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Shapiro: Verdict in O.J. case justified by reasonable doubt

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sponsored by Princeton Review and Network Event Theater Communications in New York. The first and second parts dealt with admissions to medical and business school, and the third focused on career development.

Shapiro said that Americans were entranced by what some call the "trial of the century" as Simpson, a former football hero, went on trial for the June 12, 1994, murder of his ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and her friend, Ronald Goldman.

As Shapiro answered questions from students, he addressed how racism affected the trial, what was like to have cameras in the courtroom, and discrepancies with the evidence.

"We saw the country divided by a verdict in a criminal case, and my question to students is what causes society to look at each other rather than the future of our justice system," Shapiro said. "Society became divided by a racial element."

As the verdict of not guilty was announced on October 3, 1995, Shapiro said students from predominately African-American colleges were cheering for Simpson's victory while students from predominately white colleges were in shock.

Shapiro said this difference in attitude points to a need for members of different races to communicate.

"We all want peace, safety, health, good public education and a good life, but we just have to find a way to understand each other's perspectives," he said.

Throughout the eight-month trial, Shapiro said, tones of racism surfaced that caused America to debate whether the jury's decision was influenced by the wrong things.

Latrice White, a junior business major, said racism should not have been an issue because it had nothing to do with the

point of the case.

"What color skin someone has should not matter in a murder trial," White said.

Shapiro said the verdict was justified because the jury clearly had reason to doubt Simpson's guilt.

Some of the examples that left room for reasonable doubt, he said, were crime scene evidence that was not logged in immediately with authorities, blood found on the back gate and socks that contained preservatives.

"This doesn't mean the evidence was tampered with," Shapiro said. "It just means we look at it differently because there's a lack of credibility."

Shapiro said he disagrees with the way the media editorialized the trial, though it is essential that the American public knows what takes place in the courtroom.

"I don't agree with cameras going from the witness then to the lawyer to get their reactions," Shapiro said. "A camera is necessary but should be placed in position similar to the jury where it is facing the witness or judge and stay there."

However, some do not agree with Shapiro and say cameras should stay out of the courtroom. Debra Ibarra, a senior psychology major, said cameras do not belong in the courtroom because they create a mockery of the system and a farce of the trial.

"Shapiro made a good point about the American public being able to see how the judicial system works, but with cameras it becomes too much like a play," Ibarra said.

Shapiro concluded by saying the Simpson case was both the highest mountain and the lowest valley in his career.

"The effect on my family was indescribable and excruciating, and I would never do it again," he said. "But for my career, it was a chance of a lifetime."

Tickets

Continued from Page 1

graduates. The center was originally scheduled to open by Spring 1997, but because of construction delays, the opening was pushed back.

Hodges said the facility will allow graduates to invite as many guests as they want.

But until December 1997, graduates will likely continue to cover campus with fliers and pay as much as \$50 to \$75 for extra tickets.

Matt McDonald, a senior management major, said he needs one more ticket but realizes the odds of getting even one are slim.

"I'm just asking people I know right now," McDonald said, "but I'll probably have to

resort to fliers because everyone needs tickets."

McDonald said \$50 is the most he or his friends have paid for tickets, but he has seen them advertised for as much as \$75.

Carter said students should be aware that selling graduation tickets violates University regulations, and those caught could face disciplinary action by Student Affairs.

Graduation ceremonies will begin 2 p.m. Friday, May 10, in G. Rollie White Coliseum with the Colleges of Agriculture, Business and Medicine. At 7 p.m., ceremonies will be held for the Colleges of Architecture, Engineering, Geosciences and Maritime Studies, and Veterinary Medicine.

Students from the Colleges of Education, Liberal Arts and Science will receive their diplomas beginning at 9 a.m. Saturday, May 11.

Humor

Continued from Page 1

in the workplace.

"She raises the awareness that there is still lots of ground to be broken by women in their fields," he said.

"I realize that I must be careful in how I treat my female colleagues and that I must support them so that they get the respect that men currently have."

Some things Geller cited as disrespectful to professional women were the use of condescending terms such as "young lady" and the refusal to address them with appropriate titles such as doctor and professor instead of "Miss."

Women faculty being ignored and not being seriously considered for graduate research positions or professorships are other issues that Geller highlighted.

"One of my male colleagues confessed," she said, "that he gets some of his ideas by simply listening to suggestions that I make in meetings that no one acknowledges and then repeating them."

Attacking such problems with humor has drawn criticism, Geller said, by women who feel the issues should not be made light of with skits and jokes.

But Geller said that because there is no one way to teach anything, she hopes some people enjoy the skits and comprehend the message. "Though humor doesn't always work," she said, "it's at least an attempt at de-escalation and cooperation. I think that's a better way for the world to operate."

Holly Bishop, a graduate student in zoology, said that because she has not been exposed to significant gender discrimination, learning ways to handle it will help her cope should the problem arise in the future.

"Learning to use humor instead of getting angry is an important lesson to be learned," she said. "Learning to laugh about a problem can help much more than getting mad."



Dr. Sue Geller, the first female professor in the math department, makes a presentation about using humor in teaching and survival.

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