

International Sun Day comes to Triangle

By **LESLIE CHILTON**
Staff Writer

Americans from San Francisco, Calif., to Chapel Hill and people in more than 60 other nations will celebrate Sun Day May 3 with community solar fairs, sunrise services, solar home and greenhouse tours and exhibits for educating the public on the advantages of solar energy.

"Sun Day will be a national celebration of solar power and its offshoots," says Jim Overton, a member of Tri-City Sun Day, Inc., of Raleigh, Durham and Chapel Hill. The purpose of Sun Day is to demonstrate to the public the availability and commercial feasibility of solar power now, not just as a future technology, he says.

"I would be willing to guess that almost every home in America uses solar power in some way," he adds, noting that even sunlight through windows provides a degree of heat.

Sun Day workers will coordinate solar festivities and learning programs in the Triangle Area throughout Sun Week, April 30 to May 7. Wednesday, May 3, has been proclaimed as Sun Day by President Carter, the U.S. Congress, N.C. Gov. Jim Hunt and local mayors.

Sun Day was conceived in December 1977 at a conference of environmentalists and labor-union leaders in Washington, D.C. Overton says the originators wished to "highlight the significance of these (energy) alternatives and their present feasibility and desirability."

"Solar energy works through basically harnessing the energy you receive normally and trapping it in a number of different ways," Overton explains. He said that one way to trap this energy is by putting a glass-covered box, painted black on the interior, on top of a building. Water is heated as it flows through the box on its way to the water heater.

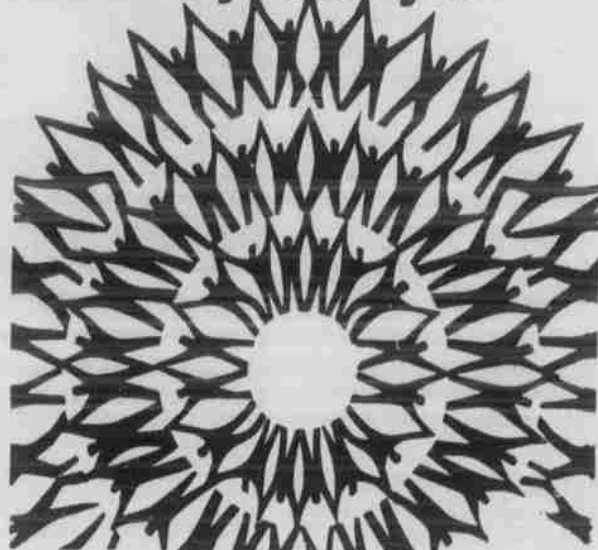
Another method works through a solar collector with a thin solar cell inside it which converts sunlight into electricity.

The use of solar power for heat and electric needs was labelled cheaper than using electricity by the Energy Research and Development Administration in 1976.

National celebrations of Sun Day will begin at the point where the sun first hits the United States with a solar celebration atop Cadillac Mountain, Maine. The United Nations will hold a sunrise concert in New York, and a traveling slide show will demonstrate the agricultural uses of solar power on the farm to midwestern farmers.

Triangle festivities will kick off Sunday April 30 in Durham with an interdenominational sunrise service and breakfast, to be followed by a five-mile "Sun Run" open to all, starting at Baldwin Auditorium.

Sun Day is May 3



A New Games festival will be held on Duke University's Hanes Field, and the downtown Durham loop will be closed in the afternoon for a bicycle race. Free general fair events will be held on Duke's East Campus throughout the day, including solar exhibits, workshops, speakers, music and refreshments.

In Chapel Hill, the student environmentalist group ECOS, Chapel Hill Sun Day, WCHL, the *Village Advocate*, and Bob's Homemade Ice Cream will sponsor the world's longest ice cream sundae. A \$1 donation for adults and 50 cents for children will buy all you can eat in Great Hall of the Carolina Union. More than 100 gallons of ice cream and a section of

frozen yogurt will stretch 600 feet.

Proceeds from the sundae will boost the ECOS Solar Greenhouse Fund, which will finance a solar greenhouse in the Chapel Hill area. The site has not been chosen yet.

