

Colleges predict jobs

Solar: 'lull before the storm'

By Penny Wright
special writer

"My goal is to create employment for my students," she said, in words smacking of bravado.

Yet Debbie Rowe, director of the Alternate Energies Technology Program at Oakland Community College's Auburn Hills Campus, believes her goal is attainable. More jobs will appear in solar applications, in particular, she said. Her belief is buoyed by a nationwide solar profitability survey recently conducted by Energy Investment Research Inc., a consulting organization. The survey indicates the solar industry is healthy, growing and becoming more profitable as higher sales levels are being achieved.

ROWE SAID OCC anticipates a trend toward use of alternative energy technologies, which rely upon such energy sources as the sun, wind and plant material. OCC offers a degree program in the field.

"There are many types of jobs open to students graduating from our program," said Rowe in her office, "including positions in designing, marketing, and installing solar products, as well as energy auditing and energy management."

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— Prof. Gottfried Brieger

The two-year program is designed to prepare students as professionals in alternate energy applications. It combines general education requirements with courses in fluid dynamics, climate control, solar heating and cooling, wind energy, bio-mass and energy management.

Students are typically involved in such "hands-on" activities as building solar window collectors and installing solar panels. "The program is not rigid and can accommodate a range of needs," said Rowe. "Some students are already employed in design and construction industries, and come to upgrade their skills in the alternate technology field."

OTHER SCHOOLS are responding to

expected job opportunities in the energy field.

For instance, Oakland University in Rochester has a 28-credit concentration available to technically oriented students and those with limited technical knowledge.

Various departments offer energy-related work in such courses as "Energy and Environment," "Energy Conversion" and "Energy-Efficient Food Production."

"The idea is to provide a background in energy studies — not a full-fledged graduate program, but one geared to increase student options for getting jobs in government and the energy production industries," said Prof. Gottfried Brieger, coordinator of the Energy Studies Concentration Program.

"I believe that energy-related material ought to be a part of a student's

education," said Brieger. "Even though public interest in the subject waxes and wanes with price fluctuations, this is the lull before the storm. It is the university's place to look ahead."

BRIEGER MAINTAINS that one crucial component of the energy concentration at Oakland University is the on-campus energy project. He proudly described a super-insulation greenhouse, complete with solar collectors, which his own students designed, and which he hopes to construct on the campus grounds.

Wayne State University and the University of Michigan also favor the inter-disciplinary approach to energy studies. They have courses available through numerous departments including physics, engineering and architecture.

Each institution maintains active technical laboratories which work with industry and government in energy research.

John A. Clark, professor of mechanical engineering at U-M, sees the alternate energy field and especially solar technology as a rapidly emerging discipline. "It is an industry with an infrastructure that is almost doubling every year," said Clark, who directs research in the U-M solar lab. He finds the infrastructure complicated and full of opportunity.

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It's time once again for the most talked about sale in town — the legendary "Goofs Sale." We combed through our furniture stock and picked out a bunch of pieces that just aren't moving. And one look will tell you why. Some are ugly, some are off-beat and some are guaranteed to give you nightmares. But we've reduced the prices to the point where one could put up with even the most offensive items in the collection. Plus, everything in the store is 10% to 50% off!

So if you're interested in some unusual furniture for your home, or just want a good laugh — come on down. A good time will be had by all.

SOUTHFIELD

This 3-drawer Chest was part of a wall system that no one wanted, and one look will tell you why. Made from Rosewood and Ebony w/ brass trim, it looks like a huge cigar box with HERSHEY Bars glued to the edges. Brass handles look like foot pedals on a cheap organ.
Reg. \$655 Now \$229

Gargantuan, Off-White Wall Unit. Appears to have been designed by a trendy designer at Moscow's GUM department store. Has plenty of shelves for books and a TV shelf large enough for a mid-sized tractor. Baked-on paint is family-proof which we take to mean bullet-proof.
Reg. \$2298 Now \$199

Coffee Table or End Table made from reclaimed Vermont State. Boy, we sure wish the state of Vermont would reclaim this one. With its multi-colored tiles it looks like the tomb of the unknown backlayer. Could be used as a heelpot.
Reg. \$595 Now \$249

If you're interested in a chaise the size of an aircraft carrier, this one's for you. Warning: throw a chest over it to cover up the color. It's just velvet that's a Ziebart nightmare, plus reflective enough to put your contact lenses in with.
Reg. \$835 Now \$389

