing had displaced the Simpson trial as the lead story on most TV newscasts, said Andrew Tyndall, whose Tyndall Report monitors the nightly network news.

"You could easily claim it is being flogged to death," Tyndall said. "The media overplayed it and when something of real importance came along, people asked themselves, 'What was I doing wasting my time on this?'"

An overwhelming 84 percent said the news media are giving the Simpson case too much attention. Nevertheless, one in four people who hold this view report they are following the case closely.

"What people say they want and what they actually do are not the same thing," said Jay Matlin, director of news audience research at NBC.

He said ratings for "Dateline NBC" segments showed that running a Simpson story caused no drop in numbers of viewers.

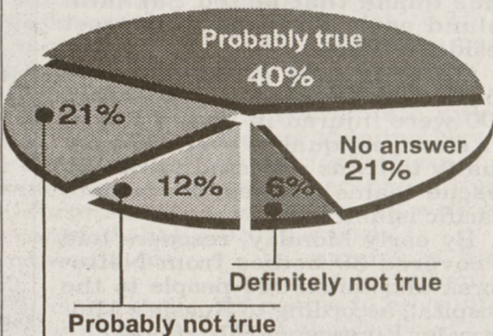
Then why do only 7 percent say they are following the case "very closely," and 71 percent say they are not following it closely?

People may be trying to give a socially acceptable response, like the exaggerated number who tell pollsters they vote. Or, despite knowing all the personalities and oddities of the Simpson case, they may think they're not following it closely because they've tuned out mountains of dry data and DNA details.

Associated Press Poll

The People vs. O.J. Simpson

Q: Do you think the murder charges against O.J. Simpson are...?



Source: AP national poll of 1,003 adults taken Jan. 11-15 by ICR Survey Research Group of Media, Pa., part of AUS Consultants. Margin of error: 3 percentage points, plus or minus. Sums may not total 100 percent because of rounding.

Tobacco company recalls cigarettes

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — What if the nation's largest tobacco company called for a nationwide recall of about 8 billion cigarettes and nobody listened?

Despite Mailgrams to vendors and despite a legion of company officials dispatched to collect the cigarettes, smokers and retailers alike seemed untroubled or unaware of Philip Morris USA's recall announcement Friday.

While big grocery chains like Safeway in northern California pulled packs of Marlboro, Virginia Slims and Merit from their shelves, many smaller vendors around the country didn't. They said nobody told them they should.

"As far as business is concerned, we're not going to do anything until we hear from the company," said Raja Chamoun at AD Tobacco in San Francisco. "If we take Philip Morris cigarettes off the shelves, the store would be empty."

Mike Zeidan, owner of Michael's Pit Stop in San Francisco, took the same approach.

"I've heard the reports," he said. "But nobody told me not to sell them. You'd think you would hear from Philip Morris. But I didn't hear anything, so I didn't do anything."

Philip Morris issued a statement Friday afternoon, at the start of the long holiday weekend, saying it was recalling an estimated 8 billion cigarettes because of possibly contaminated filters that could cause wheezing and eye, throat and nose irritation. Messages left Sunday for Philip Morris officials were not returned.

The company has sent Mailgrams to some vendors telling them to quit selling the possibly tainted smokes, advised consumers to turn in packs for a refund, and dispatched sales representatives to collect the cigarettes, saying it might take two or three days to contact stores.

WHAT'S UP

Tuesday

Campus Crusade for Christ: Our summer CRU meeting, singing, short talk, and fun will be held in 206 MSC at 7 p.m. For more information call Gail at 696-4245.

Texas A&M Waterski Team: An informational meeting for summer skiing will be held in 701 Rudder at 8:30 p.m. For more information call Scott Durham at 845-6089.

MSC University PLUS:

We are gearing up for an exciting selection of special interest workshops. Courses include Aerobics, Jitterbug, Pottery, Computers, Wine Tasting, Guitar, and many more. Registration will begin today at 12 noon in the University PLUS Craft Center, located in the basement of the MSC. For more information call 845-1631.

