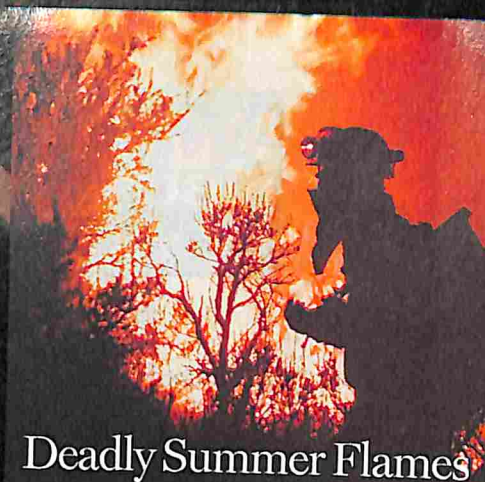
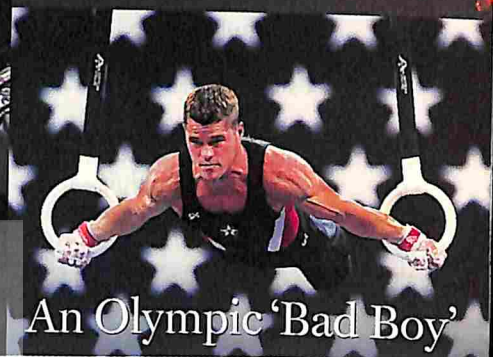


Al's Test of Faith



Deadly Summer Flames



An Olympic 'Bad Boy'

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: KHUE BUI, DEBRA REID—SPARKS TRIBUNE—CORBIS SYGMA, DAVE BLACK

ON THE COVER: In a historic move, Al Gore chooses Joe Lieberman as his running mate—the first Jew on a major ticket. Will Lieberman help him step out of Bill Clinton's shadow? And is the country ready for a Jewish veep? Behind the choice, an in-depth profile of the real 'Prince Albert,' and a gatefold on what America might be like under a President Gore. Plus: a gallery of Democratic dynasties. **BURNING QUESTIONS:** With much of the West in flames, who's responsible? And how long will it take to put out the fires? **GOING FOR THE RINGS:** Blaine Wilson's pulled out his tongue stud and is now thinking about one thing: a gold medal in gymnastics in Sydney.

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