

nior army officers. The defections are a potential intelligence windfall for the U.S. and signal deep divisions in Saddam's ruling clique

Sri Lankan Bombing Kills 22

A suspected suicide bomber detonated explosives outside a government building in the Sri Lankan capital of Colombo, killing 22 people and wounding 50 others. The police said the blast was set off by a Tamil separatist fighting for a homeland in the north-east of the country.

The Untouchables

Thanks to an Italian law passed in 1993 that prevents people with AIDS from being thrown in jail, a group of HIV-infected bank robbers in Turin were freed after their fourth holdup in three weeks. The three men, described by police as heroin addicts with full-blown AIDS, have carried out dozens of heists. Said a police spokesman: "They know they can't be imprisoned, so they take no precautions ... They robbed the last bank in full view of the security cameras, armed only with a pocket knife."

BUSINESS

NBC Carries Torch

NBC pre-empted an expected bidding war by securing the broadcasting rights to the 2000 Summer and 2002 Winter Olympic Games for a combined \$1.27 billion. The offer, which carried a weekend deadline and a proviso forbidding solicitation of counterbids, set a record for Olympic broadcasting.

Leaving Windows Open

The Justice Department announced it will take no anti-trust action against Microsoft Corp.'s Windows 95 software before its Aug. 24 launch. The news came hours after the company set prices and imposed an initial 500,000-member ceiling for the controversial new online network it will package with Windows.

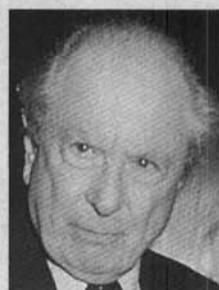
MILESTONES



AL-AMIN



MARSHALL AND SMITH



BEGELMAN

ARRESTED. JAMIL ABDULLAH AL-AMIN, 51, ex-Black Panther leader formerly known as H. Rap Brown; on weapons and assault charges; in Atlanta. The leader of Atlanta's Community Mosque, Al-Amin was identified as the gunman in a shooting outside a grocery he owns. He pleaded not guilty.

DIED. DAVID BEGELMAN, 73, film producer; of an apparently self-inflicted gunshot wound; in Los Angeles. Though Begelman was president of Columbia Pictures during a flush period in the '70s (his tenure produced hits like *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* and *Shampoo*), he risked it all by becoming a check forger. Yet such was Hollywood's awe of his golden touch that Begelman's career barely suffered when his larceny was revealed. His most recent venture, Gladden Entertainment, went bankrupt last year, and Begelman was reported to be deeply depressed by the failure—a transgression, after all, that his peers take more seriously than forgery.

DIED. J. HOWARD MARSHALL, 90, oil magnate; in Houston. Marshall's admirers were hoping last week that he would not be remembered primarily for last year's May-December 31st marriage to Texas-size model Anna Nicole Smith. His previous, more substantial career began with a position in the Interior Department drafting New Deal oil regulations. Armed with his knowledge of the field, he went on to amass a fortune—\$725 million at its peak—that made him Houston's wealthiest citizen. His marriage to Smith was his third.

DIED. PHIL HARRIS, 91, singer, bandleader, comic, of heart failure; in Rancho Mirage, California. Harris' hepcat persona was a fixture on radio in the '40s on the Jack Benny show and, for a time, in partnership with his wife Alice Faye. In 1947 he had a hit song with *Smoke! Smoke! Smoke! (That Cigarette)*. Today, he's known to the VCR generation as the voice of Baloo the Bear in Disney's animated *Jungle Book*.

50 YEARS AGO IN TIME

Finis

The denouement of World War II through Harry Truman's eyes: "Last week, having loosed a new force upon the world and welcomed a new ally into the Pacific war, a part of his business was to wait and to wonder, like other men, whether all that he had done had been worth-while. Friday morning [the day after the bombing of Nagasaki] he was up early as usual ... when a War Department messenger arrived with a radio dispatch. The President took the piece of paper and read: 'In obedience to the gracious command of His Majesty the Emperor ...' Three years, eight months, three days and 75,000 American lives after Pearl Harbor, the Japs were beaten. They knew it, and they wanted to quit 'as quickly as possible.'" —Aug. 20, 1945



Cover: V-J day

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