Natural rattan Elegere complete with gothic arch and 11 glass shades. Made for the St. Carbuco's Oyster Bar — it's a 194th scale model of the Nave at Notre Dame, built with used toothpicks. All the sides are open so you'd be constantly picking up your no-nacs off the floor!
Reg. \$975 Now \$499

Paul Evans design Buffet that looks more like Bob Evans. It's all chrome, front and sides, with black lacite top and trim. Recently appeared as a trash masher in Spielberg's "Extra Terrestrial".
Reg. \$1855 Now \$899

Heritage Sofa with a fame gory tapestry cover complete with butterflies and floral pattern. Why 9 out of 10 sofas has to have butterflies is beyond us. This one looks like it was made from pajamas from the wrong side of the Iron Curtain. Comes with a rainbow of pillows.
Reg. \$2290 Now \$895

This big wool Lounge Chair is just a wee bit smaller than the one Honest Abe's perched in at the Lincoln Memorial. No kiddin'. And the bizarre Ottoman looks like a padded beer barrel. Perfect Chair if you have lots of room to fill up — like an attic or something.
Reg. \$914 Now \$399

An L-shaped 2-piece Sectional with a grey and beige basket weave cover that's just plain odd. Inspired by a Lawrence Welk sport coat. May not be much on looks but you do get a lot of sofa for your money.
Reg. \$5175 Now \$1999

Drexel Sofa with 2 matching Ottomans. The faded window print fabric makes one wonder if this sofa was left in direct sunlight a bit too long. The Ottomans are the funny part of the offer. Features some attached (the threads coming undone?) pillows, they look like wallpapered parson's tables.
Reg. \$1889 Now \$895

Blue Sofa and matching Chair. "Were these used for target practice by Israeli commandos?" is what folks keep asking us. We're not sure but the dark blue textured velvet cover does look like a beached sperm whale.
Reg. \$1064 Now \$599

5-piece custom covered modular Sofa by Trayner-Coggin. The color looks like a Saudi sandstorm and the pillows resemble giant worms. Comes with 2 corners, 3 armless units and a hearty "thanks" for taking this sofa off our hands.
Reg. \$3875 Now \$1995

Apply an acre of gaudy decals to your dad's old Army Chest and you've pretty much recreated this piece. It's by John Woodcock (impressed?). The French call the detailing Chinoiserie but we don't have the words to translate that word for you. Could be the life (or death) of your next party.
Reg. \$2325 Now \$599

42" heavy chrome Table with round glass top — so you can see who's playing footy with the furniture. Turns into a technician-man-eating plan? Well, this is the sofa they use. The print features pink, turquoise and very green flowers on black.
Reg. \$985 Now \$399

Some genius at Drexel figured out how to recycle the sand bags left over from all the spring floods — make 7-piece modular Sofa out of 'em. Features heavy tweed cover that results in lots of chaffed legs and arms. Wheeled Ottomans is the size of Plymouth Rock.
Reg. \$3295 Now \$1995

Originally part of an offer where an individual could design his own Dining Room Chair. Well someone designed these, then left the country under an assumed name. Statue of limitations ran out and so did our patience. Double padded tan velvet seats with heavy chrome trim.
Reg. \$329 Now \$149

TROY

A Drexel Wing Chair that we wish would fly out of here. Orange and blue stripes and lousy with weed-like flowers. We're really sorry about this one but we assure you, the guy that ordered it is long gone.
Reg. \$599 Now \$288

They took a perfectly good shipping crate, stained it, then stamped a bunch of Chinese handy symbols all over it and are now billing it as a Casa Bique Trunk. As if that wasn't enough, it's embellished with a bunch of brass slugs that were flattened out on a railroad track.
Reg. \$595 Now \$199

A pair of twin-sized headboards from Drexel's Leisure Collection that the hockey star would be proud of. Cinnamon finish and floral decoration makes them perfect for a little girls room. Or big boys... it all depends.
Reg. \$579 Now \$199 (each)

You simply can't believe a trusted name like Heritage could produce a sofa this... well, different. It's a wreath of off-picot marmalade color flowers thrown against a velvet painting of some flamenco dancers. Really cute but... it strikes you right in the belly like a force 7 gale.
Reg. \$1645 Now \$399

