The Politics of O.J.

by Jody Starr

With the acquittal of O.J. Simpson, America is once again forced to confront the reality of racism. With the majority of whites believing he's guilty, and most blacks thinking he's innocent, the situation sheds a glaring light on how divergent the two races perceive themselves in American society. What will the political or social fallout be, if any, from the outcome of this case?

Will conservatives who have traditionally benefited from racism play the acquittal of O.J. as a failure of the system in coded racist terms? Will liberals who have benefited from a race conscious society exploit the outcome of the case so they can continue to get support for social programs which have either failed or not lived up to expectations?

I believe that with the upcoming presidential election it will be too tempting to not use the Simpson case for political gain. For example, when the verdict was read, the nation saw the joyous celebration of black students at Howard University. Millions of whites who saw this reaction will undoubtedly go to their grave with this image etched forever upon their collective consciousness. Many whites who already fear blacks will probably move further right in the political spectrum. Maybe I'm sounding too cynical about the so-called "trial of the century", because there are some positive aspects of this case. It did heighten the nation's awareness of the sorrow of spousal abuse. The reality of rogue cops who lie and plant evidence is now well established, and the justice system may do an overhaul of how the jury system works. But, I believe that these effects, which are abstract in nature, will eventually be drowned out by the us versus them rhetoric. Historically, America is a country with a short memory. Sadly, my own generation has taken this historical amnesia a step further, which, according to historians, is suffering from a strange malady called "permanent permanence", where people are only living in the present, without a connection to the past, as well as the future. But, we will have to wait for what the future has in store for us. We will see if the Simpson trial was nothing more than a media circus or a turning point in American race relations.
Few like to remember
Of those that can
The pain and torture
Of the war called Vietnam
Many blamed President Johnson
For killing women and children
What if they had seen the gun
In a child's hand killing our men
To say we did not care
While across the seas of bloody foam
The men over there
Were thinking of home
Soldiers brave and strong
Losing their lives
A whole country was wrong
Just ask their wives
Thousands of men
Across those waters
Coming home never again
Leaving behind sons and daughters
No one cares anymore
It's in our past
About prisoners of war
Fighting to the last
Well I care
For them I pray
About the men over there
That they'll come home someday
I think it's time
Someone said it
It wasn't a crime
They deserve some credit
No one knows
What we were fighting for
I guess no one chose
To tell the Prisoners of War
by Ann Peck

The 1995-96 Lady Warriors have high expectations as they return 10 players from last year's squad which set a team record with 14 wins. The 1994-95 team took first place in tournaments at Mansfield University and Seneca College as well as setting another team record with 10 consecutive wins.

Leading the long list of returning players are junior guards Dana Forti and Larissa Smith. Forti, from Fairport High School, was a second team all-conference pick last season and should be a candidate for player of the year in the KECC this year. Smith, from Orchard Park High School, was honorable mention all-conference last season and already holds seven school records. Also back are senior defensive specialists Claire McDonnell and Lori Hoffman. They have been a primary reason why the Lady Warriors have had a nationally ranked team defense the past two seasons. Front line players Rebecca McKerchie, Sabrina Andrysiak, and Deanna Celjej have all improved tremendously and are expected to be big contributors to the team's success this year. Heather Cuyia, Victoria Miller, and Melissa Mato will give the team plenty of depth at the guard spot. Daemen also has a pair of highly touted freshman guards in Jennifer Miles and Amy King. Both are expected to have a strong impact right from the start.

The Lady Warrior's goals this season are a conference championship and a 20-or-more win season. With continued hard work, both of these goals appear to be attainable.

