

# THE Filthy Lucre

1.21 Gigawatts?!

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## Electricity is Our Friend

*S. Rodriguez: Concerned Citizen*

Anyone who has dealt with Northern's administrative philosophy knows that our illustrious university loves cutting costs and saving money like Freddy Mercury loved the ladies. Which is why you may be shocked (no pun intended) to learn that Northern is burning electricity like it's 1985.

As our astute readers now know, the beautiful Donaldson Hall has been closed for the foreseeable future due to the high cost of heating the large, aging building. Just how much did it cost to heat Donaldson during the winter months? Well, we don't know. The electricity costs of individual facilities on campus are not a matter of public record, taxpayer interest be darned.

We do know that Donaldson Hall had a rather old heating system, and that its many, uninsulated, single-pane windows were

about as efficient as a wool raincoat. Sure, modern insulated windows can save as much as 40% on the heating cost of a building, but who has time to figure out the math on something like that? Not us, not you, and surely not our ever-vigilant administration.

Of course, Donaldson's windows are only the tip of the iceberg. *{enjoy that metaphor, because your children won't know what an iceberg is -ed.}* Walk through any random corner of Northern's facilities, and there are two things you're guaranteed to find; a vague sense of impending doom, and a light fixture operating at maximum capacity.

They say sunshine is the best disinfectant, and by that standard, Northern is downright filthy; even areas that receive more than enough natural lighting during school hours are graced with the sub-audible buzz of a dozen florescent lights. Why shut off unused and redundant lighting when we can get a healthy tan in February? Lord knows some

of those IT kids need it.

And speaking of IT, most of the hundreds of computers, printers, and various sundry electronics on this campus are not currently set up with energy savings in mind; most of them remain turned on over night, regardless of use. Any Drafting student knows the joys of a toasty, 85° computer lab in the depths of winter, but a consistently applied power-saving policy regarding the university's computers could save thousands of dollars, with no more investment than the time it takes to click a mouse button.

Indeed, while some energy-saving techniques require a fair amount of upfront moolah, many forms of efficiency and conservation require nothing but a change in behavior. Unfortunately, sometimes changing a behavior is far more difficult and expensive than changing a light bulb. *{Our dear readers can supply their own joke here -ed.}*

## The Thin Maroon Line

*Antimony Obfuscation: Rumor Collator*

The Filthy Lucre has recently received reports that the Havre Police Department has begun making nightly stops to Northern's palatial dormitories, checking in with the common areas, and making sure that outer doors are properly secured... providing Security, in other words.

Our long-time readers are well aware of Northern's tumultuous relationship with the issue of security and safety on campus; citing cost as the main factor, Northern's administration has for some years cajoled

several members of its janitorial staff to make a half-hearted effort to drive through the grounds at night, in lieu of paid, full-time security staff.

Lacking any administrative policy regarding after-hours access to computer labs and other important equipment (especially during crunch-time prior to finals week), janitors have had to apply their own judgement on an ad-hoc basis. Students have variously reported being completely ignored, occasionally harassed, and often kicked out entirely when attempting to work late, both with and without explicit written

permission from their professor.

Will the new presence of H-Town's Finest change the security and access situation? How will officers of the law deal with desperate Design students in Cowan Hall, trying to finish their websites at 4am? We eagerly await any first-hand accounts of this new situation, and will keep our readers apprised as new insights become available.

In the mean-time, we suggest you err on the side of caution; if the Rollers tell you to scoot, you'd be well inclined to cheese it.

Send hate mail, love notes, and creative contributions to [northernlucre@gmail.com](mailto:northernlucre@gmail.com).

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