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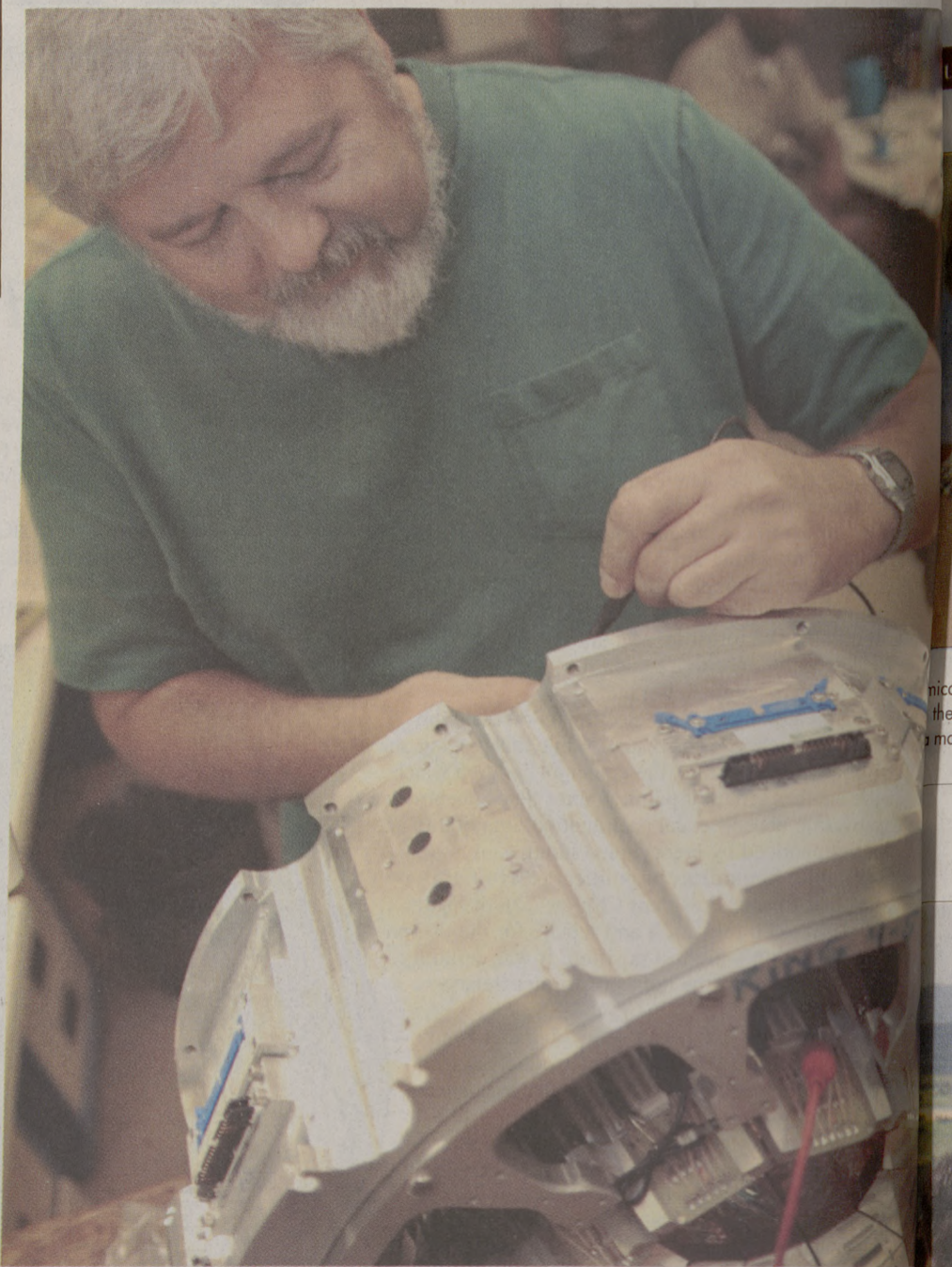
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## Cosmic aspirations



BRIAN WILLS • THE BATT

Accelerator Technician **Tom O'Berski** uses a voltmeter while upgrading the electronics of one of the rings of the Neutron Ion Multidetector for Reaction Oriented Dynamics. The NIMROD project is one of several programs underway at the

Cyclotron building. About 25 percent of the particle accelerator is contracted out to companies like Boeing and NASA that need to use cosmic radiation to qualify chips for use in international space station.

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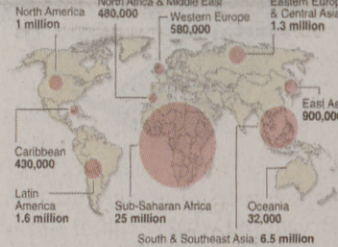


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### Newly infected AIDS cases highest yet

In 2003, an estimated 4.8 million people became newly infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, more than in any one year before. Currently, some 37.8 million people are living with HIV.

Global estimates of HIV and AIDS as of the end of 2003



37.8 million people live with HIV  
Men 18.7 million Women 17.0 million

4.8 million people newly infected with HIV in 2003  
Children under 15: 630,000

2.9 million AIDS deaths in 2003  
Children under 15: 490,000

SOURCE: U.N. Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)

## U.N: AIDS virus continues to outrun efforts to combat

By Emma Ross  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON — The world is losing the race against the AIDS virus, which last year infected a record 5 million people and killed an unprecedented 3 million, the United Nations reported Tuesday.

The virus has now pushed deep into Eastern Europe and Asia, and tackling it will be more expensive than previously believed, according to the most accurate picture to date of the global status of HIV infections.

The number of people living with HIV has risen in every region. UNAIDS chief Dr. Peter Piot said the deaths and infections were a testament to the world's failure to get prevention and treatment to those who need it.

Nine out of 10 people who urgently need treatment are not getting it, and prevention is only

reaching one in five at risk, report said.

The AIDS epidemic is entering its globalization, Piot said at the launch of U.N. AIDS agency's report which is compiled every year and released ahead of International AIDS Conference, which kicks off this week in Bangkok, Thailand.

"AIDS is truly a disease of our globalized world. Until recently AIDS was a problem for sub-Saharan Africa, one out of every four infections is occurring today, and the fastest growing epidemic is happening in Europe," Piot said.

In revised estimates based on improved information, the agency says about 38 million people are infected. Until now, experts put the ranks of the HIV epidemic at about 40 million.

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