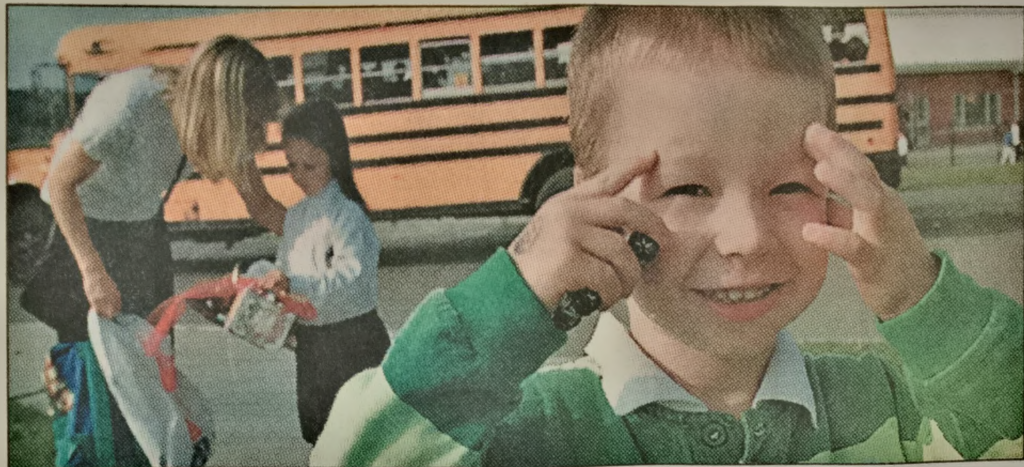




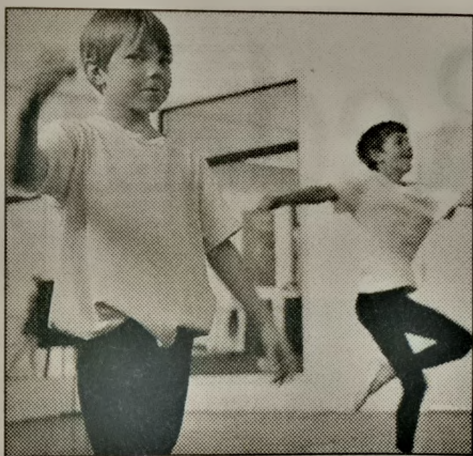
Winona screams, Pacino curses

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Can politicians figure out the 'burbs?

JOHN STACKHOUSE, A13



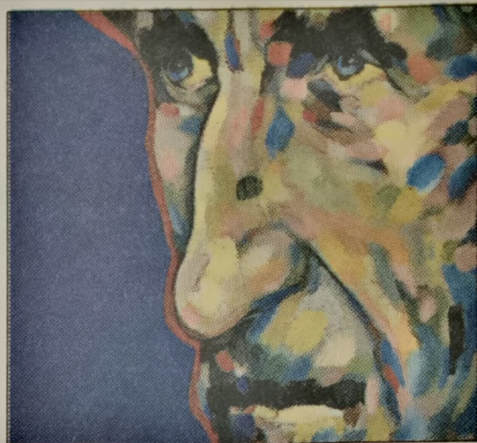
Canada's budding Billy Elliots

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Britney is more of a threat than Eminem

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George Orwell: The definitive biography

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THE GLOBE AND MAIL

CANADA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER ■ FOUNDED 1844 ■ GLOBEANDMAIL.COM ■ SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2000

Air-India suspects charged

RCMP arrest two after 15-year probe of jetliner bombing that killed 329

BY ROD MICKLEBURGH, VANCOUVER

In the biggest and most expensive murder investigation in Canadian history, the RCMP arrested two men yesterday in the 1985 bombing of Air-India Flight 182 that killed 329 passengers and crew.

The RCMP laid joint charges against wealthy businessman Ripudaman Singh Malik, 53, and Ajaib Singh Bagri, 51, who were arrested separately shortly after noon local time.

They face eight counts of murder, attempted murder and conspiring to bomb several aircraft at the height of an insurgency in the 1980s for an independent Sikh homeland in India.

An RCMP spokesperson said more arrests are expected.

For thousands of Canadians who lost relatives and friends aboard the flight from Toronto and Montreal to India, the sudden announcement was the biggest step yet toward justice in an emotionally tumultuous and politically charged

investigation that some Sikhs thought would never end.

The 15-year investigation, which continues, has divided Canada's Sikh community, brought discredit to investigators and cost the Canadian government an estimated \$26-million.

