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# Space Technology

November 7, 1990

Volume 67, Issue 9

### Robots will maintain space station

by Russell E. Darling Space Technology Writer

A recent NASA report indicates that 2,200 hours of extra vehicular activity (EVA) will be required for space station maintenance. To cut down on the number of spacewalks by astronauts, NASA has intheated that robots will be utilized for much of the mation maintenance. This would not only free intronauts to conduct more scientific work, but it would keep them from being exposed to the hursh

environment of space for long periods. Although technologically advanced, the robots a person can repair a damaged air-lock on the space will not be able to work

completely on their own. They will require the skills and experience of a human operator. The astronaut operating the robot would, stay safely inside the station,

Through visual and tactile interfaces, the astronaut operator will be able to control the robot and actually feel as if he were out in space doing the job him-

this technology, the robot will be able to mimic every move of the person controlling it. If the operator looks left or right, he would see the left or right view provided by the robot's video cameras. Exact movements of the operator's hand would be

would also be able to sense and control the amount of force exerted by the robots appendages.

Private companies such as VPL Research and the Spatial Perception and Advanced Displays Laboratory at NASA/Ames Research Center are currently developing Telepresence technology. Many advances have already been made. VPL, Redwood City, California, has developed several devices that are able to transport people into artificial or simulated existences. In this "virtual reality"

> station, search for valupble minerals in the craters of the moon or even explore the miniature world of a circuit board.

The centerpiece to virtual reality is the computer. A real or imagined

place is generated by the computer and is visually represented with the computer's graphics. This virtuni reality "world" is only limited by the sophistication of the computer's graphics and memory This technology is called Telepresence. Using capabilities. Everything that is done in virtual reality is a simulation; therefore, nothing real is ever

Seeing is believing" as the saying goes, so VPL has developed a device that would make the wearer. believe he is in the computer generated world. The moon and Mars.

duplicated in the robot's "hands." The operator device is a pair of stereo-vision goggles called the EyePhone. Not only does the device produce 3-D images, it also senses the direction that the wearer is looking and appropriately adjusts the display. If the person wearing the EyePhone looks up, for example, he will see what is above his the simulated world. The movements of the head cause the image to scan in the direction of the head movement, just as a person sees when not wearing the goggles,

To be useful one needs not only to be an observer, but a participant, in virtual reality. To accomplish this, VPL has created the DataGlove. The glove is equipped with fiber-optic sensors that transmit every move made by the hand to the computer. The person wearing the DataGlove is now able to manipulate objects within his simulated world.

While the applications of virtual reality are practically limitless and have merits of their own, the technology developed by VPL will aid in the development of an operational Telepresence system. Instead of working within a computer generated world, people will be able to work within the real world using the same interface devices. They will work in one location while actually being in a completely different location that is safer and more comfortable.

With so many possible applications, Telepresence will play an important role on the space station as well as on future missions to the

Future tools...

The person in this photo is wearing the EyePhone and the DataGlove exploring a computer generated virtual reality program. Astronauts inside the space station will use these techniques and instruments to guide robots on the station



NASA has indicated

that robots will be utilized

for much of the station

maintenance.

Experimental expansion...

The Spacehab module will be placed in the forward compartment of the space shuttle cargo bay.

#### Modules will expand shuttle experimental area With two full and one test module modules are currently in the detailed

...Spacehab module

by Roland Houle Data Technology Editor

demand that has been placed upon it for man-tended research and develop-

ment activities by using Spacehab modules. In these truncated metal cylinders, middeck type lockers, space station

racks or life sciences equipment can be carried for the conduct of microgravity experiments. They may also be used as testing areas for space station hardware and procedure module development requiring or benefiting from man-tended participation.

Spacehab module may case more than three year backlog of astronaut- and NASA signed a Space Systems tended experiments in scientific, Development Agreement in which military and commercial fields. The NASA agreed to provide six Space company is marketing access to the Shuttle flights for Spacehab beginmodule and its support facilities on a ning in 1991.

