

Task force proposed Mead for energy institute

By Sandy Mohr

Both students and professionals have been contributing ideas and "hundreds are involved" in a proposed Solar Energy Research Institute (SERI), according to Donald Edwards, UNL associate dean of engineering and technology.

The center, with a \$50 million budget, would employ 500 professionals and 800 support personnel and be located near Mead if it is chosen by the federal government for construction of such a plant, he said.

Edwards, heading a task force of university personnel, state officials and other professionals, is coordinating all the ideas and will make an application by Jan. 15 to the government for the institute.

The old bunkers, which once stored munitions on the 9,800-acre site, could be used to store energy, Edwards said. An NU agriculture research center also is located

on the Mead site, he said.

Brainstorming

The most recently coordinated surge of ideas came from a group of 22 students and professionals brainstorming for two and one-half days last week in Architectural Hall.

UNL architecture professor Homer Puderbaugh outlined plans three weeks ago to study the Mead ordinance plant's feasibility as a research center.

The College of Architecture staged a charette, which is a thorough examination of an architectural problem, to study the Mead site and came up with a booklet of ideas called "SERI Charette" which will be submitted in Edward's application to the federal government.

In this booklet the six research functions of the national center required by the government were analyzed as they apply to Nebraska.

Biomass conversion, one of the six functions, is collecting the sun's energy in growing plants. Since Nebraska is an agricultural state it would be a prime location for this research, Edward said.

Other functions such as wind energy, solar electric power, and solar heating and cooling, also could be done in a plant in Nebraska, according to Edwards.

Ocean thermal energy conversion, capturing the solar energy in water, is the only research function Nebraska wouldn't be able to provide, he said. However, the institute could simulate the ocean with a man-made lake, Edwards said.

Because Nebraska has the ability to fulfill the criteria required by the government, Edwards said he thinks Mead has a good chance of being chosen.

Smaller scale

If not, the research institute on a

smaller scale may be built in Mead by other means, he said.

"We're not going to do all this and then forget everything," Edwards said.

From all the research, voluntarily contributed, the task force is getting an "excellent inventory" of the resources available for solar energy in the state, he said. From that, a system of priorities could be worked out to determine which of the research functions could be developed best in Nebraska, he added.

Nebraska should be concerned because it imports 95 per cent of its energy, he added.

"If the state really wants to do something, it will do it," Edwards said.

There is a possibility, he said, that the federal research institute may establish sub-stations to specialize in one of the six functions, and Nebraska may be considered for that, he said.

short stuff

The UNL Student Veterans are sponsoring a raffle for tuition bonds totaling \$400. First prize \$300, second prize \$100. The price per ticket is \$1, and the raffle is limited to 1,000 tickets. Tickets go on sale today.

The Free University class, Drugs in America and Mari-

juana, Decriminalization and Legalization, is scheduled to meet today at 6 p.m. in the Nebraska Union. The topic for today is "How to get stoned without going to jail" or Marijuana and the Law.

The NU Law College is hosting the first Circuit

Court today at 2 p.m. in the College of Law Bldg. Auditorium, on East Campus. The U.S. 8th Circuit Court of Appeals will hear three selected cases, according to Law College Dean Henry Grether.

"Error Bounds on Electron Density Approximation" is the topic of speaker Jerry L. Whitten, Nov. 4 at 3:30 p.m. in Hamilton Hall 102. An informal discussion is planned for students from

1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. in Hamilton Hall 801 preceding the speech.

College Republicans are hosting state Sen. Roland Luedtke of Lincoln and prisoners from the Nebraska State Penal Complex's Gavel Club Tuesday at 7 p.m. They will speak on the Nebraska penal system, it's problems, progress and future. Everyone is welcome.

Eckankar is sponsoring

an introductory lecture, "Karma and the Spiritual life," Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. at 333 N. 14th St.

The UNL Democrats will meet Wednesday at 9 p.m. in Anderson Bldg. 511. Mayor Helen Boosalis will attend the group discussion

meeting. Everyone welcome.

