

ENERGY

THE FRANKLIN EXPERIMENT

One morning last month a team of five B&G men began the biggest bulb-snatching caper in Penn history: taking out some of the tubes in all of the fixtures, or all of the tubes in some of the fixtures in the Franklin Building.

Much later, a red sign went up on the front door reading "Franklin Building Experimental Energy Conservation Model." (And still later, the same sign appeared on doors of College Hall and Vance Hall.)

The project is reduction to a little less light (and a little less air conditioning now, a little less heat next winter) to try to tame the rampaging power costs of the University. In a recent meeting of the Energy Committee, chairman Ezra Krendel had brought in a report by one of his students showing that Americans overlight their public buildings by 42% compared to Western Europeans. The convention of sweated staff in summer and sweltering staff in winter had already been noted in some Penn buildings, without a statistical study.

Taking a light meter on rounds, an advance man designated which light fixtures were to be tampered with by the B&G crew that would follow.

When it was all over, reaction was unexpected: "I like it better," said a visitor of the now dim lobbies and corridors. "It makes it cool and shady. It's a relief to walk in off the street." Meanwhile, Vice President Fred Shabel predicts savings of \$10,000 a year in the Franklin experiment alone.

With this and other measures (some of them outlined in the Provost's memo at right), Mr. Shabel said the goal is to reduce consumption by 10%. This may or may not mean a 10% cut in costs—the threat is always that rates will again go up. But the only thing we have a clear opportunity to control, he said, is consumption. New ideas on cutting down are welcomed by the Energy Committee chaired by Dr. Krendel, Ext. 8233.

LABOR RELATIONS

CONTRACTS EXTENDED

The employees in the Department of Buildings and Grounds and in the Schools of Medicine, Dental Medicine and Veterinary Medicine who are represented by unions have agreed to extend their collective bargaining agreements through October 15, 1975 according to Labor Relations Director George Budd.

"I appreciate the understanding of our financial situation which these employees have displayed by extending their agreements," added President Martin Meyerson. "I continue to hope we will be able to make salary increases in the fall when the impact of our utility costs, investment income, insurance costs and state appropriations is clear."

HOUSEKEEPING DEPARTMENT ELECTION

On Thursday, June 5, 1975, the National Labor Relations Board conducted a secret ballot election for Housekeeping employees to determine whether Local 1202-United Building Service and Maintenance Employees Union would continue to represent these employees, or if the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO would become their representative.

The outcome of this election as certified by the NLRB was:

For Local 1202: 237
For AFSCME: 69

CHANGING THE ACADEMIC CALENDAR

The Academic Calendar has been changed, starting in Spring, 1976, for all divisions of the University *other* than the Schools of Dental Medicine, Law, Medicine, and Veterinary Medicine. The purpose of this memorandum is to inform you of the reasons for the change and to encourage the cooperation of the four excepted Schools as soon as possible in subsequent years. An outline of the new Calendar for Spring, 1976 and Summer, 1976 follows.

1976 Spring Term

January 26-27	Monday-Tuesday	Registration
January 28	Wednesday	First day of classes
March 20	Saturday	Spring recess begins
March 29	Monday	Spring recess ends
May 11	Tuesday	Last day of classes
May 12-16	Wednesday-Sunday	Reading period
May 17-22	Monday-Saturday	Final examinations
May 28	Friday	Commencement

1976 Summer Sessions

May 24	Monday	First day of classes (1st session)
July 2	Friday	Last day of classes
July 5	Monday	First day of classes (2nd session)
August 16	Monday	Last day of classes

After careful study and based on recommendations from the Advisory Committee on Energy Conservation and the Calendar Committee, the Academic Calendar will be modified starting in the Spring of 1976 essentially to extend the Winter recess by two weeks. During this extended recess period much of the University will continue to operate on a habitable, but occasionally less comfortable, level than was usual in previous years.

We have made this change as part of an extensive program in energy conservation. Our energy costs have increased in the last year due almost entirely to higher fuel costs from \$6 million to \$9.6 million! We have every reason to expect that fuel costs will increase in the future. In response to this problem, the following is being done:

a. We are engaged in a variety of technical actions to lower our costs: computerized control for load shedding during peak usage periods; "tuning" the heating, ventilating and air conditioning systems of our buildings to eliminate inefficiencies; lowering the heating and air conditioning levels; cutting back on illumination where neither working conditions nor security is affected. It is of interest that we project an annual saving of \$10,000 from a cutback in lighting in the Franklin Building alone.

b. We are using our classroom facilities more efficiently in the summer session and plan to do so in both the day and evening sessions during the rest of the year. This means coalescing classes into as small a number of buildings as feasible and partially or completely closing excess facilities.

c. We are attempting to so phase our Academic Calendar that we minimize the costs imposed on us by either excessive heat or cold. Based on weather records and our experience in partially closing some buildings during this past Winter recess, we anticipate that the new Calendar will save us approximately \$150,000 based on current energy costs. This figure is based on maintaining habitable, but less comfortable, buildings during the longer Winter recess. It should be possible for normal work to be carried out under these conditions.

The actions listed above all involve our becoming accustomed to a less comfortable way of life. This cannot be pleasant, but we have little choice. Should you have any questions or suggestions on our energy-conservation programs, the Advisory Committee on Energy Conservation will be pleased to help. Simply call Dr. Ezra S. Krendel at extension 8233.

— Eliot Stellar, Provost