

Science News



AP/Wide World Photos

In August, NASA releases photos from the Chandra X-ray orbiting telescope of a hot cloud of gas from a star that exploded more than three centuries ago. The telescope took 23 years and \$1 billion to develop.

FEELit technology allows users to experience computer technology through their mouse. Users can "feel" buttons, text, the weight of a stuffed desktop folder and the groove of a scroll bar.



Fifteen-year-old Amber Ramirez undergoes surgery in which half of her brain is removed to stop the spread of a rare neurological disease. Doctors hope the remaining portion of Ramirez's brain will compensate for the removed tissue.



Lincoln Journal Star



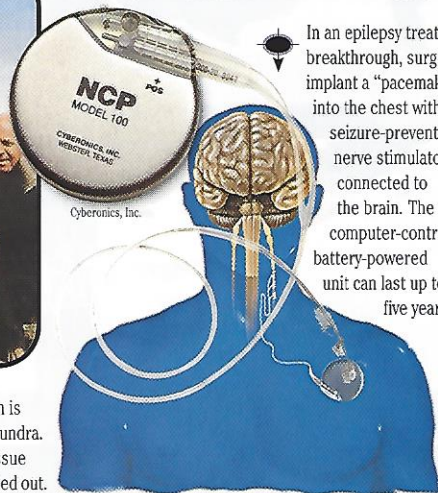
Courtesy of Dallas Semiconductor

The Java Ring contains a computer chip providing electronic access into buildings for students. Eventually the ring could be used as a library card, digital wallet, electronic ID and authentication for students' online homework.



AP/Wide World Photos

The body of a 23,000-year-old woolly mammoth is discovered in October frozen in the Russian tundra. Study of the preserved fur, organs and soft tissue could unlock the mystery of why the species died out.



Cyberonics, Inc.

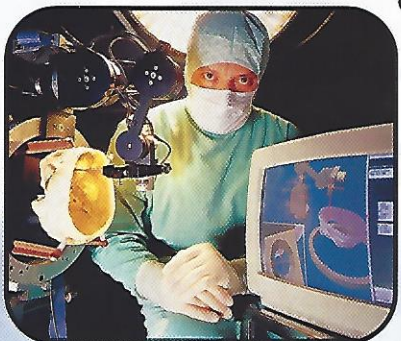
In an epilepsy treatment breakthrough, surgeons implant a "pacemaker" into the chest with a seizure-preventing nerve stimulator connected to the brain. The computer-controlled, battery-powered unit can last up to five years.

Cyberonics, Inc.

Flash

Researchers announce in July the creation of a cancerous human cell by genetically altering a normal one. This significant breakthrough is an important step toward developing drugs that could potentially wipe out cancer.

In December, IBM announces a \$100 million research initiative to build a supercomputer 500 times more powerful than current models.



Gallbraith/ISI Photo Researchers

In August, U.S. surgeons begin using computer-enhanced robotic technology for heart bypass surgery. Because the chest cavity is never opened, this technique reduces pain and shortens recovery time.



AP/Wide World Photos

On August 11, the last total solar eclipse of the millennium crosses the globe. Thousands of people from Canada to India experience daytime darkness during which the moon completely covers the sun.

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