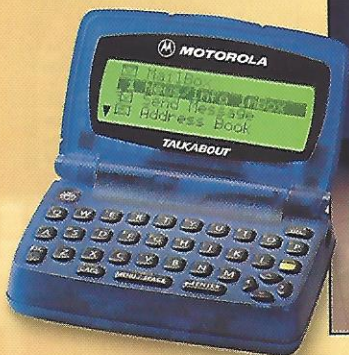
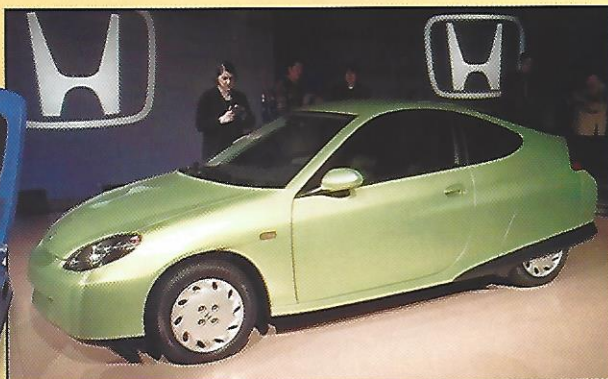




✔ Wireless devices that send real-time personal messages between users become the latest communication craze. The "instant messages" can be typed, written or spoken, depending on the brand, and devices cost less than \$100.



✔ In 2000, both Honda and Toyota launch gas-electric hybrid cars. Operated by a battery-powered electric motor and a gas-run engine, the hybrids get up to 70 miles per gallon on the highway and release minimal emissions.



FLASH >>>

New Internet domain names are created to lessen the load on the old .com standard. The new names, slated for use in mid-2001, include .info for general use, .biz for businesses, .name for individuals and .pro for professionals.

Scientists complete a rough "map" of the genetic code that makes a person human. The map will aid in the detection and prevention of cancer and other illnesses.

Carissa Ochoa/AP/Wide World Photos



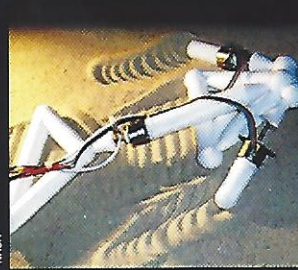
▲ PlanetPortal unveils the WebRemote, a remote built for use with the Internet. Users can surf their favorite sites at the touch of a button instead of keying addresses or scrolling a list of bookmarked pages.



▲ Scientists discover an ancient standing lizard fossil in a German quarry, suggesting that dinosaurs may not have been the first creatures to walk upright.



▲ The Hubble Space Telescope shows never-before-seen details of a "cosmic butterfly," material ejected by a star in the later stages of its life.



▲ Computer scientists at Brandeis University make a robot that can design and build other robots with minimal help from humans.

Stephen J. Boitano/AP/Wide World Photos



▲ Amtrak introduces the nation's first high-speed train in November. The "Acela Express" travels up to 150 miles per hour and runs between Washington, D.C., New York and Boston, with other routes planned for coming years.

✔ Apple Computer unveils its new G4 Cube computer in July. The 8-inch crystalline cube is commended for its small size, high speed, low noise level, touch-sensitive power activation and padless optical mouse.



Photo Courtesy of Apple/Atkinson