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Space center will offer visitors taste of flight

SPACE CENTER, Houston (AP) — Visitors to the Johnson Space Center soon will be getting a taste of the reality of spaceflight at Space Center Houston, its new general manager says.

"The best thing we want people to come and experience is what manned spaceflight is all about and what the challenges of it can be," said Vance Ablott, who will oversee fund raising and operations for the new visitors' center.

The center is scheduled to open in summer 1991.

For years, space program observers longed for a more spacious and revealing visitors' center.

Some also have expressed hope that archives and personal papers of important people in the space program, now in various museums and university collections, could be housed closer to Johnson Space Center.

But for the time being, Space Center Houston is planned as a tour-

ists' site to bring the taxpayers closer to the space program, its past and its future.

"It's not a museum, and we don't want to be a museum park," Ablott, a 20-year veteran of the Walt Disney organization, said. "We're providing a hands-on environment. We want people to understand what it is like to land the shuttle."

"The shuttle is an interesting aircraft," he said. "Theoretically it should not fly. Young people will understand how difficult it is," referring to computer displays that will appeal to young visitors and will be used to simulate a shuttle flight.

"These are actual training devices used by the astronauts," Ablott said. "What they do is handle portions of whatever flight is taking place. These will be modified for our use, with computer screens and keyboards. In a sense it's like a video game. Kids will be familiar with that."

He said shooting should start in summer on a film to be shown in center that will show how astronauts are trained.

Another planned feature is a gallery with space flight artifacts, Mercury and Gemini capsules and other items, Ablott said.

"The most exciting thing will be a stylized visit of the mission control room, in real time, where you hear from a briefing officer what is actually happening right now in space flight" or some other NASA activity, he said.

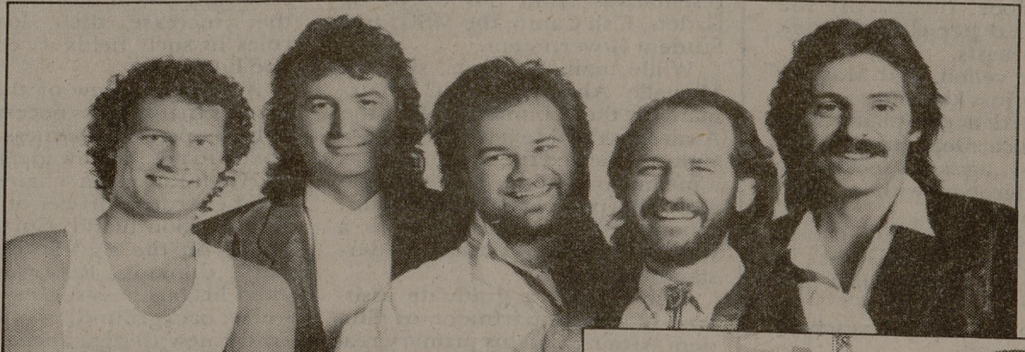
A tram-ride tour will take visitors around the Johnson Space Center with guides describing the work done in various buildings.

"We expect to complete development by the end of this year. This will enable us to sell the building in January and break ground in early February."

The total cost, Ablott said, will be about \$64 million.



Restless Heart



8:00 p.m. Friday
November 10, 1989
G. Rollie White Coliseum

A&M students*
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October 25

MSC Box Office 8:30am
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Billy Joe Royal

Writers, scientists share ideas

Research consortium looks into future

AUSTIN (AP) — When the MCC computer research consortium took a look at technology's future recently, it turned to what might seem an unconventional source for a group of scientists: science fiction writers.

But as part of a regular seminar for corporate members, MCC added to an agenda full of technical discussions one workshop featuring several "cyberpunks," authors who base their themes in technology.

"The idea was to get all these creative minds into one room, authors and researchers, and have them throwing ideas back and forth at each other," Cynthia Williams, spokesman for the Microelectronics and Computer Technology Corp., said.

"This session was particularly well-attended," she said. "We do have a lot of science fiction fans here, as you can imagine."

