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Community

WISTEC exhibit to teach peace

By Christopher Blair
Emerald Reporter

The Willamette Science and Technology Center (WISTEC) will introduce a new exhibit to explore a new science: the science of peace.

Playfair is the title of an exhibit from the Chicago Peace Museum making its West Coast debut at WISTEC Feb. 21. The exhibit, featured until April 2, consists of eight different displays, each designed to teach children peacemaking skills such as conflict resolution, mediation and listening.

"It's a bit out of the ordinary when you consider what we normally do in terms of science," said Margot Schaefer, WISTEC public relations direc-

tor.

Some of the displays and activities have an international theme, such as the "Peace Post Office," where kids can send letters of peace to Eugene's sister cities of Irkutsk, U.S.S.R. and Kakegawa, Japan. There is also a display from Japan showing Godzilla making friends with one of his monster enemies, said Paul Vollom, WISTEC exhibit director.

Another display called "Everyone's You and Me," involves the use of adjustable two-way mirrors. Two participants sit on either side of the mirror and adjust the light, the effect being that the participants switch faces in order to understand the other person's identity.

"Kids in this exhibit learn that other people might not look so strange," Vollom said. "That's where a lot of conflicts

start."

Some of the exhibits, such as the "Who Am I?" puppet and mask display, are geared toward younger children, while others, such as the "Speak Your Peace" talk show set, are intended for teenagers. However, everyone will be able to get something out of every display, Schaefer said.

The Playfair exhibit is one of several ways WISTEC is trying to bring relevance to science, Schaefer said, citing a recent heart fitness workshop at the museum.

"Rather than just being informational, we'd like to show that science can make your life better," Schaefer said.

Admission for the Playfair and other WISTEC exhibits is \$2.75 for adults, \$2.25 for students and senior citizens, \$1.75 for children under 17, and free for WISTEC members.

Snakes, turtles and lizards prepare to invade WISTEC

By Stephanie Holland
Emerald Contributor

If you leap from a look at a lizard, tremble if touched by a turtle, or scream upon seeing a snake, don't hide under a rock — visit Crawling Critters: The Reptile Weekend, Feb. 25 and 26 at Willamette Science and Technology Center (WISTEC).

According to Bob Beisser of the New Zoo, one of the exhibit's sponsors, the purpose of the show is to increase public awareness of reptiles.

Milk snakes, albino king snakes, box turtles and gecko lizards are just a few of the reptiles that will be available for examination this weekend.

"We're trying to promote interest in the natural world," Beisser said. "Hands-on treatment will be encouraged."

In addition to the handling area, WISTEC, located at 2300 Centennial Blvd., will present videos and a reptile pet show and photo contest.

Stephanie LaHaie, a sopho-

more biology major, became interested in snakes through a friend. LaHaie is entering in the contest her male and female royal pythons, more commonly known as ball pythons because "they roll into little balls when they're scared," she said.

Chris Harvey, an LCC junior majoring in telecommunications and film, owns a Columbia boa constrictor and a box turtle. Unlike pythons, which lay eggs, boas bear live young. Both types thrive on mice and strangle their victims before eating them.

Harvey says he is fascinated by his snake, Sasha, and enjoys watching her eat and move.

"I wanted to be a snake for a little while after I got her," he said.

Entry deadline for the pet show and photo contest is Feb. 22 at 5 p.m. To register, call Bob Beisser at 342-8169.

WISTEC admission is \$2.75 for adults, \$2.25 for students and seniors, and \$1.75 for people aged 3-17.

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