1993 Timeline

1993
TV Guide
January 01
Czechoslovakia is officially divided into two nations, the Czech Republic and Slovakia, at the stroke of the New Year.

A group show at Paula Cooper Gallery featuring Robert Gober, Donald Judd, Cady Noland, and Rudolf Stingel closes.

On Kawara’s show “One Thousand Days One Million Years” opens at Dia Art Foundation in Chelsea, New York.

January 02
In Geneva, leaders from war-torn Bosnia and Herzegovina propose creating ten new provinces in the Balkans, intended to mediate between the various territorial claims by Serbs, Croats, and Bosnian Muslims.

 Wired magazine launches at the Macworld conference in San Francisco.

January 03
US President George Bush and Russian President Boris Yeltsin sign the second Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, agreeing to a two-thirds reduction in their respective nuclear arsenals by the year 2003.

January 04
The US Commerce Department releases a report finding that health care costs accounted for more than 14 percent of the nation’s total economic output in the previous year, posing a “threat to the country’s economic health.”

January 05
President Bush, in a final address at West Point, cautions the US against becoming “the world’s policeman,” despite the far-reaching international military engagements of his own presidency.

Serial killer Westley Allan Dodd is executed in Washington State by hanging, at his own request—the first execution by hanging in the US since 1965.

January 06
Jazz trumpeter Dizzy Gillespie dies of cancer at seventy-five.

Ballet dancer Rudolf Nureyev dies at fifty-four, though the true cause of his death—complications from an AIDS-related illness—is not reported for another ten days.

January 07
The US Environmental Protection Agency classifies secondhand tobacco smoke as a “known human carcinogen” responsible for three thousand nonsmoker deaths annually.

New York City Mayor David Dinkins expands the rights of unmarried and homosexual New Yorkers, announcing a city registry for domestic partners. His executive order grants hospital visitation rights and other legal benefits for registered couples.

January 08
Chicago Bull Michael Jordan scores his twenty-thousandth career point in a game against the Milwaukee Bucks.

January 09
American forces in Somalia begin an offensive to wrest greater control over Mogadishu in a bid to improve security conditions for United Nations peacekeeping forces.

In Angola, the fifty-five-day-long battle for Huambo between UNITA rebels and the ruling government begins, ultimately causing the death of an estimated ten thousand people.

January 11
The University of Pittsburgh surgically transplants a baboon liver into a patient dying of hepatitis, the second baboon-liver xenotransplant in history. The patient dies of an infection twenty-six days later.

January 17
Defeated Independent presidential candidate Ross Perot reappears in the public view to announce the aims of his campaign-organization-turned-nonprofit, “United We Stand, America,” including “electronic town meetings” to broadcast citizens’ views.
**January 1**
Zoe Baisd, President-elect Clinton’s nominee for attorney general, pays $2,900 in fines for employing undocumented workers as a nanny and a chauffeur. The scandal, known as “Nannygate,” ultimately results in the withdrawal of her nomination.

**January 2**
Paul McCarthy’s solo show opens at Luhring Augustine Gallery.

**January 3**
The US Navy launches forty cruise missiles targeting a military installation on the outskirts of Baghdad in retaliation for Iraq’s noncompliance with UN weapons inspectors.

**January 4**
The states of Arizona and New Hampshire observe Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, making 1993 the first year of full participation by all fifty states.

**January 5**
Iraq agrees to stop its attacks on US aircraft in a “sign of good will” toward President-elect Clinton.

**January 6**
Israel’s parliament votes to annul a 1986 law that deemed it illegal for Israeli citizens to meet with members of the Palestine Liberation Organization, buoying hopes for future peace talks.

**January 7**
William Jefferson Clinton is inaugurated as the forty-second president of the United States.

**January 8**
Actor Audrey Hepburn dies of cancer at sixty-three.

**January 10**
The White House announces that Hillary Rodham Clinton will have her own office in the West Wing, where she will work on a number of domestic policy issues; Hillary and Bill arrive at the Oval Office together on his first full day as president.

**January 11**
President Clinton overturns restrictions on abortion on the twentieth anniversary of Roe v. Wade, lifting bans on abortion counseling at federal clinics and on financial aid to international family-planning programs.

**January 12**
The fiftieth Golden Globe Awards are held; Martin Brest’s Scent of a Woman wins best picture.

**January 13**
Six scientists and three tourists are killed inside the Galeras volcano in Colombia during an eruption; they entered the crater despite pre-eruption “tornillo” earthquakes occurring in the previous weeks.

**January 14**
A US federal judge forbids the National Security Council from erasing emails and other digital files that may contain information on the Iran-contra affair before President Bush leaves office.

**January 15**
The US Coast Guard, with the support of President-elect Clinton, sends ships and aircraft to block the route of an expected wave of refugees from Haiti, in a reversal of a campaign promise.

**January 16**
Oliver Herring’s show “A Flower for Ethyl Eichelberger,” Lyle Ashton Harris’s show “Face,” and the group shows “In Transit” and “Skin Deep” open at the New Museum.

**January 18**
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**January 19**
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**January 20**
The United States, Britain, and France destroy missile sites in southern Iraq after Saddam Hussein ordered the withdrawal of her nomination.

**January 21**
Veteran astronaut Sally Ride becomes the first US military woman in space as a mission specialist on space shuttle Endeavour.

**January 22**
President Clinton announces a temporary suspension in military discharges of homosexuals after a furor over his plan to lift the ban on gay service members in the military outright; he also announces that new military recruits would not be asked about their sexual orientation, the compromise that would come to be known as “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell.”

**January 23**
The Metro Red Line, a 4.4-mile-long subway route, opens in Los Angeles after seven years of construction.

**January 24**
The good Marshall, the first black Supreme Court Justice, dies of heart failure at the age of eighty-four.

**January 25**
Sears, Roebuck and Company announces that they will no longer produce their annual “Big Book” catalogue, their revolutionary mail-order initiative that began in 1896.

**January 26**
Václav Havel, formerly the president of Czechoslovakia, is elected the first president of the newly formed Czech Republic.

**January 27**
Wrestler and actor André Roussimoff, better known as André the Giant, dies in his sleep of congestive heart failure at forty-nine.