While only taking about one fifth NASA is planning to meet the of the cargo bay area, the module can provide up to 69 middeck lockers, up to two double space station racks and flight in November 1991 with addi-21 middeck lockers, or a combination tional module flights scheduled to fly of these ac-

> commoda tions for space experimenta-The

commercial fields. will be attached to -

pressurized volume from the a standard NASA somel adapter, available spaces have already been In August 1988, Spacehab, Inc.,

currently under construction, the first Spacehab module is on the official NASA Shuttle manifest for a first in 1992 and

Spacehab. may ease the more than Inc., based in three year backlog of Washington, astronaut-tended experiments D.C., plans to commercially in scientific, military, and market the spaces in the module. To

The additional 1100 cubic feet of the shuttle crew compartment through date, between 30 and 50 percent of the space station node. reserved for the first six flights, Two-

thirds of these by NASA. Spacehab modules is McDonnell will be determined by the market Douglas Astronautics Company demand forman-tended experiments. based in Huntsville, Alabama. The

design and construction phase.

The principal subcontractor is Aeritalia based in Torino, Italy. This is the builder of the Spacehab modules for the European Space Agency (ESA). Their main task is to build the primary structures and develop the passive control systems for the modules.

In the future, Spacehab plans to build Space Station Support Modules; which will add to the operational flexibility of the Space Station Freedom by providing 1500 cubic feet of pressurized volume to any

The modules will be ready for flight in the late 1990's shortly after the space station becomes operation-The prime contractor for the al. The exact number of these units

### Space news...



shuttle Aliantis has been detayed. The secret mission id dedicated to the Department of Defense (DOD) and not many specifics were given out. NASA shuttle director Robert Crippen stated "NASA is working with the Air Force to help resolve the anomalies discovered during cargo testing. Due to the classified nature of the payload, details of the work being conducted can not be discussed. I am confident that the launch team will resolve the problems so that Atlantis and the STS-38 mission can be launched. At this time, we are continuing to proceed with the schedule to fly STS-38 before

The two space suits that are routinely carried on board the space shuttle during flights were installed yesterday in the air lock inside the shuttle. A new launch date will be set after all problems with the classified cargo are

New shuttle parts arrive at KSC... The first of three main engines for the new orbiter Endeavour arrived at the Kennedy Space Center (KSC) last Tuesday. The engine was brought from Stennis Space Center and will be stores at the Vehicle Assembly Building (VAB) at the KSC. At the VAB's main engine shop, the engine will be uncrated and inspected. When the new shuttle Endeavour arrives on May of next year, the engine will be integrated to it.

### Orbiter update

Columbia (OV-102)

Auxiliary power unit #1 was replaced yesterday and a hot firing is planned or next week. A helium signature leak test of the liquid oxygen side of the main propulsion system was completed on Monday.

Flow checks of the aft reaction control system have been completed. Work is continuing to restore the aft compartment back to normal launch configuration. Columbia and the Asiro payload are being prepared for launch on Mission STS-35 after Atlantis and Mission STS-38 are launched sometime this

Space shuttle Columbia is currently poised for launch at Pad 39-B of the Kennedy Space Center.

Discovery (103)

The nose cap of Discovery was pulled yesterday for inspections. Preparations to remove inertial measuring unit #1 inside the nose cone have begun. A functional testing of the waste containment system is scheduled for this

Preparation for heat shield removal have begun in order to remove the three main engines on Friday. The engines will be transferred to the engine shop in the Vehicle Assembly Building (VAB) for refurbishment.

Space shuttle Discovery is currenlty at the Orbital Processing Facility 1

### egasus is now taking launch reservations

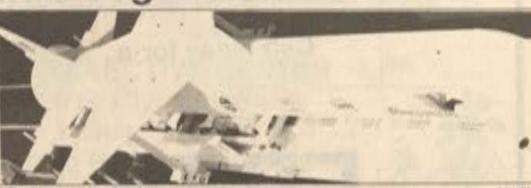
by Marcelle Gibson

Space Technology Writer

The Pegasus Air-Launched Space Booster successfully launched for the first time in April. The event marked the first time a privately developed space launch vehicle has carried a payload into space.

