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SIMPSON

Continued from Page 1

The jurors who acquitted Simpson in less than four hours of deliberations refused to speak with attorneys or explain their verdicts to reporters. The usually dapper jury came to court in uncharacteristically casual clothes. One black man smiled at the defense team as he entered the courtroom.

"We won," whispered defense attorney Carl Douglas, almost in amazement.

The verdicts, returned Monday but held overnight by Judge Lance Ito to give lawyers and families time to assemble, caught everyone by surprise. There was immediate speculation that Simpson had been convicted because jurors had asked the court to read them a segment of testimony considered favorable to the prosecution.

Simpson's sister, Carmelita Durio, said the family spent the night on "an emotional roller coaster," praying together and steeling themselves for what lay ahead.

Her sister, Shirley Baker, who joined Durio in the courtroom almost every day at the trial, said she was elated.

"I just feel like standing on top of this table and doing a jig," Baker told reporters.

The verdict reverberated from Los Ange-

les to the White House, where President Clinton watched the verdicts on TV, then wrote a statement.

"The jury heard the evidence and rendered its verdict," Clinton said. "Our system of justice requires respect for their verdict. At this moment our thoughts and prayers should be with the families of the victims of this terrible crime."

Earlier, Clinton was briefed on federal government plans to assist California authorities if the Simpson verdict triggered civil unrest. But the streets remained calm.

Outside the courthouse, most of the crowd of more than 1,000 people pressing police barricades cheered wildly as the innocent verdicts were transmitted on portable radios.

Some chanted, "Justice means acquittal, acquittal means justice" followed by shouts of "Free O.J.!"

Across town in Brentwood, where Ms. Simpson and Goldman were slain, the mood was less jubilant.

"You make a lot of money and I guess you can commit murder," said Elizabeth Condelli, who said she knew Ms. Simpson through their children's school.

The verdict was reported in blazing headlines worldwide. Within hours, local newspapers had issued "Extra" editions featuring Simpson's smiling face and the words, "Not Guilty."



Defense attorney Johnnie Cochran Jr. tried on a pair of gloves during closing arguments of the trial to remind the jury that the gloves Simpson tried on did not fit him. "Remember these words," Cochran said. "If it doesn't fit, you must acquit."

REACTIONS

Continued from Page 1

whole thing is a fiasco. I don't think it's an example of how the justice system really works."

Conservative Coalition President Alan Watson said he thought the verdict was a joke at first, since he did not see any way Simpson "could get off."

Many student leaders felt the issue of race played a major role in the trial and acquittal of O.J. Simpson.

"It just shows the morals of our society ... they can forget that two people died here and change the trial around [to reflect other issues]," Watson said.

David Brown, president of College Republicans, said the question of racial discrimination probably played a large role in the jury's decision to acquit Simpson.

"I think the physical evidence was enough to convict, but I think they were under pressure after what happened with Rodney King," Brown said. "You have to consider those things when you're deciding a case in L.A. County."

The president of the A&M chapter of the NAACP, Shawn Williams, said he felt justice was served and that the system had not failed.

"I'm not saying that he isn't guilty, but the evidence presented didn't convict," Williams said.

Williams also said the alle-

gations of racism made against the Los Angeles Police Department during the trial were timely.

"It's good that Americans could see that that kind of thing goes on [in police departments]," he said.

Tina Harrison, Black Awareness Committee chairwoman, said that although racial questions did not alone acquit O.J. Simpson, the issue's presence in the trial was significant.

"The trial dealt with issues that a lot of us are hiding — the issue of race, the issue of understanding, and the issue of stereotypes," Harrison said. "I think the O.J. Simpson trial brought out that there is still a lot of racism left."

Don Tomlinson, an A&M media law professor, said the

acquittal had less to do with race and more to do with the sequestered jury going through months of testimony and arguments.

"I believe that Mr. Simpson was acquitted the day two things happened: first, the day Judge [Lance] Ito made his decision to sequester the jury, and second, the day he lost control of the length of the trial," Tomlinson said.

Tomlinson said he believes the jury made a quick decision because they had, in effect, been incarcerated for the length of the trial.

"They were 12 real tired, real mad people," he said. "They were finally in control [during deliberations]. And at the point they were in control, they acted very decisively."

SIMPSON TRIAL By the numbers

As of Tuesday, Oct. 3

Estimated cost of trial	\$9 million
Days Simpson spent in jail	470
Days jurors were sequestered	286
Days since jury selection began	371
Number of motions filed	433 total
Exhibits presented during testimony	D: 369 P: 488
Witnesses	D: 84 P: 72
Days of testimony	D: 34 P: 38
Number of attorneys who have presented evidence in court	D: 11 P: 9
Length of opening statements	4 days
Length of closing arguments	4 days
Length of official court transcript	Over 50,000 pages
Number of media credentials issued	Over 1,000
Number of telephone lines installed in press room	250
Seating capacity in courtroom	80
Average age of juror	43
Amount earned by each juror	\$1,325 (\$5 a day)
Fines imposed on defense	\$3,000
Fines imposed on prosecution	\$850
Fines imposed on others	\$1,800
Number of times judge pulled plug on television	2

Associated Press

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News: The Battalion news department is managed by students at Texas A&M University in the Division of Student Publications, a unit of the Department of Journalism.
News offices are in 013 Reed McDonald Building.
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THE BATTALION ONLINE: The Battalion offers photos, stories and the day's headlines on the worldwide web. Web Site: http://128.194.30.84

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The Battalion (LPS 045-360) is published daily, Monday through Friday during the fall and spring semesters and Monday through Thursday during the summer sessions (except on University holidays and exam periods), at Texas A&M University, Second class postage paid at College Station, TX 77840.

Postmaster: Send address changes to The Battalion, 230 Reed McDonald Building, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843.