

Neighbors killing neighbors . . .

Rwanda survivor speaks of massacre

The Associated Press

EDITOR'S NOTE — For three weeks, he was presumed dead, one of the 100,000 now estimated to have been hacked, shot and ripped to death in the orgy of ethnic murder that has swept across Rwanda since the president of the tiny African nation was killed in a plane crash. On Thursday, this resident of Kigali, the Rwandan capital, emerged from hiding and called The Associated Press in Nairobi, Kenya. Asking that his name be concealed to avoid retribution, the man told this story.

KIGALI, Rwanda — On the 6th of April, I remember RTLM (radio) broke the news that the president's plane was on fire at the airport. I was at home with my wife and child. The massacres started almost immediately. Very early the next morning, mobs were everywhere. They were armed with grenades, guns, machetes, spears, axes, and they started chasing ethnic Tutsis. Some of those killers were my neighbors. They chose a place just in front of my home to bring people to kill. I saw at least 100 killed there, on the street in front of my home. I saw people hacked to death, even babies. Month-old babies.

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— a survivor in Rwanda

Anybody who tried to flee was killed on the streets. And people who were hiding were found and massacred.

It was terrible. It was beyond imagination. The killers also entered my home and checked our identity cards. Thank God the cards said we were Hutus. But still we did not feel safe. Even Hutus were being killed by Hutus.

It is not easy to tell a Hutu from a Tutsi. I am an ethnic Hutu, but some people say I look like a Tutsi. I think that's because of my complexion. When you are thin and have a fine complexion, people say you are a Tutsi. That's why sometimes Hutus kill Hutus.

In my neighborhood, more than 1,000 Tutsis have been killed — just in my neighborhood. I think the intensity of the massacre has diminished because most people have been killed.

I came out of hiding today for the first time. The roads are barricaded by the gangs. When you arrive at a barricade, you are asked to show your identity card. If you are a Tutsi, you are killed. If you are a Hutu, you can escape.

I sent my wife and child away to the countryside a week ago. She is an ethnic Hutu, so there was not much danger for her. I could not go with her because of the way I look.

I don't think people outside of Rwanda can imagine what it's like. Three weeks of slaughter, every day, and not just in Kigali, but everywhere.

There is almost no food. And anyway, the banks are closed and nobody has money to buy food. I ate only one meal a day, mostly beans. We are all afraid, and we are starving.

So many people I know have died. Sometimes I cry.

Parade drives people to decorate their cars

The Associated Press

HOUSTON — A car with a bad hair day?

Yes, the sighting of an old station wagon covered with human hair and topped with giant colored curlers can mean only one thing — it's time for the annual Art Car Parade.

It's an occasion where everyday cars pull over to let the exotic ones drive by, a time when regular people join artists in honoring the automobile, a cultural icon in America. "The art car is another one of those mundane objects that gets transformed by an individual to further express their identity," said Jennifer McKay, parade coordinator.

The transformed cars will take a drive through downtown this weekend for one of the city's most popular parades of the year. Saturday's event officially is called "Roadside Attractions: The Artists' Parade."

A total of 220 art cars, classic cars, low-riders, motorcycles, traveling bands and bicycles will participate in the parade, which is sponsored by the Orange Show Foundation and the Houston International Festival.

The entrants have come from other parts of Texas as well as other states, including California, Oregon and Massachusetts.

Consider these drive-by creations:

- The Eyes of Texas, created by Gregory Middle School students in Houston. This car is coated with eyeballs, arms, hands, fingernails, sheriff badges and mirrors.
- Magic City Golden Transit. Thin sheets of gold leaf, thousands of pieces of mirror, hundreds of Day-Glo yo-yos, 600 pairs of Barbie doll shoes, rhinestones and three pieces of gold-leaf decorated luggage adorn this vehicle.
- Bat Out of Hell on Wheels.

Fairly self-explanatory.

And of course there's the bad hair day car, a concoction of human hair, rollers, curling and crimping irons and other hair-care castoffs.

"We all got rid of all that garbage we stuck in our hair for so long. It

"The art car is another one of those mundane objects that gets transformed by an individual to further express their identity."

— Jennifer McKay, parade coordinator

was a liberation process," said Dawn Fudge, one of the creators. "We went to several beauty shops and they saved hair for us for about two months. We got about 30 pounds of hair. It was a real eye-opening experience dealing with all that hair."

Besides the parade, other events include a ball held Thursday night

in a downtown parking garage with many of the cars on display and a noon cruise Friday along Main Street.

The parade, in its seventh year, finds its origins at the Orange Show, a Houston house turned into a piece

of folk art by a now-deceased retired postman who loved the orange.

Eight years ago, the Orange Show asked Houston artist Jackie Harris to make a suitable "company vehicle." She came up with the "Fruitmobile," and the idea caught on.

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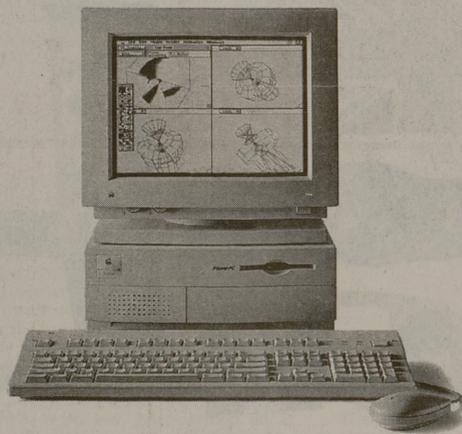
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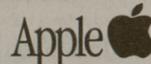


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