OSU officials reassign days

By Stuart Kunkler

Jan. 31, 1978

The two class days that were lost to last week's blizzard will be made up later this quarter, Provost Albert J. Kuhn said Monday.

Kuhn said two additional instructional days will be scheduled into the university calendar. The first, Monday, Feb. 20, was originally set to be a holiday in observance of Presidents' Day. The second, Tuesday, March 14, was set to be a study day in preparation for final exams.

"These two days will be used to make up the lost days as appropriately as possible," Kuhn said.

"It is important, obviously, to offer as many days of instruction as possible," he said. "The quarter system is short and intensive, and any time lost is a great loss in terms of the quarter system."

Kuhn said the decision to schedule the two additional days was made on the recommendations of the University Senate Calendar Committee and the Council of Deans.

... besides forcing the cancellation of classes, the blizzard delayed the distribution of Spring Quarter registration materials.

Students may pick up those materials at their college offices beginning at 8 a.m. today, officials at the Office of Registration Services said.

Elaine H. Hairston, associate vice president for registration services, said her office mistakenly informed the Lantern that the registration packets would be available at noon Monday. The fact is the materials would be sent to the college offices and would not be available to students until today, Hairston said.

Master Schedules of Classes will be "scarce" until the University Printing Facility can deliver all of them Thursday, she said. Hairston urges students to share the books until all have been delivered.

She said students may turn in registration forms to their college offices beginning at 8 a.m. Wednesday.

She also said the deadline for withdrawal from classes without the "W" notation has been further extended to 5 p.m. today.
BLIZZARD!

Camaraderie, 4-wheel drive vehicles hallmarks of biggest snow

By Lisa Holstein

One office fed its employees from a "disaster bag," one worked for hours by candlelight, many brought in key staff members in begged or borrowed four-wheel drive vehicles and at least one administrator came in well prepared for a long stay with extra food, extra blankets — and his wife and dog.

Using any method they could think of to get the job done, employees kept essential services going during the blizzard of '78, which shut down most of the University along with the rest of Columbus Jan. 26 and 27.

Staff members in physical facilities, public safety, telephone operations, residence and dining halls, the Telecommunications Center and the hospitals, plus the payroll office because it was a pay weekend, worked through all or part of the blizzard days, and many through the nights as well.

Dean Ramsey, director of grounds maintenance — which at this time of year means snow removal — says his employees have been working 12-hours-on and 12-hours-off shifts ever since the snow hit.

Wearing on men and machines

"It's been a very wearing thing on men and machines," Ramsey said. "Someone has had to be here all the time. We've worked all night throughout, and we've still got work to do."

With just 70 to 75 percent of the staff reporting for work the Thursday and Friday of the blizzard, University snow removal crews were able to do much of the work without looking to outside contractors for help.

"The only time we used extra equipment was Saturday morning, after the worst of it," Ramsey said. "We hauled plowed snow out of more confined areas with large trucks. But the basic problem is that you can't gear up every year for an 18-inch snow. I've been here 18 years, and I have never experienced that kind of volume. I just can't say enough about those people who consistently spent 12 hours out in zero-degree weather."

Ramsey credits the equipment maintenance staff with helping snow removal to continue.

Keeping equipment rolling

"We were pushing hard, and especially in such cold weather, it's hard on machines," he said. "You naturally have excessive breakdowns, and you have to get them repaired immediately when it's 5 a.m. Monday, and you know that at 7 there will be a mass of cars heading in here. They did a miraculous job of keeping the equipment rolling."

A main concern of physical facilities now is clearing all drains in anticipation of the thaw, which means even more hauling of snow.

Grounds maintenance crews worked in close coordination with Traffic and Parking, which had to cope with "all sorts of problems," said Director of University Public Safety Alan Miller.

Staff worked over the weekend to clear the parking lots, but the fierce winds had complicated a job that would normally have just meant plowing the roofs.

Snow on ramps

"A lot of snow came in the ramp openings on every floor, and we had to plow every level in some areas," Miller said. "Our position now is that the only thing left to do is remove the snow that's taking up spaces. When you plow, you have to pile snow up at the ends and in corners. You clear the area, but you also lose 10 to 15 percent of that space."

But hauling it away will be no simple task, Miller added.

