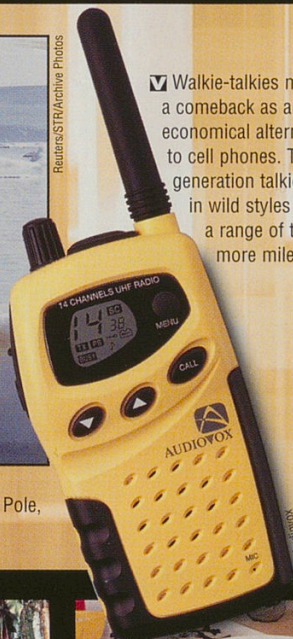




Reuters/STR/Archive Photos

▲ In August, a mile-wide patch of open water is spotted at the North Pole, dramatizing concerns about global warming.

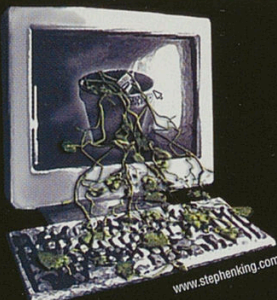


✓ Walkie-talkies make a comeback as an economical alternative to cell phones. The new generation talkies come in wild styles and have a range of two or more miles.



NASA/AP/Wide World Photos

▲ New photos of fiery streams of gas that can reach 300,000 miles high may explain why the sun's atmosphere is hotter than its surface.



www.stephenking.com

▲ In July, Stephen King shakes up the publishing world by releasing one of the first online books, *The Plant*. More than 150,000 copies are downloaded the first week at \$1 per chapter.



NYT Pictures

▲ In a Guatemalan jungle, archeologists uncover remains of an ancient Mayan palace. Bigger than two football fields, the palace is one of the largest ever discovered.



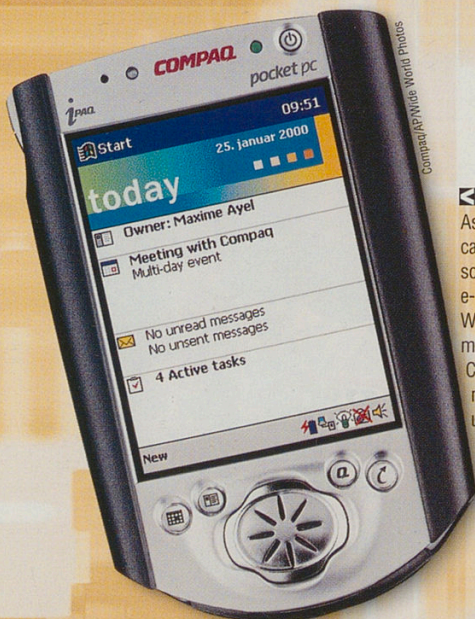
Mark Lemmhan/AP/Wide World Photos

▲ Internet appliances that provide surfing and e-mailing capabilities make their way to homes and schools. The devices offer less expensive Internet access to consumers without home computers.



Jacana Photo Researchers, Inc.

▲ In 2000, more than 200 animal species join the Iberian Lynx on the World Conservation Union's List of Threatened Species. Their addition brings the world total to 11,046 plants and animals having threatened status.



Compaq/AP/Wide World Photos

✎ Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs) capable of calendar scheduling, note taking, e-mailing, phoning and Web browsing go mainstream in 2000. Competition among manufacturers heats up with Microsoft, BlackBerry, Palm and other brands vying for shares of the teen and business markets.

FLASH >>>

Paleontologists identify a new species of dinosaur from fossils found in northern Italy. The 26-foot-long, meat-eating *Saltriosaur* is one of the world's oldest dinosaurs, dating back 200 million years.

Scientists are forced to rethink the traditional definitions of a star and planet when 18 massive planet-like bodies that don't revolve around a sun are discovered in the Sigma Orionis cluster.



Reuters/NASA/Archive Photos

▲ Final touches are made to the International Space Station for its first residents. American astronaut Bill Shepherd and two Russian cosmonauts live on the space station for four months starting in November.