# Science center provides visitors playground of exhibits, shows

#### By Michael Clapp Of the Emerald

As visitors enter the Willamette Science and Technology Center, passing the wind pipes outside and the aerial photo of Eugene in the foyer, they come upon what Alice Carnes, publicity director for center, calls a "playground for the mind."

The center offers hands-on experience with the worlds of science and technology through a variety of exhibits, classes and traveling shows.

This fall, WISTEC classes will be taught on such subjects as

volcanoes, dinosaurs and fossils, and model rocketry. There also will be a one-day workshop titled "Many Happy Returns," which investigates the art of boomerang throwing.

Computer classes are a major component of WISTEC's fall class offerings. The center has a lab set up with Apple IIe computers and will offer courses in LOGO, Basic, Modems and computer graphics.

Carnes says the center tries to offer low-cost, well-taught classes in computer programming. "If people know how to program, no one will scare them with computers," she says.

WISTEC also will present some special exhibits this year.

Some displays for a fall WISTEC exhibit called Mathemagic are assembled already at the center. Mathemagic will explore the fascinating aspects of mathematics, including demonstrations on the laws of probability and chance.



Computer technology is one WISTEC specialty, but the science center also offers various exhibits, shows and classes.

> WISTEC is planning a "nonscary" Halloween party for young children in October. The party will include a magic show, live bats and tarantulas, and refreshments.

In November the center will host an exhibit of Eskimo dolls, made by contemporary Alaskan craftspeople using natural materials. The dolls are dressed in traditional clothing.

Field biologist Gail Baker will present a slide lecture, "Exploring Australia: From Sydney to the Back of Beyond," emphasizing the vast outback areas of Australia. Baker's presentation will be held Sept. 25.

A touring Smithsonian Institute show entitled "Yesterday's Tomorrows" will visit the center in February. The show is a collection of 50- to 100-yearold "artifacts" that show how Americans visualized the future.

The exhibit will feature films, drawings, toys, models and

other items, including a model of Buckminster Fuller's 1928 Dymaxion house.

The exhibit opened in August at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C., and will come to Eugene for its only Northwest showing after an engagement at Chicago's Museum of Science and Industry.

Carnes says the center will be emptied of its regular exhibits to make room for the Smithsonian show. "We will shoehorn this exhibit into WISTEC," she says.

WISTEC is located west of Autzen Stadium on a 13-acre parcel of land that has been designated as the site for a future museum complex, which will one day include the Lane County Historical Museum and a State Museum of Natural History.

For information about classes or a schedule of events call WISTEC at 484-9027.



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