

## RIOTS ENSUE FOLLOWING KING TRIAL

Throughout the U.S., ugly demonstrations are held to protest the Rodney King verdict

In what was the worst rioting since the 1960s, several U.S. cities took it upon themselves to protest the so-called racist verdict from the Rodney King trial. National Guard troops had to be called into Los Angeles to stop the spread of looting and destruction. Demonstrations were held peacefully throughout the country, but turned violent in Atlanta, San Francisco, New York, and Las Vegas.

Police were called to the area after the acquittal of four white police officers sparked much racial tension. The officers were on trial for the beating of Rodney King, which most of the nation saw since the incident was captured on videotape.

When the verdict was pronounced, many black leaders attempted to keep their community

calm. King himself pleaded for all to remain nonviolent. But in the Los Angeles community's eyes, justice

was not served, and they demanded that something be done. On the night of April 30, 1992, crowds of people

took to the streets with revenge on their minds.

While the city was ravaged with thousands of fires and lootings, the public witnessed it all, thanks to live television. With fifty-six dead and over one thousand arrested in L.A. alone, the city was declared a state of emergency.

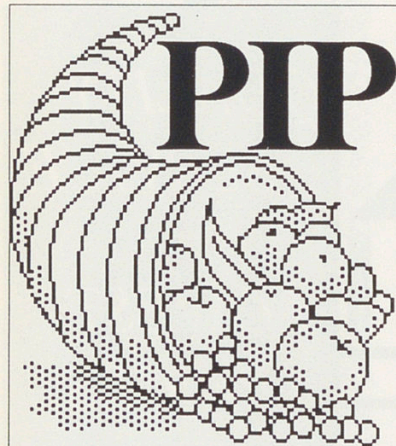
Sporting events, including a Clippers basketball game, a Dodgers baseball game, and horse racing were either cancelled or rescheduled. Also, a dusk to dawn curfew was placed on the city in order to keep people off the streets.

Both President Bush and black leader Jesse Jackson visited Los Angeles in hopes of easing the racial tension and restoring law and order.

by Benjamin Tolchinsky



A fire rages in Los Angeles as protest to the so-called racist verdict in the Rodney King trial. As one of the many, it stands here untouched.



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