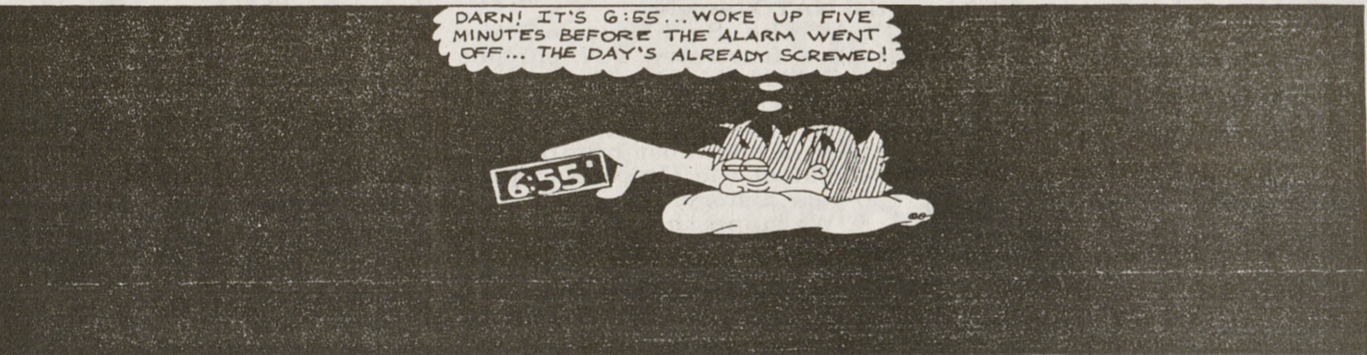
Wednesday

Texas A&M Waterski Team: An informational meeting for summer skiing will be held in 701 Rudder

at 8:30 p.m. For more information call Scott Durham at 846-6089.

What's Up is a Battalion service that lists non-profit student and faculty events and activities. Items should be submitted no later than three days in advance of the desired run date. Application deadlines and notices are not events and will not be run in What's Up. If you have any questions, please call the newsroom at 845-3313.

Sketch



By Quatro

IN THE BUFF



BY VALERIE

CHEAP AEROBICS AND JAZZ CLASSES

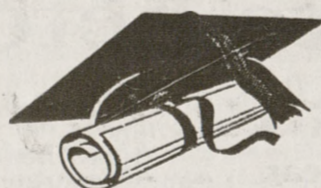
DANCE ARTS SOCIETY

INFORMATIONAL MEETING AND REGISTRATION

MONDAY, MAY 29
7:00 PM
READ 268

CLASSES STARTS
WEDNESDAY, MAY 31

EXCITING NEWS



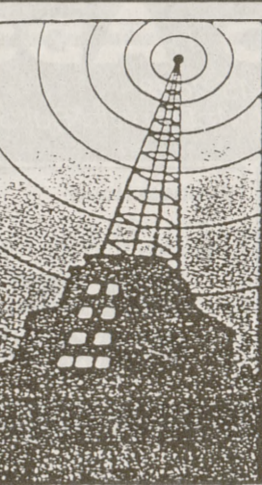
AUGUST GRADUATES

GRADUATION ANNOUNCEMENTS ARE NOW ON SALE!!!

ORDERS WILL BE TAKEN THROUGH TUESDAY, JUNE 6, 1995

MSC STUDENT ORGANIZATION FINANCE CENTER ROOM 217 8 AM TO 4 PM

ORDERS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PICKUP APPROXIMATELY THE THIRD WEEK IN JULY



KANM 99.9 FM Cable The Alternative

DJ Information Meeting

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Tuesday, May 30, 1995
5:30 p.m. Rudder 410

Do You Worry Too Much?

Dr. Steven Strawn is seeking volunteers for a 2 - month research study of an investigational medication for anxiety.

For more information call:

846 - 2050

Monday - Thursday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

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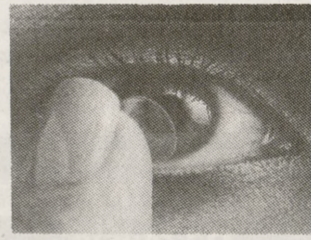
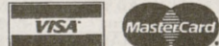
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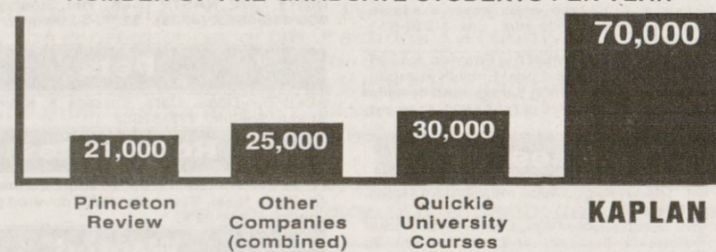
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