Good Luck
Lady Warriors!
National Physician Assistant Day Celebrated at Daemen
by Diane L. Stadtmiller, RPA-C
Assistant Professor/Physician Assistant Program

National Physician Assistant Day was celebrated at Daemen on Friday, October 6. Nearly a dozen community service organizations, including the American Lung Association, the Muscular Dystrophy Association, Upstate New York Transplant Services, Deaf Adults Services, the Epilepsy Foundation, and the Multiple Sclerosis Society were on hand to speak with students, faculty, and community members about the services they provide. Representatives from the Visiting Nurse Association were present to administer influenza inoculations to campus and community participants. Also joining in the preventative medicine services forum provided at PA Day were the American Cancer Society, who distributed information on cancer prevention, and the American Red Cross, who provided first aid, CPR, and blood donation services that organization provides.

The campus community was joined by over two dozen high school students who traveled to the PA Day celebration to learn more about the PA profession and Daemen's PA Program. Mr. Brian Simando, RPA-C and Mr. Greg Czajka, RPA-C, two practicing Physician Assistants from the local community, were available along with the currently enrolled PA Program students to answer questions that the high school students posed. Daemen PA Program students also sold buttons for the occasion that read "Providing America - Patient Access." Profits from the button sales will go to the Daemen PA Student Society.

The highlight of the event was the appearance of Mr. Dennis Gorski, Erie County Executive, who presented Mr. Paul Jacques, PA Program Director with official Erie County documents proclaiming October 6th Physician Assistant Day throughout Erie County. Mr. Gorski spoke about the many health care services and contributions Physician Assistants make to the people of Erie County. The County Executive's proclamation was displayed along with National Physician Assistant Day proclamations from Mayor Massiello's office and from Mr. Thomas Ahern, Amherst Township supervisor.

Our thanks to all staff, students, faculty, and community members for helping to make this year's event a success!

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Communication Tips for School and Work

The Department of Cooperative Education and Career Development receives information every day on what employers are looking for in prospective employees. One of the most common and most important skills mentioned is always "the ability to communicate effectively".

Regardless of your major and future career plans, you are going to be expected to express yourself clearly and concisely, both verbally and in written form. You are probably already realizing the importance of communication skills every time you write a paper or prepare for a presentation. You are not going to escape it, so remember that practice makes perfect and consider the following:

**Grammar Lesson for Today:**

1. Don't use no double negatives.
2. Make each pronoun agree with their antecedent.
3. About those sentence fragments.
4. Verbs has to agree with their subjects.
5. Just between you and I, pronoun form is important, too.
6. When dangling, watch your participles.
7. Don't write run-on sentences they are too hard to read.
8. Don't use commas, that aren't necessary.
9. Try not to ever split infinitives.
10. Its important to use your apostrophe's correctly.
11. Proofread your writing to see if you any words out.
12. Correct spelling is essential.

**Forbidden Phrases:**

Instead of: "Hang on a second. I'll be right back."

Try: "It might take me a few moments; can you hold while I check?"

Instead of: "I don't know."

Try: "That's a good question. Let me find out and get back to you."

Instead of: "We can't do that."

Try: "I'll sure try, but it looks like we might have a problem."

Instead of: "You'll have to..."

Try: "Here's what you can do." or, "Here's how we can help you with that."

Instead of: "No" at the beginning of a sentence...

Try: "Giving the person hope: "We can't, but we can_____

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**Look Who's Here!**

Shawn Kelley, Assistant Professor of Philosophy & Religious Studies at Daemen College.

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**Daemen College's Film Series**

**SHADOW OF A DOUBT**

Starring: Joseph Cotten Director: Alfred Hitchcock (1943)

Tuesday, November 28, 1995
7:30 pm, Alumni Lounge in Wick Center

All is not what it first seems when Uncle Charlie comes to visit a typical family in a typical small town. A subtle Hitchcock jewel with screenplay by Thornton Wilder. **Commentator:** Shawn Kelley, Assistant Professor of Philosophy & Religious Studies at Daemen College.

