

EXTRA EDITION



Did the jury do the right thing?

Call 424-1414, Ext. 1082 and tell us what you think about the verdict.



TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1995

MORE TRIAL COVERAGE INSIDE

- ▶ Local reaction to the verdict mixed. **4A**
- ▶ How the evidence stacked up. **5A**
- ▶ Key participants in the case. **5A**
- ▶ From tough kid to football hero. **5A**

▶ **Acquitted of all charges** ▶ **Sobs amid cheers** ▶ **Jury released**

O.J. FREE

Victims' families still live horror

LOS ANGELES (AP) — O.J. Simpson was acquitted today of murdering his ex-wife and her friend, a suspense-filled climax to the courtroom saga that obsessed the nation. With two words, "not guilty," the jury freed the fallen sports legend to try to rebuild a life thrown into disarray.



For more updates visit the ChatLine at 424-1414, Ext. 6782

Simpson looked toward the jury and mouthed, "Thank you," after the panel was dismissed. He turned to his family and punched a fist into the air. He then hugged his lead defense attorney, Johnnie Cochran Jr., and his friend and attorney Robert Kardashian.

"He's going to start his life all over again," Cochran told reporters later. "It's over from our viewpoint," District Attorney Gil Garcetti said.



O.J. Simpson, flanked by defense attorneys F. Lee Bailey and Johnnie Cochran Jr., exits this afternoon as he is found not guilty of murder.

After hearing nine months of testimony, the majority-black jury deliberated less than four hours yesterday before reaching the verdict.

As the verdicts were read, the sister of victim Ronald Goldman broke out in sobs. Her father sat back in his seat in disbelief, then embraced his daughter.

Simpson's relatives smiled and wiped away tears. His son Jason sat in his seat, his face in his hands, shaking and sobbing. Prosecutor Marcia Clark and Christopher Darden sat stone-faced.

Later, Simpson's lawyers and relatives addressed reporters in the courtroom.

"Me and my family want to thank God, without whom, I don't know where we'd be," Jason Simpson said. He then read a statement from his father.

"I'm relieved that this incredible part of this nightmare of June 12, 1994, is over. My first obligation is to my young son. See **SIMPSON**, Page 5A ▶

Man finds strong suit in TV trial

Like many couples enjoying a well-earned retirement, Clyde and Alice Nicholson have worn themselves a comfortable groove.

They like to eat lunch out, stroll through the mall, maybe visit their favorite orchard for some fresh cider and a pack of donations. They're home by 8 p.m., in time for Alice to watch "The Young and the Restless." And by then, a video-cassette recorder set up on the house's other television is grinding away on another channel, capturing Clyde's daily soap opera, which he'll watch later today.

Or rather, it was Clyde's serial ended today, when a not guilty verdict was announced in the dramatic last act of the People vs. O.J. Simpson. Clyde's been as loyal as any viewer. See **TV**, Page 4A ▶



Nancy Nall
Telling Tales

Fort Wayne's racially charged '89 DNA case ended in conviction

▶ **A juror recalls the Hopkins case.**

By **ANDREA MURRAGU DAVIS**

Paul Porter knows what it feels like to have a tremendous burden lifted from his shoulders.

And when the jury in O.J. Simpson's double murder trial walked into a Los Angeles courtroom this morning and announced its verdict, Porter felt the jury's relief.

"When we walked into that (Allen County) courtroom, we didn't feel we were doing it to go

home or doing it to get it over with. We were giving a verdict we felt very comfortable with," he said. "We felt we did the best job we possibly could."

Porter was foreman of the jury in Allen County's "Trial of the Century," the six-week trial of Frank Hopkins, convicted in 1989

of killing community activist Sharon Lapp.

Like the O.J. Simpson trial, which has brought forth allegations of racism and mishandling of evidence, the case of Hopkins, who is black, was wrought with

controversy. Lapp, 43, was found slain May 1, 1985, in her West Rudisill Boulevard home. She had been raped and sodomized, her throat slashed, and she had been stabbed several times in the back and side.

At the time of her death, Lapp, who was white, published a

newsletter critical of the police and city administration and kept files on alleged wrongdoings of then-Mayor Win Mesa, former Police Chief David Riemen, former Public Safety Director Larry Consalvo and others.

Police command officers seized See **HOPKINS**, Page 4A ▶

TODAY'S NEWS

SPORTS

41-year wait ends tonight

The Cleveland Indians — behind heavy hitters Albert Belle and Carlos Baerga — make their first postseason appearance since 1954. **5S**

▶ **PREP FOOTBALL:** Adams Central becomes AP's newest Class A No. 1. **6S**



Albert Belle, left, yawns as he and Cleveland Indians teammate Sandy Alomar sit in the dugout at yesterday's workout.

LOCAL

George Bush coming

Former President Bush is scheduled to come to Fort Wayne for a visit Thursday, sources said today.



MINI PAGE: Do you know who makes the clothes you wear, the toys you play with and the TV you watch? **Inside Features.**

SEX EDUCATION: Abstinence-only programs are too incomplete, an abortion rights group says. **1H**

WEATHER

TONIGHT: Decreasing clouds. Low: 52.

TOMORROW: Partly cloudy. High: 72.

THURSDAY: A chance of showers. Low: 53. High: 64.



▶ **DETAILS, 2A**

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Save your buffalo nickels for the Buffalo Tro.

It was the most sought-after invitation of 1827.

Fort Wayne's most prominent citizens vied to attend dinner parties at Chief Richardville's gracious estate. Once again, his house will be filled with laughter and music—and this time you're invited!

The 3rd Annual Buffalo Tro • Friday, September 26, 6 pm–9 pm

At the historic Chief Richardville House, 5705 Bluffton Road, Fort Wayne, Indiana. Cost is \$50 per person. All proceeds benefit the Heritage Education Fund, bringing area schoolchildren through the History Center free of charge. RSVP by September 19 to Kelly Coffee at 260.426.2882, ext 308.

HISTORY CENTER

ALLEN COUNTY — FORT WAYNE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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