

## Three arrested in Taiwan

Tang Hsiao-yu, an official of Taiwan's state Council of Agriculture.

Acting on a tip, police arrested the smugglers in their coastal house in Ilan, 30 miles southeast of Taipei.

Police said the lizards were smuggled into Taiwan on fishing boats. Such illegal trading with China across the Taiwan Straits began flourishing two years ago as relations between the two nations improved.

## Eye Store

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## EARTHWEEK: A DIARY OF THE PLANET

### Earthquakes

Hawaii's strongest quake in six years shook a sparsely populated area of the Big Island that had just been ravaged by lava from Kilauea volcano. The 6.0 magnitude quake injured at least five people, destroyed two homes, caused mudslides and produced a tidal wave that was measured as high as two feet along the island's south shore. In the three days before the quake, creeping lava from Kilauea had destroyed the Visitor Center at the Hawaii Volcanos National Park and threatened an ancient Hawaiian temple.

At least 30 people were treated for minor injuries and for shock in the Ecuadorian port of Esmeraldas after a strong quake struck the area. Several buildings were damaged, and power and water service was interrupted. Production at the country's largest oil refinery was halted for several hours.

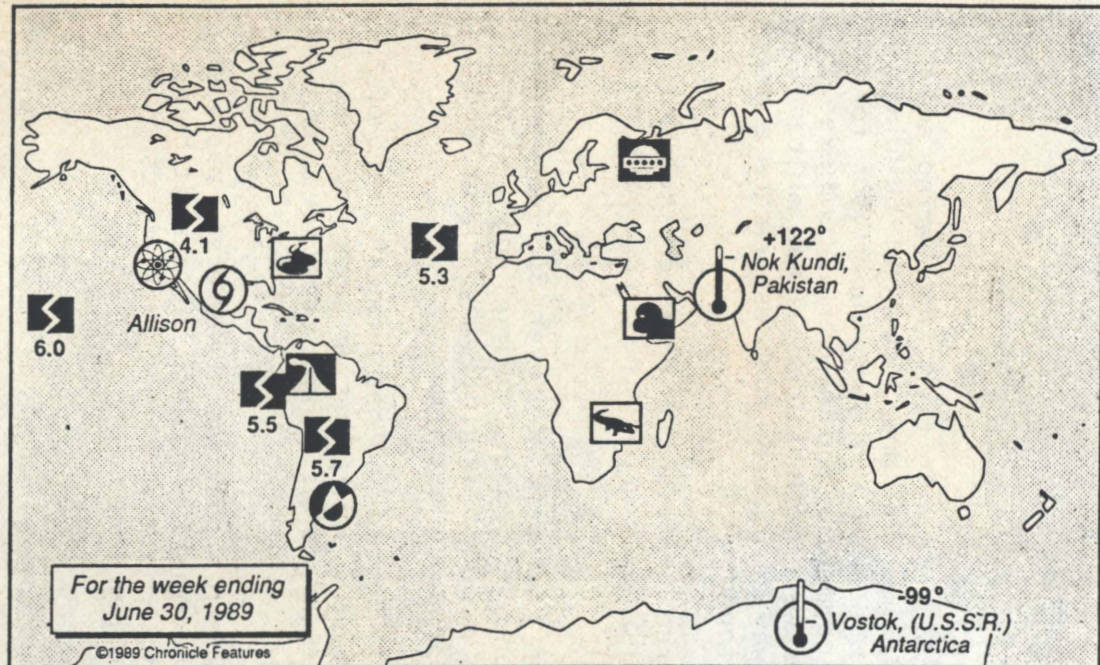
Earth movements were also felt in central Argentina, western Wyoming and in the Azores.

### Tropical storm

The remnants of hurricane Cosme reorganized in the Gulf of Mexico and gained storm force once again before moving into the Texas coast near Houston. Packing winds of only 55 miles per hour, tropical storm Allison produced between 10 and 20 inches of rainfall from the Houston area northward to Louisiana where widespread and severe flooding occurred. Severe thunderstorms and tornadoes were also spawned by the storm.

### Nevada test

The United States exploded its seventh nuclear bomb of the year and the second within a week on June 27. Code-named "Amarillo", the blast had a force of between 20 and 150 kilotons, and swayed Las Vegas high-rise buildings.



### Power drought

Portions of South America continue to suffer from a drought that has idled many of the hydroelectric turbines on rivers from the Argentine Andes to Uruguay. For several weeks, Uruguay bought electricity from neighboring Argentina, but now both countries have been forced to cut power for up to six hours each day. Uruguayan grazing land has dried out and water is being trucked in for livestock.

### Crocodile kill

The Tanzania government is killing crocodiles in Lake Rukwa because the reptiles have become so numerous that they threaten the lake's fish population. Permission was given by the Paris-based International Convention for Trade in Endangered Species to kill up to 3,000 crocodiles after villagers living around the lake complained of the disappearing fish and multiplying reptiles.

### Spills

Three major oil tanker spills marred United States coastal areas in Galveston Bay, Delaware Bay and near Newport, Rhode Island. The Coast Guard and Environmental Protection Agency, still smarting from allegations of sloth after the Alaska oil spill, reacted quickly, and were able to help prevent serious environmental damage from these much smaller spills.

### Volcano

The Nevado del Ruiz volcano, which in 1985 caused Colombia's worst natural disaster with an eruption that killed 23,000 people, spewed ashes on June 27 after registering a gradual rise in seismic activity. A half-inch film of ash coated the area's rivers, and aircraft were warned not to fly within a 40-mile radius of the volcano. The crater was also emitting a strong sulphuric odor.

### Soviet sightings

A rash of UFO sightings in the Vologda region of the USSR's Russian Republic was reported by Tass. Children told of several spheres touching down in a meadow near Konantsevo on June 6. Other sightings included a fiery ball over Vologda on June 11, and an "enigmatic" object which appeared three times larger than an airplane as it flew over Cherepovets on April 24.

### Monkey raid

A band of mountain monkeys descended on a restaurant in southwestern Saudi Arabia and carried off several roast chickens in a surprise raid. The hungry marauders, coming down from the Al-Tharawat mountains, took the restaurant staff by surprise by suddenly rushing at the tables of the half-empty eatery. The lightning attack left the restaurant strewn with broken glasses and plates.