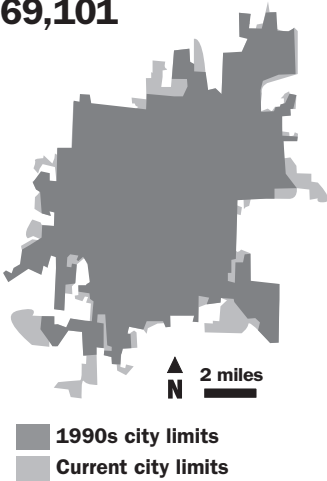


# '90s

- The first McDonald's in Moscow opens.
- Nelson Mandela is freed after 27 years of imprisonment.
- Millions of people become regular users of the World Wide Web.

## CITY BREAKDOWN

COLUMBIA POPULATION<sup>1</sup>  
**69,101**



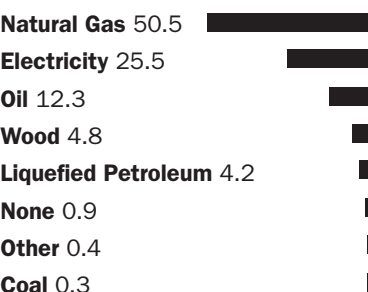
AVERAGE FAMILY INCOME<sup>2</sup>  
**\$46,044**

(Adjusted for inflation: \$53,782)

NUMBER OF SCHOOLS<sup>3</sup>

**18** elementary schools, **3** junior high schools, **4** high schools

HOW HOMES WERE HEATED<sup>4</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Population is average for the decade.

<sup>2</sup> 2000 census figures for 1999.

<sup>3</sup> Number of schools is for 1990.

<sup>4</sup> 1991 fuel consumption in percent.

Sources: City of Columbia, Missouri Historical Society, U.S. Census Bureau and the U.S. Energy Information Administration

## POP CULTURE



### "FRIENDS" AND "SEINFELD"

Two popular sitcoms in the 1990s were both set in New York City. Suddenly the Big Apple, with the country's oldest and — some would say — most efficient subway system became cool all over again.

### MINIVAN

Americans begin moving away from small coupes and into bigger cars. A precursor to the SUVs, the minivans, which replaced family station wagon, offered seven-passenger seating, perfect for families on the go, not so perfect on the environment.

### AIR JORDANS

Sneaker acclaim (also made with oil by-products) reached a new height in the 1990s when Chicago Bulls basketball star Michael Jordan came out with his signature shoe, the Air Jordans.



JOHN GAPS III/Associated Press

Oil field workers signal to a crane operator as pipe is laid leading to a burning wellhead in the Ahmadi oil field in Kuwait on Aug. 4, 1991.

# Desert storm

**O**n the eve of Aug. 2, 1990, Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein led his troops and country into the neighboring country of Kuwait.

Known as the first Persian Gulf War, its cause was said to be a series of breakdowns in negotiations between the two nations over oil production and debt repayment. In no time, Saddam annexed the tiny country and declared it to be Iraq's 19th province. The United Nations imposed economic sanctions on Iraq in the hope of stopping the conflict.

Fearful that Saddam would roll tanks into Saudi Arabia and control the region's oil supply, President George H.W. Bush acted on Saudi's request for military help and on Jan. 18, 1991, Operation Desert Shield began.

In the president's address to the nation, he said, "As I report to you, air attacks are under way against military targets in Iraq. We are determined to knock out Saddam Hussein's nuclear bomb potential. We will also destroy his chemical weapons facilities. Much of Saddam's artillery and tanks will be destroyed. Our operations are designed to best protect the lives of all

the coalition forces by targeting Saddam's vast military arsenal."

David Williamson, a Columbia resident, was stationed in Europe and volunteered to go to war to defend a country he felt would have fallen without American military involvement. This, Williamson believed, could have hurt the U.S. tremendously.

"We saw U.N. sanction after U.N. sanction being imposed and none held any weight," he said. "We needed the military to step in and bring stability to a region that needed stability for thousands of years."

In 1991, coalition forces drove Iraqi forces out of Kuwait. Within hours, Resolution 660 was passed to condemn the Iraqi invasion and demand a withdrawal of its troops. The Arab League passed a similar resolution but added its disapproval of foreign intervention. While some may have looked down on the intervention, Williamson believes it was warranted.

## SOUND FAMILIAR? WAR IN IRAQ

Two years ago, American troops went back to Iraq in search of weapons of mass destruction, and while the motivation for war and the reason for U.S. troops to remain there are still being questioned, the fact remains that America's relationship with the Middle East — the main petroleum produc-

ing countries — is tethered and fragile.

Beyond the Middle East, the world's dwindling supply of oil scares many people into looking for alternative energy sources. So while looking, Williamson suggests that Americans grin and bear the prices if the results are worth it.

## 1990 GAS PRICE

LEADED REGULAR

**\$ 1.15**

(Adjusted for inflation: \$1.71)

## BUYING A BARREL



TOP 5 EXPORTERS TO THE U.S. (THOUSANDS OF BARRELS PER DAY IN 1990)

- 1) Persian Gulf Nations (1,966)
- 2) Saudi Arabia (1,339)
- 3) Venezuela (1,025)
- 4) Canada (934)
- 5) Nigeria (800)

TOTAL IMPORTS 8,018

TOTAL OPEC 4,296

Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration

## POLITICS

### WAR AGAINST AGGRESSION

President George H.W. Bush held office from 1989 to 1993. Noteworthy for his foreign policy, he invaded Panama and joined the United Nations in fighting the Gulf War from 1990 to 1991. Contrary to the popular belief that the first Persian Gulf War was for the sole purpose of keeping oil control out of the hands of Saddam Hussein, President Bush said, "This is not a war for oil. This is a war against aggression."

By now, the United States had established itself as a super power, an enforcer and peace-keeper all around the world. In 1994, the U.S. sent troops to Haiti to overthrow a military dictatorship. The United States sent its troops out again in 1996 to Bosnia to keep peace under the umbrella of the NATO peace-keeping force. The U.S. joined NATO in air strikes against Yugoslavia in 1999 to halt ethnic cleansing in Kosovo.

Issues such as health care, Social Security reform and gun control were addressed. None were resolved but were heavily debated throughout the decade. Violence and sex scandals filled the media including the Tailhook affair in which Navy and Marine Corps fliers were accused of sexual abuse, President Clinton's misconduct with an intern, and the Los Angeles riots after the acquittal of four white policemen's assault on black motorist Rodney King.