The PEGSAT payload, carried aboard the first Pegasus flight, was developed by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) and NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, The satellite payload contained instrumentation to monitor variations in spacecraft altitude, temperature, pressure, structural loading, and vibrations. Once in orbit, PEGSAT launched a small communications satellite for the Navy. Then PEGSAT acted as a chemical release satellite to provide tracer elements for Earth magnetic, and other plasma experiments.

Highly capable light satellites, or "lightsats", like PEGSAT are far cheaper than conventional billion dollar space systems. Previously, companies expect \$50 - \$125 million in additional booster costs. The space shuttle requires three months of servicing by nearly 11,000 technicians at a cost of \$250



Wind beneath my wing...

The Pegasus Booster was launched succesfully last April. Its payload was provided by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA)

million to make a round trip into space. A failure Canaveral for blast-off, costs are greatly minican waste a billion dollars. For example, Martin. Marietta failed to put a \$150 million dellar commercial communications satellite into proper orbit, Lawsuits are now in progress.

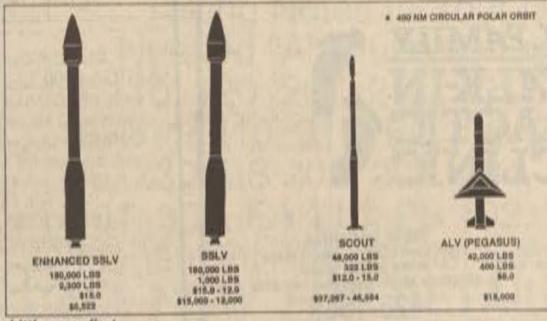
Alternately Pegasus and PEGSAT cost a more \$1,5 million and \$6,5 million, respectively. Since Pegasus does not rely on a space center like Cape

mized. Further, competition for launch sites has led to frequent delays in commercial and military programs. The Pegasus requires only an airport runway to begin its journey into space. Pegasus is currently carried to the drop altitude by a refitted B-52 bomber. Future plans will launch Pegasus from specially outfitted wide body jets, like Lockheed L-1011's or Boeing 747's.

Pegasus pioneers an innovative approach for launching small satellites into orbit around the Earth. Instead of blasting off from the ground like conventional boosters, the three stage solid fuel rocket is released from an airplane at 40,000 feet. The first state ignites and the triangular wing lifts the vehicle to the edge of the Earth's atmosphere. Then, the second stage takes Pegasus into the required orbital trajectory, just like conventional rockets. The success of Pegasus last April marks the

beginning of the commercialization of space. Orbital Sciences Corp. (OSC) and Hercules Aerospace Co. used privately raised capital for the effort. Today, only a handful of companies are engaged in space related work not underwritten by the government.

The virtually flawless launch put to rest questions about the unusual technology. Pegasus is the first all new space booster developed in the United States in 20 years. Companies in both the United States and Europe, like Orbital Communications, Motorolla, and Swedish Space Corp., are actively negotiating Lightsat launches. Further, OSC has two major government procurements pending with its next Pegasus payload in early 1991.



Little ones first...

Pegasus is the smallest of the current launch vehicles. The Scout has been used succesfully for small payload launches while the SSLV and the Enhanced SSLV are used for heavier payloads. Pegasus is clearly less expensive than its closest. NASA and the Air Force. DARPA plans to faunch competitor, the Scout.

### Retired SR-71s fly on at Edwards

by John McDermott Aeronautica Writer

NASA Ames-Dryden Flight Research Facility at Edwards AFB, California is borne base for three Lockheed SR-71A Blackbirds, still the nations fastest and highest flying aircraft more than 25 years after its first flight. The pounds of thrust, power the SR-71A.

SR-71A's are on loan to NASA from the U.S. Air Force, which retired the aircraft from military service in early 1990.

The SR-71A, was originally designed in the early 1960's for

Air Force use as a strategic reconnaissance platform, tained valuable high-speed research data operating NASA plans to employ its three aircraft as high-speed testbeds for research opportunities and experiments that can benefit from the Blackbirds unique capabilites.

The SR-71A can fly at speeds greater than 2,200 mph and to altitudes higher than 80,000 feet.