**January 28**
Artist Hannah Wilke dies from lymphoma at fifty-three; her illness is the subject of her posthumously published last work, Intra-Venus.

**January 29**
Lothar Baumgarten’s solo exhibition “American Invention” opens at the Guggenheim Museum in New York.

**January 30**
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**January 31**
The Dallas Cowboys defeat the Buffalo Bills in the Super Bowl, Michael Jackson performs during halftime.
Apple Computer, Inc. introduces the PowerBook 165c, the very first Apple laptop with a color display, at a retail price of $3,400.

Michael Jackson speaks candidly about his childhood with Oprah Winfrey in the most-watched television interview in history, drawing ninety million viewers.

The US agrees to be involved in the peace process in the Balkans, indicating a willingness to send ground troops to the region.

President Clinton selects Janet Reno as his attorney general, his third choice for the post.

The film Groundhog Day is released in theaters. One of the most critically acclaimed comedies of all time, the United States National Film Registry ultimately taps it for inclusion in the Library of Congress in 2006.

Jeanette Winterson's erotic novel Written on the Body is released.

Scientists discover the greatest concentration of active volcanoes on earth on the floor of the Pacific Ocean near Easter Island.

The body of an abducted two-year-old boy, James Bulger, is discovered outside Liverpool, England. Bulger's killers, two ten-year-old boys, later become the youngest convicted murderers in modern British history.

President Clinton presents his program for cutting the deficit by $500 billion to Congress, outlining a tax hike on the wealthiest Americans and cuts in military spending.

FEBRUARY 18
President Lech Wałęsa of Poland signs a law of the most critically acclaimed comedies of all time, the United States National Film Registry ultimately taps it for inclusion in the Library of Congress in 2006.

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FEBRUARY 19
South Africa’s African National Congress approves a plan to allow the white-led National Party to govern as junior partner for the five years following the April 1994 election, the first in which South Africa’s black population would be able to vote.

The US Senate passes an amendment to the Health Reauthorization Bill to bar immigrants with HIV or AIDS from entering the country.

Alan Greenspan, the conservative Republican chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, endorses Clinton’s economic plan.

Ferruccio Lamborghini, founder of the eponymous Italian automobile company, dies of heart failure at seventy-six.

Syria announces that it will participate in peace talks without demanding the repatriation of four hundred Palestinians deported from Israel under suspicion of being security threats.

A major exhibition of Joseph Beuys’s drawings, “Thinking is Form,” opens at the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

President Clinton travels to Silicon Valley to announce a $17 billion initiative promoting government-industry partnerships to advance computing technologies.

The United Nations Security Council establishes the International Criminal Tribunal to prosecute humanitarian abuses in the former Yugoslavia.

United Nations Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali endorses the US proposal to airdrop humanitarian supplies into Bosnia, the largest proposed American involvement in the Balkan conflict to date.

FEBRUARY 20
Widespread riots and looting erupt on the streets of Mogadishu when General Mohamed Aidid blames the US-led military coalition for an attack on his troops in the south of Somalia.

Kim Young Sam is inaugurated as South Korea’s first nonmilitary president in over thirty years, vowing to restore trust in the government and cure economic and social ills.

Six people are killed and over one thousand are injured at the World Trade Center in New York when a truck bomb planted by terrorists explodes in the parking garage below the North Tower.

Whitney Houston’s “I Will Always Love You” ends its record-breaking run as the number one Billboard hit song, slipping into second position the following week.

Lillian Gish, early silent-film star, dies in her sleep at the age of ninety-nine.

The Waco siege at the Branch Davidian compound in Elk, Texas, begins when agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms attempt to serve a search warrant. A protracted gun battle ensues, killing ten and beginning a fifty-one day standoff.

The US completes the first airdrop of supplies in the Balkans, delivering twenty tons of food and medicine to besieged areas; however, two-thirds of the supplies do not reach their intended targets, and the Muslim town of Gerska falls to Serbs hours later.

The Irish band the Cranberries releases their debut album, Everybody Else Is Doing It, So Why Can’t We?

John Grisham’s fourth novel, The Client, is released.

The State of Alabama exonerates Walter McMillian, a black man held for six years on death row for the murder of a white woman, after multiple trial witnesses admit to committing perjury.

The Federal Communications Commission formally announces that cartoons can no longer count toward the mandatory number of hours of children’s programming that television broadcasters must meet for license renewal.

Zone Books releases the Bruce Mau–designed book version of Chris Marker’s seminal film La Jetée.

Sonic Youth releases the single “Sugar Kane”; the music video features clothing from Marc Jacobs’s notorious grunge collection for Perry Ellis, which debuted in the fall of 1992 and resulted in Jacobs’s termination.

Dr. Albert Sabin, the researcher who developed the live-virus polio vaccine, dies of heart failure at eighty-six.

A show on the work of Japanese architect Tadao Ando opens at the Centre Georges Pompidou in Paris.

Mohammed Salameh, one of the perpetrators of the World Trade Center bombing, is arrested when he returns for the third time to the Ryder rental agency to demand the refund of his $400 deposit for the truck used in the explosion, claiming that the vehicle was stolen.

Opening of the Whitney Biennial.

In Italy, there is public outrage at a Ministry of Justice proposal for widespread amnesty to be granted to elite politicians involved in Tangentopoli, the vast bribery network exposed in the mani pulite scandal in 1992.

Hundreds of thousands of Roman Catholics assemble in the Philippines hoping to see an apparition of the Virgin Mary after a twelve-year-old boy claimed to have seen the Virgin on the first Saturday of every month for the past four years.
MTV’s irreverent animated television series Beavis and Butt-Head premieres.

MARCH 03
Japanese investigators discover $50 million in cash and hundreds of pounds of gold bars taken in bribes at the home of Shin Kanemaru, formerly Japan’s most powerful politician.

Rodney King takes the witness stand during a civil trial, reporting that he was taunted with racial epithets during the beating by Los Angeles police officers.

Roberto Calasso’s novel The Marriage of Cadmus and Harmony is published in English.

