Conservation at what cost?

(Continued from page 4)

It is, of course, possible that the water temperature was turned down for reasons other than energy conservation. Perhaps it was an honest error — someone thought the thermometer was Celsius, and so set it to 40 degrees. Everyone makes silly mistakes with units now and then.

Maybe there’s a problem of supply and demand, especially with overcrowding. In a fit of insanity on a recent weekend, however, I woke up Sunday morning (voluntarily) at nine, and the water was only slightly warmer.

Some have suggested more diabolical plots. It is only mildly difficult to imagine some institute official snickering at the more thought of a student going into thermal shock while trying to wake up for a nine o’clock test. Truly paranoid minds have suggested an even more sinister motive: the effective requirement of daily cold showers may be thought of as analogous to the military’s use of saltpeter in soldiers’ food; the plot has undoubtedly been coded the Institute anti-screw.

You consider the usual state of the

notes

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Green Line at rush hour. I always turn off lights when I’m leaving a room, and sometimes while staying in one. I rarely use my electric blow dryer.

I’m even willing to go for saving energy in the shower. There are inexpensive attachments that can be purchased for showerheads which decrease the water flow. I might even consider turning the water off while lathering up if it didn’t involve a serious risk of pneumonia and/or permanent soap encrustation. And I’m certain that the “shower with a friend” concept would go over well at MIT.

"Maybe it will go away."

The five most dangerous words in the English language.

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