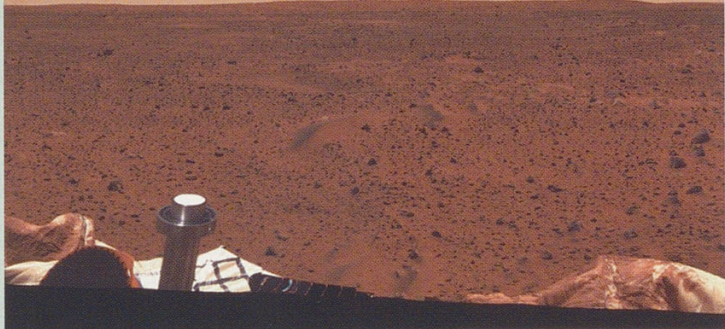


World (and Space) Events

courtesy of NASA.gov



THE MARS ROVER SPIRIT captures amazing pictures of the martian surface. The landing of this robot was a great accomplishment for the scientists at NASA since the last attempt was a failure. Fervor brought on by the success of this mission prompted President Bush to announce his intent to send men to Mars.

"I like that the president wants to explore more, but I'm disappointed that it costs so much money."
> Zack Goldman, 9

"I'm afraid that we will not see peace [in the Middle east] within our generation because old hatreds die slowly."
> Shirly Mills, Hebrew Teacher

FIGHTING CONTINUES IN Iraq even after the war is officially over. A brief rise in the amount of attacks against U.S. officials and soldiers followed the capture of Saddam Hussein, but Coalition Forces still maintain control. Rebuilding the decimated country has become a very costly process and the military campaign alone has cost \$25 billion.



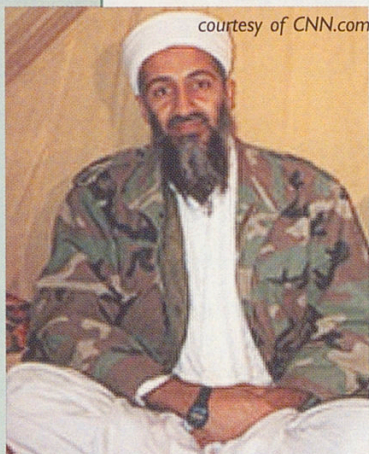
courtesy of CNN.com

THE CONFLICT CONTINUES between the Israelis and Palestinians in Israel. Peace negotiations between Palestinian leader Yassir Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to end the fighting have taken place, but seemingly gotten nowhere. The latest progress has been that Israel has disassembled some of its settlements in the West Bank as well as slightly eased security in the Gaza Strip.

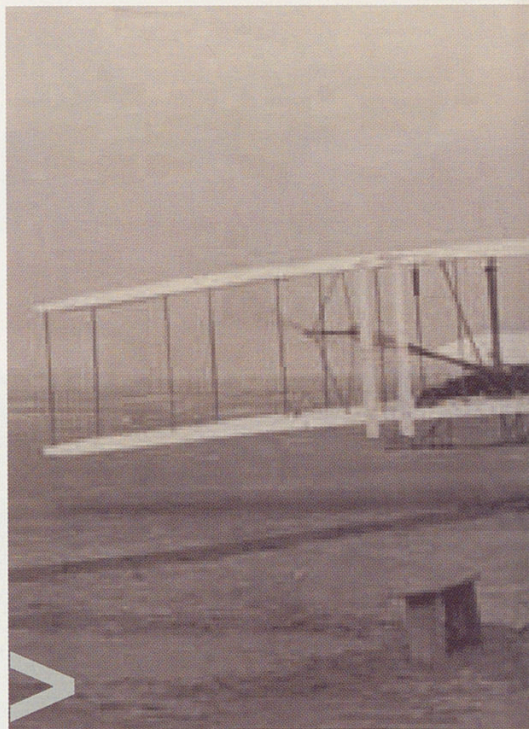


courtesy of CNN.com

NEW TAPE OF BIN Laden's voice found by U.S. Intelligence. After harsh analysis, the audio tape was confirmed to be of the Al Qada terrorist Osama Bin Laden, who was responsible for the September 11 terrorist attacks. The tape called for Muslims to aid other Muslim countries in the Middle East to fight the U.S. and other pro-U.S. countries.



courtesy of CNN.com



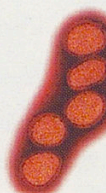
DECEMBER 17, 2003 Marks the 100th anniversary of powered flight by the native Daytonians, the Wright Brothers. In a tribute to Orvil and Wilbur, the Experimental Aircraft Association planned to build and fly an exact replica of the original Wright Flyer. Unfortunately, the replica never got off the ground, so the association will try again in 2004.

200

students were absent every day during the flu season. An average of 30 students per day reported to the nurse's office with flu-like symptoms. According to the Center for Disease control, 10-20% of Americans contract the flu.

Flu outbreak

courtesy of Google.com



INFLUENZA OUTBREAKS in the U.S. reached nearly epidemic levels in the fall. During this season, 20 deaths of children under the age of 18 were reported. The outbreak was unusually early and flu cases were reported in all 50 states. A new, less painful type of vaccination was developed: a mist. This new nasal spray has been proven effective at fighting the flu and caused people to be less apprehensive about being vaccinated.