The aircraft is 107 feet long and weighs about 34 tons

It carries 20 tons of special JP-7 fuel (enough for about two hours of flight time) in its fuselage and wing tanks. Two Pratt and Whitney J58 engines, each rated at 32,500

The Blackbirds that NASA received carry tall numbers 17967, 17971, and 17980.

The Blackbirds that NASA received carry tail numbers 17967. 17971, and 17980, NASA has a tradition of Mach 3 flight research. From 1969 to 1979, Dryden ob-

several YF-12 aircraft, which were prototypes of the SR-71A

In nearly 300 flights, the YF-12s performed extensive studies on structural design, stability, and control of airbreathing aircraft at very high speeds and altitudes.



The wanderer ...

At the NBAA convention, Cessna Aircraft Company announced that the new single engine turboprop will fly a worldwide demonstration tour following the show.

## Grand Caravan to tour the world

by Tami Strout Staff Writer

Cessna Aircraft Company revealed the newest member of its Caravan utility turboprop line, the Grand Caravan, at the National Business Aircraft Association convention in New Orleans. The new aircraft is the largest passenger/cargo single-engine turboprop in production today.

The Grand Caravan is a multimission aircraft that caneasily be switched from a cargo carrier to a passenger carrier in just 20 minutes," said Roy H. Norris, Cessna's senior vice president of marketing. "Our customers and prospects said they needed a larger version of the standard Caravan, Cessna has responded by producing what we believe is the most versatile utility aircraft available.

Norris said the Grand Caravan offers 340 cubic feet of cargo banling capacity, and can carry 111 cubic feet more with an optional cargo pod installed under the fuselage. The aircraft can carry up to 14 people which depends on selected seating configuration and a country's aviation regulations. Passengers will have the same amount of room as first class passengers have in a typical airliner in

a 10 seat configuration. The passenger seats are easily removed and reinstalled when switching between the commuter and cargo configurations. Customers can also mix and match any of five new interior color schemes, including fabric

options for seats and carpet. The improvement in climb performance in speed is due to the Grand Caravan being equipped with a more powerful, 675 shaft horsepower. Pratt & Whitney PT6A-114A engine and an all metal Mc-Cauley propeller. The aircraft's maximum useful load is 4,862 pounds,

"The PT6A engine has been proven during more than 60 million flight hours, establishing itself as one of the most dependable and efficient engines in the world," Nor-

The Grand Caravan has a seven meh shock absorber paired with its spring steel main gear and nosewheel fand ing gear that allows it to operate out of rough fields

Cruise speed of the Grand Caravan is 182 know (209mph), and its maximum range is 963 nautical (1.10) statute) miles,

The aircraft can clear a 50 foot obstacle on takeoff using only 2,420 feet of runway. Landing under the same conditions requires just 1,660 feet.

Stressing the Caravan's reliability, Norris said the floor of more than 400 Caravans has flown more than 500,00n hours, while recording a dispatch reliability rate of 99 per-

Along with the unveiling of its new Grand Caravan at the NBAA convention, Cessna announced that the new single engine turboprop will fly a worldwide demonstration tour following the show. The Grand Camvan is the largest multimission, single engine turboprop currently in production.

Matt Amsden, marketing communications manager for the Caravan line, said the four part tour for the new multimission aircraft will

begin October 8 and will Stage two of the Grand Caravan world run through mid-1991 tour begins in Miami on November 12, The first two legs of the tour will be completed before moving on to several Caribbean Islands and republics, South America, early in January 1991; Stage two of the Grant

Central America and Mexico. Caravan world tour begins in Mismi on November 12, before moving on to several Caribbean in lands and republics, South America, Central America and

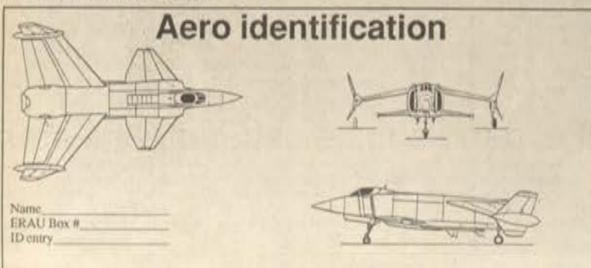
> The third and fourth legs of the tour will be flown during 1991. The third leg will take the Grand Caravan throughout North Africa, the Middle East, sub-Saharan

> Africa and Europe. Part four of the tour will include all of the eastern United States and Canada. The full schedule for 1991 will be released when final details are confirmed.



