



Missoulan, Michael Gallacher/AP/Wide World Photos



▲ In the worst forest fire season in 50 years, more than 20,000 firefighters battle blazes in the western United States. More than 80 major wildfires burn across 13 states, forcing hundreds of people to leave their homes.

✓ The U.S. Senate passes the Permanent Normal Trade Relations bill in September to open up trade between the United States and China. The bill is expected to increase U.S. exports by \$13 billion annually.



Michael R. Brown/Liaison

▲ Firestone initiates the largest tire recall in history after dozens of rollover accidents appear to be caused by faulty treads. At least 148 deaths in the United States are linked to the defective tires, although other problems with sport utility vehicles also are under investigation.



David Young-Wolf/PhotoEdit

▲ Summer air travelers wait out some of the worst flight delays on record. Bad weather and heavy air traffic cause delays that reach a peak in June, when only 66% of the flights arrive on time.



Joe Raedle/Newsmax/Liaison

▲ Illegal downloading and missing computer tapes threaten the security of the Los Alamos nuclear weapons lab in New Mexico. Several workers at the lab are penalized for mishandling nuclear secrets.



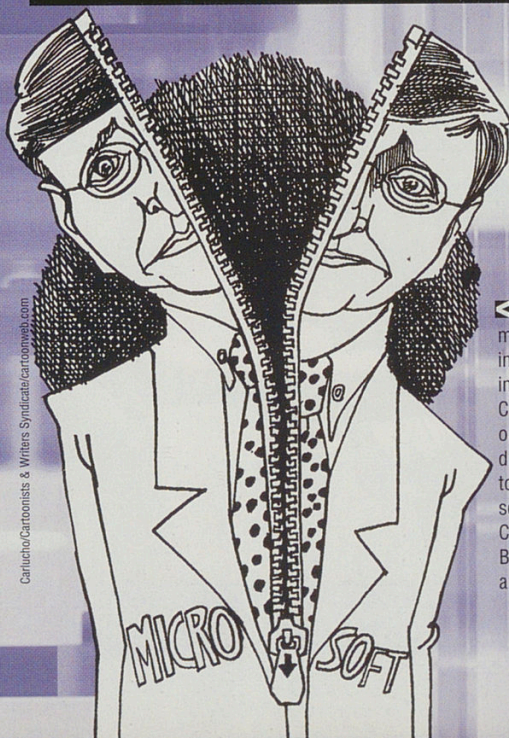
LM Dierker/AP/Wide World Photos

▲ The Women's Museum: An Institute for the Future opens in September in Dallas. The museum profiles 3,000 remarkable American women and features more than 20 interactive exhibits.



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▲ Many brands of taco shells and corn chips are pulled from store shelves and restaurants after a consumer group detects traces of genetically modified corn not approved for human consumption.



Carlucho/Carlucho & Writers Syndicate/Carlucho.com

FLASH >>>

✦ Convicted of monopoly practices in the software industry, Microsoft Corporation is ordered by a federal district judge in June to break into two separate companies. Company chairman Bill Gates files for an appeal.

A wave of Internet startup companies, once the darlings of the online economy, file for bankruptcy after falling short of stockholders' earnings expectations. The NASDAQ stock exchange, where most dot-coms are traded, loses 39% of its value for the year.

Millions of Californians go for hours without power in January 2001 as utility companies cut off electrical supply due to low reserves. The crisis, blamed on aging generating plants, deregulation, soaring wholesale prices and debt-ridden utilities, spurs other states to begin devising prevention plans.



Cynthia Johnson/Liaison

▲ The Oklahoma City National Memorial is unveiled in April 2000. The memorial is built to honor the 168 people who died in the 1995 bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building.