MARCH 09
Dr. David Gunn, an abortion provider, is shot and killed outside his clinic in Pensacola, Florida, in the first documented antiabortion assassination in the US.

MARCH 10
The Congress of People’s Deputies of the Russian Federation votes on a referendum to curtail President Yeltsin’s power, setting off a protracted battle for governmental control.

MARCH 12
A series of bombs are detonated across Bombay, killing at least 250 people and injuring hundreds more; more than a hundred suspected perpetrators are later tried in India’s longest-running court case, ending in 2006.

North Korea withdraws from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty to avoid an inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

MARCH 13
The “Storm of the Century” hits the Eastern Seaboard of the United States, killing 310 people, leaving ten million Americans without power, and blanketing the country with snow from the Florida Panhandle all the way up to Canada.

MARCH 14
Nine hundred Somali security guards hired to protect relief supplies at the Mogadishu port clash with the UN, demanding salary for a three-month period when they weren’t working.

MARCH 15
The United Nations Commission on the Truth releases a report on El Salvador’s twelve-year-long civil war, calling for the dismissal of implicated military officers and an overhaul of the judicial system.

MARCH 16
Haiti’s ousted president, Reverend Jean-Bertrand Aristide, visits the Oval Office; President Clinton pledges support for restoring Haitian democracy.

MARCH 17
Stage actor Helen Hayes dies of heart failure at ninety-two.

MARCH 18
Serbs block a United Nations relief convoy from reaching the besieged town of Srebrenica and launch a heavy artillery attack on Sarajevo.

MARCH 19
Supreme Court Justice Byron White announces that he will retire at the end of his term, paving the way for President Clinton’s first Supreme Court appointment, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, the first Jewish female justice.

An advisory committee recommends that Interferon-beta-1b, a major new drug treating multiple sclerosis, be submitted for FDA approval; it is the first drug to effectively treat the symptoms of the disease.

President Yeltsin spurns the Russian parliament and claims virtually unlimited power, appealing directly to Russian citizens to support him in a popular vote referendum.

The IRA detonates two bombs in a busy shopping center in Warrington, England, killing two young children and injuring fifty-six.

Lucy Hannah, a supercentenarian born in 1875 to American slaves, dies at 117 years of age.

The engine of the space shuttle Columbia fails just before takeoff from Cape Canaveral, Florida, delaying a nine-day space mission.

Researchers announce that they have discovered the gene that causes Huntington’s disease, completing a ten-year collaboration between six laboratory groups around the world.

MARCH 23
In the largest consumer protection measure instituted in decades, the Federal Communications Commission orders television cable companies to reduce their prices by 15 percent.

Jeffrey Eugenides’s novel The Virgin Suicides is published.

MARCH 24
South African President F.W. de Klerk announces that the country had successfully built six atomic bombs in a clandestine program and then destroyed them in 1989, making South Africa the first and only country to have destroyed its nuclear arsenal.

Rupert Murdoch offers to repurchase the bankrupt New York Post, America’s oldest continuously published daily newspaper; Murdoch had previously bought the paper in 1976 and sold it in 1988.

The famous photograph of a starving Sudanese child crawling toward a feeding center with a vulture watching nearby is published in the New York Times, inciting anger against the photographer, Kevin Carter, who was awarded a Pulitzer Prize and later committed suicide.

The IRA detonates two bombs in a busy shopping zone; American planes bomb in retaliation.

Iraqi forces fire on American fighter jets in the no-fly zone; American planes bomb in retaliation.

APRIL 03
In a summit meeting in Vancouver, President Clinton offers $1 billion to President Yeltsin to help speed Russia’s free-market transition.

APRIL 05
Sheryl Swoopes sets the National Collegiate Athletic Association single-game scoring record in women’s basketball with the Texas Tech Lady Raiders.

APRIL 06
A New York Times/CBS poll reports that the majority of Americans would accept new taxes for a universal health care plan.

APRIL 08
The White House orders NASA to work with Russia to design a joint space station to cut costs, ending decades of space rivalry.

The US proposes a new head to a Palestinian delegation for the Middle East peace negotiations in an incentive to resume talks.

APRIL 10
Marian Anderson, the first black singer to perform at the Metropolitan Opera, dies of heart failure at ninety-six.

APRIL 12
Iraq forces fire on American fighter jets in the no-fly zone; American planes bomb in retaliation.

APRIL 11
Five days of talks between Taiwan and China conclude, opening a path for the rival governments to meet formally for the first time since 1949.
A two-week cease-fire in Bosnia is broken by Serbian nationalist attacks in Sarajevo and Srebrenica, just minutes after NATO planes begin enforcing a ban on Serbian aircraft.

Tom Stoppard’s play Arcadia, widely considered one of his finest works, premieres in London.

Wallace Stegner, the Pulitzer Prize–winning author, dies of respiratory failure at eighty-four.

Riots across South Africa during the national day of mourning for Chris Hani result in seven deaths and hundreds of injuries.

An agreement is reached to save the red-cockaded woodpecker, an endangered species threatened by logging in the Southeast US.

Katharina Fritsch’s exhibition “Rat King” opens at Dia Art Foundation in Chelsea, New York.

Military commanders in Haiti reject an offer of amnesty, setting back negotiations to reinstate overthrown President Aristide.

A verdict is reached in the Rodney King civil rights trial, finding two of the four police officers guilty as charged.

The fiftieth anniversary of the monthlong Passover uprising in the Warsaw Ghetto is commemorated in New York.

The standoff at the Branch Davidian compound near Waco, Texas, ends when the building collapses in a fire—set by sect members themselves after multiple rounds of tear gas were inserted into the building by government agents—killing seventy-six sect members.

In Italy, voters go to the polls in a historic national referendum spurred by the mani pulite scandal, abolishing three ministries and cutting off political party funding.

A licensing agreement for the abortion drug mifepristone, known as RU-486, is signed, paving the way for American distribution of the controversial medication.

India’s president assents to a constitutional amendment that reserves one third of all local government seats for women and proportional numbers of seats for members of lower castes.

President Clinton’s stimulus bill is filibustered by Senate Republicans in his first serious legislative defeat.