MCC is a consortium formed by the nation's high-tech industry in 1982 to conduct long-term computer and technology research. Twenty companies are shareholding members, and 17 more are associate members.

MCC hosts periodic seminars to report developments to members. MCC technology analyst Gary

"The idea was to get all these creative minds into one room, authors and researchers, and have them throwing ideas back and forth at each other."

— Cynthia Williams, MCC spokesman

Knight came up with the idea for a science fiction-science workshop.

"Science fiction is known as the literature of ideas," Knight said. "And there's a subset of writers — called cyberpunks—who use high-technology as the setting and background for their stories. So I thought, 'Gee, I'd like to talk to these people and see what they think is lurking out there.'"

The result was a two-hour panel discussion, "View of the Technology Future," that featured William Gibson, Walter Jon Williams, Lewis Shiner, Pat Cadigan, Bruce Sterling, Tom Maddox and Omni magazine fiction editor Ellen Datlow.

Since both the scientists and the science fiction writers are contemplating the future, their meeting was a natural, Knight said.

"What we try to do at MCC is figure out what the future needs are — society's needs, business needs, human needs — and we try to watch what technologies are emerging that might fill those needs," Knight said.

"The writers have insight into people and society, so their views and intuitions about how society and technology will interact are of value to us," he said.

While little new ground was broken, the writers' perspectives were helpful, Knight said.

"We gave the writers some tours of our labs and on-going projects," he said. "Being writers, they had their notebooks out. Something would be said and I'd notice two or three of them scribbling away. You could see plots being hatched," he said.

Knight said one thing the future may hold is another writer-scientist session.

"It was never thought of as a serious component (of the bigger meeting), but having done it and seen the enthusiasm that was generated, we think we might run it again," he said.

What's Up

Monday

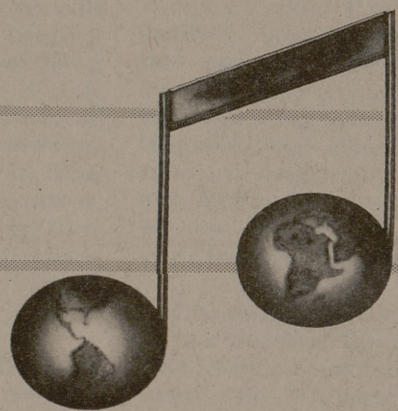
- STUDENT GOVERNMENT:** will have an external affairs meeting open to all interested students at 8:30 p.m. in 510 Rudder. Call Kenny Gossett at 845-3051 for more information.
- COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY AND HUMANITIES:** will have a University Chamber Series with A&M faculty and guests at 8 p.m. in Rudder Theater. Call Rebecca Binder at 845-3355 for more information.
- DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY:** will have a seminar titled "Biological Clocks in Man and Beast" at 2 p.m. in 601 Rudder.
- DELTA UPSILON:** will have its weekly meeting for all actives and pledges at 8:30 p.m. in Rudder. Check the screens for room number.
- PHI THETA KAPPA ALUMNI:** bring canned goods at 7 p.m. to 410 Rudder.
- DATA PROCESSING MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION:** Chevron will present information on careers in data processing at 7 p.m. at the Former Students Center.
- BAPTIST STUDENT UNION:** will have a Bible study and lunch at noon at the Baptist Student Union behind the old Kinko's.
- MSC AGGIE CINEMA:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 510 Rudder. Call Dedee Raciocot at 845-1515 for more information.
- TAMU DEBATE SOCIETY:** will have tryouts for the upcoming debate at 7 p.m. in 136 Blocker.
- POLITICAL SCIENCE SOCIETY:** will meet and have internship sign-ups at 7 p.m. in 229 MSC.
- TAMU HISTORY CLUB:** Dr. Southerland will speak on the history of A&M at 7 p.m. in 228 MSC.
- TAMU GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY:** will have pictures for the AggieLand at 8:45 p.m. in the MSC Flagroom. Call Kyle at 696-5727 for more information.
- ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS:** will have a general discussion at noon. Call the C.D.P.E. at 845-0280 for more information.
- SNOW SKI CLUB:** will have a general meeting and discuss the trip at 7 p.m. in 302 Rudder. Call Laynee Jones at 696-8759 for more information.