Fast flyer...

NASA Ames-Dryden Flight Research Facility at Edwards AFB, California is home base for three Lockheed SR-71A Blackbirds, still the nations fastest and highest flying aircraft more than 25 years after its first flight.



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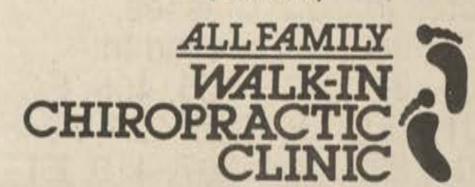




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## Halloween brings out goblins at a Coliseum ball

Managing Editor

It's the night of the ball, and the witches are prowling. In the distance I swear the werewolves are growling.

The air is heavy with music and scent. The lights in the distance provide a hint. The crowds are surrounding the door like a swarm. Not a soul can be found asteep in the dorm

Pumpkins adorn a grand mausoleum. its Halloween night at the club Coliseum.

Last Wednesday, the Coliseum night club on Beach Street played home to the avant garde of the ghoul set. Patrons. dressed in every conceivable costume. Dancing on the ceiling...

One of the best, and most unusual, entries in the contest was a pair of eight

foot Robocops. They achieved their enormous height by scaling their feet in one foot square aluminum foil covered ball. Beth Bishop, boxes and extending their helmet almost a foot over their real heads.

Mike Rank and Catherine Welch came as "Sodman and his bimbo." This pair completely enshrouded themselves in yard sod, complete with "keep off the grass" stakes on Catherine's chest.

Brett and his wife Suganne Nielson drossed as the evil alien the Borg. Their costume was incredibly detailed, and virtually identical to the one used on TV show. (The Borg kidnapped Captain Picard in the Star Trek: The Next



packed the club in hope of winning. Devo made a special appearance (left), while mummies moved to the music (center). Other unusual creatures provided around the club, such as this strange animal that roamed in search of the contest judges (right).

Sherry Potter and Tamana Strayer were arguably the clite of this provocative group.

Clay Kraski and Myles Casmputaro came dressed for beavy combat in the Gulf or any other battlefield.

These two Rambos would have looked right at home in got almost anything else they wanted. Saudi Arabia, Jim Freeman's costume left me so speech-

torted creature had a spine is probably speculation, maybe A dozen or so French maids made appearances at the he was a giant stug. Whatever the case, it was a very good

A triad of females

accepted the responsi-

bility of stirring the

crowd as three foxy fe-

lines, Stephanie Rich-

ardson, Jill Williams

and Laura Cobb may

not have won the con-

It's the night of the ball, and the witches are prowling. In the distance I swear the werewolves are growling. Pumpkins adorn a grand mausoleum, Its Halloween night at the club Coliseum.

test, but they probably

Cristy Carrington and Rene'e Howek waited for Prince Generation season cliffhanger, for those who do not less that my notes read "mammal." Saying that his con- Charming while dressed as two princesses. Judging from

their dancing, Cinderella's shoes must have fit.

Tyler and Mary Ann Parks came painstakingly packaged as Halloween mummies.

Finally, Kaori and Saso Mitsuruohata came attired as the best of the devils. This was probably the most popular

Others were surfer girls, angels, pigs, Romans, road workers, and just about everything else. The other half of the crowd was even more grotesque, they came without

All kidding aside, proper attire for Halloween night was a smile. Everyone seemed to enjoy the fun. Hopefully some of the people mentioned above are already planning for next year.









The wild and the wacky...

Stephanie Richardson, Joe Williams and Laura Cobb meow for the camera (far left). Brett Nielson and Suzanne Nielson plan to take over the Earth (left Center). Clay Kraski and Myles Casmutaro prepare for the draft (right center). Mike Rang and Catherine Welch water each other's lawns (far right).