The Mosaic web browser, the very first graphical web interface, is released by the National Center for Supercomputing Applications at the University of Illinois; it soon becomes the world’s most popular browser.

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum is dedicated in Washington, DC.

César Chávez, founder of the first union of farmworkers in America, dies in his sleep at sixty-six.

Felix Gonzalez-Torres’s solo show opens at Andrea Rosen Gallery.

A truck bomb planted by the IRA explodes on Bishopsgate in the City of London, killing one and wounding forty-four.

A major march for gay rights attracts an estimated one million protesters, demanding the passage of civil rights bill ending LGBT discrimination and seeking increased funding for AIDS research.

NBC announces that Conan O’Brien will replace David Letterman as the host of Late Night.

Middle East talks resume in Washington after an announcement that some of the Palestinians deported to Lebanon in 1992 as suspected terrorists will be granted repatriation.
In the first sale of its kind, two relics purported to be slices of the "true" cross sell for $18,000 at a Paris auction, despite Vatican protests.

**MAY 13**
A guilty verdict is reached in the infamous "condom rape case," in which the defendant argued that the victim implied consent by asking her knife-wielding attacker to wear a condom.

**MAY 14**
Nine of the former fifteen Soviet republics sign a preliminary agreement to create a unified economic community.

**MAY 15**
William Randolph Hearst, Jr., the Pulitzer Prize–winning journalist and publishing heir, dies at eighty-five. Janet Jackson's single "That's the Way Love Goes" hits number one on the Billboard Hot 100 chart.

**MAY 16**
Dr. Jack Kevorkian is arrested for assisting a suicide in Michigan; two weeks later, he is featured as "Dr. Death" on the cover of *Time* magazine.

**MAY 17**
The Supreme Court accepts a case to decide whether sex can be a valid criterion in jury selection. They find it unconstitutional in *J.E.B. v. Alabama ex rel. T.B.* the following year.

**MAY 18**
The US formally recognizes the government of Angola for the first time since 1975 when the civil war began.

**MAY 19**
Officials announce that an Iraqi prisoner has admitted to a plot to assassinate former President George H.W. Bush during a visit to Kuwait in April.

**MAY 20**
President Clinton signs the "Motor Voter" act, allowing voter registration at state motor vehicle departments, leading to the registration of more than twenty-eight million new voters—more than the Twenty-Sixth Amendment, which lowered the voting age to eighteen in 1971.

NBC airs the final episode of *Cheers*, watched by an estimated 42.4 million households.

**MAY 21**
The United States Archivist and the White House are found in contempt of court for failing to preserve computer files in the ongoing legal battle that would eventually become *Armstrong v. Executive Office of President*, which mandated the permanent preservation of all governmental email messages.

**MAY 22**
European allies and Russia agree to the US plan for aiding Bosnia, offering planes but no ground troops.

**MAY 23**
United Nations–led democratic elections begin in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, after decades of genocidal rule by the Khmer Rouge.

**MAY 24**
A research and industry consortium including AT&T, Philips, Zenith, and MIT announces that they will work together to develop a new television technology: HDTV.

The Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) breaks its cease-fire with the Turkish government, ambushing and killing thirty-three Turkish soldiers.

**MAY 25**
New York Archbishop John O'Connor convenes a meeting to discuss sexual abuse of minors.

**MAY 26**
Hillary Clinton gives a highly publicized speech to members of the Service Employees International Union, laying out a bold case for her healthcare reform plan.

**MAY 27**
A bomb planted in a car outside the Uffizi Gallery in Florence, Italy, detonates, killing six and destroying several works of art.

**MAY 28**
President Clinton's budget passes the House of Representatives after months of negotiations in a major political victory.

Clinton formally backs the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" plan for gay service members in the military.

Poland's only female prime minister, Hanna Suchocka, loses a vote of confidence in parliament and resigns.

**JUNE 2**
Five Turks die in an arson attack perpetrated by neo-Nazis in Germany.

**JUNE 3**
Senator Boren, the swing voter from Oklahoma, suggests that he is open to compromise on the Clinton budget bill.

**JUNE 4**
President Dobrica Ćosić of Yugoslavia is ousted by parliament in a no-confidence vote.

**JUNE 5**
In the worst attack in the Balkans in a year, mortar shells kill twelve and wound eighty at a soccer game in Sarajevo.

**JUNE 6**
Psychiatrist Peter Kramer's groundbreaking book *Listening to Prozac*, is released.

**JUNE 7**
The jury in the notorious libel case against *New Yorker* writer Janet Malcolm finds her guilty of fabricating misleading quotes about psychoanalyst Jeffrey Masson; the following year, another court rules that more evidence is needed.

**JUNE 8**
Norton Simon, the industrialist and art collector who endowed the Pasadena museum bearing his name, dies at eighty-six.

**JUNE 9**
The United Nations authorizes strikes against Serbian factions in Bosnia.

**JUNE 10**
Twenty Somali demonstrators are killed when Pakistani peacekeeping troops fire into a marching crowd.

**JUNE 11**
President Clinton formally announces Ruth Bader Ginsburg as his choice for Supreme Court Justice.

**JUNE 12**
The Pepsi syringe hoax reaches fever pitch in the media, with sixteen different accounts of foreign objects found in Pepsi cans now reported across the country—all spontaneous fabrications.

**JUNE 13**
Japan's Crown Prince Naruhito weds Masako Owada in a traditional Shinto ceremony in Tokyo.

**JUNE 14**
The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission mandates that disabled and sick workers cannot be excluded from jobs due to health insurance costs.

**JUNE 15**
The US National Institute of Health mandates that clinical research trials must include women and minorities.

**JUNE 16**
Architect Fumihiko Maki is named the sixteenth Pritzker Architecture Prize laureate.

**JUNE 17**
Steven Spielberg's *Jurassic Park* is released, setting a box office record of $47 million in ticket sales during the first weekend.

**JUNE 18**
The Norman Rockwell Museum opens in Stockbridge, Massachusetts, featuring more than five hundred paintings by the artist.

**JUNE 19**
Diabetes researchers announce that severe complications from the disease can be avoided by intensive daily regulation of blood-sugar levels through monitoring and insulin administration.