"Everything has turned to ice, and to break that down and get it into the dump trucks is nearly impossible," he said. "We need a couple of days in the high 20s to start to melt some of the ice."

What snow has been hauled out of the central campus and parking lots has been dumped on University property on Kenny Road near the laundry and printing facility.

Police coped 50 percent strong

University police coped with the blizzard with only about 50 percent of its staff on duty, said Donald G. Hanna, chief of police.

"We had several situations where it took some people a few hours to get in, and we had dispatchers who were on duty 16 to 17 hours straight," Hanna said. Once police officers arrived, they often found themselves right back out in the storm, helping with such things as transporting medical and food service employees to work. But they lacked the advantage of a four-wheel drive vehicle that became a standard mode of travel during the blizzard, doing all their driving in the regular police cars.

"Primarily, we kept physical facilities advised of road conditions, traffic signals out of order, that type of thing," Hanna said.

One officer stayed close to the campus Friday night and came back Saturday, his day off, to cover for those unable to drive in, Hanna said. Other employees spending
long hours at the University snatched sleep in the locker room. One officer who set out for home after many hours on duty found he couldn't quite get there — and spent the night at the Columbus zoo.

Payroll makes it
What was to many University employees one of the most essential of all the services — payroll operations — managed to get bi-weekly checks together for Friday and even got monthly payroll checks out a day early.

Madison Scott, vice president for personnel services, said, "I was just lucky to have knowledge of a person who had been associated with the University in the past who owned a four-wheel drive vehicle. I picked up the phone to him and said, 'We're in trouble,' and he offered to assist us. I rode in with him Friday and we drove around picking up people. And some of our folks who lived nearby managed to get in on their own."

The 50 percent or so personnel services staff was supplemented as the day went on by faculty and staff volunteers, Scott said.

Helen Desantis, director of compensation services, said what she noticed most about the situation was "people helping each other. People who were on campus Friday and came in to get their checks could see the confusion, and they were patient. And many of them offered to stay and help."

Provide 'disaster bags'
Desantis and other employees had brought in food, which they put together in a "disaster bag" to provide everyone working with lunch and dinner. Many employees stayed from 8:30 a.m. Friday through 10:30 p.m. that night.

"We felt we had to make the effort," Scott said. "A lot of students called in to say they were out of money, and we did something unusual in issuing individual checks to a number of people, and to physically impaired people who called to arrange for a friend to pick up checks for them with their IDs. And our friend with the four-wheel drive vehicle delivered checks to the hospital staff Saturday morning."

"Of course," he added "we couldn't have done any of this without the people in administrative systems — people like Frank Rundio, Marilyn Farish and Roy Dunlap, who got the checks out to us so we could get them sorted."

Physical facilities also helped out, Scott said. "One problem was that we couldn't get people into our parking lot, and when we called they came over immediately and plowed us a corridor."

Worked against deadline
The office also managed to continue work on an affirmative action report for which they were approaching a deadline, Scott said.

Personnel services was one of the few areas that did not turn to the dining halls for food during the blizzard days. William H. Hall, acting director of residence and dining halls, says many more meals than usual were served for two reasons.

"We fed safety, physical facilities and administrative people who could not get home," he said. "And all the students were of course snowbound. All they had to do was eat — I think they ate anything that didn't attack them first."

Hall also made use of a four-wheel drive vehicle — his own — to bring in staff.

"I have a truck that everyone laughed at me for purchasing a few months ago," he said. While enjoying the last laugh, he drove around picking up cooks and got extra help from the National Guard. The guard called to borrow cars for some of their emergency centers, and Hall traded them cars for food.

Roast beef for all
With skeleton staff and many student employees and volunteers, the dining halls not only fed all comers, but fed them the planned menu — roast beef.

"In Morrill Commons, we had no cooks, but one food service manager fed 1400 people from Lincoln, Ross and Conway Houses," Hall said. He was helped by eight food service and custodial workers and a custodial supervisor — out of the normal 45 employees — plus regular student employees. "And the meals were some of the best I have eaten in the commons," Hall added.

Hall stayed with cooks and maintenance staff from Thursday to Saturday noon on cots they hadn't loaned to the guard. But Hall had come prepared for a long stay when he left his house around 5 a.m. Thursday morning, bringing along his wife and dog. Still, the gravity of the situation didn't stick him until he had almost driven past the University.

