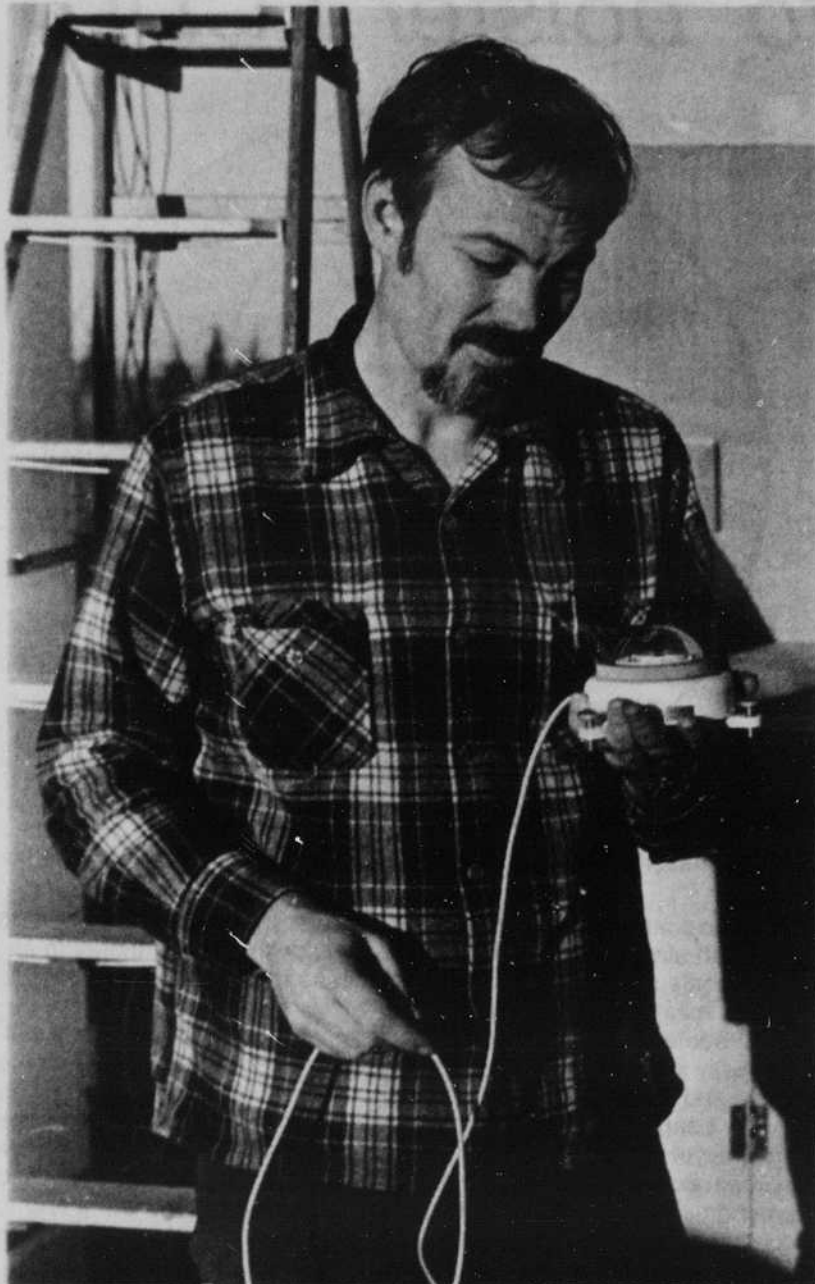


Scientists prepare for solar energy demands



By **BYRON ACOHIDO**
Of the Emerald

As natural resources dwindle and controversy over nuclear power brews, solar energy looms as an attractive alternative for many energy-hungry Americans. With this in mind, Dan Kahen, a research associate in the science department, is keeping a watchful eye on the sun and gathering information that will be invaluable to future solar energy consumers.

Using money from a government grant, Kahen and research partner Steve Baker have set up six pyranometers atop the science building. These devices measure on a daily basis precisely how much sunlight is hitting Eugene. This information, along with data gathered at different sites all over the state, will forecast for solar energy users how much sunlight they can expect to get each month throughout the year.

"It'll help people plan better," Kahen said about the data. "What we'll do is add up the hourly total of how much sunlight is falling on a surface. That information averaged over a long period of time will

tell us if it's always foggy in the mornings during winter and clear in the afternoons, then solar collectors should be rotated to collect more of the afternoon sun."

Of course unusual weather patterns do occur (such as this abnormally dry fall and winter) which would render all data meaningless. But Kahen said that data gathered over a period of three to five years or longer would still be useful in the long run, especially as solar energy use becomes more widespread. And, according to Kahen, there's more than just a good chance solar energy will catch on.

"Without a significant change in our living standards, we will eventually have to use all energy sources at our disposal," he said, "and solar energy will definitely have its place."

"There's going to be a point when solar energy is cheaper than plugging a heater into the wall, and at that time people will start using it," he continued.

While Kahen says he thinks solar energy use will become a reality across the nation, he says Oregon and the Northwest will lag

behind the rest of the nation in developing solar energy use. This, he said, is due in part to the cloudy atmosphere which makes expensive super-optimum, high-efficiency solar collectors necessary, and in part, to the comparatively low hydro-electric rates now enjoyed by Northwesterners.

However, he pointed out that an energy shortage or skyrocketing electricity prices could cause people to start looking toward the sun as an alternative energy source.

Besides monitoring the sun in Eugene, Kahen and Baker have sought out other sites like Oregon State University and various private utility companies also operating pyranometers. Arrangement will be made to organize the data coming from all sun monitoring sites throughout the state.