The Lincoln League of Women Voters will present a special meeting on the historical and political aspects of the American presidency at the general meeting on Wednesday at 8 p.m. in the Lincoln Center Bldg. The public is invited.

calendar

- Monday**
- 10:30 a.m.—Business Education 120—Nebraska Union Auditorium.
 - 2 p.m.—Community Involvement Services—Union 216.
 - 3 p.m.—Free University Study of Drugs—Union 222.
 - 3:30 p.m.—Phi Chi Theta—Union 232.
 - 5:30 p.m.—Towne Club pledges—Union 343.
 - 7 p.m.—Career Planning and Placement—Union 242.
 - 7 p.m.—Table Tennis Club—Union Conference Room.
 - 7 p.m.—Delta Sigma Pi Associates—Union 216.
 - 7 p.m.—Minority Affairs tutoring—Union 225.
 - 7 p.m.—English Dept.—All-corn—Union 337.
 - 7:30 p.m.—College of Business Administration—Hicks and Gold Key Awards—Union 202-203.
 - 7:30 p.m.—College Career Fellowship—Union 222.
 - 7:30 p.m.—Math Counselors—Union 225.
 - 7:30 p.m.—Delta Sigma Pi—Union 343.
 - 9 p.m.—Kappa Alpha Psi—Union 232.

- 9:15 p.m.—Kappa Psi—Union 216.
 - 9:30 p.m.—Kappa Psi pledges—Union 337.
- Tuesday**
- 1:30 p.m.—Discussion—Jerry L. Whitten—Hamilton Hall 102.
 - 3:30 p.m.—Error Bounds on Electron Density Approximation—Jerry L. Whitten—Hamilton Hall 801.
 - 7:30 p.m.—Feminism and Fertility—Germaine Greer—Union.

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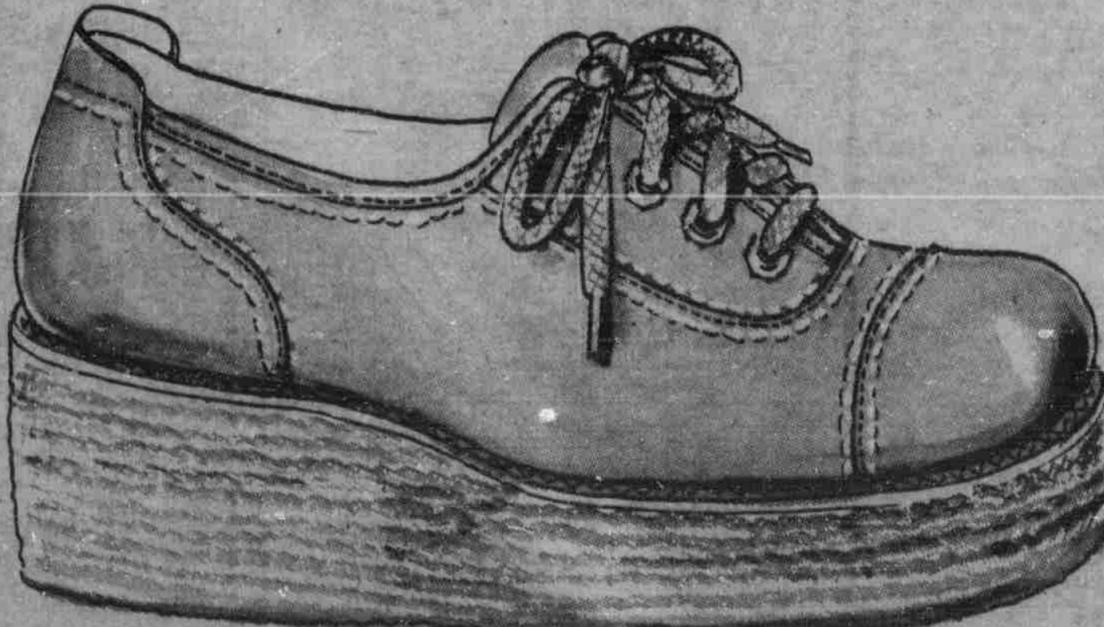
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