"I had gone down Olentangy through the intersection at Lane Avenue, and didn't realize I'd passed it until the wind died down and I could see the towers opposite me," he said. "I missed the intersection, stoplights and all, the snow was blowing so hard. That's when it dawned on me that it was more serious a storm than I had thought."

Didn't recognize blizzard
Sam Peebles, radio production manager for the Telecommunications Center, also didn't know he'd gone out into the worst blizzard in Columbus history until he had almost reached the Fawcett Center.

"When I got into the car around 6 a.m., it wasn't even snowing," he said. "I fully expected to be able to come home in eight hours. But once I got to Dodridge and Olentangy (from his home on St. Rt. 161), it had started blowing so hard I couldn't see the road. I just slid in the rest of the way as best I could."

"I wish I had known — I'd have brought some provisions, like a change of clothes. When you've been in the same clothes for three days, they begin to stand on their own. At least we had showers. But had I known how long I'd be there, I'd at least have brought in some booze," he laughed.

Instead of going to work as expected with a 7 a.m. WOSU-FM radio broadcast, the staff arriving at Televon found themselves without power.

Lights fading fast
"We had lost power at 3:30 a.m. or so, and the emergency batteries were only good for four hours," Peebles said. "By 7:30, the lights were fading fast."

"Without full power, they were unable to so
IF THE DINING HALLS managed to feed students and stranded employees during the blizzard days, part of the credit must go to William Hall's truck, in which he (foreground) picked up food service manager Iris Ellis (center) and many other employees. Cale E. Singer, food service assistant manager, was one of many who performed amazing feats. He coordinated the feeding of 1400 people in Lincoln Commons in a single day. (Lyn Campbell photo)
much as turn on their transmitter by remote control at 7 a.m., and an engineer had to make his way out to Upper Arlington to turn the transmitter on manually, allowing a telephone hook-up. By 8:30 a.m., WOSU radio was on the air and found itself a communications center for many public radio stations around the state, which plugged into WOSU statehouse remote broadcasts by telephone lines.

The radio staff worked by candlelight until they regained full power about 10 a.m. Although until then the news wire machines were not running, they had several reporters "stranded at key places, city hall and the statehouse," Peebles said. "The guy at the statehouse ended up sleeping in the judicial chambers Thursday night. But we were able to provide live remote reports by using phone lines and cover the multiple news conferences."

On after sunset

WOSU-AM stayed on the air to 1 a.m. during the weather emergency. It normally would go off the air by sunset according to FCC regulations, but was permitted to stay on while it was providing a valuable service.

Peebles praised the spirit of cooperation that all working offices seemed to share, adding special commendation for the engineers, who, he said, "got us on the air in spite of the fact that it couldn't be done."

He and others working at the Fawcett Center also found themselves amply supplied with good food. "Roger Curry (food service director of the Fawcett Center) was one of the people trapped, and he did all the cooking," Peebles laughed.

Reports that the roof of the Fawcett Center fell in, which were aired by another radio station, were greatly exaggerated, Peebles added. "We had a leak over the secretarial pool, but that was about it," he said.

WOSU-TV also provided a special service in the aftermath of the blizzard. In cooperation with Warner Cable's QUBE, which carries OSU home basketball games, WOSU Channel 34 also carried the Saturday night OSU-Michigan State game for people outside of Warner's coverage area who were unable to get their cars out and drive to St. John Arena to watch.

Blizzard increased calls

Jeff Kaplan, administrative associate in the Office of Business and Administration, spent most of blizzard Thursday on the telephone.

"I heard we were to be closed on the radio while I was driving in," Kaplan said. But since he was half-way to campus — and had the added advantage of a Jeep — he drove in to the office anyway.

"When I got to the office, the phone was already ringing," Kaplan said. He served as a central information point for communication among the vice presidents and also arranged accommodations, with the help of University Police and the Office of Student Affairs, for students who found themselves without heat in their apartments. Although they were not living in University housing, students were permitted to stay in dormitory lounges as space permitted so they could at least keep warm, Kaplan said.

Kaplan also assisted Columbus police when he left the office, answering their call for four-wheel drive vehicles. He drove some police officers from their homes to work and picked up medical and other personnel needed at their jobs.

