

Conference on alternative sources of energy supplies to be held

May 6, 1974

A major two-day public conference concentrating on alternative sources of energy to supply man's future needs will be held Friday evening and all day Saturday, May 17 and 18, at the University of California, San Diego.

The conference, titled "Answering the Energy Crisis," is being sponsored by UCSD's Third College and is under the coordination of Dr. Alan Schneider, Professor of Engineering Sciences at the San Diego campus. It will be held from 7 to 9:30 p.m. Friday and from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. the following day. All sessions will be in room 2100, Basic Science Building, at the UCSD School of Medicine.

The conference will feature a group of distinguished, nationally known experts currently working on the world's future energy needs. The theme will concentrate on the extent that these needs can be met with renewable, non-polluting sources of energy. Each speaker will present in straightforward, everyday language, the essential facts about one way of obtaining energy, without pollution, from renewable resources.

According to Schneider, most energy, and most air pollution, currently comes from burning fossil fuels - fuels which are being depleted at an accelerating rate and which cannot be renewed. In addition, there is honest disagreement among scientists on the safety of, and the advisability of, increasing our commitment to nuclear energy.

Alternatives for fossil fuels and nuclear fission can be developed, Schneider said, however, the lion's share of the national energy research budget for the next five years goes to nuclear fission and fossil-fuel development while less than two percent is earmarked for solar energy study.

The Friday night session will open with a talk on "Feasibility and Methods of Energy Conservation" by Dr. Lester Lees, Director of the Environmental Quality Laboratory at the California Institute of Technology, who will serve as moderator for the entire conference. Lees will be followed by Dr. Homer J. Stewart, Professor of Aeronautics at Caltech, who will speak on "Power from the Wind" outlining the use of giant windmills to generate power. A question and answer period will follow the talks.

The Saturday morning session will feature Dr. Kenneth Watt from the Institute of Ecology at UC Davis as the keynote speaker. Dr. Watt will talk on "Energy Supply and Demand: an Overview."

Also on the morning session are Dr. Ben Berkowitz, General Electric Tempo Center for Advanced Studies, talking on "Solar Heating and Cooling of Buildings," Dr. Aden Meinel, Director of the Solar Energy Project at the University of Arizona, "Large Scale Generation of Electrical Power from the Sun's Heat," and Dr. Richard Stirn, Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, "Direct Solar Energy Conversion by Photovoltaics (Solar Cells)."

Following a lunch break Dr. Richard Post, Professor-in-Residence at the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory, will talk on "Flywheels for Energy Storage?" Dr. George Szego, President of Intertechnology in Warrenton, Virginia, will follow Post speaking on "Harnessing Solar Energy Now" (or "Is There Intelligent Life on Earth?")

Professor John Isaacs, Director of the Marine Life Research Group and Professor of Oceanography at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, will discuss "Energy from Ocean Waves" and George Brown, Congressman from Riverside, will talk on "Sunbeams Out of Cucumbers."

Following the scheduled talks, Lees will give a wrap-up on the two-day session and Schneider will offer concluding remarks.

According to Dr. Joseph Watson, Provost of the host Third College, the college is sponsoring the conference in recognition of the need for public understanding in this area and also as part of its emphasis on encouraging students, particularly minority students, to major in the sciences and engineering and to develop their interest in graduate training in these fields.

The theme of the conference reflects the concern of the college that energy shortages and intemperate increases in the use of polluting sources of energy will have disproportionately detrimental impacts on minorities and low income people, Watson said.

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