



AP/Wide World

Millions of South Africans travel weary hours and wait in mile-long lines to vote in the first all-race elections. After more than a century of white rule, the voters choose former political prisoner Nelson Mandela to preside over the dismantling of apartheid.

Jimmy Carter, former U.S. president and self-styled global troubleshooter for peace, negotiates on behalf of the U.S. in Haiti, Bosnia, and North Korea. He even offers to help settle the baseball strike.



Larry Downing, Sigma

U.S. President Bill Clinton, right, and British Prime Minister John Major take part in ceremonies in June 1994 at a military cemetery during the 50th anniversary commemoration of the Allied D-Day invasion of Europe, the event that sealed the fate of Nazi Germany during World War II.



India suffers an outbreak of pneumonic plague, carried by flea-infested vermin. Workers in Bombay earn five rupees for each exterminated rat; one thousand rat-tails earns a color TV.



Catherine Henriette, ICFE

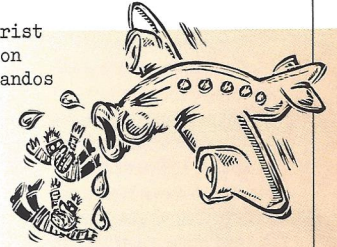
Chinese school children, dressed to look like Colonel Sanders, welcome the president of Kentucky Fried Chicken to Shanghai in May 1994. Few of the country's many foreign business ventures thrive, but KFC becomes a Chinese favorite. The finger-lickin' enterprise makes plans to expand its outlets from 28 to 200.

A triumphant Jean-Bertrand Aristide reclaims his position as president and restores democracy to Haiti with the help of U.S. troops. Haiti had suffered under the rule of a military junta led by General Raoul Cedras, who goes into exile after reaching an agreement with U.S. mediators.



Reuters/Bettmann

In one of the most successful antiterrorist operations in aviation history, French commandos storm an Air France jet-liner and kill four Algerian hijackers, freeing the plane's 173 passengers and crew.



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In Japan, an earthquake with a magnitude of 7.2 collapses buildings, derails trains, buckles elevated expressways, and causes fires throughout the city of Kobe. Over 5,000 people are killed and 26,000 injured. The Japan quake occurs January 17, 1995, one year to the day after a quake devastated Los Angeles.



Allen Tannenbaum, Sigma

Thousands of Cubans flee their economically depressed homeland, hoping for a better life in America. Many set off on homemade rafts and other small vessels only to be intercepted by the U.S. Coast Guard. The United States and Cuba reach an agreement in September that allows 20,000 Cuban immigrants to enter the United States each year.