Hung up on drift

Kaplan had arrived at 6:30 a.m. Thursday, but on Friday he didn't arrive on campus until afternoon.

"My street was completely blocked by cars, so I tried to go through a yard, and got hung up in a four-foot drift," he said.

Kaplan waited for light and by that time, 10 or 12 neighbors had gathered, snow shovels in hands, to dig him out.

"Before we started to dig, we took a survey of the drifts," he said. "We ended up having someone cut down a tree — a small sapling — so I could get out without any..."
shoveling required. Then we went and got groceries for the neighborhood.”

Kaplan lives in a condominium complex, and with a growing party of neighbors knocking on doors, they arranged for a mass meeting in Kaplan’s garage, where they compiled a monster shopping list.

“We took two or three people along, and ended up tying groceries onto the bumpers to come home,” Kaplan said. “A lot of it was kitty litter that people wanted to keep in their cars for traction. I suppose the people who saw us must have thought we were keeping lions at home or something!”

Prepare for next time
In the office Friday, he found much of the frantic phone calling had died down and he spent most of the afternoon “listing things that we might do the next time.”

Another communications key point during the blizzard was the telephone center, coordinated by Margaret Townsend. She and another full-time operator spent 30 hours at the University, most of it at the telephone center with about four hours off for some sleep at the Fawcett.

“We had a regular hotel room, which was nice,” Townsend said. “The University police drove us over there, but we had to walk from the median of Olentangy River Road to Fawcett because of the condition of the roads.” Police also brought food from the dining halls into the telephone center while the operators worked.

Assisted by two student employees, Townsend and two others took up to 1,200 calls an hour from 6 a.m. until 10 a.m. Thursday, when calls tapered off to 600 to 900 an hour. On normal days, calls average 500 to 600 an hour at peak times, Townsend said.

Recording answered callers
The callers to the University were first greeted by a recording confirming that classes were cancelled and offices closed, but many people stayed on the line to ask about midterms, CAP classes, the basketball game and tryouts for Walt Disney World jobs (all of which were cancelled). Many were worried about national tests scheduled for Saturday (which were given as planned) and the Friday deadline for dropping classes (which was extended until 5 p.m. Jan. 31).

Many callers on Thursday asked about whether the University would be open Friday. To them, Townsend replied, “We’re doing this one day at a time!”

Although some employees did find overnight quarters at the Fawcett Center, many who had gotten to their jobs at the food facilities warehouse on Kinneer Road in their cars found they couldn’t even get that far Thursday night, and ended up sleeping on tables and couches. But all food deliveries to the dining halls and hospital did get through, said A.J.R. Van Buren, assistant vice president for business management.

Martin DeLisle, director of facilities maintenance, had plumbers, electricians, heating repair people and even carpenters and glaziers standing by, some working 16-hour shifts, in preparation for further emergencies. They took care of about half-a-dozen broken windows and some water damage from frozen pipes but reported no major maintenance problems.

16-hour shifts at power plant
Making all the activities at the University possible was continued operation of the McCracken Power Plant. Walter Hartman, director of physical plant services, says three employees moved in cots and stayed several days, while others worked 16-hour shifts waiting for replacement staff to arrive.

Plant supervisor James Fogle was able to bring in a number of passengers with a four-wheel drive vehicle he owned, Hartman said. Most staff members brought in their own food, since even the usual eight-hour shifts do not permit them to leave the plant for meals.

And Hartman was speaking for the whole University when he added, “We’re just really grateful to those many employees who went through a lot of snow to get to work — and stayed.”
Hospital staffs mush to maintain patient care

By Susan Boe

It was 1 a.m. during the worst blizzard in Ohio's history when a phone call woke Dela Holoman with word that a vehicle was on its way to pick her up for work at University Hospitals. Holoman normally isn't on the job until 4:30 a.m., but the storm of '78 had no respect for routine schedules.

Holoman isn't a nurse or patient care worker — she's a cook in the Hospital's main kitchen. Blizzard or no blizzard, patients and employees need breakfast, and Holoman along with three other members of the kitchen staff were brought in early on Thursday, Jan. 26.

Although the three days that followed were not normal, a high turnout of employees enabled the Hospital to operate smoothly with no interruption in patient care, said David Stiefly, University Hospitals director of nutrition.