(no admission charge - the public is welcome)
Nature's Way
by David P. Campbell

*Death is nature's way of telling you to slow down. * Chocolate is nature's way of simulating the momentary impact of being slightly in love. * Time is nature's way of keeping everything from happening at once. * Poverty is nature's way of telling you you're in the wrong line of work (Craig Venter). * Computers is nature's way of moving enormous amounts of erroneous information around quickly and efficiently. * Love is nature's way of tricking you into believing that people are different (George Bernard Shaw). * A baby is nature's way of reassuring us that the future is going to be okay. * Murphy's Law is nature's way of reassuring us that there are ultimate truths. * Marriage is nature's way of creating delicious torment (William Shakespeare). * Nostalgia is nature's way of demonstrating that you can never completely escape the place where your umbilical cord is buried (American Indian proverb). * Smoking is nature's way of solving the Social Security funding crisis. * Religion is nature's way of comforting the afflicted. * Religious Guilt is nature's way of afflicting the comfortable. * Political Polls are nature's way of demonstrating that while figures don't lie, liars figure.

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Who's Who At Daemen College

The 1996 edition of Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges will include the names of 18 students from Daemen College who have been selected as national outstanding campus leaders.

Campus nominating committees and editors of the annual directory have included the names of these students based on their academic achievement, service to the community, leadership in extracurricular activities, and potential for continued success.

They join an elite group of students from more than 1,800 institutions of higher learning in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and several foreign nations.

Outstanding students have been honored in the annual directory since it was first published in 1934. Students named this year from Daemen College are:

Ms. Suzanne Olkowski
Mr. Brett Long
Ms. Denise LaCombe
Ms. Karen Felt
Ms. Kristen Burgess
Ms. Kerri Richardson
Ms. Edward Wasner
Ms. Alexander Pleshkewych
Mr. Craig Ryan
Ms. Michelle Schmalheiser
Ms. Tracy Schilling
Ms. Michelle Schunk
Ms. Christina Squeri
Ms. Tanya Thomas
Mr. Edward Wasner

(Casey at the bat is nature's way of warning us that we are all only one strike away from being a loser (Ernest Thayer). * March in Minnesota is nature's way of showing Lutharians what hangovers feel like (Garrison Keillor). * Suicide is nature's way of allowing us to escape the ills we have and fly to others we know not of (William Shakespeare). * Cynicism is nature's way of allocating academicisms to appear brilliant even when nonproductive (Tierra Amabile). * The Russian economy is nature's way of reminding us that Karl Marx never had to meet a payroll. * The difference between lightning and a lightning bug is nature's way of demonstrating precisely the right word (Mark Twain).

* Dieting is nature's way of demonstrating that while figures don't lie, liars figure.

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Summerfare Theatre is offering FREE admission to its preview performances at Daemen Theatre this year. Just come to the theatre with your Daemen College ID and you'll have the opportunity to see the finest in Buffalo professional musical theatre.

The next FREE preview will be on Wednesday, November 15, at 8 pm, to see "If 'Twonderful!!!". All performances are on campus in the Daemen Theatre.

For additional information, call the Summerfare Theatre box office at 839-8540.

ATTENTION DAEMEN STUDENTS!!!

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Mark your calendars!

T.G.I.F. Parties!

November 3 with the sisters of Psi Xi Omicron and the band LADYFIRE

November 10 with the sisters of Sigma Omega Chi

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The ASCENT Needs You!

Do you have a knack for writing?

Do you want to get involved in what's happening on campus?

Are you interested in reporting, graphics and design, journalism, or even poetry?

Why not share your talents with our campus newspaper, ASCENT?

If you're interested in finding out more, stop by Wick Center and talk to the Director of Student Activities, Chris Malik.

Submissions to the ASCENT are due by the 15th day of the month preceding the issue. Send all submissions to the Student Activities Office.

Opinions expressed by writers in the ASCENT are not necessarily those of the ASCENT or of Daemen College.

ASCENT policy is to only print articles which include a byline.

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With the sisters of Psi Xi Omicron and the band LADYFIRE

Admission: $1

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Don't miss the November issues of the ASCENT!