Monday, May 1 begins four days of displays of solar collectors and students' solar projects in the Pit on the UNC campus. Three slide shows will be held at UNC that night on the economics and designs of alternative energy systems.

A slide show on the use of solar greenhouses will be presented Tuesday, May 2, and films will be shown at the N.C. Botanical Gardens.

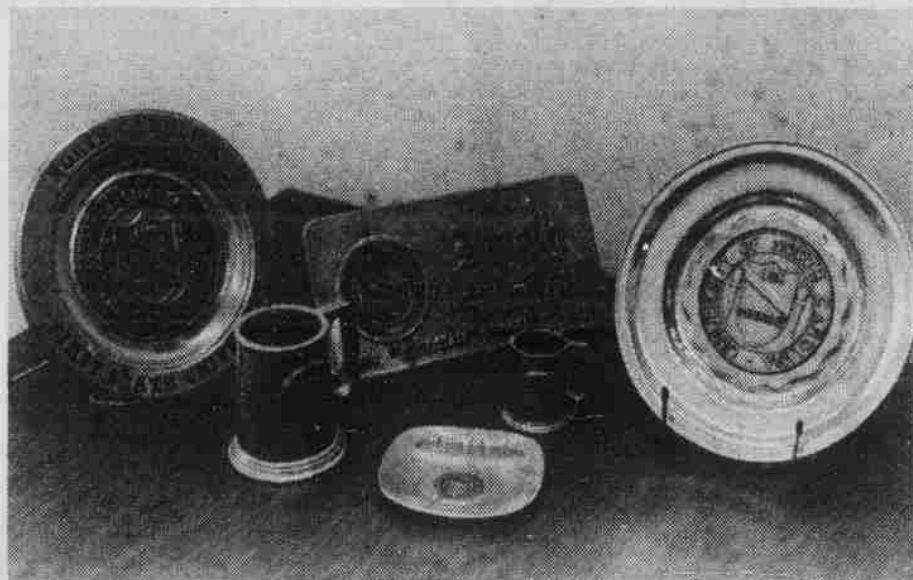
A solar greenhouse has been constructed in Durham by Sun Day representatives and Operation Breakthrough, a federal Action program interested in providing low-cost energy alternatives to low-income persons. The greenhouse, at 2711 Dearborn Ave., is now operable and will be on display Wednesday, May 3. A second solar greenhouse was built in Hillsborough.

Also that day, Sun Day, Raleigh will celebrate with sunrise services at Pullen Park Island, running events, exhibits at the Fayetteville Street Mall, and a dusk concert for Sun Day workers and the public for \$1.50.

In Chapel Hill, a sunrise service and community breakfast at the Mason Farm Community Gardens will start the day. A noon celebration of Sun Day will be held at the sundial at Morehead Planetarium. A nature walk at the N.C. Botanical Gardens will be followed by a conference there to encourage citizens to use energy-efficient designs when building, and a booth on Franklin Street will distribute information on Sun Day activities and solar energy.

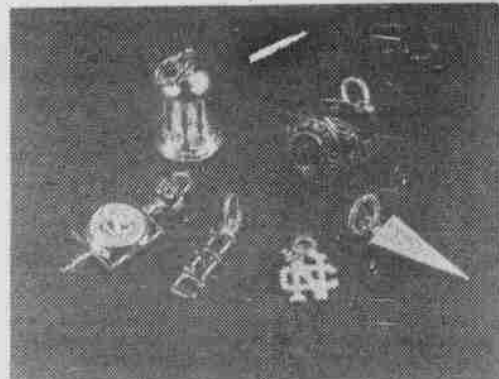
More activities to celebrate Sun Day and Sun Week are in the planning stages. The Sun Day workers are looking for ideas to help celebrate and for people to help set up the various projects. More than fifty workers will be needed to build the ice cream sundae, and a meeting for all interested persons will be held today in the Carolina Union. The Sun Day office in the Presbyterian Student Center on Henderson Street can be reached for more details about Sun Day at 967-8006, and Sun Day T-shirts can be purchased there for \$4.50.

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