



Upon re-entry into Earth's atmosphere, NASA's space shuttle Columbia loses contact with Mission Control in Houston and breaks apart in the skies over Texas. A crew of seven astronauts, including the first Israeli in space, perished.

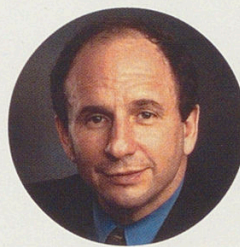
WORLD EVENTS



Rep. Nancy Pelosi becomes the first woman party leader in the House or Senate.



FBI agent Robert Hanssen receives life without parole for selling secrets to Russia.



Minnesota's Democratic Sen. Paul Wellstone is killed in a plane crash.



Bahamian oil tanker "Prestige," carrying 20 million gallons of oil, sinks off the coast of Spain. Nearly 2.6 million gallons of oil polluted the coast.



Because of improper accounting and a debt load of \$41 billion, WorldCom files for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection, the largest in U.S. history.



Police Chief Charles Moose arrests two snipers that terrorized the Washington, D.C. area.



An earthquake measuring 7.8 magnitude rocks Colima, Mexico. Iran and Italy experienced major quakes measuring 6.3 and 5.9.