



Photo by Doug Williams

Standing in front of Lawrence Hall on the University campus is a transpostructure, a 50 foot dome

of aluminum and wire. The dome made of concentric rings, is a collapsible arts pavilion.

'Transpostructure' dome lands on campus at Lawrence Hall

By CAROLINE PETRICH
Of the Emerald

What is round, has four legs, is 50 feet in diameter and is made of aluminum and wire cables?

The answer can be found standing in front of Lawrence Hall. The flying saucer-like contraption is a "transpostructure."

The dome, made of concentric rings, is a collapsible, portable arts pavilion, used for art exhibitions and the like. Seven years ago, a group of architecture students, under the supervision of John Briscoe, a University faculty member, designed and built the structure.

Generically, it's a transportable structure, but most people call it a transpostructure. The name suggests the versatility of the architectural form, says an architecture student working on the structure.

"How many things that are 50 feet in diameter can you put into the back of a pickup truck and cart away somewhere, and erect in a day's time?" he says.

Erecting the transpostructure is a simple process. To elevate the dome, a heavy nylon balloon is fitted underneath the tensile structure. As the balloon fills with air, the structure rises. When the structure has risen 8 feet, legs are propped under and an-

chored into the ground. The balloon is then deflated, leaving the unique construction to stand on its own four feet. For a cover, workers stretch a heavy nylon skin over the top. The entire process takes only a few hours, Briscoe says.

The transpostructure's lightness and compactness make it a practical item for outdoor art exhibits. When the dome was first built, Visual Arts Resources, a division of the Oregon Arts Commission, exhibited the unusual piece at art exhibits around Oregon.

At its latest exhibit at Alton Baker Park the structure was damaged.

"Somebody just cut off the top," Briscoe says. "We put a lot into the transpostructure. I was disappointed that it was damaged to the point that it couldn't be reused."

Since that exhibition, the frame has been stored in a warehouse because money for repairs could not be raised.

But the Eugene Downtown Development Board came to the rescue last September, and found \$3,000 to pay for a new herculite covering and some new aluminum castings. The board commissioned Briscoe and students of a transpostructure workshop to make the repairs.

The board plans to utilize the aluminum-and-wire construction for a Christmas Ballet Pageant, scheduled to run from Thanksgiving to the Sunday before Christmas.

With his students, Briscoe doesn't mind mending the huge structure.

"It's nice to have it being used," he says.

Newsletter adopts new format

The survival center newsletter has changed its focus, says Joe Cone, newsletter coordinator for the center.

"We wanted to have it be a service to students," Cone says, describing the environmental news in the publication as "hotter, more interesting to read and more timely."

The newsletter has also gained some new feature sections — a calendar of environment-related events and meetings called In the Public Interest and News Real, an opinion forum offering "an unusual perspective on the news" by Survival Center staff members and other interested writers, Cone says.

The newsletter is being cir-

culated today in the EMU, the library, the journalism school and various locations around town. Funding for the newsletter comes from the IFC.

A new mailing list is being drawn up, Cone says, and students who would like to be included on the list should drop by the Survival Center downstairs in the EMU and leave their address with a staff member.

The newsletter is written by volunteers and Cone encourages interested writers to contact him in the center Monday, Wednesday or Friday afternoon or call 686-4356 or 686-3515.

Volunteers may now earn credit through the school of Community Service and Public Affairs.

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STOP! What's your aim?

IF

A.I.M. — Academic Information Matinee — is for you.

Faculty Academic Advisors from all departments of the University will be present at the Matinee to help new undergraduates explore different majors and even make decisions about their studies at the University.

DATE: November 8, 1979
TIME: 2:30-4:30 p.m.
PLACE: Room 167 EMU

After the Matinee: be our date for the evening. Come to the World Famous Rootbeer Garden and have fun at this gala event for undergraduates and New Student Week Hosts. Free popcorn, rootbeer, conversation and live music by J.T. Meier & The High Rollers. Same day, EMU, 8:00-10:00 p.m.

Presented by the Orientation Office (ext. 3218), Academic Advising and Student Services, and the EMU Cultural Forum.