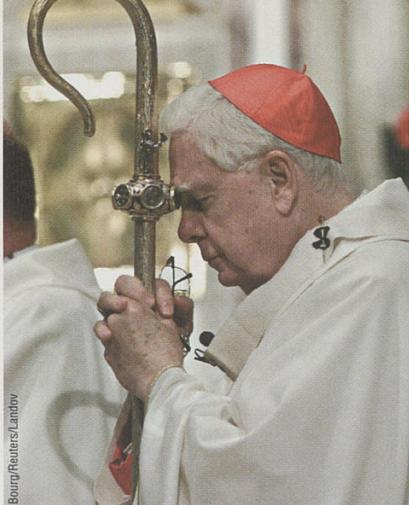


- After being subpoenaed to testify before a Massachusetts grand jury about sex abuse among Catholic priests, embattled Boston Cardinal Bernard Law resigns.
- More than 25 states implement the Amber Alert System, which posts information about abducted children on TV and interstate signs, leading to the recovery of dozens of children nationwide.



Bourj/Reuters/Landov



Fred Prouser/Reuters/Landov

NATIONAL

- For weeks in October, alleged snipers John Muhammad and Lee Boyd Malvo terrorize Washington, D.C., Maryland and Virginia, randomly killing 10 people and injuring three others.
- ✓ The space shuttle Columbia breaks apart on reentry into the Earth's atmosphere, killing all seven astronauts aboard.

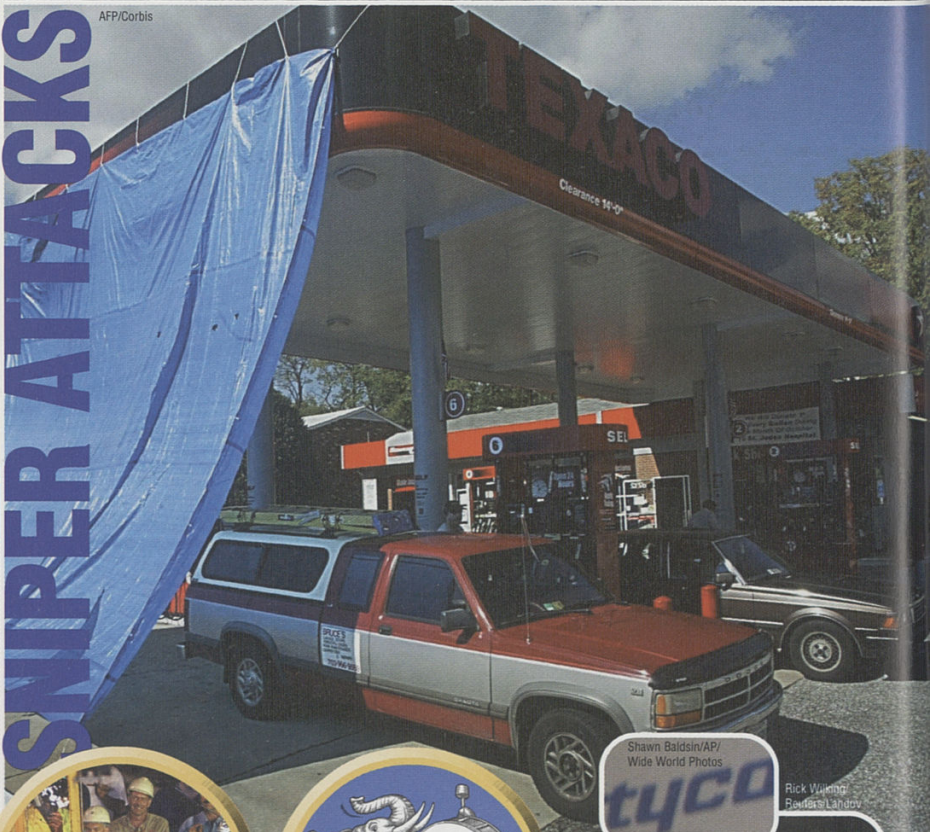
Peter Cosgrove/AP/Wide World Photos



"The crew of the shuttle Columbia did not return safely to Earth, but we can pray they are safely home."

— President George W. Bush

AFP/Corbis



Gene J. Puskar/Getty Images

- On July 28, nine Pennsylvania coal miners are rescued after being trapped for three days in a mineshaft flooded with over 70 million gallons of water.



Getty Images/Artville

- Midterm elections make history as Republicans, the party controlling the White House, gain congressional seats rather than losing them.



Reuters New Media Inc./Corbis

John Partipilo/AP/Wide World Photos

- Several large corporations inflate profits while top executives make off with millions in accounting scandals that send shock waves through global markets.