WOW!

Winter storm blankets Jacksonville
Announcements

- All students graduating in Spring from the College of Letters and Sciences must apply now for graduation in T14 Martin Hall.
- JSU students, faculty, staff and their friends are invited to join Team JSU for this year’s May 22-23 MS 150 Tour for Cure, a go-at-your-own pace bike tour designed to raise money for research in the cure for multiple sclerosis. This year’s tours journeys from Pell City to Centre and includes an overnight stop here on JSU’s campus. Registration fee is $25 until April 15. For more information call Dorothy Tobe at 782-5525 or 820-7818.
- The JSU Child Center is now accepting applications for the 1993 Fall semester. The center offers a half-day (8 am-12 pm) preschool program for 3- and 4-year-olds. For more information call 782-5054.
- The 10th annual “Making Tracks 5K Road Race and One Mile Fun Run” will be held at 8 am March 13 at the Anniston Army Depot in Bynum. There is a $10 fee. For more information call Janet at 235-6383 or 235-7720.
- Sign up for cheerleader tryouts will be held until March 19 in 106 Babb Graves Hall. Students must meet academic, height, weight, strength and body composition requirements. This information will be provided when you sign up.
- Members are now being sought for an environmental awareness group called JSU S.A.V.E. (Students Against Violating the Earth). Projects include holding events such as nature walks, recycling drives and area clean-ups. For more information, call 782-5490 and leave your name and phone number. Someone will be in touch.
- The Miss Mimosa Pageant scheduled for tonight in Leone Cole Auditorium has been CANCELLED.

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

The Chanticleer is now accepting applications for the 1993-94 academic year for the following positions: News editor, Features Editor, Sports Editor and Business Manager. Anyone interested should come by 108 Self Hall for an application or call 782-5701 for more information.

On the Other Hand...

One need
Students stand out in trying times

One week ago, a different editorial was planned for this space. With the pitiful turn-out for the recent SGA elections (less than 600 students voted -- approximately 9 percent of the student body), the seemingly never-ending apathy of this campus was going to be brought up again.

But over the weekend, something actually happened at JSU. The student body lost its stereotype.

No one really took the forecast of a winter storm seriously. After all, this is Alabama and snow is very rare. Especially in March. But when Mother Nature hit us this time, she hit hard. And a lot of people were unsuspecting and unprepared.

What we thought would be our saving grace as far as snow for the winter goes turned out to be part of the biggest storm of the century. Even winter-hardened cities like New York and Boston were shut down because of the snow, ice and winds.

Here in Jacksonville, few people had seen anything like it. By Saturday morning, the town was completely incapacitated. But there were a few students who decided to do something about that.

Calvin Wilburn and Jennifer Gaydon walked approximately two miles Saturday morning to sign on WLS-FM. By doing so, not only did they provide snowed-in residents with a source of entertainment, but more importantly, 92J turned into a valuable source of information.

Newton said for every action there is an equal and opposite reaction. So for what happened over the weekend that should be condemned, there are things which should be condemned.

92J went on the air to provide the students with information and entertainment. However, there were a handful of immature listeners who thought it would be funny to call up the station and curse over the airwaves. And then there were the jerks who called to give false information.

Real classy, people. It's too bad universities don't teach classes in how to act your age. Some students at JSU could use that more than math or science.

With no newspapers and no cable, the radio station became the eyes and ears of Jacksonville. And once it signed on, 92J stayed on the air around the clock. The handful of DJs who brought that service to the students deserve a hearty pat on the back.

Elsewhere on campus, Todd Milewicz, a student manager at Jack Hopper Dining Hall, also hiked through the snow Saturday morning to get to his job. Milewicz made about a two-and-a-half mile walk to get to the cafeteria at 5:30 am. He was the only worker there at the time, and he stayed throughout the day, until 9:30 pm.

The skeleton crew that operated the cafeteria all found a way to get there, and the students on campus had a way to eat.

And then there were all the students who opened up their homes as a shelter for others. Or the students who took their vehicles out into the snow to help someone in need. Sure, in the general sense we have an apathetic campus. But every once in a while, something happens to make us realize the dangers of stereotyping a group of people.

It's aggravating to see the immense lack of interest out there, but it's also gratifying to see the concern and care that's out there as well. For all those who went above and beyond what may have been expected, thanks.

On the other hand...

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Real classy, people. It's too bad universities don't teach classes in how to act your age. Some students at JSU could use that more than math or science.

