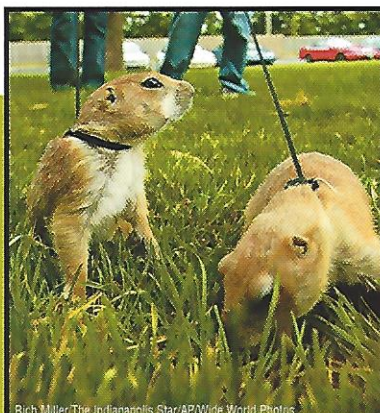
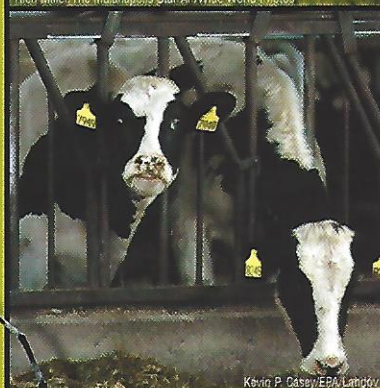


→ In June, pet prairie dogs in Wisconsin, Illinois and Indiana infect people with monkeypox after being infected by a giant Gambian rat while in transit.

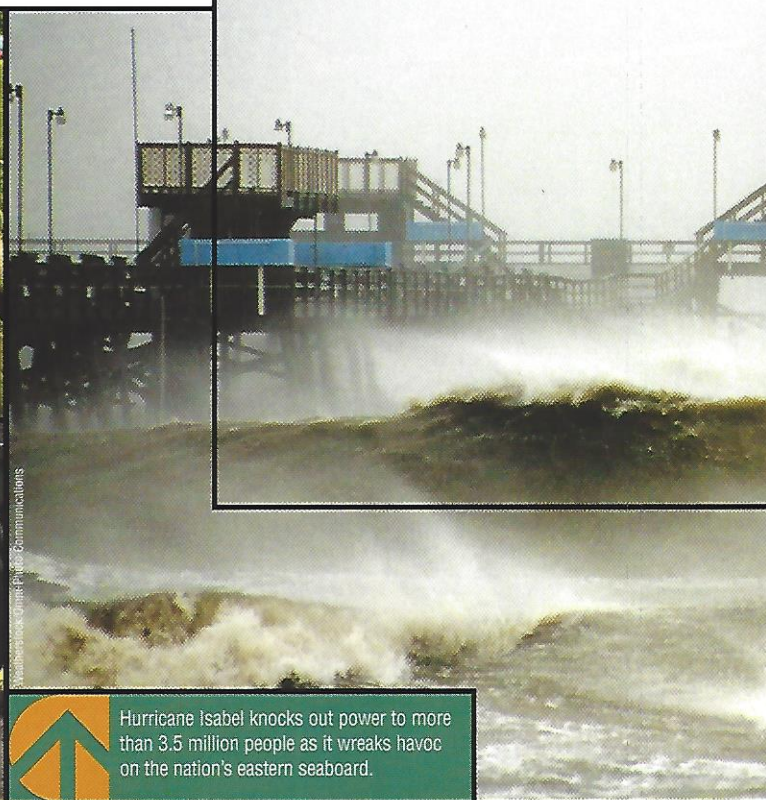


Rich Miller/The Indianapolis Star/AP/Wide World Photos

→ Federal workers in Washington kill a herd of 449 calves that include the offspring of a Holstein infected with mad cow disease.



Kevin P. Casey/EPA/Langley



Hurricane Isabel knocks out power to more than 3.5 million people as it wreaks havoc on the nation's eastern seaboard.



Barbara Strnadova/Photo Researchers

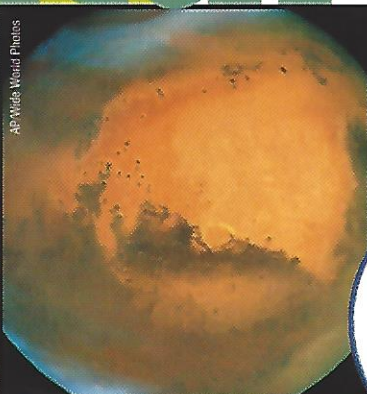
← North American trees are threatened by Asian longhorned beetles, which allegedly arrived in Chinese wooden packing material.



The strongest solar storms to hit the Earth in 11 years cause northern lights to appear as far south as Texas.

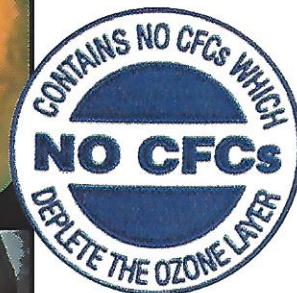


Hinrich B. Stamm



John McConnico/AP/Wide World Photos

← In August, Mars' orbit brings it closer to Earth than it has been in 60,000 years.



↑ American scientists discover the deterioration of the atmosphere's ozone layer is slowing. The 1996 worldwide ban on CFC gases is credited for the improvement.

← Keiko, star of the *Free Willy* movies, dies of pneumonia at the age of 27.