

national news

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Brant Ward, San Francisco Chronicle/Gamma/Liaison

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.

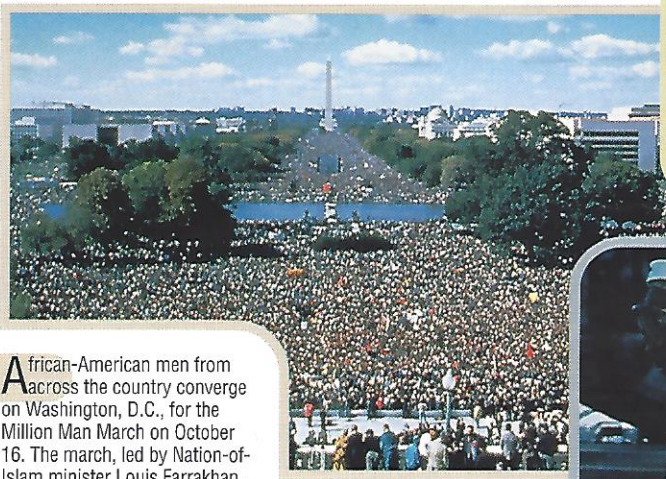
Three days of drenching rains in the Pacific Northwest swell rivers to overflowing, causing severe flooding in Washington in December. In the town of Carnation, a pastor conveys a woman to dry land with a wheelbarrow.



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.



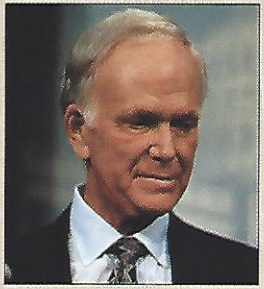
Larry Downing, Sygma

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.



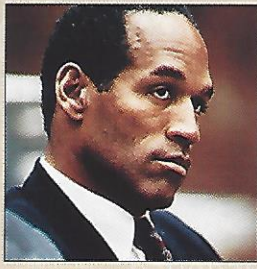
AFP/Bettmann

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.



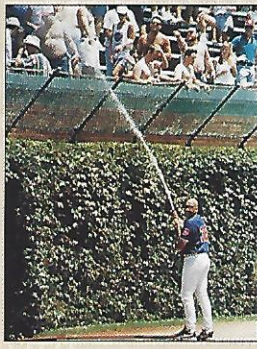
Marvel, Gamma/Liaison

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.



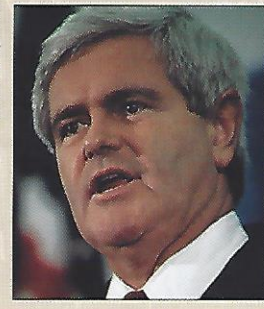
AP/Wide World

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.



Lucy 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.