Also, there seems to have been a good bit of fall-out over the cafeteria situation. Students should have been grateful the cafeteria was functioning and should not have expected normal service conditions. As far as charging non-meal ticket holders for meals, everyone understands the cafeteria must function as a business, but making sure costs were covered shouldn't necessarily have been a main priority. There is more to the operation of a business than the bottom line.

In a situation like we all were put in this past weekend, there has to be give and take. As long as the take doesn't outweigh the give, people get by okay.
National Guard provides relief, rescue

Shannon Cooper
Staff writer

For more than 70 Jacksonville residents, this weekend's weather went from a possible disaster to a mere inconvenience because of volunteers from the Company D 151st Engineers Battalion and the 20th Special Forces units of the Alabama National Guard.

According to Sgt. 1st Class Larry McKinnon of Company D 151st Engineers Battalion, the volunteers had two basic jobs.

"We were tasked to transport people without services to (the National Guard Armory) and take care of their needs," he said. In addition, hospital workers, police officers, and firefighters were taken to work so they could help meet the needs of the community.

While workers at the shelter were mostly members of the National Guard, some JSU students as well as local volunteers shared their time. Beginning Saturday morning, workers created a temporary home for anyone in need.

Cots and blankets were provided by the National Guard, but there was a problem when the question of food came up. "We didn't have a lot of food on hand," McKinnon said. On Saturday and Sunday, the Jacksonville Hospital provided meals for both the temporary residents and the shelter workers. Monday's breakfast was sponsored by Winn-Dixie, Subway Sandwiches and NuTimes also donated food.

"Most people assisted by the armory stayed overnight. We had power throughout the weekend, but lost its water supply Sunday. "We've tried to do everything we can with what is available," McKinnon stressed. "We were here, but we were limited."

In addition to the armory shelter, Leon Cole Auditorium was opened and stocked with National Guard blankets and cots. Though running water was not available the reserve units supplied the shelter and several hundred county residents with bottled water Monday. A 400-gallon truck was set up in the Jacksonville Winn-Dixie parking lot, the Piedmont Nursing Home and in Alexandria.

"Some residents had power and water, but could not leave their homes due to fallen trees. Reserve volunteers worked with the City of Jacksonville to clear the roads," McKinnon and McKinnon stressed the importance of teamwork and community cooperation in this relief effort. "Basically what we had was people trying to find a place to stay because they had no heat," McKinnon said. "We did our best to help them."

Power problems plague town

Melanie Jones
Managing Editor

Jacksonville residents were left in the dark -- and the cold -- this week as snow and ice swept through the Southeast, destroying the electrical systems in its path.

Many Jacksonville homes were among the 400,000 Alabama Power customers left without service when the storm hit, and while power was restored to more than 50 percent of the homes during the weekend, others went several days without power.

The storm affected each household differently. Some were well prepared with alternative heat sources, but others weren't so lucky.

"I was able to improvise with a load of candles and Sterno," Joti Graydon said.

Graydon is a junior communication major living in the Wesley House. He survived the weekend with a little help from Spaghetti-Os and melted snow when his building lost power.

Like Graydon, many people were able to heat their homes and prepare meals with kerosene heaters or fireplaces, but the freezing temperatures forced many people to seek shelter at Leon Cole auditorium and the National Guard Armory.

Despite those who had to seek shelter, Alabama Power CEO Elmer Harris denied the power outage was a life threatening situation. "We're not in serious danger as long as we stay inside, cover ourselves up and stay warm. We may not be as warm as we want to be, but life threatening inside is not the issue," he said.

Alabama Power officials said this is the worst situation they have ever seen. "We've had very widespread devastation," said Buddy Eiland, Public Information director for Alabama Power.

Many customers became impatient as they waited several days for the power to be restored, but officials insist they are doing the best they can.

"We're throwing everything we have and can get at restoring power," Eiland said. "It's been a slow and steady process. Slower than we would have liked."

Since the roads were covered in snow and ice during the days following the storm, repair crews found it difficult to reach many of the damaged areas, which caused a major delay right from the start.

When crews were able to assess the damage, they found it was more than they could handle alone. Approximately 1,000 workers from surrounding states arrived at the first of the week to assist Alabama Power employees.

See Power + page 5

One dies due to storm

Melanie Jones
Managing Editor

A Jacksonville resident died this weekend when she allegedly ventured out into the winter storm to borrow a pack of cigarettes.

Jacksonville Police Chief Tommy Thompson said an elderly woman left her home at 2 a.m. during the storm to borrow cigarettes from a neighbor. She never made it to the neighbor's home.

Thompson said the woman was frail and had a bad hip, so while she was apparently on the right path, she froze to death during the storm to borrow the cigarettes from a neighbor.