While most of the Ohio State community was receiving a reprieve from classes and jobs, Hospital personnel were working extra hours and double shifts.

Total cooperation

"A hospital just doesn't close down because the weather is bad," said David Stiders, director of patient services. He credits the smooth operation to "total cooperation from employees, volunteers, and community support services.

"Actually the blizzard seemed to bring out the best in people — a real feeling of camaraderie," Stiders said.

Finding transportation for the staff was the major concern of Joe Denney, patient services coordinator.

"We initially depended on several employees and their spouses who volunteered to pick up other workers," Denney said.

Eventually a five-vehicle car pool was organized, comprising volunteer drivers from the community, including the son of a University Hospitals patient.

Worked double shifts

Many employees worked double shifts or longer than normal hours. However, fatigue was carefully checked, and staff members were urged to take rest breaks.

About 120 people spent Thursday night on make-shift beds in University Hospital's Clinic and the next day repeated their hectic schedules. One group of four nurses spent Thursday evening in a motel after their car broke down two miles from the Hospital.

Several employees who weren't scheduled to work offered to help, and one graduate nurse who volunteered worked 14 straight hours.

In addition to patient care personnel, ancillary employees reported with an equal degree of dedication and sense of responsibility, said Fred Moore, director of environmental services.

Many of Our housekeeping employees must ride the bus to work, but the blizzard kept only 30 percent of the staff at home," Moore estimates.

Overall, shortage of personnel was not a critical problem. In areas where extra help was needed, volunteers, including Ohio State nursing and dietetics students and hospital administrators, assisted in transporting patients, serving food and carrying trays.

No shortage of supplies

A shortage of medical supplies, including blood, also did not pose a serious threat during the storm. Thanks in part to almost 80 Ohio State students who had responded to the previous week's urgent drive.

Pantries were well-stocked which meant few menu changes. "We made some modifications," said Delores Blakey, manager of dietetics, "such as substituting meatloaf for Swedish meatballs. But basically the patients received the same meals which had been scheduled earlier in the week."

Friday afternoon and evening the cafeteria kitchen also provided free hot dogs, soup and coffee for employees.

Patient care "as usual"

"With this tremendous support and cooperation, the Hospital was able to provide patient care services as usual," Stiders said.

Stiders said 90 percent of surgeries took place as scheduled, although some were cancelled at the request of a physician or patient.

"Although the Hospital coped well during the blizzard, there were still many reminders that Central Ohio was in the grip of a major disaster. Fourteen patients from Chillicothe, M. Gilead, M. Starling, Marion, Newark and Circleville were among those rushed to the Hospital via the National Guard medevac."

Babies didn't wait

Two maternity patients also came via medevac, and one new mother arrived in an emergency vehicle with her newborn baby already in her arms. (June Wilder of north Columbus was en route to University Hospitals in an emergency van when the vehicle became stuck in a snowdrift. While waiting for another vehicle to arrive, she gave birth to a healthy baby boy. She was then transferred to a second ambulance which threw a chain from the tire, requiring transport to a third vehicle to bring her safely to the hospital.)

Another Columbus maternity case also had a happy ending due to the efforts of a University Hospitals nurse, who, during off-duty hours, helped his snowbound neighbor deliver her baby.

"We will make some minor revisions in our emergency plan, but overall it worked quite well," said Stiers, reviewing the previous days with satisfaction. "We were able to respond to problems quickly. Everyone gave 100 percent."
Fires safety aids medics

An unusually busy area during the blizzard was fire safety, especially the emergency rescue squad. Fire Chief George Bailey says most staff members got to work on their own, but they did go out in a transport van to pick up one employee whose car was frozen solid into a block of ice.

A special problem occurred Friday when the elevator in the Medical Center Parking Ramp broke down. The helipad on top of the ramp could not be used by the medicopter since there was no way to get patients from the roof into the hospital. The medicopter landed in a cleared space on the polo field and the rescue squad transported patients to the emergency room in their van.

The squad also worked transporting very ill students from residence halls to the emergency room. Fire safety also handled water line breaks that had put a few building sprinkler systems out of commission. One break occurred in the attic of Oxley Hall after the storm blew out attic windows and froze the fire line. They also worked clearing snow and ice from around fire hydrants, Bailey said, but fortunately there were no fires on campus during the blizzard days.
Blizzard costs

The Office of Business and Administration calculates that the Jan. 26-27 blizzard cost the University more than $857,000.

