

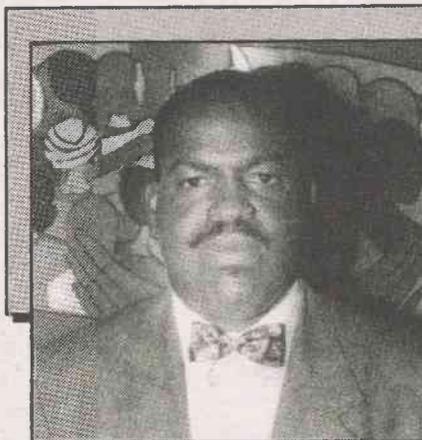
## Talk of ECSU: by Jamie Jordon

### Do you feel the "Million Man March" served its purpose?



**LaTonya Lee, freshman,  
Wilmington, NC**

"Yes. The march showed black men unified in brotherly love, and instilled in them a sense of positiveness.



**Shakei Albritton, senior,  
Robertson, NC**

"Yes. The march was a successful call for unity as a day the black man collectively pledged to atone to God and take a stand as head of his community."

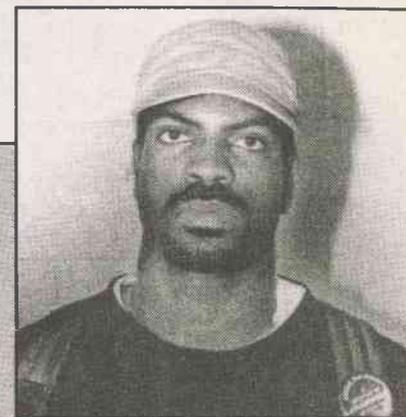
**Regina Reddick, senior,  
Greenville, NC**

"Yes, because, unlike ever before, men from all walks of life gathered toward a positive cause. Out of all the things they could stand up for, they stood up for themselves."



**James Perry, junior,  
Elizabeth City, NC**

"Yes, most definitely. Usually the media talks about the negativity of the black man, but the march reminded us of our primary focus: first, God; then self; and, ultimately others."



## GUEST COLUMN

# Media exploited race issue in O.J. trial... What's the point?? *Controversy Sells!*

by Scott Lawrence

While the media have an obligation to bring injustice to light, the Heisenberg Uncertainty Principle dictates that behavior changes once observers are noticed. In the Simpson case, cameras did affect behavior. Reporting is one thing, but a nation living vicariously through defense and prosecuting attorneys involved in a murder case cannot be a good thing.

What negative effects has this deluge of media coverage caused? One obvious effect is the amplification of an already tense issue: race.

Let's get one thing straight: the "Juice" is not a notorious figure due to his ethnicity; his fame arises from his place in history as one of the greatest running-backs of all time. Had the cameras not been in the courtroom, aristocratic middle and upper-class Americans (a group consisting mostly of white Americans) would not have seen the DNA evidence, the Goldmans bursting into tears as the verdict was announced, or Denise Brown's stern visage as she heard it.

The media stoked the racial fires by showing split screens of whites and blacks reacting. I know whites who

*"The media stoked the racial fires by showing split screens of whites and blacks reacting."*

thought Simpson was innocent and blacks who thought he was guilty. The point being this: controversy sells. Perhaps these people had made up their minds a long time before a jury was chosen — like talk show host Dennis Preager.

That seems to be the case. I don't think most white Americans are decrying this verdict because they believe in O.J.'s guilt as much as they want to disbelieve the obvious bigotry in one of their holy institutions. These are the people who defend the system with all the tenacity of salmon swimming upstream to spawn; faced with the dilemma of acknowledging the inequity of the system or blaming the jury for having ulterior motives, they would rather choose the latter.

"What—a flaw in our judicial system? The hell you say." Mark Fuhrman and I are here to tell you folks, it's there.

One other obvious negative effect of

the trial coverage was the overshadowing of other noteworthy events. Many things were merely glanced at while day in and day out we got more "Juice."

Susan Smith, who put her kids into her car and drowned them, got shuffled to the back page. Isn't killing your own, defenseless, children much worse than killing your ex-wife and her friend?

The media served in its capacity as fourth estate quite well if we forget the Heisenberg Principle. This trial showcased the bigotry in the system, the miracles of financial solvency, and what happens when the media overstep the bounds of ethics.

It is time to admit that justice, bought and sold, is not just, nor is justice which is not blind to religion, race, or creed, true justice. It is time to admit there is very little justice in our judicial system.

What about the prosecution? Why isn't anyone blaming them? The state of California spent a bundle to put O.J.

away, then they bring in the most incredible witness possible.

Hey, Marsha... news flash: Mark Fuhrman + witness stand = reasonable doubt. How could they not know what the defense knew?

Someone didn't do his homework.

The Fuhrman tapes demonstrate that prejudice is not only present on our police forces, but it is also accepted as something commonplace. The fiasco in Waco and the debacle at Ruby Ridge show our law enforcement agencies' lack of communication skills, their predisposition for lethal force and their disregard for the Constitution.

These aren't TV shows with scripts contrived in Hollywood; these are abhorrent tragedies which defile any idea of lawfulness. The question is will we learn from this and change?

Only time will tell. The verdict is in on O.J. and the system has performed; if it teaches us nothing, Ron and Nicole died in vain.

The system failed in the O.J. case. Either the man got away with murder or the LAPD framed him; but somewhere the system failed. If we acknowledge that failure we're half way home.