

#### TOP STORIES-'95

NEW YORK (AP) - The April 19 bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City has been overwhelmingly cited as the top story of the year in the 59th annual Associated Press vote of newspaper and broadcast executives. A solid second is the ongoing mess in the former Yugoslavia, where 60,000 NATO troops - one-third of them Americans - began arriving in December to replace ineffective United Nations peacekeeping forces. In 1995, the Simpson acquittal is No. 3 on the list, followed by the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and the enormous earthquake that rocked Kobe, Japan.

#### DEAN MARTIN

LOS ANGELES (AP) - The Hollywood community is mourning the death of actor and singer Dean Martin at age 78. Comedian Jerry Lewis is said to be "completely shattered and grief-stricken" at the death of his longtime friend and former partner in the comedy team Martin and Lewis. In a statement, singer Frank Sinatra calls Martin his brother -- "not through blood, but through choice." Sinatra and Martin were part of the Hollywood boys' club called the Rat Pack. Martin's longtime agent and friend Mort Viner says the singer died at his Beverly Hills home of acute respiratory failure.

#### CHRISTMAS-POPE

VATICAN CITY (AP) - Doctors have placed the pope under observation and advised several days of rest. A Vatican spokesman says Pope John Paul II is suffering from flu-like symptoms and will take anti-flu medicine for the next several days. The spokesman calls the illness "nothing worrisome." The pontiff had just started delivering holiday greetings in 54 different languages after Christmas Mass when he stopped and said, "I cannot go on. Merry Christmas and God bless." John Paul is scheduled to celebrate Mass today for the feast day of St. Stephen. It's unclear whether he will cancel.

#### N. KOREA-S. KOREA

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) - North Korea has returned five South Korean fishermen it seized nearly seven months ago. South Korea welcomed the return, but said it would not automatically lead to further relief supplies for the economically-hurting North.

#### ALIEN SMUGGLING

WASHINGTON (AP) - Authorities reportedly have broken up a major alien smuggling ring that sent thousands of Latin Americans and Asians into the U.S. through Central America each year. The Washington Post reports that authorities in Ecuador arrested Gloria Canales, the alleged head of an organization that traffics in illegal immigrants. U.S. officials say Canales used bribery and an extensive network of contacts from Peru and Mexico to India and

#### BOX OFFICE

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Despite a pre-release controversy, Oliver Stone's film portrait of former President Richard Nixon didn't even make the top 10 at the box office Christmas weekend, yielding to the surprise winner "Waiting to Exhale." The romantic melodrama, starring Whitney Houston and Angela Bassett, was expected to earn \$14.3 million at 1,253 locations in its four-day debut weekend, industry and studio sources said yesterday.