

▼ Schools across the nation are thoroughly disinfected—and some are even shut down—to quell outbreaks of staph infections, including antibiotic-resistant strains.



AP Photo/Jerry Lai



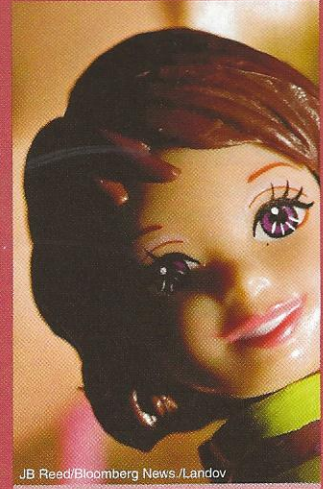
▲ In late October, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger declares a state of emergency due to wildfires that burn more than half a million acres in southern California.

David McNew/Getty Images

▼ Dozens of tornadoes tear across Tennessee, Arkansas, Mississippi, Kentucky and Alabama on February 5, 2008, killing nearly 60 people.



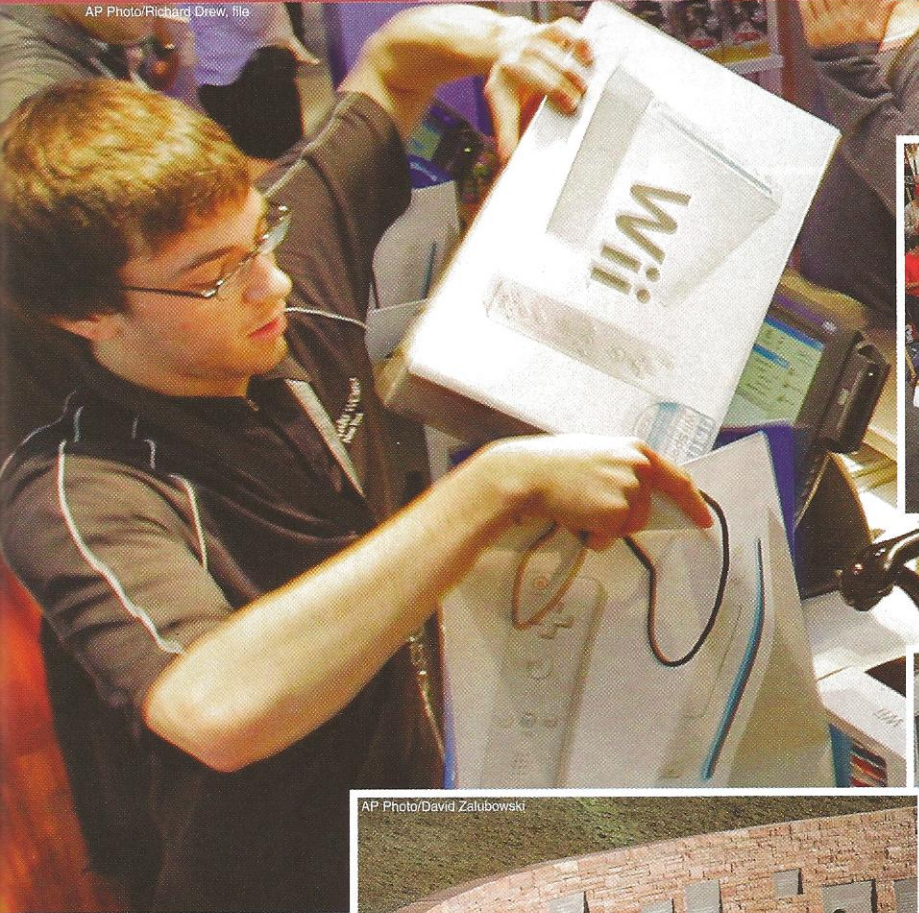
AP/The Jackson Sun, Amanda Herron



JB Reed/Bloomberg News/Landov

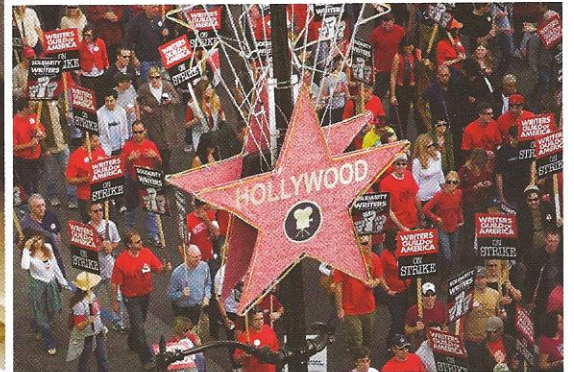
▲ American consumers lose their confidence in China's manufacturers when children's toys tainted with lead trigger widespread recalls.

AP Photo/Richard Drew, file



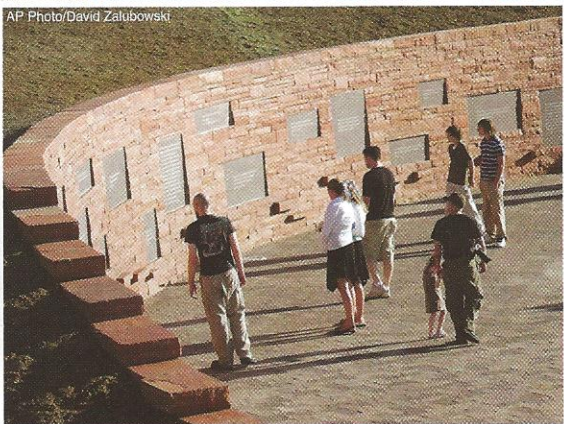
◀ The Nintendo "Wii-nomenon" sweeps the nation as the game console outplays the competition with sales of more than 13 million units.

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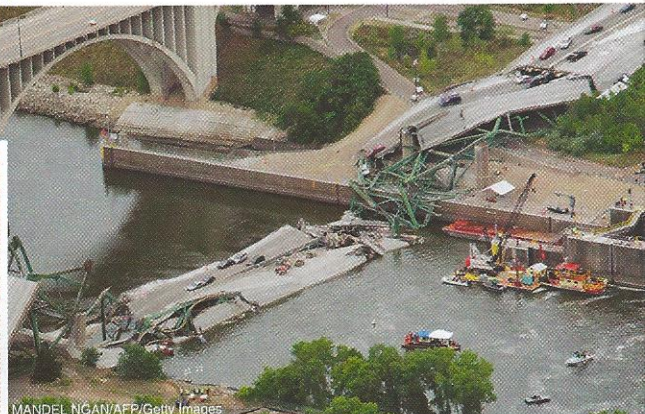


▲ Writers hit the picket lines and television production is halted for months when the Writers Guild of America goes on strike to protest compensation policies for new media such as iTunes downloads.

▶ In Littleton, Colorado, construction is completed on the \$1.5 million Columbine Memorial to the 13 victims of the 1999 shooting at Columbine High School.



AP Photo/David Zalubowski



MANDEL NGAN/AFP/Getty Images

▲ On August 1, a six-lane I-35W bridge stretching across the Mississippi River in Minneapolis collapses into the river during the height of the afternoon rush hour.