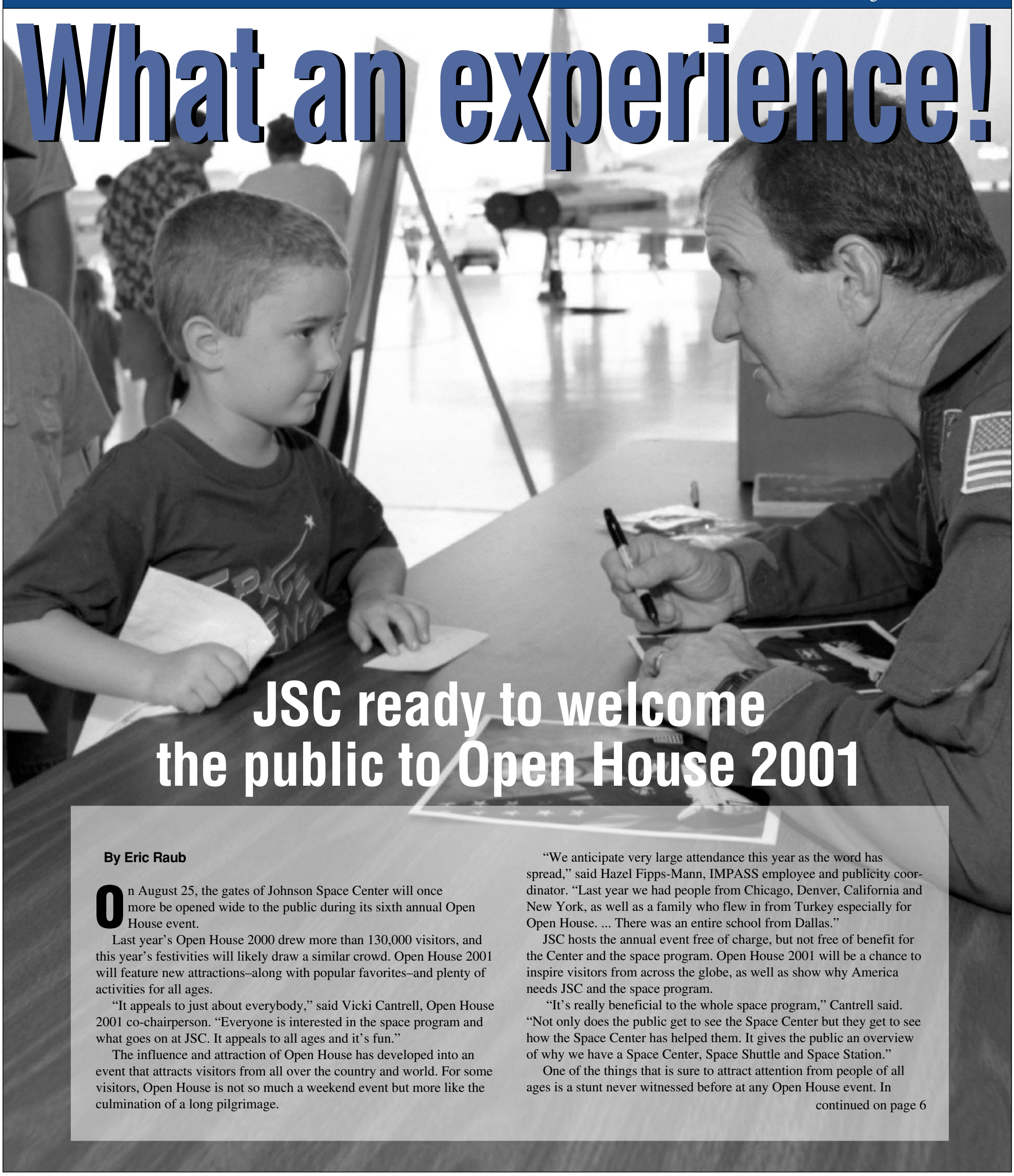
Space Center Roundup

VOL. 40, NO. 15 LYNDON B. JOHNSON SPACE CENTER, HOUSTON, TEXAS August 10, 2001

What an experience!



JSC ready to welcome the public to Open House 2001

By Eric Raub

On August 25, the gates of Johnson Space Center will once more be opened wide to the public during its sixth annual Open House event.

Last year's Open House 2000 drew more than 130,000 visitors, and this year's festivities will likely draw a similar crowd. Open House 2001 will feature new attractions–along with popular favorites–and plenty of activities for all ages.

"It appeals to just about everybody," said Vicki Cantrell, Open House 2001 co-chairperson. "Everyone is interested in the space program and what goes on at JSC. It appeals to all ages and it's fun."

The influence and attraction of Open House has developed into an event that attracts visitors from all over the country and world. For some visitors, Open House is not so much a weekend event but more like the culmination of a long pilgrimage.

"We anticipate very large attendance this year as the word has spread," said Hazel Fipps-Mann, IMPASS employee and publicity coordinator. "Last year we had people from Chicago, Denver, California and New York, as well as a family who flew in from Turkey especially for Open House. ... There was an entire school from Dallas."

JSC hosts the annual event free of charge, but not free of benefit for the Center and the space program. Open House 2001 will be a chance to inspire visitors from across the globe, as well as show why America needs JSC and the space program.

"It's really beneficial to the whole space program," Cantrell said. "Not only does the public get to see the Space Center but they get to see how the Space Center has helped them. It gives the public an overview of why we have a Space Center, Space Shuttle and Space Station."

One of the things that is sure to attract attention from people of all ages is a stunt never witnessed before at any Open House event. In

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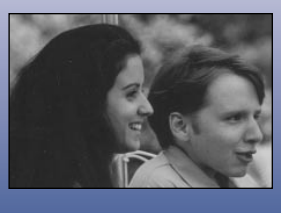
Astronaut Michael Bloomfield (Lt. Col., USAF) signs an autograph for a young Open House visitor last year at Ellington Field. A NASA T-38 sits in the background.

2 JSC benefits from college students.



3 STS-104 makes a successful Quest.

5 Your guide to Open House 2001.