Of that amount, more than $500,000 was paid out in extra salaries to employees required to remain on duty to maintain essential services while the University was closed.

These services included the University Hospitals, residence halls and related support areas such as Public Safety, the Food Facility and Physical Facilities.

In addition to the extra salaries, damages and other costs came to $357,000.

Snow-removal cost above normal was set at $75,000; damages to uninsured buildings, $100,000; repairs of roads, curbing and walks, $150,000; water system damages, $2,000; damages to equipment, $20,000, and to landscaping, $10,000.
Missed days create hassles for student teaching program

By Hope Parks ’79

The January blizzard affected all students at OSU but student teachers have a special problem in rescheduling the classes they missed because of the accreditation standards teachers must meet.

The State Department of Education standard for accreditation of teachers states that students must be involved in student teaching for one full quarter. “What constitutes a full quarter is what is at debate here,” said Nancy L. Zimpher, director of the student laboratory experiences in the College of Education.

“The concern is that the students who need the developmental time period of experimentation are the ones who are being hurt. The burden of proof that these students are qualified teachers lies with OSU,” Zimpher said.

About 250 students are involved in the student teaching program and about 2,500 students are participating in other field experience classes, such as the Freshman Early Experience Program. Zimpher said.

The student teachers located in 15 school districts in Franklin County, have missed between seven and 14 days of student teaching during Winter Quarter.

Some of the student teachers had seminars on campus while their schools were out, Zimpher said.

A new plan, known as the “Buddy System,” began after this winter’s blizzard. Zimpher noted. The plan links two student teachers, one in a school setting that is more likely to close during the bad weather, such as Scioto-Darby, and one that is not, such as Columbus Public Schools. If one of the districts closes the two students would go to the other district.

Student teachers may also make up days their school missed by working at day care centers or social agencies.

“The point is that students should be in contact with children, although it is not the same as student teaching,” Zimpher said.

Another concern is the possibility of OSU closing due to the energy crisis. “If OSU and other schools close, then it is not just OSU’s problem. It will then be left up to the state department to find a solution,” Zimpher said.

During Winter Quarter 1977, student teachers faced a similar problem, after school districts closed from one to four weeks due to energy shortages.

They met in their assigned school setting at least once a week and either stayed in that school with different pupils coming in every day or followed their students to the buildings they used to conserve energy. “We even bused students to OSU so the student teachers were teaching,” Zimpher said.

“The reaction from student teachers has been minimal because they know we made it through last winter,” Zimpher said.

Fewer students this year signed up for student teaching Winter Quarter, Zimpher noted. “Perhaps we should consider whether or not to make student teaching during Winter Quarter an option for those students who could not fit it into their schedule any other time,” she said.
Diary of a Long Hard Winter

The first snow flakes of Winter 1978 may have brought smiling faces, but as the season wore on even the thought of snow was more likely to bring groans. No doubt, memories of this winter's weather will soon fade as spring begins to thaw out the University; but the season's most startling events—recorded in the following diary—may linger right up until next winter's first snow.

January 9 Winter gave Ohio State a taste of what lay ahead as a major snow storm dumped fourteen inches of snow on the campus.

January 20 Heavy snow hit again, causing University classes to be cancelled and offices to close. The Friday snowfall gave many staff and students a long, if somewhat snowy, weekend.

January 24 The coal strike suddenly jumped to everyone's attention when negotiations in the strike broke down. Governor Rhodes asked President Carter for federal intervention in the strike and stated that it would be a "catastrophe" if electric utilities ran out of coal.

January 27-28 Classes were cancelled and offices closed again—this time for two days—as Ohioans awoke to find a blizzard on their doorsteps. Fortunately, the storm struck very early Thursday morning, giving officials time to announce the closing before the work day began.

The heavy snow brought with it driving and parking chaos. Some parking lots on campus remained inaccessible because of heavy snow and drifts. Students and staff were urged to form car pools or use public transportation to avoid the snow bound parking areas.

