

Supreme Court Justice Harry Blackmun, 85, who wrote the majority opinion in *Roe v. Wade*, the landmark 1973 case that guaranteed a woman's legal right to abortion, announces his retirement from the court after 24 years.

The Charles and Diana fairy-tale-turned-sordid-soap continues: A German newspaper prints nude photos of Prince Charles; he publishes a confession saying he never loved his wife. Princess Diana is suspected of making crank phone calls; an old friend who claims to be her ex-lover hawks a trashy kiss-and-tell book.

Tabitha the cat spends 12 days and 32,000 miles in the fuselage of a Tower Air 747 jet when she escapes her cat carrier and gets lost in the cargo hold. Tabitha makes television appearances after her rescue with her aspiring-actress owner. Tabitha lost two pounds during the ordeal, her owner lost six.

The Florida judge would not allow Paul Hill to use justifiable homicide as a defense in the shootings of Dr. John Britton and his bodyguard outside a Pensacola abortion clinic. Hill is found guilty of murder in the first degree.

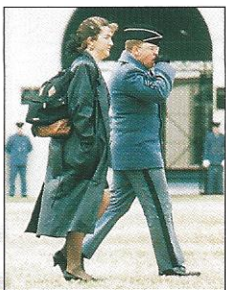
Anna Paquin, 11, wins an Academy Award for her performance in *The Piano*. Says actor Gene Hackman, "I guess now you'll have no trouble getting cast in your school play."



Reuters/Bettmann

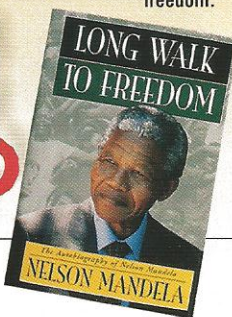
Ronald Reagan, 83, announces he is in the early stages of Alzheimer's disease, which will cause him to rely increasingly on wife Nancy. Doctors say the easy-going ex-president should be able to function normally for several more years.

Despite hurled obscenities and death threats, Shannon Faulkner, 19, battles the all-male Citadel for the right to become the first female cadet in the 152-year history of the state-supported South Carolina military school.

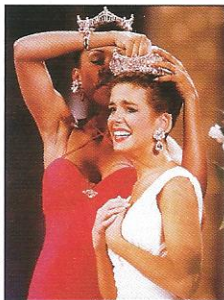


Reuters/Bettmann

Nelson Mandela, an international hero who won the Nobel Peace Prize, writes his story. *Long Walk to Freedom: The Autobiography of Nelson Mandela* covers the author's 27 years as a political prisoner, his release, and black Africans struggle for freedom.

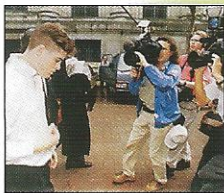


Sending a worthy message to pageant-watchers, Heather Whitestone, a deaf Alabama college junior who works with handicapped kids, is crowned 1994 Miss America by her predecessor Kimberly Aiken.



Reuters/Bettmann

In Singapore, American teenager Michael Fay is convicted of vandalism and publicly caned four times by a martial arts master, despite pleas from his family and President Clinton.



Reuters/Bettmann

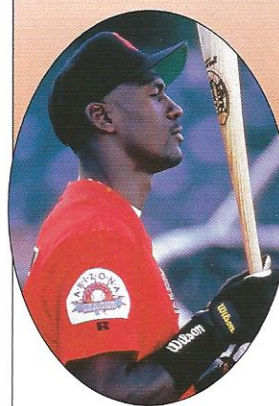
Cartoonist Gary Larson announces that he will retire *The Far Side*, a feature that began in 1978 and has appeared in 1,500 newspapers.

THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LARSON



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Applying his new fame to good works, actor Antonio Banderas, of *Philadelphia* and *Interview With the Vampire*, spends a week on a goodwill mission helping UNICEF draw attention to wartorn Somalia.



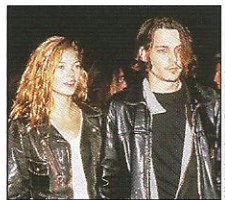
Ron Davis/Shooting Star

Former basketball superstar Michael Jordan improves his game for the Arizona Scottsdale Scorpions, a minor-league baseball team. He still has no plans to return to the hoops.

In about the most surprising event of the year, Michael Jackson weds Elvis' daughter, Lisa Marie Presley in a secret ceremony, May 1994. Journalists wonder if the union isn't a business arrangement or an attempt to polish Michael's public image, tarnished by claims of child molestation.



Scruffy movie idol Johnny Depp and wispy model Kate Moss have a headline-making lovers quarrel. Depp is arrested for trashing the couple's hotel room.



Model Cindy Crawford and actor Richard Gere, dubbed the world's sexiest couple, announce their separation. Hollywood books Crawford for her first movie.



It's the best of times