At a meeting next week, the State Department of Energy will attempt to coordinate the solar energy monitoring network on a state level. Although the University's role in such a network is not yet known, Kahen said, "We're willing to take a very large role."

Photo by Kurt Krasne

Research associate Dan Kahen examines one of the University's six pyranometers atop the science complex. The pyranometers measure the amount of sunlight Eugene receives each day and will provide data for future solar energy developments.

NCAA sues HEW in Title IX fight over federal funding discrepancy

By **BRENDA TABOR**
Of the Emerald

While colleges across the nation are bringing their athletic programs into compliance with Title IX, the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) has decided to fight the federal regulation.

The NCAA is suing the Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW). The national organization claims that since athletic departments are not direct recipients of federal funds, they should not have to comply with Title IX. The federal regulation applies to recipients of federal funds.

University Athletic Director John Caine says the NCAA's basic contention is correct. "Athletic departments receive no direct federal funds," he says, "but they do receive indirect benefits of federal funds received by the University." Caine says the NCAA has taken the stand against Title IX before.

In challenging the application of Title IX, the NCAA said there were no objections from its members, according to College Press Service. The NCAA's national convention is less than a week away, but Caine says the suit being undertaken by the NCAA isn't on the agenda.

Caine won't say whether he agrees with NCAA's stand, but according to CPS, other organizations and schools do not. The Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (AIAW) and the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education and Recreation (AAHPER) challenged NCAA's suit and have asked to be allowed to testify in HEW's behalf.

Previously, the organizations asked a Kansas district court to dismiss the NCAA case on the grounds that the NCAA has no authority to bring the suit and the NCAA council did not have the consent of its member schools to proceed.

NCAA Pres. John Fuzak told the Higher Education Daily that he did not consider the challenges as objections. "There have been some questions of understanding and clarification but no letters that I know of objected to the suit itself," Fuzak stated.

So, according to CPS, it has boiled down to a question of what constitutes an objection and that NCAA has insisted on quibbling about it. An objection by any other name would still smell sour, says CPS, and the point seems to be

that the NCAA is fighting equal opportunities for women in sports because of a federal technicality.

In addition to AIAW and AAHPER, University of IOWA Pres. Willard Boyd said his institution does not wish to be associated with "efforts that are not positive in (NCAA's) approach to affirmative action." Mercy College in New York added its name to the list of "objectors" and protested the NCAA action to Fuzak.

While NCAA is crying foul, some of its charges are making noticeable attempts to comply. The University currently has an Intercollegiate Athletic Committee considering compliance alternatives. The committee has received several proposed models of a merged intercollegiate athletic department.

In some cases, men as well as women are benefitting from Title IX. An evaluation at West Virginia University found several areas where treatment needs to be equalized for men, according to CPS. Male students there will now be encouraged to study family resources and nursing. The women's lounge will also be remodeled so that men can also use it while maintaining separate rest rooms.

Video projects delight prof

By **TOM KNAPPENBERGER**
For the Emerald

The nameplate on the door of Room 913 promises a lot. The white letters of the small, black rectangular plaque designate the interior as the "Michael Robinson Memorial Media Center."

While most memorials commemorate some notable who has met his maker, Mike Robinson is alive and well in Washington, D.C.

And Jerry Medler thinks it's all pretty funny.

Medler, an associate professor of political science at the University, decided a few years ago that students in the community politics class could benefit by filming local happenings with video tape television equipment.

So Medler, whose twinkling eyes suggest more than his bearded face reveals, obtained \$3,000 worth of equipment to give his students a chance to use TV technology. The equipment was stored in Room 913, an empty office in P.L.C.

Medler jokingly suggested the room be designated the "Michael Robinson Memorial Media Center," poking good natured fun at a friendly adversary and former colleague who left the University the year before to work in Washington, D.C.

To Medler's surprise and devilish delight, a nameplate bearing Robinson's name appeared a few days later. Medler couldn't resist tracing over it with charcoal and sending his artwork to Robinson.

The serious side of this anecdote is that Medler and Robinson are both interested in television. But they view the medium from opposite ends of the camera.

Robinson, one of a few political scientists focusing on the media, has written scholarly articles detailing effects of broadcasting, particularly network newscasts.

Medler, however, could care less if his students' programs ever reach the airwaves. He is determined to have his pupils involved with the shooting end of a television camera.

Medler's pragmatism has led him as a scientist and teacher to become involved with television, a medium with which he had no previous production experience.

"It is very difficult to utilize the medium due to access, technical experience and especially self confidence," he says. "Most people don't have the confidence to go out and operate the equipment."

To help his students, Medler has provided the access and learned enough of the technical aspects to teach others.

Students in his community politics classes are required to present a "video medium" project dealing with a local problem, governmental body or community trend.

The projects are not exactly commercial quality, but Medler cares little for the esthetics.

"I'm 99 per cent concerned with substance," he says. "If they can get a nice juxtaposition of picture and sound or some good transitions, that appeals to me esthetically. I'm primarily concerned with content, what the students say with the camera."

His purpose, he says, is to get his students out in the field using a medium "we all watch, but few know how to use." But he remains content to continue what he calls "narrow casting — the explicit antithesis of broadcasting — focusing on the business end of a camera, using the medium as a creative form of expression."

"I'm unhappy with commercial television," Medler frowns. "It's used in such a limited way." He sees TV as medium rich in potential. But, he says, "it need not be broadcast to be effective."

Most of the tapes in Room 913 were done by Medler's students. Amateurish and of little outside consequence, they would hardly qualify for Robinson's critical eye.

Medler, however, thinks they are beautiful.

Just like the nameplate of the door and not unlike television itself, Medler might say, what you see is not always what you get.

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