

The Atlanta Journal - Constitution
 June 24, 2000

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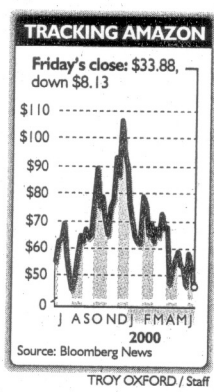
That bleak scenario sent investors scurrying Friday, when it seemed nobody on Wall Street had anything good to say about the Seattle-based retailer, which sells everything from books to toothpaste and Palm Pilots to 20 million Web shoppers around the world.

Amazon.com shares dropped nearly 20 percent of their value in heavy trading Friday, reaching a 52-week low. Shares have tumbled from a high of \$113 six

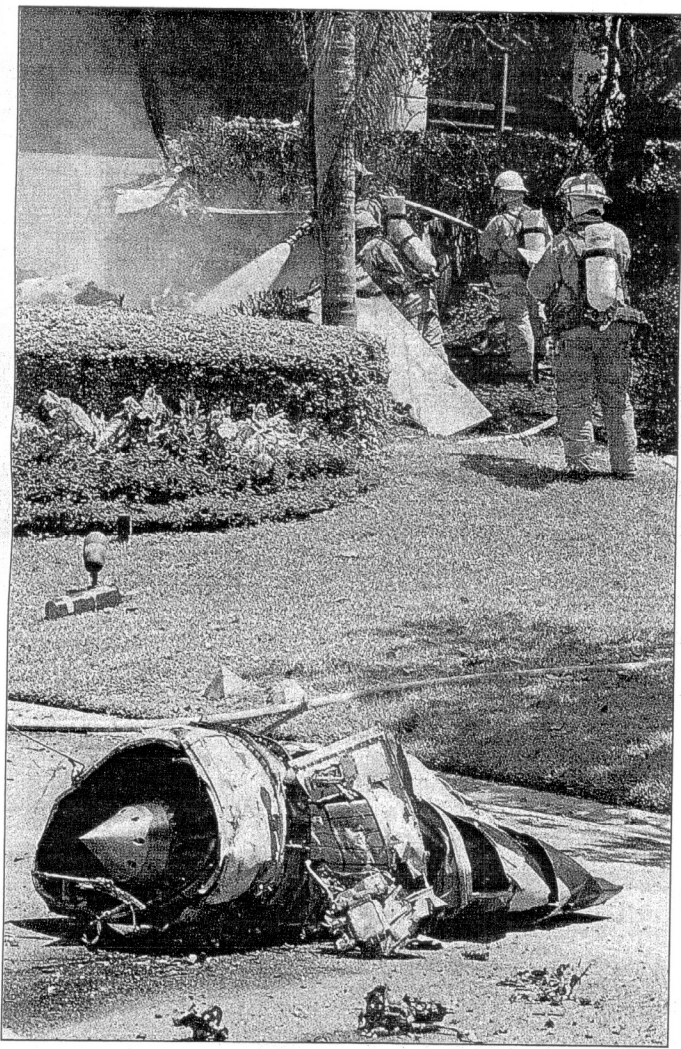
months ago to \$33.88 Friday, wiping out \$28 billion in value. The stock plummeted on analysts' concerns that Amazon — which has yet to turn a profit — might be facing a bleak Christmas season and could perhaps run out of cash.

The comments sent up yet another red flag to investors already skittish about dot-com holdings. Amazon, Yahoo!, America Online and

► Please see **AMAZON, A6**



Florida plane collision kills 4



Firefighters hose plane debris next to a condo as a jet engine sits in the road after a Learjet and a smaller airplane collided over a Boca Raton, Fla., neighborhood. The three people aboard the jet and the pilot of the second craft were killed. **A6**

Elian may go home in a week

The boy's Miami kin will appeal Monday to the Supreme Court, but time is short.



By Bill Rankin
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The likelihood of Elian Gonzalez's return to his Cuban homeland increased substantially Friday when the federal appeals court in Atlanta declined to reconsider the international custody battle.

The 6-year-old boy's Miami relatives — who kept him for five months until the federal government took him away — said they would appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court. But the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruling gives them a tight deadline.

The appeals court, in a five-page ruling Friday, said all legal restraints keeping Juan Miguel Gonzalez from taking his son back to Cuba would be lifted at 4 p.m. Wednesday.

The appeals court said it would not — with "NOT" written in large, boldfaced letters — extend the deadline.

On June 1, a three-judge 11th Circuit panel ruled that the Immigration and Naturalization Service was within its rights to deny an asylum hearing for the young shipwreck survivor.

Elian's Miami relatives, who want the boy to become a U.S. citizen, asked the full court to reconsider the panel's decision. For that to happen, seven of the court's 12 judges must agree.

Gonzalez is "grateful" for the court's ruling and eager to take his son home, said his lawyer, Gregory Craig.

But Armando Gutierrez, a spokesman for the Miami family, said they believe "this historic case" deserves consideration by the Supreme Court, and will file an appeal Monday.

"They're still fighting for what his mother wanted and

The appeals court will lift Wednesday all restraints keeping the boy's father from returning him to Cuba.

lost her life for," he said. "They're not going to give up hope. They hope he will still be here for the Fourth of July celebration."

Elian's mother and 10 others drowned when their boat sank after they fled Communist Cuba. He was rescued off Florida on Thanksgiving Day. Federal agents seized him from the Miami relatives in April, and he has been staying with his father, stepmother and half-brother in the Washington area since.

The odds of the Supreme Court's taking Elian's appeal appear slim. More than 8,000 petitions a year are filed before the court. Last year, it accepted fewer than 100.

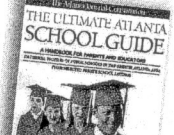
Four of the court's nine justices would have to agree to hear the case. Justice Anthony Kennedy, the member of the Supreme Court assigned to the 11th Circuit, probably will make the initial decision on whether the injunction keeping Elian in the United States should remain in effect.

Immigration lawyers who have followed the case call such a ruling unlikely. "I'd say the odds of the Supreme Court taking this case are very low," Atlanta lawyer Dale Schwartz said. "It appears very likely that Juan Miguel will soon be able to take his son back home."

Added Atlanta attorney Socheat Chea: "I think the decision by the panel pretty much sealed the fate of Elian's return to Cuba."

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