UNB responds to the O.J. verdict

By Cynthia Kirkby
Brunswickan News

The verdict is in - O.J.'s not guilty and UNB is upset.

The blue room of the Student Union Building was crowded with spectators as O.J. was acquitted on Wednesday. The moment he was pronounced not guilty, a cheer rose from the more vocal segment of the crowd. Others remained silent.

"It seemed to me that there was quite a bit of disappointment among the females whereas the majority of the guys stood up and clapped," said Karen Scott. However, of the students interviewed, the percentage of females upset by the verdict was only slightly higher than the percentage of males.

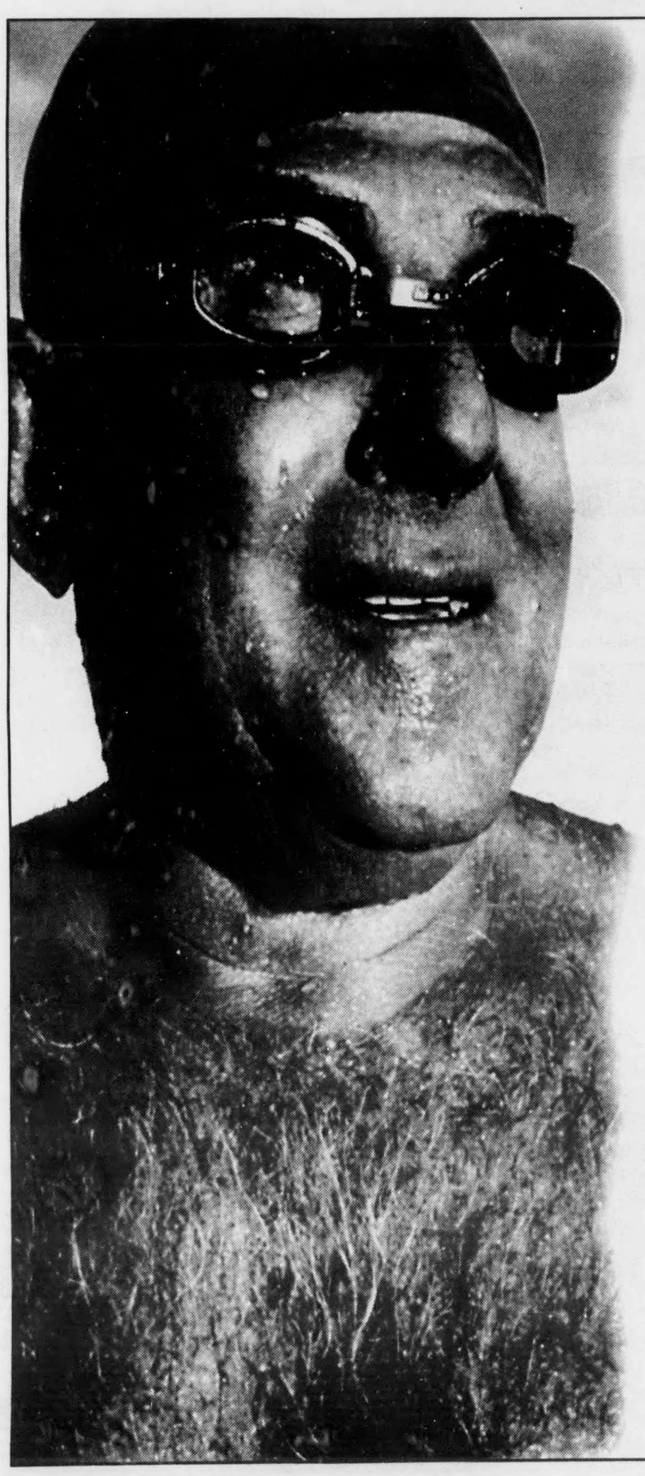
A popular comment made by students was that they expected some kind of backlash to the case based on race or sex. Marie-Eve Pilon found she was surprised by the verdict, and then surprised by her own surprise. "Why was I so sure he'd done it? I'm a woman and I'm white. Because of social conditioning, I believed he was guilty. Maybe I was too quick to judge."

Many students were not surprised by the outcome of the case. Marilyn Fraser "believed he would get an acquittal. The jury must have made up their minds months ago." She explained this by saying that "Johnnie Cochrane is intimidating. If O.J. hadn't had him as a lawyer, he might not have gotten off." She added that she didn't think his own laywers believed he was innocent.

Of the students interviewed, 52% expected the acquittal. However, only 23% were pleased by the verdict, while 46% were upset and 31% did not care about the result. Many students commented that they disagreed with the verdict, but were happy for O.J. anyway.

According to students, the morale of the story is primarily that the LAPD has to shape up, followed closely by the opinions that money can buy freedom and that the media has no place in the courtroom. One student each commented that money obscures justice (because of the length of the trial) and that justice prevailed.

Anxious students crowd the blue room to hear O.J.'s fate ***photo by Mike Dean***



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