

# NATIONAL

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## flash

The U.S. Army issues strict new policies for drill instructors and female trainees, as hundreds of complaints of sexual harassment are revealed in November. Drill instructors are now required to leave their doors open if a female is inside, and women must travel in pairs.

After thousands of veterans complain of illnesses since the 1991 Persian Gulf War, the Pentagon warns they may have been exposed to chemical weapons. The Pentagon reveals that up to two tons of sarin nerve gas may have been released.

Six-year-old beauty pageant queen JonBenet Ramsey is found murdered in the basement of her parents' Colorado home the day after Christmas. Her death raises a nationwide awareness of controversial youth beauty pageants.

Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich (R-Georgia) is fined \$300,000 in a bi-partisan vote after the House Ethics Committee's year-long investigation into alleged financial improprieties.



Reuters/Archive Photos

Former U.N. ambassador Madeleine Albright is nominated for Secretary of State by President Clinton on December 5. Confirmed in office in January 1997, Albright is the first woman to head the State Department.



AP/Wide World

Seven-year-old pilot Jessica Dubroff is killed when her Cessna airplane crashes shortly after take-off in bad weather from the Cheyenne, Wyoming airport. Her flying instructor and her father, the plane's two passengers, are also killed in the April 1996 crash.



Derek Pruitt, Gamma Liaison

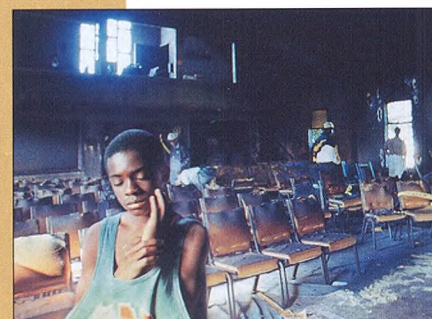
Theodore Kaczynski, alleged to be the "Unabomber," who killed 3 people and wounded more than 20 others with mail bombs since 1978, is arrested in Montana in April 1996. Information provided by Kaczynski's brother leads to the arrest.



Robert Allison, Contact Press Images

Binti Jua, a gorilla at Chicago's Brookfield Zoo, becomes a hero when she rescues a 3-year-old boy knocked unconscious after falling 18 feet into the ape enclosure. The boy suffers brain contusions but soon recovers.

Arson against African-American churches, mostly in the South, is a serious problem in 1996, as hundreds of churches are burned down. Residents of Portland, Oregon survey the damage inside a church after a June fire.



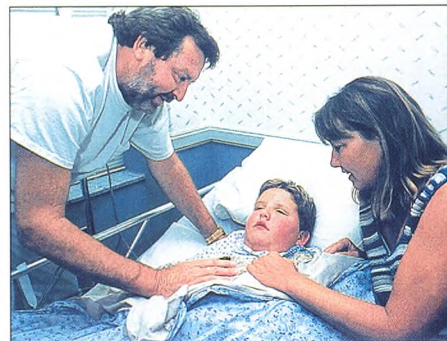
AP/Wide World



AP/Wide World

One of the longest armed stand-offs in U.S. history occurs outside Jordan, Montana between the FBI and members of an anti-government group calling itself the Freemen. The 81-day siege ends peacefully in June.

On August 11, a boater rescues 10-year-old Taylor Touchstone from the snake- and alligator-infested waters of a Florida swamp 14 miles away from where he disappeared August 7. Although exhausted and badly scratched, the autistic boy recovers fully.




AP/Wide World






Reuters/Archive Photos


 William Jefferson Clinton defeats Republican Bob Dole and Independent H. Ross Perot to become the 42nd president of the U.S. and the last president of the 20th century. Clinton is the first Democrat since Franklin Roosevelt to be reelected to a second term.




Jonathan Klein, Zuma

 A civil jury finds former football star O.J. Simpson liable for the June 12, 1994 wrongful deaths of his ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and her friend, Ronald Goldman. In a unanimous verdict, the jury awards \$8.5 million in compensatory damages to Goldman's parents. The Brown and Goldman families are each awarded \$12.5 million in punitive damages.




 Days of abnormally heavy rains in November undermine the roadbed of Oregon's Interstate 5, creating a 40-foot-deep sinkhole, into which two semitrailer trucks tumble.

AP/Wide World

 The Citadel, South Carolina's traditionally all-male military academy, admits four women, including Petra Loventinska (left) and Jeanie Montavlos. Montavlos and another female cadet later drop out, citing harassment and "sadistic" hazing.




AP/Wide World

 Topsail Beach, a town on an island off the coast of North Carolina, is one of many Eastern locations hit hard by Hurricane Bertha in July. Six powerful hurricanes, all with winds over 110 miles per hour, made 1996 a near-record year doing \$3.5 billion in damage in the U.S.




AP/Wide World

 Nationwide, forest fires blacken more than twice the acreage lost to fires in an average year. California, Montana and Oregon are particularly hard hit.



Kurt Miller, The Press-Enterprise


 All 110 people aboard a ValuJet DC-9 are killed in May 1996 when a fire breaks out in the cargo hold. The plane, en route from Miami to Atlanta, crashes and disappears almost completely into the Florida Everglades, making it difficult for workers to retrieve wreckage.




AP/Wide World



Schwarz, Gamma/Liaison

 Security guard Richard Jewell is investigated as a suspect in the July Olympic Park bombing. After three months of media frenzy, during which Jewell is a virtual prisoner in his home, the U.S. Justice Department admits there is no evidence against him.

 Six-year-old first-grader Johnathan Prevette is suspended from his Lexington, North Carolina elementary school for violating the city schools' sexual conduct guidelines—he kissed a female classmate. Prevette is quickly reinstated after a nationwide controversy over the suspension.



AP/Wide World

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