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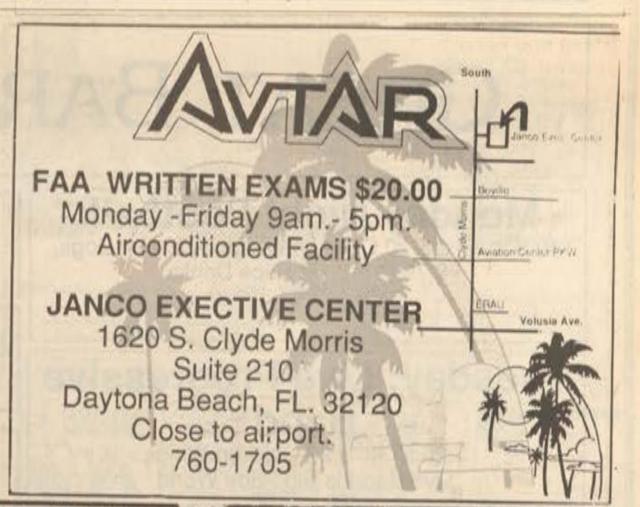
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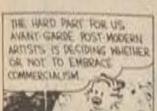
In The Howard Johnsons Hotel 600 N. Atlantic Ave 255-4471

by Gary Larson

### Calvin and Hobbes

ON THE ONE HAND IT'S A GOOD SIGN FOR US ARTISTS THAT, IN THIS ASE OF VISUAL ON THE OTHER HAND, MY TEACHER'S REACTIONARY GRADING SHOWS THAT OUR BOMBAROMENT FROM ALL MIDIA SOCIETY IS CULTURALLY IL-A SIMPLE DRAWING CAN PRIVOKE AND SHOCK VIEWERS LITERATE AND THAT MANY PEOPLE CAN'T TELL GOOD ART





TODAY I PREM ANOTHER PICTURE

IN MY DINOSAURS IN ROCKET

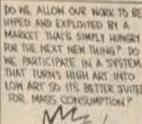
SHIPS " SERIES, AND MISS

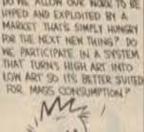
NERMWOOD THREATENED TO

GIVE ME A BAD MARK IN HER

GRADE BOOK IF

I DIDN'T STOP!

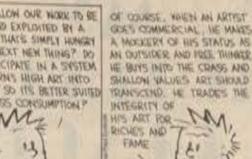




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DRUECT TO ABOUT PHYSAURS !

MOSTLY MY DRAWING THEM

DURING MATH

by Bill Waterson

MY "C-" FIRMLY

CUTTING EDGE

OF THE AVANT

WEAR SILLY

ME ON THE

THIS DRAWING I DID OBYINGLY CHALLENGES THE KNOW NOTHING

COMPLACENCY OF THOSE WHO

PREFER SAFE, PREDIGESTED

BUCGLIC

GENES SCENES

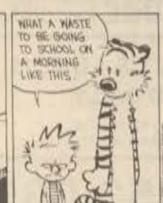


Far Side



Far away, on a hillside, a very specialized breed of dog heard the cry of distress.







THE AUTHORITIES

ARE TRYING TO

SILENCE ANY

YIEW CONTRARY

TO THEIR CHIN





You know, it's really dumb to keep this right next to the cereal. . . . In fact, I don't know why we even keep this stuff around in the first place.



Well, if there's a bone stuck in your throat, you deserve it! . . . Do you see anyone else around here stupid enough to order fish?"











As the small band of hunter-gatherers sat around cleaning their weapons, one made the mistake of looking at his club straight on.



'It's just a miracle you pulled through, George. Why, it was only a few hours ago the whole family was deliberating on whether or not to wring your neck."









by Joe Martin







#### Mother Goose and Grimm











## home Friday Eagles play at

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### Student Employees honored this week

The week of November 12-16 has been officially designated as Student suployment Week on the Daytona Beach Campus. During this time I want greatures my personal thanks to all students who are employed both on and off campus for the great job they are doing.

