

national news

A San Francisco sewer line bursts under pressure from battering rainstorms, creating a monster sinkhole that swallows a \$2-million house in the Sea Cliff district. One-hundred-mile-per-hour winds knock out power to tens of thousands of homes and nearly blow a truck off the Bay Bridge.



Brant Ward, San Francisco Chronicle/Gamma/Liaison

Three days of drenching rains in the Pacific Northwest swell rivers to overflowing, causing severe flooding in Washington in December. In the town of Carnation, a pastor conveys a woman to dry land with a wheelbarrow.



AP/Wide World



The federal government repeals the national 55-mile-per-hour highway speed limit, enacted in 1974 during the oil embargo. The legislation allows states to set their own limits. On Montana highways, speed limits are eliminated completely.



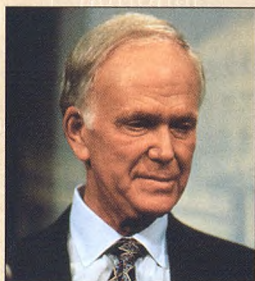
Larry Downing, Sygma

African-American men from across the country converge on Washington, D.C., for the Million Man March on October 16. The march, led by Nation-of-Islam minister Louis Farrakhan, promotes African-American unity, dignity, and family values.



AFP/Bettmann

Air Force Captain Scott O'Grady (right) is rescued from pursuing Bosnian Serb forces by U.S. Marines on June 8, six days after his plane is shot down over Bosnia. O'Grady survived on insects, plants, and rainwater.



Markel, Gamma/Liaison

U.S. Senator Bob Packwood of Oregon resigns on September 7, the day after the Senate Ethics Committee voted unanimously to expel him for sexual misconduct, embarrassingly detailed in his diaries, which were made public.



AP/Wide World

The nation comes to a standstill on October 3 as more than 150 million people watch live TV coverage of the outcome of the nine-month-long trial of the century. After less than four hours of deliberation, the jury finds former football star O.J. Simpson not guilty of the murders of his ex-wife Nicole and her friend Ronald Goldman.



Scott Olson, Sipa Press

Illinois suffers a record heat wave in July, with temperatures as high as 104°. The heat takes the lives of 457 people statewide. At Wrigley Stadium, Jaime Navarro helps faithful Chicago Cubs fans stay cool.



Gifford, Gamma/Liaison

After a year of fame as a conservative revolutionary, Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich slumps in popularity, tainted by the government shutdown, his stalled Contract With America, and investigations into his political action committee and his financial affairs.



Les Stone, Sygma

Two-thousand volunteer firefighters battle a raging wildfire in eastern Long Island, New York, for three days in August. The fire, following a 21-day drought, consumes 5,500 acres of pine barrens and damages a dozen homes. There are no injuries or fatalities.

The image of firefighter Chris Fields holding one-year-old Baylee Almon, who later dies, comes to symbolize the horror of the April 19 bombing of the Oklahoma City Federal Building that killed 150 adults and 19 children.

As more Americans invest, Wall Street enjoys a bull market. In November, the Dow-Jones Industrial Average hits 5000, a milestone indicating healthy corporate profits and low interest rates.



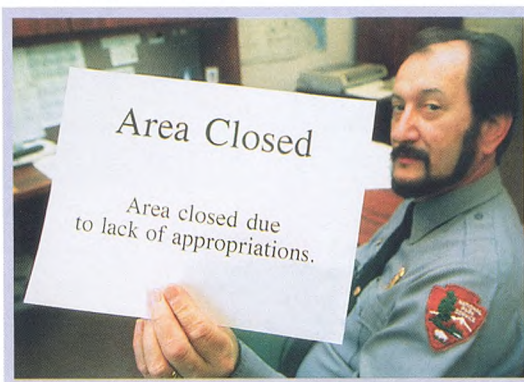
On April 30, the adoptive parents of four-year-old "Baby Richard" comply with an Illinois court order to turn the child over to his biological parents.



Zielenbach, Chicago Tribune from Gamma/Liaison



Charles H. Porter, IV, Sygma



AP/Wide World

The government shuts down for six days in November after the President and Congress fail to agree on how to balance the federal budget. The shutdown affects non-essential federal services, including the National Park Service. A longer shutdown follows in December.

flash

Despite Americans' doubts and fears, U.S. troops head for Bosnia in December. The 20,000 U.S. forces, serving under NATO command beside 40,000 European allies, face the task of keeping peace among the country's warring Serbs, Croats and Muslims.

The State of South Carolina sentences Susan Smith to life in prison for the drowning murder of her two young sons in 1994.

An anonymous donor sends St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital in Memphis \$1 million in the form of a winning ticket from McDonald's November "Monopoly" sweepstakes game.

In the wake of a growing number of random attacks from assailants with knives and guns, White House security is forced to close Pennsylvania Avenue to traffic.

After allegedly ignoring federal pollution regulations for years, General Motors agrees under threat of an \$11-million fine to recall 500,000 Cadillacs at a cost of \$45 million.



AP/Wide World

A record snowfall paralyzes the East Coast in January 1996, stranding travelers and killing 100 people. Seven states, from Virginia to Massachusetts, declare emergencies. Philadelphia gets 30.7 inches of snow.



AP/Wide World

Warren E. Burger, Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court from 1969 to 1986, dies in June at age 87. Though appointed by President Richard Nixon, he ordered Nixon to turn over tapes in the Watergate hearings that effectively ended the president's career.



AP/Wide World

The Washington Post publishes a manifesto written by the unidentified killer known as "The Unabomber," at large since 1978 and wanted for 16 mail bombs that have killed 3 and injured 23. FBI agents scrutinize the article for clues to the bomber's identity.



AP/Wide World

A Chicago commuter train slams into the back end of a loaded school bus. The accident, allegedly caused by a poorly timed stoplight placed too near the tracks, kills 7 students and injures 28 on October 25.



Bettmann Archive

American women celebrate the 75th anniversary of the 19th amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which granted women the right to vote. Women's suffrage leader Susan B. Anthony (1820-1906) first organized the fight for suffrage in 1848.