

Specific countries face a crisis

# Energy shortage is not worldwide

It seems likely that the world will be plagued by energy problems for a long time to come, reads the first sentence of a new book, "Man, Energy, Society," by Dr. Earl Cook, dean of the College of Geosciences at Texas A&M University.

The book, published by W. H. Freeman and Company of San Francisco, is now available in soft and hard back editions.

"At present there is no worldwide energy shortage," Cook said. "Why has there been so much talk of an energy crisis?"

From these seemingly contradictory statements he weaves a tale of the history, origin and geography of the world's energy problems.

Cook's present research and

teaching interests are in environmental and resource decision-making, especially energy and mineral resources. He has been a member of the National Academy of Sciences Committee on National Materials Policy and presently is on the committee surveying the risks of nuclear power.

"The world's capacity for producing crude oil at present exceeds the consumption," Cook said. "The known reserves of coal would last for several hundred years at the present rate of extraction. We have only started to consume the global supplies of nuclear fuels."

"When we look into this question, we find that an 'impaired availability' of energy to specific countries — not a worldwide shortage of energy — is

the cause of what is commonly called the energy crisis," he explains.

A shortage of gasoline, fuel oil, and clean coal for power plants may exasperate a country like the U.S., but hardly constitute a crisis, he said. The U.S. can decrease its energy consumption by improving efficiency.

"A true energy crisis remains partially veiled by the energy problems of the moment and by a persistent faith in technological salvation," Cook says. "This crisis does exist and is growing because of the increasingly rapid depletion of nonrenewable resources, including those of energy, and the fact that these resources are very unevenly distributed throughout the world."

"For the industrialized countries, the crisis may be delayed by the discovery and installation of new energy-delivery systems and by more frugal use of fossil and nuclear fuels," he declares. "But, mankind must fall back eventually on renewable forms of energy, and there is no assurance that energy from renewable sources (solar, geothermal, or fusion) can be made available at rates and costs compatible with a high standard of living."

Cook says there will come a point where improvements in technology will produce very little work gain. Then technology will be unable to overcome the increasing cost of finding and using energy stores that become deeper, leaner, and farther away from the centers of use, although there will still be oil and coal in the ground.

In the final chapter of the book, Dean Cook paints a scenario of three different energy fates we would adopt (or suffer).

"There seems to be three possibilities: continuation of the high energy, unsteady, growth-oriented state; transformation to a high leisure, almost-steady state; or retrogression to a low energy state," he said.

The first alternative would press beyond the capacity of the environment to absorb wastes, of society to consume goods, or of human beings to put up with one another, and high instability is the expected result, he explained.

The second choice could be a pattern of conservation that might produce a high leisure, almost steady rate of energy consumption, that will be like North America today. If fossil fuels are stretched out by conservation and solar energy could be developed to replace them, this state of society could "endure for hundreds or even thousands of years."

The final option, he says, would be to return to a low energy state. The great difficulty is that it can be done only by lowering the living standard and life style.

"Most workers would be back on

the farm and the maintenance of high agricultural production would be more important than high productivity per worker," Cook explains. "Because social security in the present sense would be economically impossible, all able-bodied older workers would be at work, many of them in the fields. There would be no unemployment."

"The medical definition of crisis makes it the time or stage when it becomes a matter of certainty whether the patient is to live or die," he said. "The real energy crisis is that kind of crisis, and we have reached the stage in human affairs when a revolution in thinking is required if the patient is to be alive and healthy a hundred years from now."

# Race, tour or just ride; bicycle club offers fun

By DAVID ROOP

The A&M Wheelmen, campus bicycle club, offers something for nearly anyone who is interested in cycling. If you want to race, or tour, or just take a leisurely Sunday afternoon ride, chances are you would find a member of the organization to go along with you.

The Wheelmen meet in the MSC on the first and third Tuesdays of the month, at 7:30 p.m. They also meet, more often than not, on the highways and byways of the area. There are 25 or 30 people who regularly participate in Wheelmen activities, said Jerry Guthrie, who was president of the club last year.

Every Wednesday evening at 6, the Wheelmen have a night ride.

"These are social-recreational rides with the purpose of uniting campus cyclists for an enjoyable ride," Guthrie said.

The distances are short and the pace slow, with the routes covering some of the less traveled streets in Bryan and College Station. The rides begin at the Rudder Center fountain.

For those who aren't discouraged by long distances, the Wheelmen have a 25 mile ride every Sunday afternoon at 2. Occasionally they have time trials; that is, a 10 mile ride against the clock. However, said Guthrie, "you don't have to be a racer."

Riding bicycles, however, is just a part of the Wheelmen activities.

"We do a lot of things off bicycles, too," said Guthrie. Members of the club have the use of a set of specialized bicycle tools, and are happy to help repair bicycles or give technical advice in upgrading them.

Once a year the Wheelmen hold a bicycle auction, selling abandoned bicycles which the Campus Police have found. Profits are given to the Campus Chest.

"We also do little service things, like talk to Girl Scouts," Guthrie said. "This morning we talked to 50 third-graders at Johnson Elementary school about bike safety."

The A&M Wheelmen, of course, has its members who are serious cyclists, and it is the only active collegiate cycling team in the state, Guthrie said. There are four to six sanctioned bicycle races in the state each semester and the Wheelmen send up to six racers to each event.

As for touring, Guthrie said that "most of the tours we do are like, 'let's ride to Austin this weekend!'"

Not spur of the moment decisions, but personally arranged between the members of the club. We have rides to Austin or Houston, whenever the need arises and someone wants to go."

The club does send racers to one or two touring events a year, and Guthrie recently competed in the "Tour of Texas," a 200-mile ride from Dallas to Tyler and back.

# Cyclists must register bikes to ride or park on campus

You're riding along on your new ten-speed bicycle and ZAP! you're pulled over by a policeman who proceeds to issue you a ticket.

You're flabbergasted! You had heard that a bicycle must be registered to park on campus, but never just to ride on campus.

But it must be. To ride, park or carry your bicycle in your arms on campus, it must be registered. Chief O. L. Luther said the purpose of the issuing of tickets was simply to get all bicycles on campus registered. At the present time, there are 4,497 bikes registered and Luther said he estimated there is a minimum of 7,000 bicycles on campus daily.

There are two benefits if you register your bicycle. First, it keeps you from getting more tickets. Second, if your bicycle is lost or stolen, it can be identified quicker.

There are two violations for which you can receive tickets. A moving violation consists of running stop signs or having no hands on the handlebars. Parking violations are those in which the bicycle is unregistered and parked. Moving violators are fined two dollars and parking violators one dollar.

If you are ticketed because your bicycle is not registered, you can pay for a permit and not have to pay the fine.

A permit for a year costs \$1.50 and lasts from Sept. 1 through Aug. 31.

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