

Updated laundry centers to 'save students money'

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For The Post

Ohio University students will dish out an extra \$.75 for each load of laundry, after prices for university washers and dryers were raised to pay for new machines.

The cost per load is now \$2 for washing machines, up from \$1.75 last year, and it now costs \$1.25 per dryer load, a 50 cent increase.

"In exchange for that price, you have a much larger capacity washer," said Beverly Wyatt, assistant director of Housing. She added that the new dryers should require only one cycle per load.

"Ultimately, it will save the students money," Wyatt said.

For years, students who used OU's laundry centers had no choice but to cart home half-dried clothing.

From her first Fall Quarter in 2006 until she moved off campus last year, senior Kylie Schafer lamented using the university's washers and dryers.

"A lot of times, machines would be broken. The dryers would sometimes not give off heat," she said.

And though Schafer spent

half her time at OU in soggy clothes, students living in residence halls this year will benefit from the new washers and dryers, which replaced older models in all of the university's laundry centers as well as certain dorms. OU entered a seven-year contract with Caldwell and Gregory, a company that currently services 170 schools across the country.

"We were looking for energy efficiency, number one, and student satisfaction, definitely number two," said Beverly Wyatt, associate director of Housing.

In addition to the washers and dryers, Caldwell and Gregory provided a new swiping system, room renovation and two part-time housekeepers, Wyatt said. The deal cost OU \$885,685.

Rather than top-load washers, OU purchased front-load washers. Wyatt said the washers will save an estimated 4 million gallons of water annually.

Caldwell and Gregory updated all of the OU laundry centers except those in Bromley Hall, which is still under contract until next year.

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The hours of operation for the campus laundry centers, located in Gamertsfelder on East Green, Treudley on West Green and Dougan on South Green, have been extended. The centers are open from 7:30 a.m. to midnight Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. to midnight Saturdays, Sundays and holidays.