Combining employment with academics demands energy, initiative and elf-disipline; a challenging and difficult task by anyone's standards. But the work habits and values you are developing as an employee will most likely accompany you throughout the rest of your adult life.

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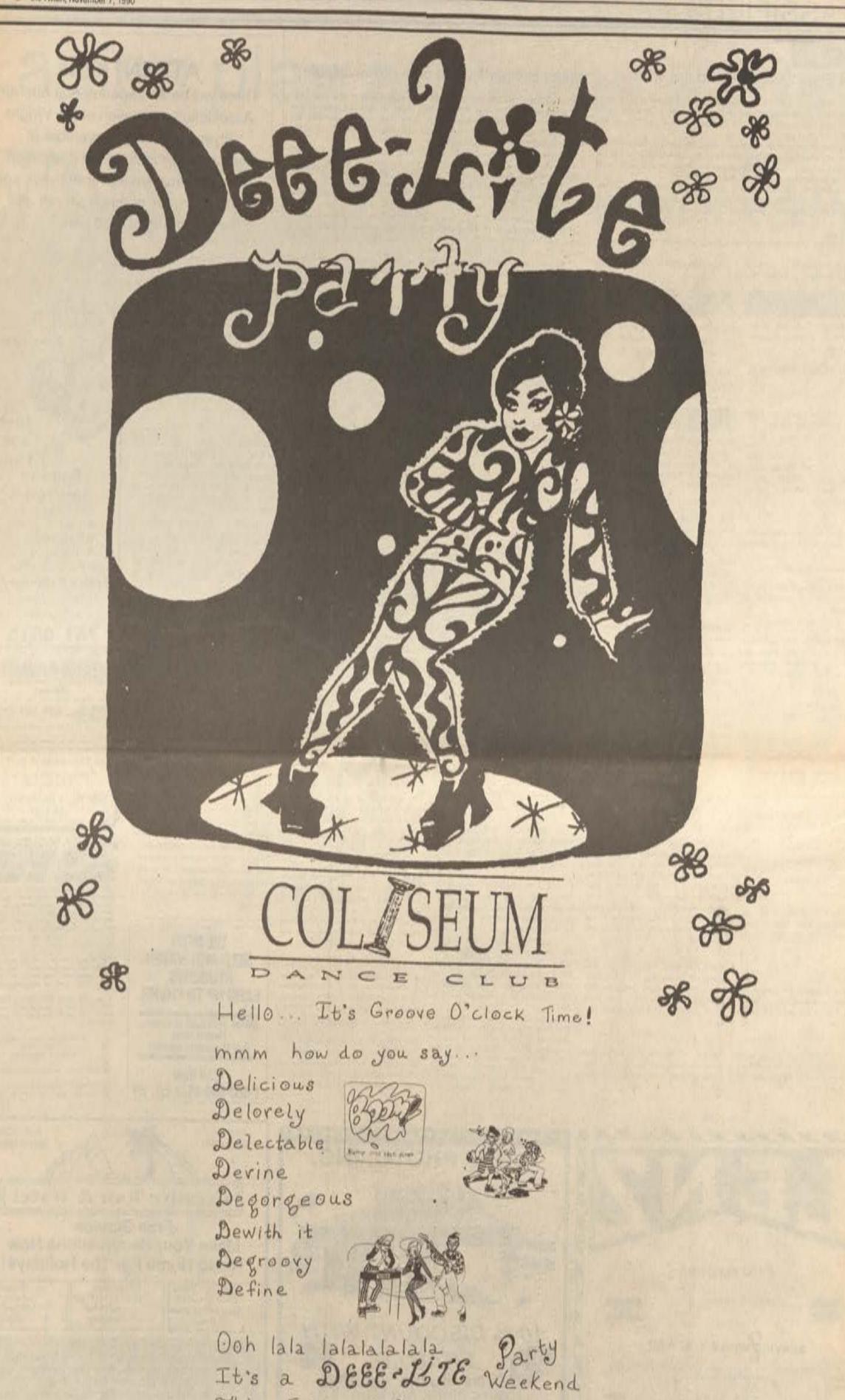
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