Heritage bedroom-sized Chairs. Peach beds and turquoise polished cotton print features a jungle scene from "The First Men on Venus." Complete with pre-devention butterflies.
Reg. \$750 Now \$288 (each)

This Heritage bedroom-sized Chair has been dubbed the "mother-in-law chaser." Keep a few around this house and shell never visit you again. Pale blue and pink stripes and flowers on a mini background. If they don't sell, we're sending them to the Royal troops in the Falklands for use in a tactical offensive capacity.
Reg. \$795 Now \$388

Sure, designers make mistakes, but by the looks of this subject, a more heinous crime has never been committed in the design world. It's a huge — almost walk-in — bookcase that features bronzed glass doors, 3 drawers and a display light. If you can't use it as a bookshelf, you could always use it as a photo darkroom out of it.
Reg. \$669 Now \$335

90" Lemon Yellow Sofa. Remember the "mellow yellow" sofa from last year's sale? Well, it's one year mellow. Unfortunately, the color hasn't mellowed any so put on your sunglasses and come on down for a little 'tilt away you treatless.
Reg. \$2314 Now \$898

Queen-sized Gill Finish Headboard from the Drexel El Cetera Collection. Das Boot meets Mary Poppins in this crazy hippodogpoodle with embroiling features and color that mellowed any so put on your sunglasses and come on down for a little 'tilt away you treatless.
Reg. \$599 Now \$249

Gambol-Stoll Contemporary Cocktail Table. Called the "Silver Cloud" but will be on cloud nine if this thing sells. Looks like a craft school etch on glass project. Made by arcing welding American Tourister luggage to an old tool chest. Then topped off with a lively spray paint job.
Reg. \$660 Now \$395

Emerald Green Heritage Ottoman. It was part of a sectional but the buyer laughed himself into a frenzy when we suggested he might want to take this piece. We've been playing jarts on it at a company picnic ever since.
Reg. \$550 Now \$199

Queen-size Woodbriar I Panel Headboard. Another one from Dullesville. And we have six of them. The Chevy Impala of the furniture world. Features pecan finish and not much else.
Reg. \$339 Now \$166

Miscellaneous Bedspreads. After numerous customer complaints, we bought all new bedspreads for the store. We stashed these in back hoping employee theft would take care of these. Well, they're still here and it looks like they're lasting through the front door. Wide assortment of colors, shapes and sizes available.
(Cheap)

Mobile Server from Drexel's Cleister Collection. Way back when Mary Queen of Scots sent her dear cousin Elizabeth I a similar server, Elizabeth was so enraged she had Mary's head knocked off. The English Oak is dark so it's slightly less noble.
Reg. \$395 Now \$495

Queen-size Brass and Walnut Trim Bed from Drexel's El Cetera Collection. Sort of a canopy bed with spiky sun roof top. Resembles a Barnum & Bailey trapeze rigging.
Reg. \$1995 Now \$895

Hekman Hexagon-shaped Commode. Really a hobbit-sized tree stump with doors. Made from olive ash but wood and brass medallion handles the size of a #3 grapefruit. Free doors for first 200 customers.
Reg. \$695 Now \$377

Drexel Consensus Light Pecan Sofa Table. This parson's style table was a big hit in the late '50s — you saw it a million times on Ozzie and Harriet. Buy it now and hope it makes a comeback in the '90's.
Reg. \$399 Now \$199

Thayer-Coggin Part-time Sleeper. Features a Haitian cotton fabric that looks like English gruel with ants crawling all over it. It's really not that bad looking — if you squint.
Reg. \$795 Now \$399

Moss Green Leather Chair from Heritage. Boy, is this chair solid looking. Thick as Hadman's Wall — flip it upside down and you have a portable bomb shelter. Comes with casters.
Reg. \$1153 Now \$599

Hekman TV Cabinet. Has a false front that looks like a set of drawers for those who are embarrassed by their 1952 RCA TV. Features yew wood and useless brass handles.
Reg. \$695 Now \$478

Miscellaneous Summer Furniture by Woodard and Tropitone. It's not bad stuff, really. Unfortunately we bought enough for every man, woman and Chihuahua in the Metro Detroit area. Woodard 50% Off... Tropitone 40% Off.

All items subject to prior sale. Sale ends June 30!

GORMAN'S

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