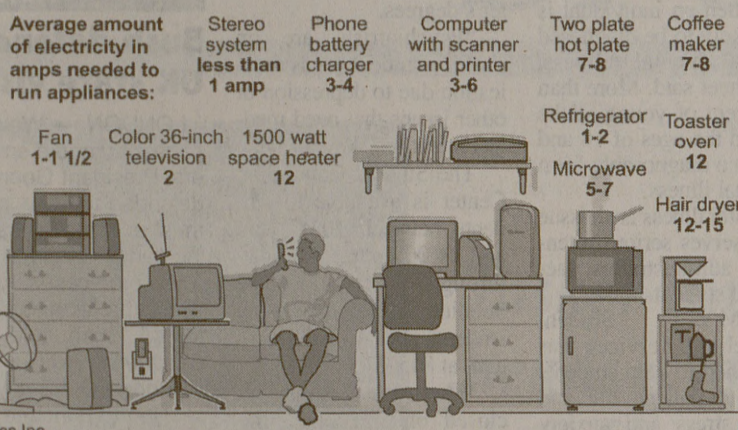


A plug in every outlet

College students are taking more appliances and gadgets into their dorm rooms, forcing colleges to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars in upgrading electrical systems. Most outlets in the United States are rated for 15 amps.



SOURCE: Underwriters Laboratories Inc.

AP

As students use more power, colleges must rewire rooms

By James Hannah
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

OXFORD, Ohio — Steve Leslie's dorm room at Miami University has 20 plugs sprouting from the walls.

They power a color TV, stereo, compact disc and DVD players, video game player, desktop computer and laptop, printer, scanner, refrigerator, microwave and two fans. Then there are rechargers for a cell phone, handheld computer, camera, electric razor and toothbrush.

"I just keep adding stuff," said Leslie, 20, a junior who shares the room with another student. "I fill up my car and my dad's truck. Some of the bigger stuff, like the speakers, have to wait for the second trip."

Today's collegians are part of a generation raised on electronics, and colleges are having no choice but to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars to upgrade electrical systems. Often, the upgrade costs are getting passed on to parents and students in the form of higher fees.

"It looks like Circuit City in some of those rooms," said Dan Bertson, director of residence services at Wright State University near Dayton.

New and renovated dorms at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth are being wired to handle the increasing load.

"Kids used to come to college with an AM radio and an electric razor. Now they arrive with every electronic device there is," said Roger Fisher, director of residen-

tial services. "They come to campus in a U-Haul, and Dad follows in a Suburban."

The average freshman at Miami University takes 18 appliances to campus, according to a March survey by the school.

As part of a \$7 million renovation of one dorm, Ogden Hall, the university spent \$212,548 in 2000 to add building substations, electrical distribution panels and electrical outlets. The 7,000 students who live on campus pay an extra \$100 a year in housing fees to cover the renovation costs.

"These days the students' lives are quite changed. They need more appliances," said Takashi Kawai, a 64-year-old Dayton-area man whose son lives in a dorm at Miami.

In a renovation a few years ago, Wright State doubled to four the number of electrical outlets in each of the 162 rooms at Hamilton Hall, increased the number of circuit breakers, installed new electrical-switch gear and rewired fuse boxes and dorm rooms. The cost was about \$500,000, or \$1,000 per student.

At Penn State University, electrical consumption in October was 33 million kilowatt hours, up from 27 million in October 1996. The school's electric bill is about \$1 million a month. Paul Ruskin, with the university's physical-plant office, said power use by the 13,000 student residents contributed to the increase.

Some officials say higher energy costs, campus expansions, lighting and the addition of computer labs and other ener-

gy-eating facilities are more to blame for increased power demand than student appliances.

And upgrading electrical systems in new and renovated dorms is often required by law under newer, more demanding building safety codes.

Andrew Matthews, of the Association of College and University Housing Officers-International, said many dorms were built in the 1950s and 1960s and don't have the electrical capacity for power-dependent students.

The higher amp load has some schools setting limits and conserving.

The University of Dayton had to stop installing air conditioners in the dorm rooms of students who requested them for such things as allergies and asthma. Craig Schmitt, executive director of residential services, said the school will be able to accommodate those students next fall in a new, air-conditioned dorm.

Miami University has been replacing incandescent lights around campus with more efficient fluorescent ones.

But conservation alone is oftentimes not enough.

Maryville College in Maryville, Tenn., decided to tear down one residence hall last year and build a new dorm at a cost of \$7 million.

