

## **NATION IN BRIEF:**

### **Microsoft plans low-cost model**

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## **Body**

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**Microsoft** Corp. hopes to get even bigger by scaling back.

The company was announcing **plans** today in San Jose, Calif., for a network computer, a **low-cost**, basic machine intended to be linked in corporate networks. A variety of companies have or are working on such computers for consumers and businesses.

Today's announcement also is seen as an attempt to steal some thunder from Sun Microsystems Inc., which **plans** to launch its JavaStation NC in New York Tuesday. Sun is one of several companies, including Apple, IBM, Netscape and Oracle, collaborating on NC standards that don't include **Microsoft** software.

COURTS Prosecutors assailed

A lawyer for Oklahoma City bombing suspect Timothy McVeigh accused prosecutors today of trying to prejudice the trial by meeting with victims' relatives and labeling defense theories as "wacky." The meeting was a "deliberate example of the government engaged in unauthorized disclosure," attorney Stephen Jones said on NBC's "Today" show. Prosecutors spent more than two hours Sunday answering questions from about 200 relatives and survivors during a meeting at the U.S. attorney's office, just a few blocks from the site of the bombed federal building.

GOVERNMENT Record deportations

The Immigration and Naturalization Service is expected to announce Tuesday in a year-end report it deported a record 67,000 undocumented immigrants during the past year, a 34 percent increase over 1995, as part of a continuing government campaign to crack down. In California, deportations of undocumented immigrants jumped about 50 percent to 30,000 during the fiscal year ending Sept. 30. Initial estimates of the INS report's principal findings were provided to the Los Angeles Times Sunday by a Clinton administration official who requested anonymity.

CRIME 2 charged in shooting

Two men authorities in Pelion, S.C., say have ties to the Ku Klux Klan were charged Sunday in a drive-by shooting outside a rural nightclub that left three teenagers wounded, one seriously. Lexington County Sheriff James Metts said Clayton E. Spires Jr., 25, of Lexington and Joshua G. England, 18, of New Holland were stopped by state troopers for alcohol and traffic violations about 30 minutes after the shootings, and authorities found an assault rifle, shell casings and ammunition in Spires' truck along with white supremacist literature. The men were charged with assault and battery with intent to kill.

### Halloween violence

Several youths returned with reinforcements and attacked guests after being kicked out of a Halloween party in Norfolk, Mass., stabbing one man to death and injuring at least four other people. Some witnesses described the assailants as skinheads, white youths with swastika symbols on their hands, but prosecutors weren't sure. A 22-year-old man died from stab wounds to the back and chest, Assistant District Attorney John Birtwell said. Four other men, including the party's host, were also injured in the attack early Sunday.

### Campus unrest

Mobs of several hundred Southern Illinois University students broke store windows and threw rocks, bricks and bottles Sunday in a repeat of traditional pre-Halloween revelry in Carbondale. At least 33 people were arrested and three police officers injured in the three-hour fracas, Police Chief Don Strom said. The windows of about eight businesses were broken, but there were no reports of looting.

### POLLS Parenting poll

Nearly six in 10 Americans think gays can be just as good at parenting as heterosexuals, but almost half oppose adoption by gay couples, according to a Newsweek poll. The poll of 929 adults appears in the Nov. 4 issue of the magazine. The majority - 57 percent - said gays can be equally good parents as heterosexuals. Thirty-one percent believed they can't, and 12 percent said they were uncertain. When asked whether there should be adoption rights for gay spouses, 47 percent said no, 36 percent were in favor, and 17 percent were undecided.

### ACCIDENTS Train derailment

Crews worked today to clear and repair railroad tracks after a freight train derailed, overturning a pair of locomotives and scattering the contents of several cars. Sunday's derailment near Laton, Calif., forced the evacuation of two nearby mobile homes, but no injuries were reported.

### PEOPLE Wedding plans again

Kenny Rogers is a true gambler when it comes to love. Rogers is considering tying the knot for the fifth time, and the country singer told a British news agency Sunday he's got his eye on Wanda Miller, 30. "We are much more serious now than we were three months ago, but one of the things we have to consider is the age difference," Rogers, 58, told the Press Association in a phone interview from his Nashville home.

### THE SOUTH Immigrant gangs

Problems with gang-related crime have worsened as Charlotte's Vietnamese community has grown, police said. International House, a Charlotte organization that promotes foreign cultures, estimates the city's Vietnamese population is about 10,000, up from 4,000 two years ago. Saturday, members of Charlotte's Vietnamese community met with law enforcement officials to discuss problems involving Vietnamese gangs.

## Classification

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## NATION IN BRIEF;Microsoft plans low-cost model

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**Organization:** THE SALVATION ARMY (57%); AMERICAN RED CROSS (57%); CATHOLIC CHARITIES USA (57%)

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