

ROAD WARRIORS

The Lady Aggies travel to Houston to take on the defending SWC champions.

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DECEIVING DECISION

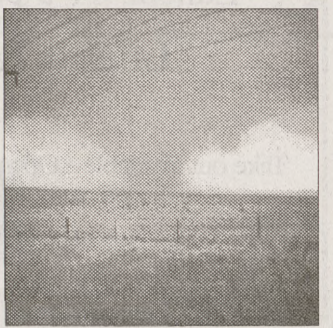
Littlefield: The verdict of the Simpson trial had little to do with O.J.'s innocence.

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STORM CHASING

Students gain experience by gathering data on severe weather.

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THE BATTALION

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THE PEOPLE VS. O.J. SIMPSON

Simpson freed, vows to find killers



O.J. Simpson was acquitted Tuesday of the murders of Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman.

□ The nation gathered around televisions and radios to witness the jury deliver the verdict in "the trial of the century."

LOS ANGELES (AP) — O.J. Simpson headed home Tuesday, picking up a life of freedom instead of starting life in prison. Acquitted of murdering his ex-wife and her friend, he pledged to track down the real killers who are "out there somewhere."

In a courtroom on the verge of exploding with emotion, a hush fell as Judge Lance Ito's clerk, Dierdre Robertson, read the two words: "Not guilty."

Simpson mouthed the words, "Thank you," at the jury, then clasped his hands together and was embraced by his attorneys.

Tears of anguish and shouts of joy burst from the three families whose lives were torn apart by the bloody June 12, 1994, slayings of Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman.

"Oh my God!" exclaimed Simpson's grown daughter, Arnelle, embracing her brother Jason.

"We did it!" a family member exulted to lead defense attorney Johnnie Cochran Jr.

Eerily, the Simpson saga ended much as it had begun, with the fallen football superstar being transported in a white van to his estate while news helicopters tracked him overhead.

Tuesday's televised verdicts were the most-watched event since June 17, 1994, when Simpson, in a white Bronco with his friend Al "A.C." Cowlings driving, led police on a surreal slow-speed chase viewed by millions.

Cowlings was at the door to embrace Simpson when he came home. Later, family members gathered for a champagne party on the lawn of Simpson's lush estate.

"Last June 13, '94, was the worst nightmare of my life. This is the second," Goldman's father, Fred, said at a prosecution news conference. "This prosecution team didn't lose today. I deeply believe this country lost today. Justice was not served."

At a defense team news conference, Cochran insisted the issue of race, which he played heavily in the trial, did not overcome the facts.

"This verdict speaks justice," Cochran said. "This was a case based upon the evidence."

He denied playing "the race card," saying instead that credibility had won out.

"Race plays a part in everything in America," he said. "But this stuff about playing a race card is preposterous."

He said he hoped the Los Angeles Police Department would alter shoddy investigative practices exposed in the trial.

As the words setting Simpson free were spoken in court, his elderly mother, Eunice, seated in a wheelchair, wiped her eyes, held up her hands prayerfully and murmured words of thanks.

"I was always in prayer. I knew my son was innocent," she said at the defense meeting with reporters.

Across the room, Goldman mouthed the word "murderer" as the verdict was announced. Kim Goldman, who spent most of a year in court honoring her dead brother's memory, doubled over and sobbed along with a younger brother and sister.

"... I will pursue as my primary goal in life the killer or killers who slaughtered Nicole and Mr. Goldman."

— read from a statement by O.J. Simpson

At the courthouse, Simpson's older son, Jason, read a statement from his father:

"My first obligation is to my young children, who will be raised the way that Nicole and I had always planned. ... But when things have settled a bit, I will pursue as my primary goal in life the killer or killers who slaughtered Nicole and Mr. Goldman. They are out there somewhere. Whatever it takes to identify them and bring them in, I will provide somehow."

Simpson also noted that many will surmise he is guilty, acquittal or no acquittal.

"I can only hope that someday, despite every prejudicial thing that has been said about me publicly, both in and out of the courtroom, people will come to understand and believe that I would not, could not and did not kill anyone," his statement said.

Reactions to verdict vary

□ The outcome of the trial surprised many A&M students and faculty.

By Kristen Homyk
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M students and faculty members debated Tuesday whether O.J. Simpson's acquittal on two counts of murder was correct or possibly the result of racial issues.

As "the trial of the century" came to an end, people gathered in the Commons television rooms, the MSC Flag Room and Hullabaloo to see and hear the verdict of the Simpson trial.

Students with portable radios interrupted lectures with the news, and verdict announcements were made over public address systems in some campus buildings.

Some students offered concise reactions to the decision, placing much faith in the judicial system.

Rodrigo deJuana, a freshman mechanical engineering major, expressed surprise at the decision, but said he does not feel too concerned.