February 2 Phil the Groundhog, whose ancestors have predicted the severity of winter for 91 years, saw his shadow and slunk back into his hole in Punxsutawney, Pa. As the legend goes that meant six more weeks of winter.

February 6 Federal mediators and union leaders predicted a settlement to the nationwide coal strike in the very near future. The longest coal strike in history cut coal output by fifty per cent, threatened to bring increasing cutbacks in electrical power and made "rolling blackouts" a household phrase.

February 9 President Enarson met with University administrators, officials, deans and others responsible for energy conservation to discuss conservation methods and steps to meet a possible fifty per cent cut-back in electricity at the University. The President announced that a voluntary conservation effort had reduced energy use by fourteen per cent, short of the twenty five per cent goal.

In an open letter to the University, Enarson stated, "Since there is no master switch which anyone can throw to cut our electrical use in half, only you, the student, faculty member, secretary, administrator can turn off lights, turn down the thermostat, pull the plug and do many other things to save electricity which must be done now."

February 11-12 Activities were re-scheduled or cancelled and many facilities reduced their regular hours to help conserve energy. A scheduled basketball game was held in St. John’s Arena to a sell out crowd, but fans had to generate their own heat, as power to the arena was reduced.

February 13-19 Departments and offices around campus turned down heat and turned off lights as the energy shortage continued.

Continued conservation efforts during the week and the weekend helped the University reduce electrical consumption by thirty three per cent.

By mid-March most of the coal miners still refused to return to work despite the fact that the federal government had ordered them back to the mines. Renewed negotiations in Washington brought some hope that the strike would soon end.

Warmer temperatures, energy conservation efforts and purchased electricity from other states made it possible, however, to avoid mandatory cutbacks and major job layoffs.

With cold hands, sometimes even cold hearts, and a lot of effort the University managed to remain open through the long, hard winter.
Students enjoyed unexpected holiday in blizzard of '78

By MARY MURRAY
antenn staff writer

Ten years ago today, students were treated to an unscheduled two-day winter break, compliments of Mother Nature.

The campus was closed after a blizzard with winds gusting up to 65 mph struck central Ohio early Thursday morning, and it remained closed Friday. The 34.4 inches of snow that fell during January, 1978, was the greatest amount for one month recorded at Port Columbus Airport.

Chuck Smith, superintendent of roads and grounds and part of Ohio State's snow removal crew during the blizzard, recalled what he saw from his truck.

"It was some guy out jogging with a Tennessee track suit on," Smith said. "It's snowing to beat blue blazes, and colder than hell, and this guy's out jogging down Stadium Drive like nothing's going on. I'll never forget that orange Tennessee track suit."

Smith has worked for the university for 15 years.

"It rained the day before," he recalled. "Then it turned cold. I'll never forget, in the middle of this snow storm there was lightning, which was something we'd never seen before. It (the snow) just started stacking up and stacking up. I think we worked two days straight. You couldn't get home."

He said the high winds and the weight of the snow ripped out some trees, but he doesn't recall any structural damage to buildings.

The storm, which struck the eastern two-thirds of the nation, left thousands of Ohioans without electricity and stranded thousands on the highways.

Dean A. Ramsey, assistant vice president for physical facilities, said in the 25 years he has worked for Ohio State, he only remembers one time the university was totally closed — during the Blizzard of '78.

"I hope it never happens again," Ramsey said. "Nothing moved anywhere. We came to a screeching halt."

In 1978 Ramsey was director of grounds and maintenance, which is responsible for snow removal.

During the blizzard Ramsey said he was getting reports almost hourly of the conditions on campus.

"We knew things were getting worse," he said. "It wasn't a thing that happened all at once, I was here when it started."

After two days Ramsey went home and could not get back. He said his home was without power for more than 30 hours.

"Out on West Campus, the roads from Buckeye Village had drifts four and five feet deep," Ramsey said. "There was no way we could move that snow."

The snow on 17th Avenue was so deep, Ramsey said he had to hire contractors to haul the snow out. The snow was dumped into the Olentangy River.

Ramsey's department worked for three days straight to clear the snow, with some people working 24-hour shifts. The crews were able to keep open two priority areas.

The first priority was University Hospitals and the Student Health Center. The second was dormitories and food service areas.

"The dormitory people had a lot of fun at that time," he said. "They had less time, plus a lot of snow to play in."