**JUNE 20**

**JUNE 21**
Commercial text messages reach a milestone as the first SMS message is sent: "bprw." Several minutes later, the same text message is sent back.

**JUNE 22**
President Bush during a visit to Kuwait in April.

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**JUNE 28**
Nigeria's presidential election results—intended to restore civilian rule after a decade of army rule—are suspended by military leaders.
Eight militants suspected of planning bomb attacks and assassinations are arrested in New York.

Sydney Pollack’s John Grisham adaptation, The Firm, is released in theaters.

The first novel written by artificial intelligence, Just This Once—based on the literary styling of Valley of the Dolls author Jacqueline Susann—is released after eight years of programming.

Egyptian cleric Omar Abdel-Rahman, the “Blind Sheikh” linked to the World Trade Center militants and other New York-area bomb plots, surrenders to authorities.

Three boats in a religious procession in the Philippines sink, killing 279 passengers.

Exiled President Jean-Bertrand Aristide signs a military accord (later broken), agreeing to return to Haiti to lead a democratic government by October 30.

A blimp advertising the restaurant chain Pizza Hut crashes on the roof of a Manhattan building after deflating from a puncture.

Iraq refuses to allow United Nations weapons inspectors to install a camera at a missile test site, violating the truce agreement.

The J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles purchases a Michelangelo drawing of the Holy Family for $6.27 million, the highest price paid at auction for an Old Master drawing.

New York’s highest court rules that it is unconstitutional for the state to fund a Hasidic school for special needs students in the town of Kiryas Joel.

Six Somali employees of the UN are ambushed and killed in Mogadishu by members of General Aidid’s faction.

G7 world leaders meet in Tokyo for their nineteenth annual economic summit.

Egypt executes seven militant followers of Sheikh Abdel-Rahman for attacking foreign tourists and planning to overthrow the government, in the largest execution in forty years.
For the first time in its history, the British security service MI5 allows its director to be photographed and speak openly to the press about the activities of the organization.

Geneticists report that male homosexuality is linked to a gene residing in the lower half of the X chromosome.

FBI director William Sessions is asked to resign due to evidence that he abused the privileges of his office.

The seven-year-old boy, Jesse Sepulveda, Jr., whose two heart transplants catalyzed a national debate and led to the formation of a federal organ donation program, dies.

President Clinton formally announces the new policy toward gay service members in the military, allowing them to serve as long as they do not disclose their sexual identity or engage in sexual activity.

The lurid parental-murder trial of Erik and Lyle Menendez begins, broadcast by Court TV.

A settlement values the Andy Warhol estate at $220 million, far less than its original estimate, after a long battle between lawyers and foundation members.

During the second day of her Supreme Court confirmation hearings, Ruth Bader Ginsburg unequivocally supports legal abortion in the most direct language ever used by a nominee.

A government report finds that the majority of HIV-positive women contracted the virus through heterosexual sex, rather than intravenous drug use.

Britain’s Prime Minister John Major wins a vote of confidence from parliament, clearing the way for final approval of the Treaty on European Union to create a unified economic community.

US40’s single “Can’t Help Falling in Love” hits number one on the Billboard Top 100 chart.

In a bid to stem inflation, the central bank of Russia withdraws all currency notes issued before 1993, inducing panic.

Israeli aircraft heavily shell Hezbollah bases in Lebanon in retaliation for attacks on Israeli forces during the previous months.

In the flooded Midwest, the second largest levee in the nation breaks in Illinois; as the water rises, two workers are trapped aloft in trees along with dozens of fleeing snakes, and are eventually rescued by helicopter.

In China, a preliminary design for the Three Gorges Dam is approved and construction preparation formally begins.

The Smashing Pumpkins release their second album, Siamese Dream.

Reggie Lewis, a player for the Boston Celtics, collapses during a practice session and dies of cardiac arrest at the age of twenty-seven.

An alternative-medicine treatment plan for heart disease, which includes meditation, is accepted for reimbursement by insurers in the first decision of its kind.

President Clinton agrees to a military strike against Serbian forces attacking UN peacekeepers in Bosnia.

In Japan, the political opposition coalition chooses Morihiro Hosokawa as their leader, clearing a path for him to become the first non-Liberal Democrat prime minister of Japan in thirty-eight years.

Belgium’s King Baudouin I dies of a heart attack at the age of sixty-two.

An appeals court rules that the White House must treat all email messages as official government records to be saved for posterity in the ongoing case Armstrong v. Executive Office of the President.

A rocket ferrying an $800 million spy satellite explodes over the Pacific, destroying the entirety of the US intelligence budget savings.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg becomes the second female Supreme Court Justice in the US, confirmed by a ninety-six to three vote in the Senate.

Sheryl Crow releases her debut album, Tuesday Night Music Club.

The two police officers found guilty of civil rights violations in the beating of Rodney King are each sentenced to two and a half years in prison.

Explosions caused by a nitric acid leak rip through warehouses in Shenzhen, China, killing seventy and injuring hundreds.

President Clinton’s budget plan to reduce the deficit by $496 billion is passed without a single Republican vote when Vice President Gore breaks a tie in the Senate.

The US publicly discusses sending commandos to Mogadishu, Somalia, to hunt down General Aaidid, the warlord responsible for the deaths of four Americans.

The US Marines announce publicly that they will phase out married servicemen and women, and are quickly overruled by Secretary of Defense Les Aspin in an embarrassing public relations gaffe.

Pope John Paul II meets with President Clinton in Denver, directly registering his disapproval with the administration’s policy on abortion.

A body discovered in a South Carolina swamp is identified as James Jordan, Sr., the father of basketball legend Michael Jordan. Jordan Sr. was murdered in a car theft incident.

As discomfort with attitudes expressed in rap music mounts, the feminist scholar bell hooks is quoted in the New York Times saying, “I think a lot of misogynous rap is similar to crack. It gives people a sense that they have power over their lives when they don’t.”
AUGUST 26

The White House proposes combining the FBI with the Drug Enforcement Agency in an effort to coordinate the government’s war on drugs, eliciting a fierce debate.

