

# BUILDING A NEW WORLD

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Students to Construct Five-Story Globe on National Mall to Celebrate Earth Day**

**WASHINGTON, DC** -- On Friday, April 21, more than 1,200 students from across the nation will assemble a five-story globe -- a one-millionth scale replica of the Earth -- on the National Mall during a day-long event in celebration of the 25th Anniversary of Earth Day.

**Taking place directly in front of the Smithsonian Castle, the event is part of a nationwide education project entitled "Building a New World."** The students, with the guidance of industry and academic mentors, will construct the 6,000-lb globe from 1,620 three-foot panels. As construction proceeds throughout the day, the 42-foot diameter sphere gradually will be raised to full height by "kid power" -- a bicycle operated in shifts by the students to activate a crane.

**In a colorful opening ceremony beginning at 8:00 am,** the students will assemble with representatives from various foreign embassies. The American children will carry flags of the nations represented, while many of their foreign guests will be dressed in native costume. Former Wisconsin U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson, founder of Earth Day and Chairman of Earth Day XXV, will open the day's events. The students then will break into two groups: one to begin erecting the giant globe, and another to demonstrate the research conducted in the classroom, including the creation of the individual tiles. Embassy representatives will share with the students environmental concerns in their native lands.

**The day-long event will conclude at 4:30 p.m. with a closing ceremony in front of the fully assembled globe** featuring remarks by students, sponsors, and special guests, including NASA Chief Scientist Dr. France Cordova; NASA Associate Administrator for Mission to Planet Earth Dr. Charles Kennel; and Lockheed Martin CEO Dan Tellep. Native Americans will present a live bald eagle and peregrine falcon, restored to health by the RAPTOR center of the University of Minnesota. **The sphere will remain on display throughout the weekend.**

"Building a New World" is sponsored by Skyline Displays, Lockheed Martin, GE Plastics and the Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI).

"Our intent in creating the 'Building a New World' project was to excite 4th through 9th grade school children about math and science while teaching the basics of engineering, cartography, geography, and earth sciences, including satellite imagery," explained Brian Beaulieu, President of Skyline Displays, which created and organized the project.

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Before arriving in Washington, the students will have studied individual sections of the globe using computerized satellite images, site and weather maps, earth science studies and interviews via the Internet. Based upon that research, they will have designed and painted the individual panels for the globe. In addition to the Earth Day globe, the exhibit area will include a working display of a current project: a three-dimensional relief globe that is scheduled for completion in the year 2000.

The Washington assembly is being underwritten by the Lockheed Martin Corporation as part of the company's continuing effort to support science and math education. "The stewardship of our planet dominates the world agenda and transcends boundaries, continents and people," said Lockheed Martin Chairman and CEO Daniel Tellep. "This project combines serious study and public action to demonstrate interest and enthusiasm among these young people who are, in fact, building a new world. We can't think of a more exciting way for students to apply the study of science and math to their own future role in managing our planet's precious resources."

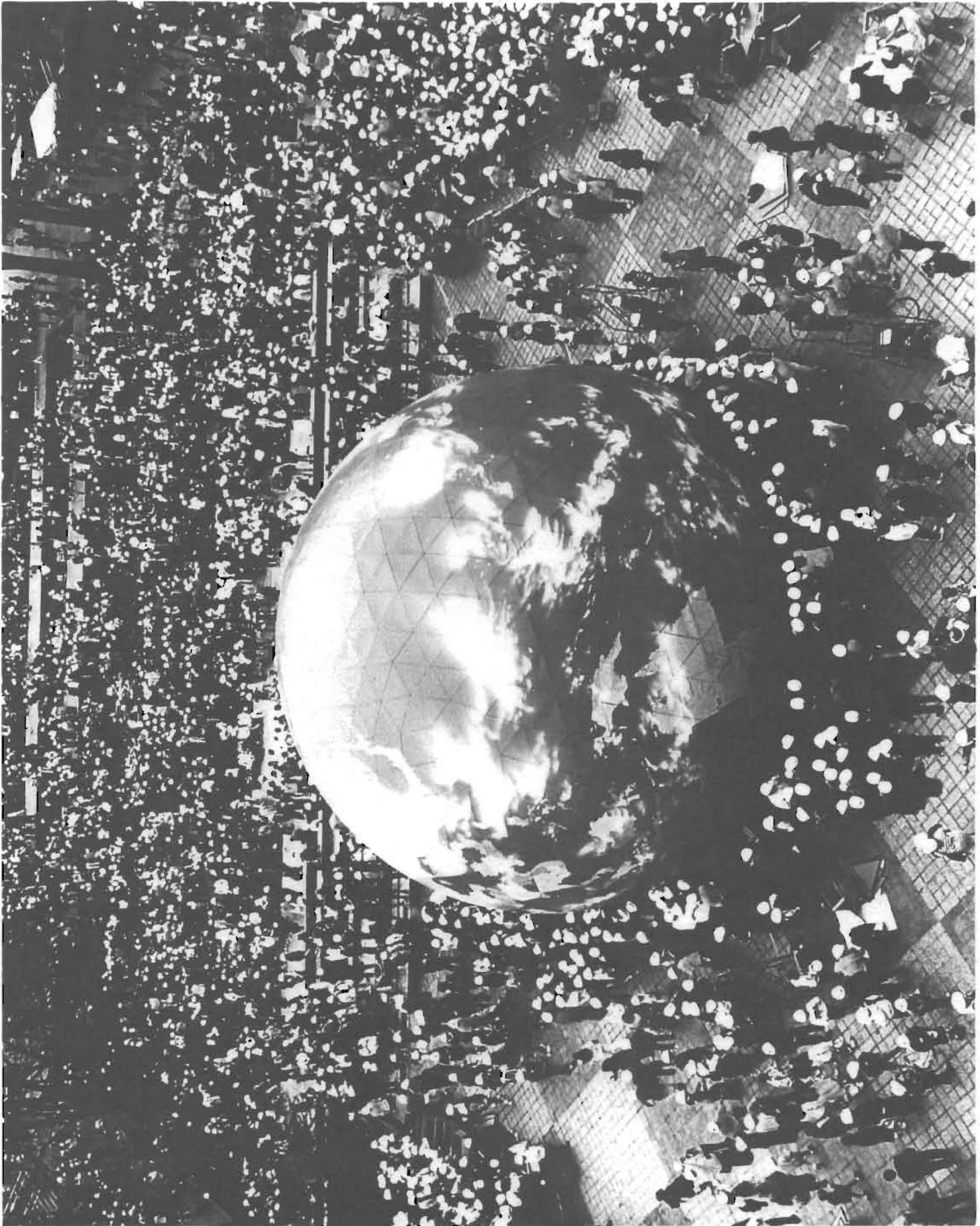
GE Plastics provided LEXAN® film for use in constructing the globe's outer surface. "Brian Beaulieu's vision for 'Building a New World' and the educational impact it would have was very exciting to us. Since GE Plastics employs engineers around the world, we saw a real symmetry between nurturing the young minds of tomorrow's scientists and inventors and the opportunity to have a hand in demonstrating the application of science to some future GE engineers," said John Kramer, GE Plastics architectural industry manager.

ESRI provided remote sensing images and software for use in mapping of the Earth by students. "It's exciting to see young people working so closely with scientists and engineers to create something that has so much potential to educate people about the environment, and to show us that there are ways for all of us to get involved to save our planet," said Jack Dangermond, ESRI President.

For further information, photos, video clips and to schedule interviews with the students and guest speakers, please contact: Diane Murphy: 703/893-0740; fax: 703/893-0741.



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