Some residents had power and water, but could not leave their homes due to fallen trees. Reserve volunteers worked with the City of Jacksonville to clear the roads.

"Basically what we had was people trying to find a place to stay because they had no heat," McKinnon said. "We did our best to help them."

Tommy Thompson said the police were not bogged down by wrecks when the roads are closed. "The police don't work wrecks when the roads are closed," he said.

Officials closed all roads Friday afternoon. When roads are officially closed, travelers must drive at their own risk, and most insurance companies will not pay for damage if officials have warned drivers that the roads are closed.

Police would have tried to assist in an accident if anyone was injured or if it produced a hazard.

Police spent most of their time this weekend transporting residents to heated shelters or transporting kerosene and kerosene heaters to the homes since the storm left most of Jacksonville without electric heat.

Two HUMVEEs and a HUMVEE ambulance on loan from the National Guard helped the police with their duties since some of the police cars could not maneuver in the ice and snow.
Local radio stations become eyes and ears of community

Shannon Cooper
Staff writer

As a blanket of snow covered Calhoun county and most of the state, disc jockeys from local radio stations WXJS-FM and WVOK-FM became the community's information centers.

From the time the stations signed on Saturday, callers sent messages over the airwaves in search of assistance and the townspeople responded. This meant altering the stations' formats for a few days.

“During the worst part, we went to straight talk, then we began taking one or two-song breaks between the talk,” according to K98 announcer Justin Brown.

Elderly citizens whose power failed called in to ask for help. The call that stands out most in Brown’s mind, however, was a collect call he received from a hotel in Anniston.

“There were three individuals trapped in KMart for three days,” he said. According to Brown, the clean-up crew there could not get out and one man finally left in search of assistance.

“It seems the man fell in a drainage ditch and the bottom half of his body became numb,” he said. After crawling out, he made it to a local hotel from which he called Brown. Brown put him on live and the National Guard soon carried the workers to safety.

This was not Brown’s only communication with the National Guard, however. A government-run HUMVEE transported Brown to work Saturday.

“We were just relaying the messages,” 92J Program Director Calvin Wilburn said. “The community is the hero.”

Not only did the stations serve as a community bulletin board, but they kept in constant contact with the local police forces to give updates on road conditions.

The highways were closed Saturday and Sunday, so the stations reinforced the fact that people should not be driving. By Monday, the ice was melting, and as highways became passable, information was given over the air.

Operating businesses let snowbound residents know their services were available. For many residents, knowing The Huddle House was open meant knowing food was only a walk away.

George Douthit, Jacksonville’s mayor, called 92J, according to Wilburn, to commend the station for its work. It was not for recognition that the stations were broadcasting, though. It was, as Wilburn put it, for people’s comfort.

Water shortage dries out Jacksonville

Melanie Jones
Managing Editor

Melting snow was the only source of water in Jacksonville Sunday when the city tanks emptied before power could reach the pumps.

Many residents worried that faulty generators could not power the pumps, but city water officials said the city doesn’t even use generators. “We can’t get generators large enough to run our pumps,” said Sally Johnson, manager of the city water board.

Without the assistance of generators, the pumps went down as soon as the power went out late Friday night. Despite some conservation efforts Saturday, the tanks were empty by Sunday afternoon. After that, the city couldn’t do anything until Alabama Power and Cherokee Electric restored electricity to the pumps.

Alabama Power said the water systems were at its top priorities. As the tanks in Jacksonville totally drained, other small towns were rapidly losing pressure. The nearby communities of Hokes Bluff and Southside were among the cities conserving water by Monday.

The company restored power to most of the pumps Monday afternoon, and some Jacksonville residents had water by that evening, although the pressure was still very weak.

Cherokee Electric was not able to get to pumps under its jurisdiction as quickly. According to the city water See Water • page 5

Students question cafeteria practices during weekend

Jason Thompson
Editor in Chief

While the unanticipated impact of last week’s snow and ice forced virtually every restaurant in town to shut down, Jack Hopper Dining Hall continued operation through the storm.

However, a number of students had expressed discontent with the cafeteria’s service and practices over the weekend.

“We may not have had all the options we normally would have had, but there was always a hot meal to eat,” said Jon Fitzgerald, the cafeteria manager.

It seems as if some students stuck on campus because of the weather did not find the service respectable and the food acceptable. Randy Calander, a JSU student who holds a meal ticket, said he and his friends were mistreated when going back for seconds.

“We were asking for a little more...” (the worker) told us to appreciate what we had and then wouldn’t serve us,” he said.

