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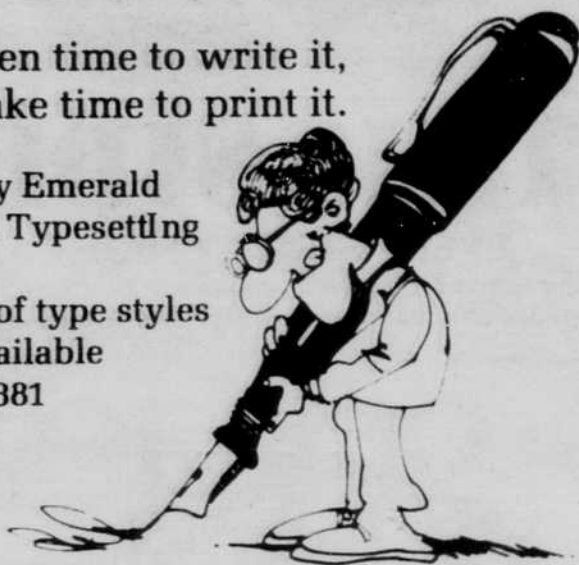


Photo by Mark Pynes

The University's physical plant saved \$150,000 last year by cooling its boilers with millrace water.

Campus energy costs cut

By TOM VISOKY
Of the Emerald

University energy consumption has been reduced considerably during the past few years and with greater student cooperation, it could be

reduced further this year, says physical plant director Harold Babcock.

The physical plant is aiming for a 20 percent reduction in energy usage this year even though it registered impressive energy savings last year, Babcock says.

"We burned only 30,000 units of fuel last year," he says. "We'd expected to burn about 45,000 units."

Babcock attributes most of last year's energy savings to a combination of factors including mild weather, major improvements in the University's power plant and stiff government regulations that mandate specific temperatures for state-owned office buildings. This last requirement has led to a reduction in physical plant services, Babcock says.

"We've gotten by with less." Government regulations notwithstanding, Babcock says the physical plant is improving energy efficiency without sacrificing comfort. For example, the University power plant has been modified to use cool water drawn directly from the millrace for air conditioning instead of using steam boilers to power giant water chillers.

The water chillers had to be

used during the summer months when millrace water was too warm to use, but during the seven months in which millrace water was used for air conditioning the University saved more than 7,000 units of fuel and around \$150,000, Babcock says.

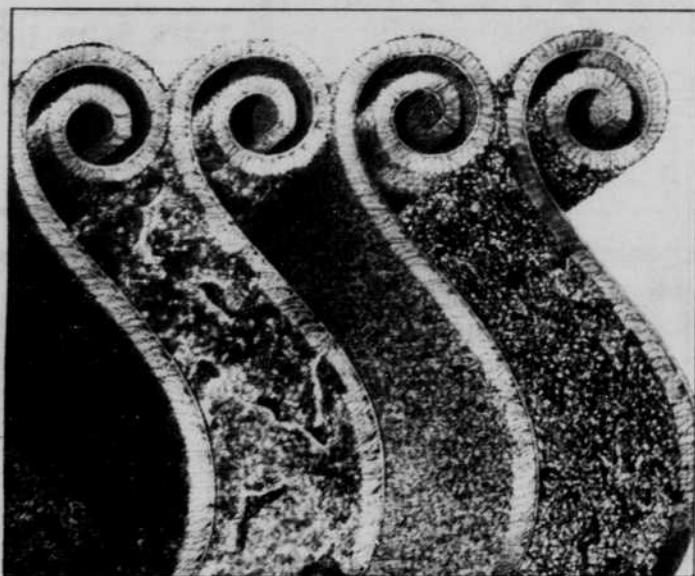
In addition to improvements in the power plant, which have been responsible for most of the energy savings so far, the physical plant is also studying ways to save energy by updating or replacing inefficient or antiquated plumbing, heating and mechanical systems.

In Deady Hall, for instance, the uncontrollable radiators which used to pour out waves of suffocating heat have been tamed by the installation of thermostatic valves for each room. The new valves, which cost \$100 apiece to install, should pay for themselves in three or four years, Babcock says.

In spite of all the energy-saving innovations adopted by the University, Babcock says much of the responsibility for conserving energy still rests with students. Babcock urges students to use energy on campus as if they were paying for it

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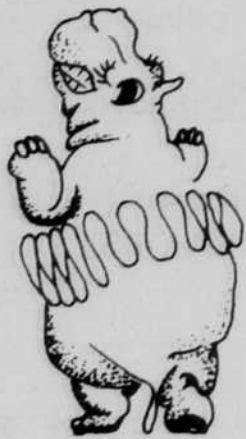
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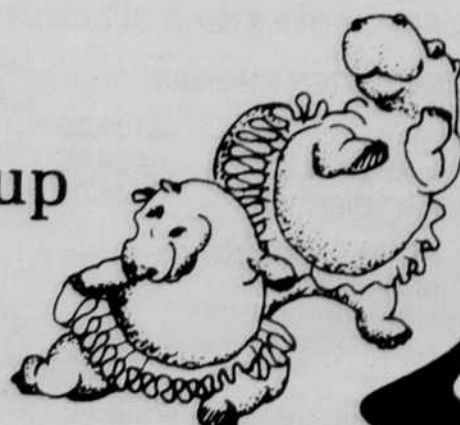
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