Tuesday

- WOMEN'S STUDIES AND THE DEPARTMENT OF MODERN & CLASSICAL LANGUAGES:** Jane Gallop will speak on "The Coloration of Academic Feminism" at 7:30 p.m. in 601 Rudder.
- BAPTIST STUDENT UNION:** will have a prayer for November revival at 8:15 p.m. at the Baptist Student Union.
- OPAS STARK SERIES & DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY & HUMANITIES:** will have a brown bag concert with pianist Clive Swansbourne at noon in 402 Academic. Call Rebecca Binder at 845-3355 for more information.
- PSYCHOLOGY AND JUNGIAN SOCIETY OF BRAZOS VALLEY:** psychologist and Jungian analyst Stanley Perelman will speak on "Symbolism of the Bear in Culture and Clinical Practice" at 7:30 p.m. in 104 Horticulture. Admission is \$1 for students and seniors and \$2 for others.
- TAU BETA PHI:** will have a candidates exam following the active meeting at 8 p.m. in 102 Zachry.
- TAU KAPPA:** will meet at 8:30 p.m. in 308 Rudder.
- MSC RECREATION:** will meet at 5 p.m. in 145 MSC. Call Kristie Buchman at 847-0266 for more information.
- MSC CEPHEID VARIABLE:** will meet at 8:30 p.m. Check monitors for location.
- MSC GREAT ISSUES:** Guatemalan presidential candidate Father Andres Giron will speak at 7 p.m. in 201 MSC.
- ASSOCIATION OF AMATEUR ASTRONOMERS:** Doug McGregor will speak on aspects of astrophotography at 7:30 p.m. in 202 Physics.
- COLLEGE REPUBLICANS:** candidate for governor Kent Hance will speak at 7 p.m. in 105 Harrington. Call Rob Giesecke at 764-1988 or 774-1193 for more information.
- FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN ATHLETES:** will have a Christian fellowship at 9 p.m. in the Letterman's Lounge of G. Rollie White. Call Dusty Gotter at 696-6687 for more information.
- COLLEGIATE F.F.A.:** will have a bring your own banana (ice cream provided) at 7:30 p.m. in 208 Scoates Hall. Call Elsa Gutierrez at 693-5690 for more information.
- TAMU SURF CLUB:** will discuss upcoming activities and surf meet at 8:30 p.m. in 206 MSC. Call Stephen Bilby at 847-3595 for more information.
- ANTHROPOLOGY SOCIETY:** will meet at 8:30 p.m. in 501 Rudder.
- RUSSIAN CLUB:** will meet at 5:30 p.m. in 123 Academic.
- ECONOMICS SOCIETY:** will have a social at 6:30 p.m. at Tom's Barbecue in Bryan. Call Laura at 693-1094 for more information.
- TAMU GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 112 O&M. Call Kyle at 696-5727 for more information.
- TAMU HORSEMAN'S ASSOCIATION:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 115 Kleberg.
- GAY STUDENT SERVICES:** will meet at 8:30 p.m. in 145 MSC. Call Terry at 693-0842 for more information.
- NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS:** will have a step study meeting from 8:30 until 10 p.m. Call the C.D.P.E. at 845-0280 for more information.
- ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS:** will have a general discussion at noon. Call the C.D.P.E. at 845-0280 for more information.

Items for What's Up should be submitted to The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, no later than three business days before the desired run date. We only publish the name and phone number of the contact if you ask us to do so. What's Up is a Battalion service that lists non-profit events and activities. Submissions are on a first-come, first-served basis. There is no guarantee an entry will run. If you have questions, call the newsroom at 845-3315.

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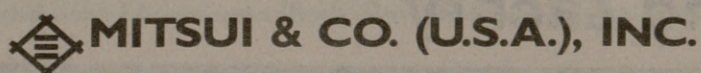
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