

# CAMPUS REACTION



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PHOTOS BY HYUN-HO HAN

*The Juice is loose...*

## UNLV responds to verdict of the century

BY ERIN NIEMEYER  
NEWS EDITOR

The O.J. Simpson verdict monopolized the news and triggered heated debates across the country Tuesday morning. UNLV students were seen walking across campus with headphones on, awaiting the verdict, while more than 100 students gathered around the sole television set on the second floor of the Moyer Student Union to learn of Simpson's fate.

The not guilty verdict was announced at 10:09 a.m. Tuesday, and was greeted with cheers of joy from a majority of the African-American students and disbelieving silence from most Caucasian students gathered around the MSU television.

The verdict has resulted in a division of opinion world wide. An ABC news poll Tuesday evening revealed that 25% of Caucasian respondents agreed with the verdict, while 87% of African-Americans agreed.

Similarly, Simpson's acquittal has left UNLV students and faculty divided along racial lines.

A poll conducted of 25 students, 15 African American and 10 Caucasian, on campus Tuesday morning revealed approximately 13 percent of Caucasian students surveyed agreed with the verdict. An overwhelming 92 percent of African-

### Goldman's friend reacts to verdict



Lisa Leonard

BY ERIN NIEMEYER  
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UNLV junior Lisa Leonard was solemn on Tuesday as she discussed her reaction to O.J. Simpson's acquittal of the murder of her friend, Ron Goldman, and Simpson's ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson.

"I'm not pleased with the verdict," Leonard said, "He (Simpson) was involved and should have been charged with his involvement."

Leonard wears the same guardian angel pin that friends and family of Goldman have worn since the week after his murder on June 14, 1994. She met Goldman, whom she characterized as

"very caring and popular," through a mutual friend six years ago, and worked with him in Thousand Oaks, Calif.

She showed concern for Goldman's father, Fred, and said she felt he was "obsessed" with the idea that Simpson murdered his son.

"I think he (Fred) jumped to conclusions," Leonard said.

"I partially think O.J. did it, but on the other hand, there was too much evidence saying he didn't do it."

"I think he knows about it, and was somehow involved in it, but I don't think he did the murder himself."

her disappointment with the verdict.

"I wasn't surprised," said Pickering. "My personal opinion is that the evidence was strong enough to convict him but his attorneys made a good case for the issue of racism."

"I definitely think race was a major factor. It overwhelmed the DNA evidence and the other circumstantial evidence."

"I hate to criticize the jury system, but I'm disappointed," Pickering said.

Simpson defense attorney Robert Shapiro told television journalist Barbara Walters in an exclusive interview Tuesday evening, "Regarding the race issue, there has been a difference of opinion with many of the (Simpson) lawyers." Shapiro added that he would never again work with defense attorney Johnnie Cochran.

"Not only did we play the race card," said Shapiro, "we dealt from the bottom of the deck."

President Bill Clinton urged the country Tuesday evening to shift their focus from the verdict to the Brown and Goldman families. "The jury heard the evidence and rendered it's verdict. At this time, our thoughts and prayers should be with the families of the victims," Clinton said.

American students felt justice was served.

"I'm glad it's over," said senior Ron Dixon, a hotel administration student employed by Metro. "The issue of race has certainly caused tension around the country."

"Furman did an injustice to the prosecution and to the family members. Without Furman, O.J. probably would have been found guilty because the defense had no one to rebut the evidence," Dixon added.

Robert Ackerman, Vice President for Student Services, was bothered by the jury's

two hour and fifty-eight minute deliberation. "I was incredibly surprised that a process that was so complicated was resolved so quickly," said Ackerman.

When asked his opinion on the verdict, Ackerman responded, "Opinions aren't worth much, are they?"

Said freshman Shawn Roof, "O.J.'s a smoth criminal."

"The prosecution just couldn't give enough evidence to convict him," Roof added.

"Race was an issue from the very beginning, even when they picked the jurors," said

Zenga Dunn, senior, communication major. "The trial reminded America that race is predominant in almost everything," Dunn said.

Student Sen. Carl Tolbert agreed with the verdict on the basis that reasonable doubt was created by Simpson's defense team. Tolbert felt the trial proved the existence of racism in the L.A.P.D. and hoped it educated America on that problem.

UNLV communication professor and director of the debate and forensics program, Barbara Pickering, expressed