

## Verdict

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"Oh my God!" shouted a factory worker in Toledo, Ohio. "Yes!" exclaimed an airport worker in Chicago. "I just can't believe this!" said a YMCA staffer in Concord, N.H.

At a pizza restaurant in Springfield, Mo., a hospital in Grants Pass, Ore., a state office building in Albany, N.Y., a high school in Albuquerque, N.M. — in short, almost everywhere — ordinary business stopped while people watched the verdict.

Even politics took a breather. Sen. Sam Nunn of Georgia had scheduled a news conference to announce whether he would seek re-election next year. He postponed it so as not to compete with Simpson.

Erily, 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.

*"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."*

Statement by O.J. Simpson read by his older son, Jason

"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.

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.

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.

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.

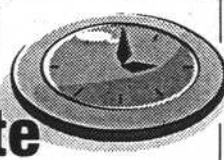
"I just feel like standing on top of this table and doing a jig," Baker told reporters.

The verdict reverberated from Los Angeles to the White House, where President Clinton watched the verdicts on television, 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.

## News in a Minute



### Mother found innocent of toddler's murder

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — A 20-year-old woman who left her toddlers in an overheated car while she partied with four men at a motel was acquitted of murder Tuesday but found guilty of lesser charges.

Jennie Bain Ducker, a manic depressive with a history of alcoholism, was convicted of two counts of aggravated child abuse in the deaths of Devin, 2, and Dustin, 1.

Ducker claimed the boys' June 6 deaths were an accident. The children died of hyperthermia when Ducker left them strapped in their car seats for at least eight hours as the temperature inside soared to an estimated 120 degrees.

Ducker, who had been free on bail, was taken into custody immediately after the verdict. Each abuse count carries a prison term of 15 to 25 years. Sentencing was set for Nov. 9.

Defense lawyer Mike Galligan said he would appeal, but that Ducker was prepared to go to jail. "I actually think she wants punishment. She feels very guilty," he said.

### Bangladesh death toll reaches 129

DHAKA, Bangladesh — At least 129 people have been reported killed by floods in northern Bangladesh, including 13 children who drowned after being swept from their homes.

In Dhaka, the Relief Ministry has recorded only 25 deaths since monsoon floods began devastating the region Sept. 27. Newspapers, which on Tuesday put the death toll at 129, often report fatalities from natural disasters ahead of the government.

The Bangladesh Observer said at least 13 children were washed away Monday from flooded homes in the hard-hit districts of Bogra, Gaibandha, Naogaon, Rangpur and Dinajpur. Ten other people drowned in flood waters in the northern region Monday, and poisonous snakes flushed out by the floods killed five people, the newspaper said.

### Macedonian leader injured

SKOPJE, Macedonia — The man who led Macedonia to independence was seriously wounded Tuesday in another act of violence in the Balkans — a car bomb ripped apart his armored Mercedes, killing his driver and shattering windows as high as the ninth floor.

President Kiro Gligorov lost his right eye in the blast, according to Saso Ordanoski, director of Macedonian TV. In hours of neurosurgery, doctors removed shrapnel from the 78-year-old president's head.

Two suspects in their mid-20s were arrested in the bombing, authorities said, but their identities were not released. No one immediately claimed responsibility for the blast, which also wounded Gligorov's security officer and five pedestrians, one critically.

## Clinton vetoes lawmakers' budget

WASHINGTON — President Clinton today vetoed a bill that pays the costs of running Congress, telling lawmakers he won't approve their budget until more work is done on federal spending bills.

Clinton's third veto as president came on a bill that allows for \$2.2 billion in congressional spending—a \$200 million reduction from fiscal year 1995.

Announcing the veto, White House press secretary Mike McCurry said only two of 13 appropriation bills have been sent to Clinton for his signature.

"If they send this bill ... after they completed the people's work, the president will be willing to take care of their business," he said.

The Republican majority in Congress sent the budget-cutting bill as a symbol of their eagerness to cut back government spending.