"If too many women turned on their hair dryers in the morning, the circuit breakers would blow. That was happening daily," said Bill Seymour, vice president and dean of students.

Mass. endorses gay marriages

By Justin Pope
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BOSTON — The Massachusetts high court decision endorsing gay marriage raises a host of complex legal questions, and one of the biggest is this: If one state allows same-sex marriages, must other states recognize them?

Experts say it could take years for lawsuits challenging gay marriage to wind their way through state and federal courts before ultimately ending up at the U.S. Supreme Court.

Much of the litigation probably will center on the "full faith and credit" clause of the U.S. Constitution, which says states must accept other states' judicial proceedings.

"People in very short order will move back to Alabama and Tennessee and demand that marriages will be recognized," said Gary Bauer, president of American Values, a conservative group. "At that point, you have got a constitutional crisis."

Experts, however, generally believe the "full faith and credit" argument favors opponents of gay marriage. What little interpretation the U.S. Supreme Court has given indicates the clause applies to legal judgments in "adversarial proceedings" such as lawsuits, and not such things as a marriage license.

Strangely, since divorce is an adversarial pro-

ceeding, the Massachusetts divorce of a gay couple could be recognized in other states more easily than their marriage.

In the hours after the Massachusetts decision was released, Gov. Mitt Romney and several other opponents of gay marriage focused on a state constitutional amendment as the best tool to reclaim marriage as a heterosexual-only institution.

That option, however, raises even more legal questions, because the earliest voters can amend the state's constitution is 2006, two years or more after the time the high court has ordered a gay marriage law to be on the books.

What will happen to gay married couples if voters later decide to revoke the right to wed?

Some legal experts and gay-rights activists say that Tuesday's ruling appears to suggest that gay couples should get nothing less than marriage.

Other experts and Romney say the ruling is ambiguous enough that legislators could satisfy the court by approving a rough equivalent to marriage, such as the "civil unions" that Vermont offers.

"I believe their decision indicates that a provision which provides that benefits, obligations, rights and responsibilities which are consistent with marriage but perhaps could be called by a different name would be in conformity with their decision," Romney said. "Under that opinion, I believe a civil union-type provision would be sufficient."

The *Silk Stocking* Lounge

The Best in Adult Entertainment

-- Happy Hour Daily until 7pm --
\$2.00 Well / \$2.00 Drafts

Sun.: \$2.00 Wells
Mon.: \$1.00 Drafts
Tues.: \$3.00 Longnecks
Wed.: \$2.00 Wells
Thurs.: \$1.00 Drafts

2 for 1
Cover
with
Student ID

Sat. - Wed. 5pm-2am Thurs. - Fri. 2pm-2am
(979) 690-1478

4075 S Highway 6 - take Rock Prairie Road exit

Prepare with the ultimate MCAT readiness package and save!

Get the high MCAT score you need with the best classroom course and targeted extra practice. Enroll in Kaplan's MCAT Classroom Course and MCAT Qbank during the month of November and save \$100.

Call today to enroll!

KAPLAN

1-800-KAP-TEST
kaptest.com

Test Prep and Admissions

This offer is only valid for purchases made between November 1, 2003 & November 30, 2003 and cannot be combined with any other offer. *MCAT is a registered trademark of the Association of American Medical Colleges.

Get Paid to Play @ KIDS KLUB

THE KIDS KLUB after-school program is NOW HIRING for the Spring '03 semester!!!

Are you the kind of person we are looking for?
Check **yes** or **no** to the following questions and see bottom of page for the final results...

YES	NO	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you enjoy working with children?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Would you be willing to take holidays off?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you like to work with fun people?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Are you available Monday-Friday from 2:45-6:15pm?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you refuse to work weekends?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Can you begin work January 6 th ?

If you answered yes to all of the questions above then you may want to apply to work with Kids Klub. Applications are available at the College Station Conference Center on George Bush across from the golf course. Application deadline is December 2nd.

College Station ISD is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

ARE YOU LOST?

Find yourself at the Library

You never knew you could have such great drinks at such great prices!

FREE ENTRANCE TILL 11 PM

THURSDAY NIGHTS

"DEVILS MARTINI"

Featuring the all new devils martini

\$1 Wells / \$2 Martinis till midnight

LIBRAR **THE**

Meet • Drink • Lounge

Tuesday-Saturday
9p.m. - 2a.m.

Available for private parties
contact: Jimmie Hammond
@ 979-739-1967