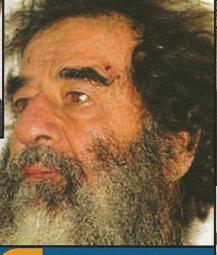


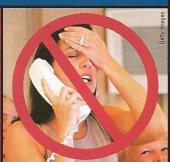
EADLINES

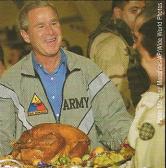


U.S. Forces capture deposed Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein in a "spider hole" at a farm outside his hometown of Tikrit.



- → President Bush becomes the first U.S. president to visi Iraq when he makes an unannounced Thanksgiving visit with troops stationed there.
- The abduction of University of North Dakota student Dru Sjodin, 22, results in the arrest of convicted sex offender Alfonso Rodriguez Jr., 50.











Gary Tramontina/Bloomberg News/Landov

- ← A fatal Staten Island Ferry crash in New York harbor leaves 10 dead and dozens injured after the pilot loses consciousness and slams into the dock.
- ← NBA star Kobe Bryant of the Los Angeles Lakers is charged with the sexual assault of a 19-year-old Colorado woman.
- A federal appellate court orders the removal of a Ten Commandments monument from the Alabama Supreme Court building, citing violation of the First Amendment.



The economy shows signs of recovery when the Dow Jones Industrial Average tops 10,000 points for the first time in over 18 months on December 12.



The worst wildfires in California history claim 22 lives, destroy more than 3,400 homes and consume 750,000 acres of land.

