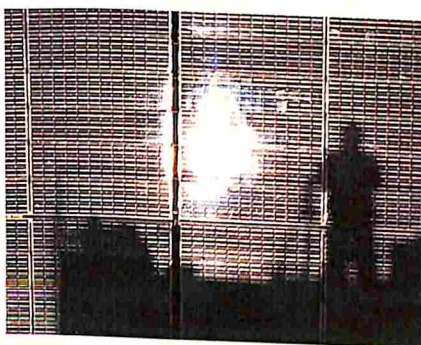


## New life for solar?

In labs solar cells are catching more rays than ever. In factories robots turn out cheaper photovoltaic modules. And with the threat of global warming, is solar poised for a new burst of energy? **Page 117**



## Winging it

An unmanned winged rocket will drop from a B-52 bomber at 40,000 feet, climb to a low-Earth orbit, and release a satellite. Pegasus is a new satellite-launching system designed to deliver small payloads at a reasonable price. **Page 126**



## Space machines

Front drive, rear drive, or all-wheel drive: Which is best to power a minivan? POPULAR SCIENCE ponders this in a test of two domestics and two imports. **Page 40**



## Flying trains

After three decades of development, magnetic-levitation trains are now becoming practical. A proposed high-speed link between Los Angeles and Las Vegas would zip passengers between the two cities in 75 minutes. And a West German company that last year set a speed record of 256 mph is experimenting with plans for a 310-mph maglev. **Page 132**



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FRONT DRIVE vs. REAR DRIVE vs. ALL-WHEEL DRIVE

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## NEW LIFE FOR SOLAR?

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