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# NATIONAL ECONOMIC CRISIS AFFECTS HIGHACRES

## SPECIAL MEASURES GO INTO EFFECT

By Donna Marie Baver

The economic crisis faced by the nation has been felt at Highacres, and Highacres is doing its best to survive the problems faced by the entire country. The campus has been hard-hit by the energy problem and battered by the inflationary spiral affecting the whole University. Penn State University has instituted a program throughout University Park and the Commonwealth campuses. Highacres is doing its part in this program, partially because of its loyalty to the University and partially because of pure necessity, brought on by increased costs in just about everything, especially energy costs.

Highacres is a great consumer of electricity. This causes special problems. The rates of electricity have increased so drastically over the past year that the campus is paying approximately one third more for a lower rate of consumption, according to Dr.

William David, Campus Director. For the first third of this fiscal year, the cost of electricity for Highacres was \$7,640.00, as compared to the figure of \$5,729.00 for the same business period last year. Last year electricity ran \$28,000 for the year, while the estimated figure of this year's consumption is \$38,000. However, the actual consumption of electricity is probably less this year than last year because of the measures which have been taken over the year to conserve energy and costs. Costs may further increase, according to Dr. David, as a result of the fuel adjustment rule affixed to the electric bills - costs of increases to the electric company can be passed directly to the consumer.

The costs of heating the campus otherwise have also risen considerably. For the 105 tons of coal which Highacres burns per winter, the cost in 1974 was \$23 per ton,

while this year the cost has skyrocketed to \$50 - more than double the cost of the previous year. Highacres also heats a number of its buildings with oil, the costs of which is presently over \$1200.00 for the heating of only three buildings.

The campus has instituted a number of conservation and money-saving measures. Highacres is now in the process of arranging a lighting reduction program which will involve

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