12-1-1988

Biology Professor Creates Sunrises and Sunsets in Computerized Laboratory; Who Are You Going to Call? Community Volunteers with Technical Know-How Offer Imaginative, Cost-Efficient Solutions to Municipal Problems

Follow this and additional works at: https://ecommons.udayton.edu/news_rls

Recommended Citation


This News Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Marketing and Communications at eCommons. It has been accepted for inclusion in News Releases by an authorized administrator of eCommons. For more information, please contact frice1@udayton.edu, mschlangen1@udayton.edu.
Brother Donald R. Geiger, S.M., can make the sun rise every morning when he enters his lab in Sherman Hall on the University of Dayton campus. He can also create a sunset at will.

Geiger's man-made dawns and dusks don't look like the real thing, but they work just the same. A nationally respected plant physiologist and biology professor, Geiger has created a computerized laboratory to simulate natural sunlight from sunrise to sunset. He and two graduate students from China are observing how crop plants, like sugar beets and spinach, grow and react to stimuli. Their goal? Under a five-year $375,000 grant from the National Science Foundation, they're exploring ways to produce more food on less land to feed a more populated world. In January, their crop yield efficiency results will be published in "Plant Physiology," an international science journal.

For media interviews, contact Brother Don Geiger, S.M., at (513) 229-2509. Geiger resides at Bergamo in Beavercreek.

WHO ARE YOU GOING TO CALL? COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS WITH TECHNICAL KNOW-HOW OFFER IMAGINATIVE, COST-EFFICIENT SOLUTIONS TO MUNICIPAL PROBLEMS

How do you detect a pothole before it becomes the size of a manhole or protect traffic-control boxes from rust?

Some perplexed city, county and township officials in the Dayton area have tapped into TAP. Better known as the Technology Assistance Panel, TAP is a group of more than 70 specialists from area universities, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base and technology-based companies who volunteer their time to help solve problems using the tools of technology, science and common sense.

TAP has identified volunteer experts for Montgomery County's Hazardous Materials Response Team, referred a federal expert in bullet-proof armor to the Montgomery County Police Chiefs Association and helped the city of Kettering with its street lighting standards during the energy crisis. When Spring Valley officials created a map of the community's plumbing system using a special type of radar detector to locate the underground pipes, TAP shared the technology with its membership with the hope of helping other municipalities.

"TAP is really a model of community cooperation. It channels the volunteer energies of technically oriented people who are rewarded solely by the discovery of an interesting solution to a problem," said John Wurst, associate director for research operations at UD's Research Institute and the group's chairman for the past 10 years. "These are workable, practical solutions—not exotic, expensive ones."

For media interviews, contact John Wurst at (513) 229-2113. Wurst resides in Kettering.