AUGUST 27

Dr. George Tiller, a prominent abortion provider in Kansas, is shot five times by an antiabortion protester inspired by the murder of Dr. David Gunn earlier in the year. Tiller survives and goes back to work in a matter of days.

AUGUST 28

The robotic space probe Mars Observer is lost three days before it is scheduled to enter Mars’s orbit, totaling a $1 billion loss for NASA.

AUGUST 29

The Israeli cabinet backs the draft agreement to grant autonomy to Palestinians, while four thousand right-wing Israelis protest outside.

AUGUST 30

Kasdi Merbah, the former prime minister of Algeria, is assassinated by Muslim militants.

AUGUST 31

The Queen of England announces that the staff at Buckingham Palace will no longer receive automatic pay raises, but instead will see their salaries rise with performance.

SEPTEMBER 01

A cabinet minister of Jordan announces that they are willing to make peace with Israel if the PLO agreement is ratified.

SEPTEMBER 02

The US and Russia formally agree to end their space rivalry and begin work on the International Space Station.

SEPTEMBER 03

A bipartisan letter from 283 economists is released, backing the proposed North American Free Trade Agreement as a “net positive for the United States.”

SEPTEMBER 04

The US indict Egyptian cleric Sheikh Abdel-Rahman for orchestrating the World Trade Center bombing, a planned attack on New York City’s tunnels and buildings, and the killing of Rabbi Meir Kahane.

SEPTEMBER 05

President General Ibrahim Babangida of Nigeria resigns after eight years of rule, naming a civilian successor.

SEPTEMBER 06

The children’s animated program Mighty Morphin Power Rangers debuts.

SEPTEMBER 07

Israel agrees to a plan for Palestinian rule in Jericho and the West Bank, in a major turning point during secret negotiations.

SEPTEMBER 08

A memorial service is held in South Africa to honor Amy Biehl, a young American woman slain in a racially motivated attack in the township of Guguletu.

SEPTEMBER 09

Yasser Arafat, leader of the PLO, announces that he has won support from Fatah for the peace agreement with Israel.

SEPTEMBER 10

Track and field athlete Noureddine Morceli of Algeria breaks the record for running a mile, with a time of 3:46.32.

SEPTEMBER 11

Yasser Arafat travels to Cairo to conclude the final negotiations in the peace agreement with Israel.

SEPTEMBER 12

The corpse of exiled President Ferdinand Marcos, refridgerated in an air-conditioned coffin in Hawaii for four years, is returned to the Philippines to thousands of rejoicing supporters.

SEPTEMBER 13

The ruling white party of South Africa agrees to share governing power with disenfranchised blacks in the run-up to the first universal election.

SEPTEMBER 14

Regina Frank’s show “LAdieu: Pearls Before Gods” is released in theaters.

SEPTEMBER 15

The German tennis player Steffi Graf wins the US Open singles title.

SEPTEMBER 16

Jason Rhoades’s exhibition “CHERRY Makita—Honest Engine Work” opens at David Zwirner Gallery in New York.

SEPTEMBER 17

Raymond Burr, the actor who played the part of television attorney Perry Mason, dies of cancer at seventy-six.

SEPTEMBER 18

Nirvana releases In Utero, their third and final studio album before Kurt Cobain’s suicide the following year.

SEPTEMBER 19

Yitzhak Rabin and Yasser Arafat sign the first Oslo Accord in Washington, DC, shaking hands on the White House lawn.

SEPTEMBER 20

Jury selection begins in the World Trade Center bombing trial.

SEPTEMBER 21

A plane lands at Washington National Airport after being automatically piloted for twelve miles by satellite signals in a huge civilian aviation breakthrough.

SEPTEMBER 22

The first episode of the Cheers spin-off Frasier is broadcast, featuring Kelsey Grammer as Dr. Crane, a radio psychiatrist.

SEPTEMBER 23

In Paris, Bosnian Muslims and Serbs reach an agreement to modify the proposed accord.

SEPTEMBER 24

The cast of Beverly Hills, 90210 heads off to college in the first episode of the fourth season.

SEPTEMBER 25

The Bosnian President, Alija Izetbegovic, visits the White House to ask for US aid against Bosnian Serbs, and is rebuffed by President Clinton.

SEPTEMBER 26

The PLO and Israel formally publicize their agreement to modify the proposed accord. In Paris, Bosnian Muslims and Serbs reach an agreement to modify the proposed accord.

SEPTEMBER 27

UNESCO awards its annual peace prize to Yitzhak Rabin, Shimon Peres, and Yasser Arafat.

SEPTEMBER 28

Martin Scorsese’s adaptation of Edith Wharton’s The Age of Innocence is released in theaters.

SEPTEMBER 29

Swedish officials announce that they have found the body of a woman who lay undiscovered for three years because her pension and her bills were being paid by computer.

SEPTEMBER 30

Emmy awards are given to Seinfeld and Picket Fences.
60 Minutes broadcasts Morley Safer’s “Yes . . . But Is It Art?,” a scathing critique of the contemporary art world.

SEPTEMBER 20

After weeks of delays due to asbestos abatement in aging buildings, the majority of New York City’s public schools reopen for the 1993–94 school year.

SEPTEMBER 21

Douglas Crimp’s essay collection exploring the status of contemporary art institutions, On the Museum’s Ruins, which features photographs by Louise Lawler, is published by MIT Press.

President Clinton’s service initiative, AmeriCorps, is signed into law, providing community service opportunities in return for educational funding.

SEPTEMBER 22

Forty-seven passengers are killed when a train derails in Alabama in the deadliest accident in Amtrak’s history.

President Clinton addresses the nation, asking for backing for his universal health care plan.

Katie Roiphe’s first book, The Morning After: Sex, Fear, and Feminism, is published.

SEPTEMBER 23

The Federal Communications Commission auctions airwaves for new wireless networks across the country, expanding wireless services to millions; the New York Times predicts the move may “free people from their desks yet chain them to their jobs.”

Broderbund releases Myst, the hit CD-ROM computer game that remains the best-selling PC game for nearly nine years.

With democracy in sight, Nelson Mandela calls for economic sanctions against South Africa to end.

