

## Public Conference on use of solar energy held

**May 5, 1975**

A major one-day public conference concerning the use of solar energy as a possible solution to the present and future energy needs of the United States will be held Saturday, May 17, at the University of California, San Diego.

The conference, titled "Solar Energy: Future Prospects and Present Reality," is the second annual energy conference sponsored by UCSD's Third College. It will begin at 10 a.m. in room 2722 of the Undergraduate Sciences Building and is free and open to the public. Reserved seat tickets are available through the Third College Provost's Office.

The conference brings together a group of distinguished, nationally known experts to present a straightforward, everyday language discussion of solar energy and its future potential in Southern California. Included will be representatives from industry, education and research institutions, and state government.

According to Dr. Joseph Watson, Provost of the Third College and UCSD Associate Professor of Chemistry, solar energy represents a source of nonpolluting, virtually inexhaustible energy that is literally at our doorsteps.

"Although oil and gas reserves will be exhausted in 30 to 40 years at present rates of consumption, solar energy will be available for as long as the sun shines, at least another few billion years," he said. "The basic technology for the utilization of solar energy has been commercially available since the 1930's. With the increasing fuel costs, solar energy has now become economically competitive for space and water heating in a number of regions."

According to the Provost, enough solar energy falls on sunny Southern California to meet the total energy needs of the United States twenty times over. To what extent solar energy can meet the present and future energy demands of the country or to what extent it can help defray the fuel costs of the average homeowner in the future are some of the things to be explored during the conference, he said.

Dr. Stanford Penner, director of the UCSD Energy Center, will serve as the conference moderator and will open the session at 10 a.m. with "A Survey of Solar Energy Options." He will be followed by Dr. Aden B. Meinel, director of the Solar Energy Project at the University of Arizona, speaking on "Large Scale Solar Electrical Power Generation."

Dr. John Russell, of General Atomic in San Diego, will speak on "Central Station Solar Power" at 11 a.m. He will be followed by Dr. George Szego, of Intertechnology in Warrenton, Virginia, speaking on "Perpetual Clean Fuels from the Sun."

Following questions and a lunch break, Dr. Edgar S. Davis, of the Sage Project at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, will speak on "Solar Energy: Application for Building." Jack Schultz, of Schultz Field Enterprises in San Diego, will talk on "Solar Heating and Cooling: A Reality Today." He will be followed by State Assemblyman Lawrence Kapiloff speaking on "The State's Role in Encouraging Development of Alternative Sources of Energy."

A wrap-up and question period is scheduled for 3 p.m.

According to Watson, The Third College sponsors the annual conference in recognition of the need for public understanding in the area of energy needs and problems and also as a part of its emphasis on encouraging students, particularly minority students, to major in sciences and engineering and to develop their interest in graduate training in these fields.

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