

Amendment boosts solar energy

By TOM JACKSON
Of the Emerald

The nationwide development of solar energy may receive a major shot in the arm as a result of an amendment to the Energy Research and Development Administration's (ERDA) appropriations bill. The amendment is sponsored by Congressmen Jim Weaver of Oregon and James Jeffers of Vermont.

The amended appropriations bill passed the House Thursday by a vote of 321-68.

Weaver's amendment called for \$116.2 million for solar research to bring the total ERDA non-nuclear research budget to \$345.4 million. ERDA also provides funds for research of nuclear energy.

ERDA had originally applied for \$471.2 million in non-nuclear research money, but this figure was reduced by about 25 per cent by the House.

The amendment also stipulates that at least 20 per cent of the ERDA funds will be made available to small businesses. The funding will be used for the entire nation.

"The amendment will make it possible to embark on a new program of generating electrical energy from the sun's rays," said Weaver following the passage of the bill.

"We are moving in a new and vital direction to solve our energy needs — the direction of energy from the sun," he added.

But Weaver's amendment was further amended to include a change in allocation. The amount of money to be made available for solar research remained the same, but the compromise amendment calls for half of the solar research money to be provided for research in solar heating and cooling units instead of electricity producing research.

Weaver had stated before the passage of the bill that he believes it is necessary "to commit the nation to solar development in the same way the nation is now committed to the breeder reactor."

The solar development money is intended, according to Weaver, to give the non-nuclear sources of power a chance to prove their viability and to develop "momentum" in the industry. He believes these sources of power could be researched at a greater rate than

they are presently.

Weaver claims the non-nuclear power sources could be producing as much energy as the breeder reactor by the year 2000. "It is time we dedicate the funds to these new technologies that they deserve, particularly in view of the serious uncertainties recently associated with the future of nuclear energy."

A similar bill is being introduced to the Senate by Sen. Hubert Humphrey, but the time the bill will be voted on has not yet been released.

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Aging workshop slated

A free workshop entitled "The Sage Project...A Coming of Age" is open to seniors by the University's Gerontology Association on Saturday.

Ken Dychtwald, co-director of the Senior Actualization and Growth Exploration (SAGE) project in Berkeley, California, will conduct the all-day workshop. SAGE started in 1974.

Participants will view video tapes of the Berkeley project, hear Dychtwald discuss the nature and evolution of the group, and use growth-facilitating techniques.

Only a few spots are still available for the workshop, and all interested students must register by contacting the Gerontology Association, Suite 1, EMU (Ext. 5131). Non-students must pay a \$5 registration fee.

The workshop will be conducted in the Gerlinger Lounge from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.



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Practical techniques for maintaining equilibrium and a positive mental state in high pressure environments, school, on the job, in relationships, etc.

2 "The Human Aura"

Saturday, May 22, 10 AM-4 PM, \$10

Techniques for visualizing and strengthening, and the function of the Aura in health and healing.

3 "Creative Visualization"

Sunday, May 23, 10 AM-4 PM, \$10

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Workshops are conducted by Mukhia Singh Sahib Gurucharan Singh Khalsa. He is currently director of the Kundalini Research Institute in Claremont, California and is an international lecturer and writer. He has carried out experiments on Mental Healing, Kirlian photography, and the psychological affects of meditation. He is now conducting a national tour giving lectures and workshops.

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