Richard Linklater’s classic slacker movie Dazed and Confused is released.

SEPTEMBER 24

In his first act as Cambodia’s new prime minister, Norodom Ranariddh asks the Khmer Rouge to release the territory under their control.

SEPTEMBER 26

After two years spent cloistered inside an airtight dome in the Sonora Desert of Arizona, eight participants exit Biosphere 2, a $150 million quasi-scientific experiment in closed-ecosystem living.

SEPTEMBER 27

In Georgia, Abkhaz separatists break a cease-fire in Sukhumi, storming the city and massacring citizens in the streets in an ethnic cleansing campaign.

The Digable Planets release their debut album, Reachin’ (A New Refutation of Time and Space).

Art historian Hal Foster’s psychoanalytic take on Surrealism, Compulsive Beauty, is released by October Books.

Soulsville Mischief release their debut album, ‘93 ‘til Infinity.

KRS-One releases his first solo album, Return of the Boom Rap.

The Pentagon reveals that it will offer vegetarian Meals Ready to Eat rations in response to its involvement in humanitarian missions in regions with specific dietary customs.

The worst earthquake in India in fifty years hits the Latur district in the state of Maharashtra, killing twenty thousand people.

Navy Secretary John Dalton calls for the removal of top naval officer Admiral Frank Kelso, who oversaw the Tailhook Convention in 1991 during which service members sexually assaulted eighty-three women and seven men.

Short Cuts, Robert Altman’s film based on Raymond Carver’s short stories, premieres at the New York Film Festival.

Reinaldo Arenas’s memoir Before Night Falls is released posthumously in English.

OCTOBER 02

Supporters of the Congress of People’s Deputies, blocked by President Yeltsin in an ongoing feud, take to the streets of Moscow, rioting and burning barricades.

OCTOBER 03

The Battle of Mogadishu or “Black Hawk Down” begins when US forces attempt to capture two of General Aidid’s lieutenants and two Black Hawk helicopters are shot down, leading to an overnight standoff in the Somali city and eighteen US deaths.

Derek Jarman’s last film, Blue, is presented at the New York Film Festival four months before his death from an AIDS-related illness.

OCTOBER 04

Forces loyal to President Yeltsin attack the armed parliament building with tanks, driving out legislators with massive explosions.

Michael Jordan announces his retirement from the National Basketball Association.

Radio personality Howard Stern releases his autobiography, Private Parts.

Toni Morrison becomes the first black woman to win the Nobel Prize in Literature.

Agnes de Mille, pioneering choreographer, dies of a stroke at the age of eighty-eight.

A retrospective of Roy Lichtenstein’s work opens at the Guggenheim in New York.

Ann Hamilton’s show “tropos” opens at Dia Art Foundation in Chelsea, New York.

The Justice Department releases new details on the Church of Scientology is granted tax-exempt status by the US government, ending a four-decade-long legal battle.

HEIDI 06

The US helicopter pilot held captive by General Aidid is released.

Haiti’s Justice Minister and two aides, appointed by exiled President Aristide, are slain by opposition forces.

Nelson Mandela and President F.W. de Klerk of South Africa share the Nobel Peace Prize for bringing an end to apartheid.

Jane Campion’s film The Piano debuts at the New York Film Festival.

As violence in Haiti escalates, Senator Bob Dole, the minority leader, moves to curb President Clinton’s power to commit American troops in the region.

A Russian naval ship dumps hundreds of tons of nuclear waste into the Sea of Japan, undermining President Yeltsin’s diplomatic visit to that country the week before.

Pearl Jam releases their second album, Vs.
October 27
President Clinton gives Congress a 240,000-word proposal for universal health care, developed over the previous eight months under Hillary Clinton's leadership, signaling that he is open to compromise as long as coverage extends to all.

October 26
Doris Duke, the American philanthropist and heiress, dies of a heart attack at eighty, leaving the bulk of her $1.2 billion fortune to charity.

October 26
Sotheby's auctions eighty-eight works by Picasso from the Stanley Seeger Collection, selling every one.

October 26
Bikini Kill releases their debut album, Pussy Whipped. The first "Got Milk?" television commercials run, featuring a history buff who can't answer a winning trivia question over the phone due to a mouth full of peanut butter and no milk to wash it down.

October 26
Italian film director Federico Fellini dies of a heart attack at the age of seventy-three.

October 25
Actor River Phoenix dies of a drug overdose at twenty-three.

October 25
Evander Holyfield beats Riddick Bowe, regaining his place as boxing's heavyweight champion.

October 24
The Ukrainian government votes to keep the Chernobyl nuclear power plant running despite the disaster in 1986, citing an energy shortage in the country.

October 24
The White House issues an executive order requiring the military and all federal agencies to buy paper containing a minimum of 20 percent recycled material beginning the following year.

October 24
The Toronto Blue Jays beat the Philadelphia Phillies, winning the 1993 World Series.

October 24
The IRA mistakenly kills eight civilians with a time bomb intended for paramilitary loyalists in Belfast.

October 24
A five-year-old boy who believes he can fly jumps from the seventh story of a New York City building, surviving without a single broken bone or external injury.

October 24
Canada's Liberal Party ends the Progressive Conservatives' nine-year rule in a decisive victory.

October 24
US officials publicly state that exiled President Aristide should not attempt to return to Haiti by the October 30 deadline set earlier in the year, fearing for his safety.

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President Melchior Ndadaye, the first democratically elected president of Burundi, is assassinated after only three months in office.

October 23
Thirty thousand Hutus flee Burundi after a military coup by Tutsis, crossing the border into Rwanda.

October 23
The Supreme Court unanimously rules that plaintiffs in asbestos cases can sue the makers of asbestos-containing products that they were not exposed to, holding that "it defies logic and common sense to suppose that one is injured by an asbestos-containing product without coming into contact with it." The court also rules that a jury is entitled to assess punitive damages if the defendant knew or recklessly disregarded the risk of its asbestos product.

October 22
Hillary Clinton angrily denounces insurance industry groups, claiming that they have misled the American public by lying about the proposal for universal health care.

October 22
The Maastricht Treaty takes effect, officially establishing the European Union and its common currency.