"The jury saw everything, so I figure they know a little more than I do," deJuana said.

Corey Echols, a freshman business major, also supported the decision of the jury.

"O.J. Simpson was innocent from the get-go," Echols said. "The jury saw that."

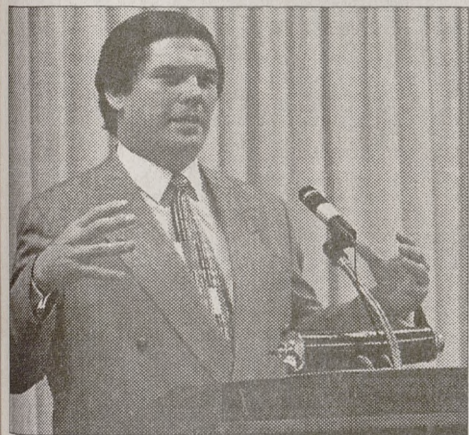
Other students showed their lack of faith in the verdict, suggesting that the trial was anything but typical of the American system of justice.

Shaun Schoener, a junior psychology major, said the verdict was an example of the justice system failing.

"It's a joke," Schoener said. "The

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Fields addresses College Republicans



Stew Milne, THE BATTALION
Congressman Jack Fields spoke to the College Republicans Tuesday night.

□ Congressman Jack Fields focused on national issues during the Tuesday night meeting.

By Courtney Walker
THE BATTALION

While the Texas A&M College Republicans may have the recent dispute with the University on their minds, Congressman Jack Fields, R-Humble, had a different agenda at the group's Tuesday meeting.

Along with continually reaffirming the statement "one per-

son with courage makes a majority," Fields talked about the proposed telecommunications reform bill, his image of the Republican Party, welfare reform and the proposed tax reforms.

Fields argued that Republicans do care about welfare reform and want to do something positive about the system.

"We have to focus on resources and what we have available," he said.

Fields discussed two options on tax reform bills.

One option, presented by Congressmen Richard "Dick" Armey, R-Lewisville, proposes a 17 percent flat tax rate, and Congressmen Bill Archer, R-Archer, proposes a consumer tax.

"With a consumer tax you con-

trol what you pay a tax on, and it would also eliminate the internal revenue tax," Fields said.

Fields stressed the importance of students getting involved and participating in the Republican primary elections.

"I hope you'll debate like cats and dogs in the preliminaries and then find a commonality at the end and move together as a strong Republican Party," he said.

Fields said the Republican Party is what people want America to be.

"The average American wants to have less government spending, less government regulation, and to be secure in defense," he said. "With strength comes peace."

A&M CELEBRATES 119TH BIRTHDAY

□ Yells and music will be part of the festivities today, and the Traditions council will distribute balloons.

By Melissa Keerins
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M opened its doors to 40 students and 6 faculty members October 4, 1876, and today students will celebrate the University's 119th year.

A number of student groups will take part in the birthday festivities.

The Traditions Council will distribute balloons today from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Rudder Fountain, and the Century Singers and

Women's Chorus perform as well.

The yell leaders and Reveille VI will be at Rudder Fountain at 12:30 p.m. for a pull-out yell practice.

Cindi Ericson, public relations sergeant for the Texas A&M Corps of Cadets and a junior political science and international studies major, said there will also be a special musical interlude at noon.

"Albritton Tower will be playing three songs at noon in honor of A & M's birthday," Ericson said. "They will play, 'Noble Men of Kyle,'

'The Twelfth Man' and finish with 'The Spirit of Aggieland.'"

Mary Helen Bowers, who is in charge of the bells at Albritton Tower, said the music will last approximately 5 minutes.



Republicans seek multiculturalism referendum

□ The College Republicans want to obtain a student referendum which requires 10 percent of the student body to sign a petition form.

By Courtney Walker
THE BATTALION

College Republicans is looking past its upcoming hearing and planning a strategy to determine students' views on the Faculty Sen-

ate's proposed multiculturalism requirement. The organization will appear before the Student Organizations Hearing Board Nov. 3 to defend what adviser Dr. Richard Stadelmann called "absurd violations of right to free speech."

College Republicans is charged with violating fund-raising guidelines and providing false information to prospective contributors.

The multiculturalism proposal would require students to take six credit hours of courses focusing on U.S. and international cultures.

A letter sent to former students by College Republicans criticized the Faculty Senate, the

administration and the proposed multiculturalism requirement.

Stadelmann said the Faculty Senate is trying to make a more attractive package and offer more classes so no one will object. But things have not changed significantly, and students will have a narrow range of politically correct courses if the requirement is approved, he said.

David Brown, College Republicans president, said the group feels there is no way it can lose the hearing, and the members are

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