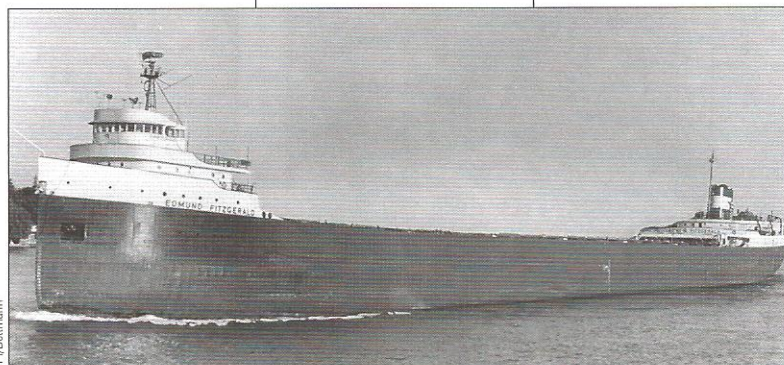
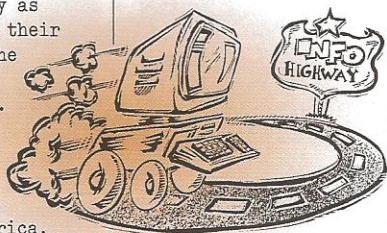
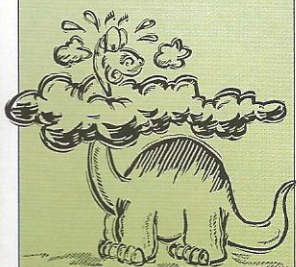


Astronomers wait at every major telescope in the world to see the historic cosmic crack-up of the 21 big fragments of Comet Shoemaker-Levy 9 as it smacks into the atmosphere of Jupiter at 134,000 miles an hour. Plumes of fire shoot up hundreds of miles, high enough to become visible to telescopes on Earth.

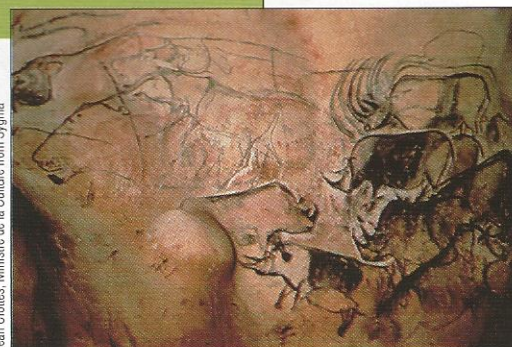
Internet activity rises sharply as surfers find their way around the information superhighway. Advertisers, rock music reviewers, the worldly Voice of America, and others decide it's time to jump on.



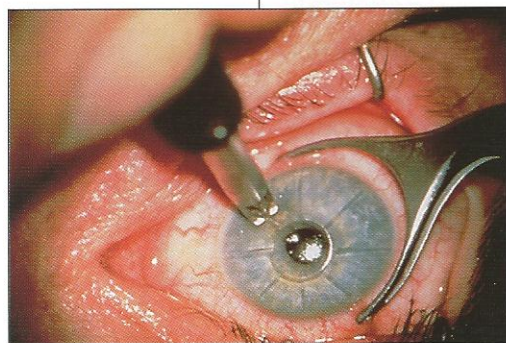
One of Lake Superior's enduring mysteries is solved by scientists and marine historians who explore the wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald, an ore carrier that sank with its crew in a 1975 storm. The ship, overused and in poor condition, was ripped apart by 90-mph winds and 30-foot waves. Most of the 29 crewmen are entombed inside the wreckage, well preserved in the 39° waters.



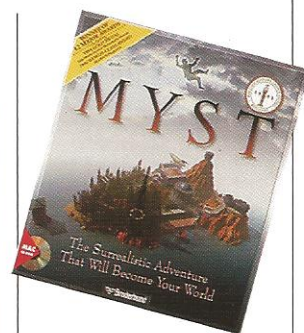
NASA publishes a new report supporting the theory that a giant comet hit Earth 65 million years ago and vaporized 100 billion tons of sulphur to create the cloud barrier that froze Earth's atmosphere and killed the dinosaurs.



Acave is found in southern France, full of 300 vivid paintings of woolly-haired rhinos, bears, mammoths, panthers, and owls made about 20,000 years ago. The Stone Age artists also left behind bear skulls, flint knives, footprints, and fireplaces. Experts call it the archaeological find of the century.



A long-term study of radial keratotomy finds it generally safe and effective. For the nearsighted, tiny spokelike incisions into the eye improve focusing ability and eliminate the need for eyeglasses. The patient is awake for the procedure.



The non-violent CD-ROM game Myst by Cyan, Inc. becomes a best-selling phenomenon, winning legions of devoted fans and spawning imitators. The fantasy-adventure's graphic visuals are hyper-real; the written word is the key to the mystery.



Cutbacks in military spending force the U.S. Navy to reduce its elite 100-dolphin fleet trained for use in sonar research, mine sweeping, and underwater recovery. Too tame to be released in the open sea, the veterans of conflicts from Vietnam to the Persian Gulf retire to aquariums and water parks.