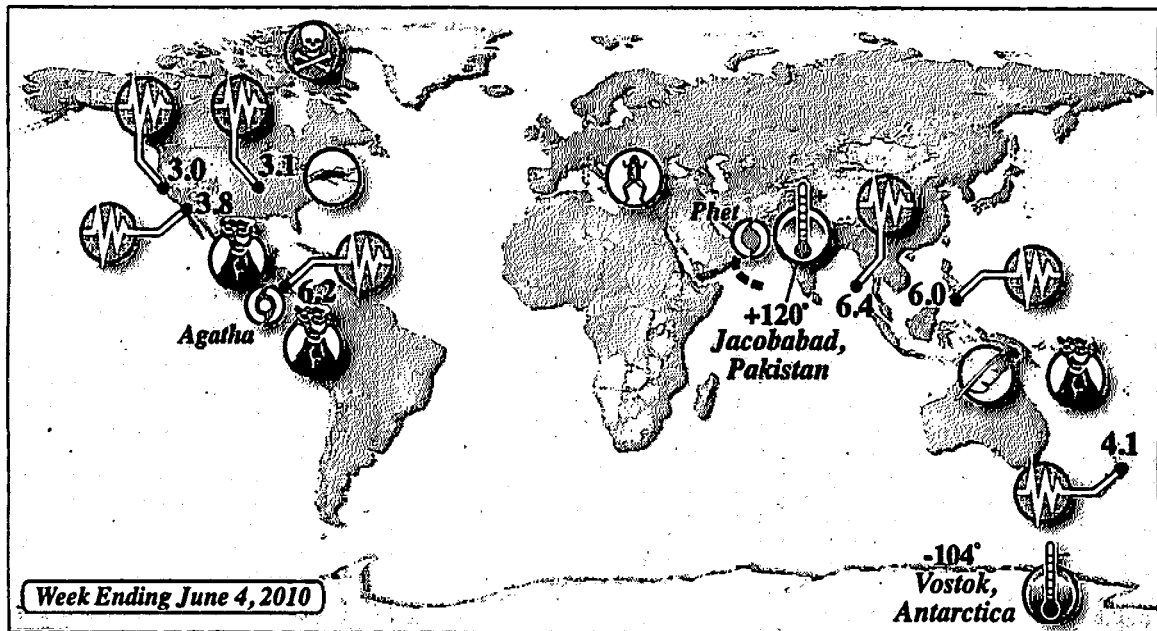



# VIEWS FROM ALL OVER

## EARTHWEEK: A DIARY OF THE PLANET


By Steve Newman




### A Biting Summer

 Mosquito-control experts across North America are warning residents to prepare for one of the worst mosquito seasons in memory, following a damp spring and subsequent warm spells. "The whole mosquito cycle has been pushed ahead ... and they're actively biting people because we've had so many warm nights," David Henley, superintendent of Massachusetts' East Middlesex Mosquito Control Project, told the *Boston Globe*. Fears of infection from such mosquito-borne diseases as West Nile and dengue are prompting officials to warn residents to take measures to keep from being bitten. Henley says the amount of future sunlight, along with temperature and rainfall, will determine how bad the mosquitoes will be. Health officials in interior parts of the Los Angeles Basin report the season's first West Nile-infected mosquitoes were found

### Airborne Contamination


 Canadian researchers say they have found that birds feeding on marine life contaminated with toxic metals such as mercury and lead are depositing the poisons in their waste when they migrate to formerly pristine lakes in the Arctic. A team lead by Queen's University biologists compared sediment around where Arctic terns and ducks known as elders nest. Analysis found higher concentrations of mercury and cadmium near the tern habitats as compared to elevated levels of lead, manganese and aluminum around where elders nest. That matches the contamination found in each of the bird species' primary food sources, the researchers say.

### Eruptions

 Debris spewing from Guatemala's Pacaya volcano killed three people


• Category 5 Cyclone Phet roared ashore from the Arabian Sea onto the coast of the Sultanate of Oman late in the week. Phet affected maritime traffic in the Strait of Hormuz, through which 40 percent of all the world's seaborne oil supply passes.

### Earthquakes

 A 6.1 magnitude offshore temblor shook much of Costa Rica from an epicenter beneath the Pacific, about 45 miles southwest of San Jose. No damage was reported.

• Earth movements were also felt in the southern Philippines, New Zealand's Bay of Plenty, India's Andaman Islands, the San Francisco Bay Area, southeast Missouri and along the California-Mexico border.

### Potted Parrots

 Animal shelters in Australia's Northern Terri-

## LOCAL VIEWS

ne season predicted ...



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# Lesson from Connecticut

## LOCAL VIEW

heard saying "Oh, my God" over and over again.

Traffic on the main route in Ledyard increased by 249 percent between 1988 and 1996. Local roads have also been affected because people who know the area use them to get to the

your urban centers. I am a host community, and my town gets less in aid than cities and towns in the western part of Connecticut. Towns that aren't even impacted by the casinos get more than our towns get."

She said the "biggest lesson learned" is that "the money is not going to flow to you unless you aggressively lobby for it and have a presence at your state capi-

## LETTERS TO

### Taps for element

Has the last trumpet sounded for the elementary school band? Say it isn't so!

Yesterday, everyone went to the beach except the dog and Grandma. Dim of sight, dull of hearing, stiff of limb, we kept each other company.

He used to sing a solo when his pal practiced his trumpet for the Hemenway contingent in the elementary school band. The dog's high-pitched yodel was a command performance at every family gathering.

But, that was years ago. His pal works far away in Singapore, the trum-

### Honor D-Da

One June 6, all Americans and our British and Canadian brethren should pause and reflect to honor the spirit and memory of all those gallant men who landed in Normandy, 66 years ago on Omaha, Utah, Gold, Juno and Sword beaches.

Also, the 2nd Rangers at Pointe de Hoc, the Paratroopers of the 82nd and

### 'Gang of Six' ac

I was home visiting relatives Memorial Day weekend and was horrified to read of the Marlborough City Council's handling of the budget.

As an interested party and newspaper reporter, I have observed the coun-