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SPECIAL REPORT: THE NIGHTMARISH SMUGGLING SCHEMES OF RUSSIAN GANGSTERS



LETTERS

The Simpson verdict: No one knows how many innocent people are found guilty and how many guilty people are found innocent in American courts every week ["And Justice for All?" October 9]. Why then should one man's case upset us so much? Could it be that this case has shown the cultural gap between blacks and whites more graphically than anything else in the past 50 or more years? Watching so many black people cheering wildly at the announcement of Simpson's "innocence" had to make many nonblacks sit back and wonder. What was the reason behind the unmitigated euphoria of so many blacks? What was the reason for the undisguised shock, disbelief and anger of so many whites? Our race gap is huge. Will it get even wider now?

David Jankowski Mahomet, Ill.

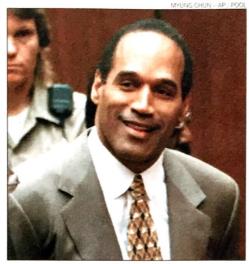
■ I respect the sacrifice made by the jurors in the O. J. Simpson case, and as a conscientious citizen I have no choice but to accept their verdict. But I do not agree with it. This was a murder trial. I was naive enough to believe that it was about truth and justice, not politics, history, social causes or race. In the dark days of yore, white juries sometimes let the killers of black men walk free. The evidence against Simpson was overwhelming. Letting him go free does nothing to redress past injustices; it simply adds a new one to the shameful list. The reaction to the Simpson verdict has exposed the depth of ignorance, fear, suspicion and prejudice in this country. Both blacks and whites are guilty, and until people of all colors acknowledge this fact-and accept responsibility for it—the wound of racism can never be healed.

> Nancy Butts Barnesville, Ga.

■ I am embarrassed for the jury, I am embarrassed for our judicial system, and for the first time in my life I am embarrassed to be an American.

George D. Mullen San Diego

In explaining the verdict, one of the jurors observed that in the end, "the glove didn't fit." Now, anyone who has ever put any sopping-wet leather item aside for a few days to dry will find that the item no longer "fits." Many was the time as a kid after spending an afternoon sledding or mucking around out in the wetter elements that I had to



Simpson. Race and the jury's verdict

stuff my shoes with newspaper so that I could wear them after they dried out.

Shan J. Gill Polson, Mont.

I thought the Simpson jury had a golden opportunity to demonstrate that common decency, mature and responsible conduct and a sense of justice could prevail against the demons of race, hate and bigotry. My presumption was wrong. The American melting pot is now the American boiling pot. The nation is further torn than ever before. When will it all end?

> Victor A. Vella Camarillo, Calif.

Promise Keepers: Your look at the Promise Keepers movement focused on an aspect that many in our nation's press have left out: the truth ["Heavenly Promises," October 2]. It was refreshing to read an article that wasn't full of antimale, anti-Christian, anticonservative agenda setting. NOW and others take note: Promise Keepers is a positive movement for females as well as males. I don't understand why so many want to bash a movement that encourages men to build stronger marriages and families and to be true to their word. Thanks for giving us a clearer picture of a movement that is rebuilding the American family.

Richard Carwile Wilmington, N.C.

■ Finally, somebody got it right. For the more than 60 men from our church who have attended in the past two years, Promise Keepers has been the catalyst for miraculous change. One wife summed it up for all of us when



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