*"If they send this bill ... after they completed the people's work, the president will be willing to take care of their business."*

MIKE MCCURRY

White House press secretary

McCurry said Clinton used the veto to express his concern over what the spokesman said was sometimes "pretty pathetic" work on the budget by Republican lawmakers. The White House and Republicans are at odds over spending priorities, especially on Medicare, Medicaid, education and the environment.

"The president wants to say to them, 'Look, we've got to get down to business and get serious,'" McCurry said.

Acting on the only other spending bill sent to him, the president today approved the Military Construction Act, which allows for spending at military bases to house soldiers. The approval came despite Clinton's objections to \$70 million in spending that McCurry said was unnecessary.

"You might describe them as pork," McCurry said. "And they will oink appropriately."

He said the \$70 million was a small portion of the overall bill. If Clinton were given the line-item veto as he has requested "those certainly would have been provisions stricken from this bill," McCurry said.

Clinton's previous two vetoes came on a bill to lift the arms embargo in Bosnia and a measure reducing spending for the fiscal year that ended Oct. 1.

## Banished teenagers sent to prison

### Judge ends experiment in tribal rehabilitation

EVERETT, Wash. — Two Indians banished to remote islands for robbing a pizza deliveryman were ordered to prison Tuesday by a judge who cut short the experiment in tribal justice because of problems supervising the teens.

Superior Court Judge James Allendoerfer said he had seen some dramatic changes in the 18-year-olds since they were sent to islands in southeast Alaska a year ago to undergo traditional Tlingit rehabilitation.

But, he said, "I find that this experiment has some flaws which unfortunately threaten its credibility and integrity. I have determined, therefore, that it is time to end this experiment, while it can still be ended on a positive note."

Simon Roberts and Adrian Guthrie pleaded guilty last year to robbing pizza delivery driver Tim Whittlesey and beating him with a baseball bat.

The judge agreed to delay conventional sentencing to let the teens participate in what tribal judges said was traditional rehabilitation — banishment to uninhabited islands for 18 months.

Allendoerfer reminded the teens at the time that he reserved the right to sentence them to standard prison terms for their crime after the banishment ended. He also said he would take the

banishment into consideration in determining their sentences.

At a hearing Tuesday, Allendoerfer said it appeared the boys had matured, shown remorse and learned more in exile than they would in prison. "Inside the penitentiary, how often do you hear the word 'rehabilitation'?" he asked.

But he said a split among the tribal judges raised questions about whether the experiment could continue with proper supervision.

Prosecutors recommended prison terms at the top end of the state's standard sentencing range — about 3 1/2 years for Guthrie and about 5 1/2 years for Roberts.

Taking into consideration the improvement the boys showed, the judge imposed sentences at the low end of the range — two years and seven months for Guthrie and four years and seven months for Roberts. He also gave them credit for roughly a year that they spent in jail prior to being banished.

With time off for good behavior, Guthrie could be out in nine months and Roberts in about two years, prosecutors said. The judge also held the boys jointly liable for \$35,000 restitution to Whittlesey in the 1993 attack.

"This sentence should have been imposed a year ago," said Deputy Prosecutor Seth Fine. "Judge Allendoerfer thought this was a worthwhile experiment. I don't believe in experimenting with public safety."

*"This sentence should have been imposed a year ago."*

SETH FINE

Deputy Prosecutor

Public defender Al Kitching, who represented Guthrie, said he hopes other courts will consider such alternative programs.

Guthrie "has come light years in his sensitivity and understanding of who he is and what he's done," Kitching said.

"I think the judge made a good decision," Roberts said after the hearing.

Both teens told the court they believed they had benefited from their banishment.

In August, after months of infighting among tribal court members and reports of unauthorized travel by Roberts and Guthrie, Allendoerfer asked the tribal judges for an evaluation.

After receiving conflicting reports about the teens' progress from factions of the tribal court, Allendoerfer ordered them last month to appear Tuesday with their lawyers. Allendoerfer had said he was concerned about reports of inadequate supervision of the teens.

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