But according to Todd Milewicz, a student manager at the cafeteria, the workers were doing all they could under the conditions. In addition, there were only five people working in the kitchen for the entire day.

“I don’t think (the students) understood the situation,” he said.

Milewicz said everything went fine for breakfast and lunch on Saturday, even though they were not typically standard practice, but all power went out about 15 minutes before serving time.

That forced the cafeteria to begin serving sandwiches and cold food rather than hot food. “It seems like everybody would have been a little more understanding,” he said.

However, the main argument students had with the cafeteria was the practice during weekend See Cafeteria • page 8

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Power
from pg. 3

Even with the extra help, the crews cannot work 24 hours a day. "Obviously, those people have to sleep and eat too," Eliland said.

Many customers have criticized the company for failing to prepare for an event such as this, but Harris said there was very little they could have done differently.

"We had the storm of the century. Do you want to go buy X number of shovels that may just be sitting there for a storm that may come a hundred years from now?" he said.

Harris said the company would examine the results of this episode to see if there are any improvements they could make in the emergency plans. "...You always learn lessons, and we at Alabama Power are always building on the lessons we learned in the past. We're trying to get better every time."

As for people who were still without power at the time of his Monday press conference, Harris just urged them to be patient. "We just have to force ourselves to say, 'We're better off than many other people in the country.'"

Water
from pg. 4

board, that company did not begin work on the pumps at Germania Springs until Monday.

Some residents were confused by the existence of two power companies in one city, but the division is a result of the Tennessee Valley Authority. Cherokee Electric is under TVA jurisdiction and serves a large area that includes Jacksonville in the Germania Springs area and goes all the way to the Georgia line. "Those boundary lines were set years ago," said William Oxford, Cherokee Electric Manager.

All residents got impatient before the two companies were able to repair lines leading to the pumps, but those who were still without water by Tuesday afternoon questioned what could be taking so long.

Oxford blamed some of the delay on road conditions. "If the roads had been clear, we could have done a much better job," he said. But for the most part, he said his company was doing everything possible. "We just do everything the best way we know how... the cheapest way we know how."

Even after the majority of residents had water, they still had very little pressure. "They're using it as fast as we can fill the tank," Johnson said. The first water to come through the pipes had a brownish tint. Johnson said that was caused by settlements in the pipes that loosened as the pressure. "They're using it as fast as we can fill the tank," Johnson said. Even with the extra help, the crews cannot work 24 hours a day. "Obviously, those people have to sleep and eat too," Eliland said.

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Storm turns

No one really expected it, but the amount of snow dumped on Jacksonville changed everybody's plans. What might have been just another weekend turned into a very rare and memorable situation.

Regardless of where people were stuck, the only choice everyone had was to just make the best of it. And for a lot of residents, that meant anything from snowball fights to sledding down a hill in a laundry basket.

It wasn't all fun and games however. Many people were left without enough food and without heat at all. Places
Jacksonville into snowy playground

ike The Cockpit and Huddle House, which stayed open until the workers were completely exhausted or stock ran out, were the only link to food and supplies for awhile.

Stranded residents within walking distance to such local places took to foot (or skis) to get what was needed. People all over town stood in lines for more than an hour to geterosene or food.

Now, almost a week later, only sporadic piles of snow remain to be seen. But for most Jacksonville residents, the great blizzard of '93 will always be remembered.
Cafeteria

from pg. 4

seems to be with its charging for meals during the weekend.
"Forget the all-you-can-eat buffet," JSU senior Angie Morgan said. "They should have turned it into a soup kitchen."

According to director Noah Rucker, that was not a feasible idea, and the cafeteria did its best to serve the students.

"I would like to have said it was free, carte blanche, to everyone, but we had to take care of the campus population," he said.

What some students disagreed with, however, was the fact that people were charged for meals in what was deemed a crisis situation.

Rucker said that was not a feasible effort.

"Still, as the weekend progressed and humanitarian efforts increased, some students felt as if the cafeteria was not operating with people's needs in mind. Campus radio station WJS-FM received phone calls from students who just didn't think the policy was right.

"I think they should show a little more concern for not only our students, but other people in need," an unidentified caller said Sunday afternoon.

Rucker does not feel as if the policy of business as usual was "a little ridiculous."

"Forget the all-you-can-eat buffet," an unidentified caller said. "We're a business just like everyone else."

Also, he said prices were reduced to faculty rates, and that was only to break even.

"We may not have had all the options we normally would have had, but there was always a hot meal to eat."

--Jon Fitzgerald
Manager, Jack Hopper Dining Hall

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