

# Harnessing of wind power rear for competitive electric energy

United Press International  
CLEVELAND — Scientists and engineers are close to harnessing wind power for commercial production of electricity, a federal expert on wind power told a national conference at the space agency's Lewis Research Center.

Some 300 persons from across the United States attended a daylong program Wednesday at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's research center in Cleveland. The discussion focused on the current technology and marketing potential of wind turbine electric generators.

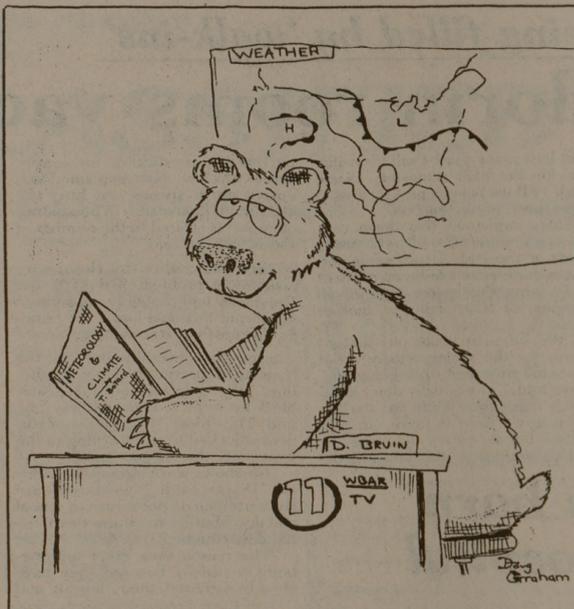
Louis Divone, chief of the U.S. Department of Energy's Wind Systems Branch, told the conference that wind power technology is clearly more advanced than other energy sources such as solar, geothermal and tidal power.

But he cautioned, "We still have to develop a wind turbine that lasts a long period of time and has a high degree of reliability, in terms of production of electricity."

A key obstacle facing researchers is to lower the cost of generating such power to below 3 cents per kilowatt hour.

Divone listed several problems, all affecting the cost of power production, associated with the effort to harness wind power for commercial production of electricity.

The wind energy chief, noting that costs for wind energy development have soared in recent years, told the conference that the federal government will need up to \$600 million to develop a wind turbine acceptable for commercial power production.



## Weather predictor to be bear

United Press International  
OKLAHOMA CITY — A grizzly bear will stroll from his den at the city zoo today, or sleep in it, to forecast the weather for the next six weeks.

A grizzly bear? A grizzly bear? Elsewhere, today is Groundhog Day, and legend has it that if the groundhog emerges and sees shadow, it means six more weeks of winter. If the groundhog — the sun — does not come out, spring is near.

Zoo curator Timothy O'Connor said he has history on his side, using a bear instead of a groundhog. O'Connor said research by zoo staff indicates the legend is in Europe, with a bear as the national forecaster. The badger later came the symbol, and finally groundhog, he said.

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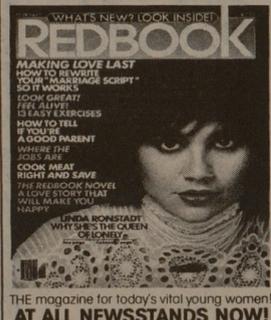
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## Campus Chest to make loans harder to obtain

By TRACEY WILLIAMS  
Battalion Reporter

THE CAMPUS CHEST loan program will be undergoing some changes this semester, including stricter eligibility requirements and the possibility of legal action if the loan is not repaid, said Jim Pratt, Campus Chest director.

Pratt said loans will be more difficult to get this semester because the term "emergency" will be more narrowly defined. If students do not repay their loans, they will be taken to court, he said.

Through Campus Chest, students can borrow up to \$100 for emergency purposes if they agree to repay the loan within 60 days. The loan is interest-free.

Pratt, a junior environmental design major from Houston, said that if after 60 days the loan is not repaid, the student will be fined 50 cents a month until the loan is repaid. He said the fine may be increased this semester.

PRATT SAID IT is up to the person interviewing the student to decide if the situation is an emergency.

"I don't want to discourage students from coming in, but an emergency is not just running out of money, or saying that things got more expensive than expected," Pratt said.

He said one example of an emergency would be a student who

needed to go home after a death in his family.

To get this money, a student would need to call the student government office to set up an appointment, Pratt said.

At the time of the appointment, Pratt said, the student would have to explain his need for the money to Pratt or any two of the five student government vice presidents.

IF THE LOAN was approved, the student would sign an agreement to repay it within 60 days. Pratt said Dr. Carolyn Adair, student government adviser, would then have to approve the payment, and a check would be made out to the student at the Student Financial Aids office.

Although it takes only 15-20 minutes to make the loan, Pratt said that it can take several years to get people to repay the loan.

When he began as director of Campus Chest in the fall, Pratt said, there were 25 people who had borrowed money between 1976 and 1978 who had not repaid the loans.

"About 15 were no longer students, and they had packed up and left. Ten were still here, and we blocked grades and transcripts until they paid the loans back," Pratt said.

The 15 former students were sent certified letters threatening legal action if the loans were not repaid within 10 days.

PRATT SAID THAT of people, about half did not repay and of those that did, only two made any type of payment.

If the payments are not received within two weeks, Pratt said proceedings will be started in small claims court.

He said that if a person ignores his scheduled court appearance, the proceedings will be expedited.

Although the repayment of is a problem, Pratt said another problem Campus Chest faces is many students do not know it exists.

Pratt said that in the past Campus Chest had gotten its funds from donations made at Texas University football games. He said that this had not been done this year and therefore he is planning a ferent type of fund-raising project for the spring.

PRATT SAID HE hopes project will "not only raise money but also let students know that is a place they can go if they need it."

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United Press International

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