October 22
Rudy Giuliani beats David Dinkins, becoming New York City's 107th mayor.

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Leon Theremin, the inventor of the world's first electronic instrument, dies in Moscow at ninety-seven.

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Joan Bakemper’s exhibition "Intoxication: or, the Culture Also Heals" open at the New Museum.

October 19
South Africa’s politicians endorse a new constitution, guaranteeing equal rights for all.

October 19
A fire at the Zhili plastic-toy factory in Shenzhen, China, kills eighty-seven workers who were unable to escape due to sealed windows and locked doors.

October 19
US scientists announce that they have successfully isolated the strain of hantavirus that appeared in the Southwest earlier in the year, killing twenty-seven, many of them Navajo Indians.
A plane crashes in a blizzard in Macedonia killing 115 people, including a UN relief worker from Bosnia.

A strike involving American Airlines flight attendants ends when President Clinton steps in to broker an agreement between the union and the airline, allowing flights to resume in time for Thanksgiving.

Snoop Dogg's hotly anticipated solo debut, Doggystyle, is released, cementing West Coast gangsta rap in the mainstream American consciousness.

The Swedish group Ace of Base's album The Sign is released in North America.

President Clinton signs the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act, which requires background checks before gun purchases and establishes a National Instant Check System.

India's militant Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party, attempting to capitalize on anti-Muslim sentiment to capture the government, is roundly defeated at the polls.

An enormous pink condom sheaths the obelisk at the Place de Concorde in Paris to mark World AIDS Day. The condom—the world's largest—is funded by the clothing company United Colors of Benetton.

Pablo Escobar, the fugitive leader of the Medellin drug cartel, is shot to death by Colombian law enforcement agents.

The US unemployment rate falls to 6.4 percent, the largest monthly improvement in a decade.

In preparation for repairs, astronauts on the shuttle Endeavour successfully catch the Hubble space telescope with a robotic arm.

The musician Frank Zappa dies of cancer at the age of fifty-two.

The Pentagon announces a possible plan to “de-target” its Cold War missiles from Russia, training them on the ocean instead.

As the controversy over Calvin Klein’s “heroin chic” ads continues, model Kate Moss gives “no comment on the weight debate” in New York magazine.

A gunman with a 9mm handgun opens fire in a Long Island Rail Road train car, killing six and wounding nineteen.

President Clinton signs the North American Free Trade Agreement into law, ending most trade tariffs between Canada, the US, and Mexico.

Ann Franklin, a Westchester nanny, admits that she threw the infant in her care to the floor in anger, causing his death. Later, investigators discover that she had a criminal history, and in 1998, Kieran’s Law—named after the slain child—passes in New York State, allowing background checks on prospective caregivers.

For the first time since the Communist Party came to power in 1949, China sends American war dead home when the remains of three airmen killed in World War II are discovered on a mountainside in Tibet.

A public activist group announces that medical industry groups have given a record amount of money to congressional campaigns in a nonelection year as debates on the universal health care plan are set to begin.

The jury hears the closing arguments in Erik Menendez’s murder trial; his brother Lyle’s case is in the third day of deliberation.

Israelis do not leave the West Bank as they were scheduled to do, in a delay to the transition to Palestinian autonomy.

In Geneva, the US and Europe agree to put aside their differences and go forward in updating the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trades, ultimately leading to the creation of the World Trade Organization.

Steven Spielberg’s film Schindler’s List is released in theaters.

In response to growing violence in schools, Walter Annenberg announces that he will donate $500 million to groups involved in school reform, the biggest single gift to public education in American history.

President Yeltsin, in a change of course, announces a series of massively subsidized loans to agriculture and other industries in Russia, after elections show strong support for nationalist candidates.

Reverend Louis Farrakhan speaks in New York at the Jacob Javits Convention Center, urging black men to abandon violence.

Israel and PLO officials secretly meet in Norway, where they try and fail to resolve the deadlock over implementing Palestinian autonomy in Gaza and the West Bank.

Donald Trump and Marla Maples are married in a lavish affair at the Plaza Hotel in New York; approximately one thousand guests attend.

As reports surface that President Clinton may have had liaisons with other women when he was governor of Arkansas, Hillary Clinton says that the personal attacks being made on her husband are “outrageous.”

Michael Jackson releases his first public statement about the allegations that he molested a child, saying that they are “totally false.”

Jonathan Demme’s film Philadelphia, starring Tom Hanks as a lawyer suffering from AIDS, is released in theaters.

A show featuring the work of Young British Artists Sarah Lucas and Steven Pippin opens at the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

The last remaining specimens of the smallpox virus, now eradicated in humans and held in laboratories in Russia and the US, are not destroyed as planned, as scientists claim that they will be useful in future research.
DECEMBER 25
The CIA reports that North Korea likely has one to two nuclear weapons; the State Department disagrees.

DECEMBER 26
The Guggenheim Museum goes to court with a lawsuit seeking the return of the Chagall painting *Le Marchand de Bestiaux*, which was stolen from the museum but purchased unwittingly by its owners.

DECEMBER 27
France closes its beaches on the Atlantic side, from Belgium all the way down to Spain, as dangerous detritus from irresponsible shipping vessels washes up on the shores, including explosives, acetone, fungicides, and pesticides.

DECEMBER 28
After revelations that the US government conducted radioactive medical experiments on Americans after World War II, the US Energy Secretary Hazel O’Leary calls for government compensation for victims.

DECEMBER 29
The National Association of Realtors announces that thanks to the fledgling economic recovery and low mortgage interest rates, Americans purchased single-family homes in the prior month at the fastest pace ever recorded.

DECEMBER 30
The Federal Communications Commission delays approving deals for Infinity Broadcasting, the parent company of the *Howard Stern Show*, in retaliation for the lewd content of the program.

DECEMBER 31
The transgender Nebraska youth Brandon Teena is raped and murdered; his story is later memorialized in the film *Boys Don’t Cry*.

The Barbie Liberation Organization, an artist group involved in culture jamming, get nationwide press for switching the voice boxes on talking G.I. Joe and Barbie dolls and restocking them onto store shelves to the surprise of more than three hundred unsuspecting parents.