"We've been waiting for this day for a long, long time, for 15 years," said Sendaram Ramakesavan, a computer programmer who immigrated to Canada in the 1970s and lost his first Canadian friends, a Sikh couple and their two children, to the bombing.

The RCMP got in touch with 123 family members before the announcement to prepare them for the news.

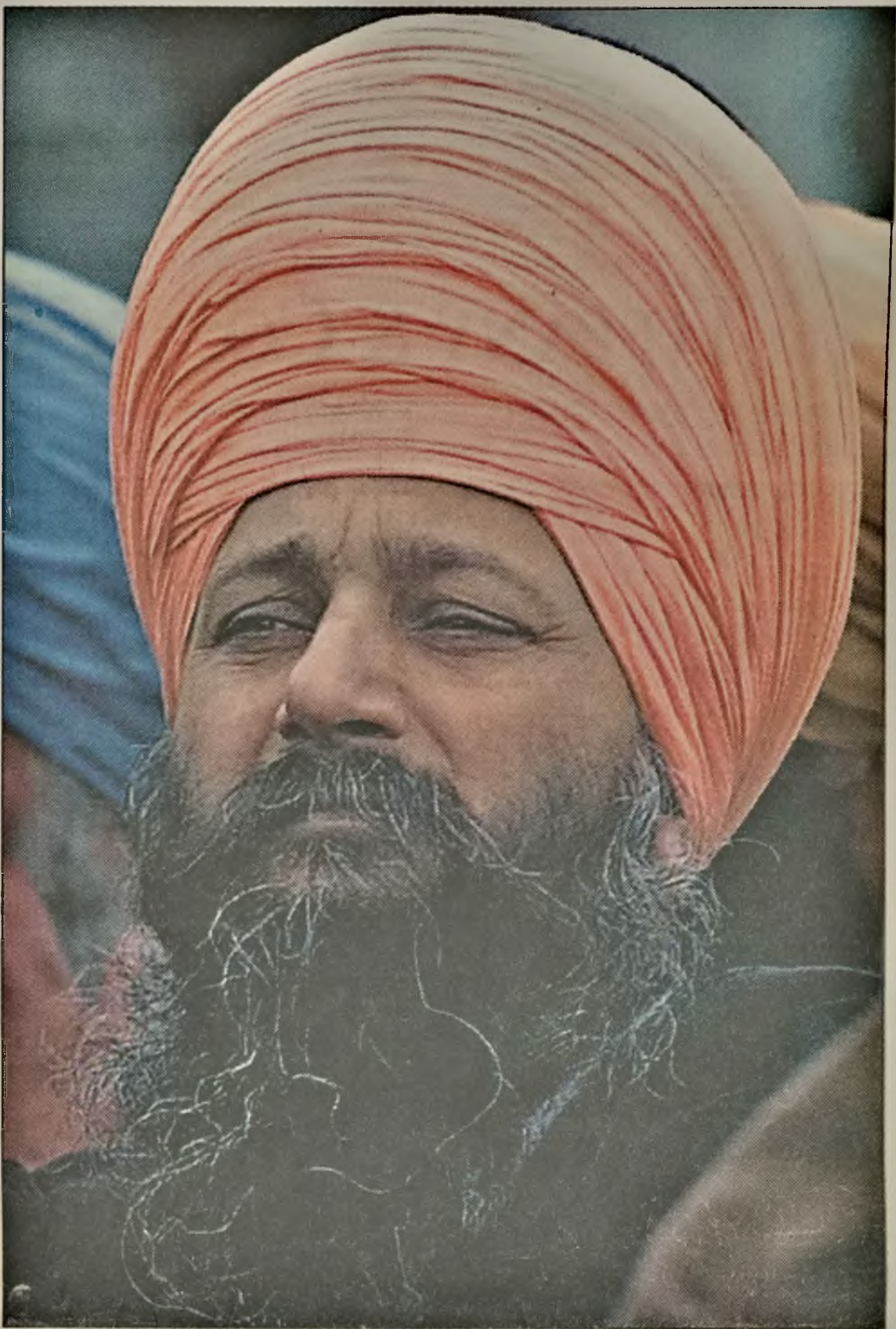
"They showed very mixed emotions," said Constable Cate Galliford, spokeswoman for the Air-India Task Force. "It's been 15 years. A lot have moved on with their lives."

See ARRESTS on page A11

• More coverage, A10-11



Ripudaman Singh Malik, left, and Ajaib Singh Bagri face murder and conspiracy charges in the downing of an Air-India jet over the North Atlantic.



CANADIAN PRESS

'It's too late,' victim's father says

BY ANDREW MITROVICA AND MARGARET PHILP, TORONTO

Prakash Bhardwaj was spending a quiet day at home yesterday when his world was jarred again.

