

REPORTER

EXTRA TUESDAY AM

Tuesday, February 1, 1977.

Gas Shortage Forces RIT To Chill Buildings

*Dorm Temperature Is Lowered
Only Slightly, But Hot Water
Is Cooler; So Is Food.*

Cuts May Last Over A Week, But School Won't Close.

"Our intention is to remain open no matter how long the crisis lasts," said Dr. Todd H. Bullard, Provost and vice-president for Academic Affairs.

As icy weather continued through the weekend, many students were wondering whether or not school would remain open, and whether or not they would be able to remain in their rooms. As of now, there are no plans to close RIT because of the natural gas shortage. Dr. Bullard did say, however, that if the present cutbacks in certain academic programs, such as in the School for American Craftsmen (which is without kilns or glassblowing ovens) or photography (which lacks hot water to process pictures), could not be restored by *next* week, then RIT might be "forced to the extremity" of closing down.

He added that if such a decision were made, and there are no plans now for such a decision, dorm residents would be given ample notice to arrange travel home.

Although the temperature in the dorms has been lowered somewhat, it has not been lowered to the degree that it has in all the other buildings. At a meeting held yesterday to disseminate information to student

leaders, Mr. James Buchholz, vice president for Business and Finance, said fluctuations in room temperatures in the dorms are due to quirks in the heating system, not to the curtailing of gas use. Therefore, he said, the average temperature is 65 degrees (18.5 degrees Celsius).

Housing officials said that use of individual electric space heaters is prohibited. Also, students are asked not to open their windows if their rooms become too hot, as this affects the heat in other rooms along a hallway. If unusually cold or hot temperatures are noted, students should call campus services to have an engineer come and adjust the heating radiator in a particular room. That number is (464)-2842 during the day and 464-2853 at night.

At Grace Watson Hall, the meal plan must be trimmed somewhat, since only food that can be prepared on an electric grill or served cold will be offered, for the duration of this week, although Mr. Buchholz warns that gas cutbacks may extend beyond this week. The NTID Dining Commons can still offer a complete meal plan since equipment in that facility can be either oil or gas fired. All resident students may use their meal tickets at either Grace Watson or the Dining Commons.

Shower water temperature has been reduced from 140 degrees to 110 degrees (43 degrees Celsius).

In the academic areas, building temperature has been permanently reduced to the 55 degree (13 degrees Celsius) range. The swimming pool is no longer being heated, and there is no hot water for showers in the athletic facilities. Gym temperature is also down to 55.

A complete report on the current crisis will be printed in Friday's REPORTER.

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