





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.




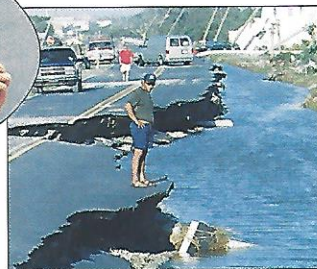
 A civil jury finds former football star O.J. Simpson liable for the June 12, 1994 wrongful deaths of his ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and her friend, Ronald Goldman. In a unanimous verdict, the jury awards \$8.5 million in compensatory damages to Goldman's parents. The Brown and Goldman families are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




AP/Wide World

 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.

 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

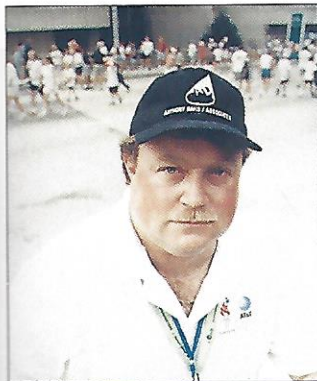
 All 110 people aboard a ValuJet DC-9 are killed in May 1996 when a fire breaks out in the cargo hold. The plane, en route from Miami to Atlanta, crashes and disappears almost completely into the Florida Everglades, making it difficult for workers to retrieve wreckage.



AP/Wide World

 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.



Schwarz, Gamma/Liaison



AP/Wide World