A reporter was on the phone, asking for his reaction to the unexpected news that the RCMP had fi-

nally laid charges against two men in connection with the killing of his 20-year-old son, Harish, and 279 other Canadians more than 15 years ago in the Air-India bombing.

Mr. Bhardwaj paused, took a breath and then let out a long sigh.

"It's too late," he said. "It's very much too late."

The Toronto man said the arrests, half a continent away in Vancouver, will do little to ease the pain he bears over the loss of a son.

"I remember him every day," he said. "The anguish is always there. It's been very, very difficult."

Harish, he said, was a bright young man who had just been ac-

cepted at the University of Toronto before he stepped onto Flight 182.

"He was so exceptional in everything. He was an athlete, a musician. He was so affectionate," Mr. Bhardwaj said. "We miss everything about him, everything."


See VICTIM on page A10

THE ELECTION

Full coverage: A7-A9

■ PETER GZOWSKI: On Stockwell, Jean and Joe. A13

■ EDWARD GREENSPON: Alliance hordes threaten Liberal. A19

 Follow the campaign as it happens at globeandmail.com

Why Harris's top troops shun Day

ANALYSIS

BY JOHN IBBITSON

Some members of Mike Harris's New Blue Machine find Stockwell Day offensive. Some are piqued at being ignored. Some just don't want to give up their day jobs.

Whatever the reason, the team

that managed Mike Harris's election strategy, leading the Ontario Tories to two majority governments, is sitting out Stockwell Day's campaign.

Instead, a new cabal of junior strategists, including some members of the Mike Harris farm team, are trying to break the federal Liberal lock on Ontario.

After one week of acid testing,

they have displayed enthusiasm, commitment, and at least a partial grasp of tactics.

What they lack, however, is maturity, organizational skill and time.

For 10 years, a core group has guided the Ontario Conservative electoral strategy.

See IBBITSON on page A9

A cry for help

The head of a Labrador Innu community says an alcohol-related house fire in which five people died, three of them children, is a cry for help. A3

General under fire

Major-General Lewis MacKenzie, now retired, told the world to stay out of Bosnia as ethnic cleansing took place, a new book claims. A4

A new Raptor

Mark Jackson used to be the Indiana Pacers' back-court king. Toronto Raptors are betting that at age 35 he still has the juice as the NBA season opens Tuesday. S1

Microsoft hacked

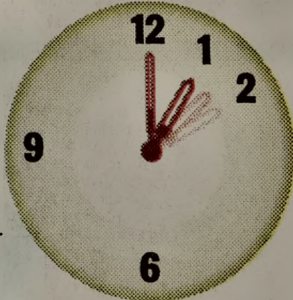
Hackers slipped through the computer gates of Bill Gates's Microsoft and stole some secrets. No one's safe, a Calgary scientist says. B1

The victim's turn

A jury considering Colin Thatcher's bid for freedom came face-to-face with the spectre of a family shattered by a murder. A3

Fall back

Daylight savings time ends tonight. Set your clocks back one hour before you go to bed tonight.

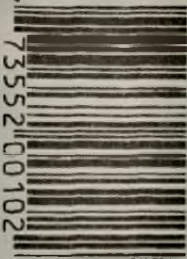


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\$1.85 plus GST in Greater Toronto; higher outside and in boxes.

Lovers in a dangerous time

Secret romance blossoms in a war zone

BY STEPHANIE NOLEN

NEAR RAMALLAH, WEST BANK

They were supposed to get married this week. There was to have been a feast — potluck, because they don't have much money. Their families were going to be there, and some of their friends. The plan had been for the wed-

ding to take place in the garden of a centre in Israel called Wahat Salaam-Neveh Shalom — Place of Peace. She was going to wear a simple white dress that his sister had made for her.

Instead, Khalil and Dalia sit crammed together in the one armchair in their tiny apartment in a suburb of Ramallah. They talk by

candlelight — the power has gone out. No one is sure why, but these days, it's usually a bad sign.

For the past three hours, gunfire outside shatters the quiet periodically. It has been a month since the Palestinian territories erupted into the worst violence in 15 years. More than 130 Palestinians and eight Israelis have died, including two soldiers lynched in Ramallah.

The couple are afraid to reveal too many details about their life to-

gether. They tell people in their conservative Muslim neighbourhood simply that she is Canadian. They fear that, if the truth were known, Khalil would lose his job as a civil servant and that their neighbours might drive them out of their home.

A good Palestinian doesn't marry a Jew.

• It was love at first sight: The story continues on page A23

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