

Editorials

Snow, Ice Poses Hazards for B.C. Students and Faculty

Guest Commentary

It all started on Friday evening, about 8:30p.m. People were losing power, drivers were sliding into trees and each other, and B.C. students were waiting...and wondering: How long will it last?

All through the weekend, things got worse. Sidewalks and roads were iced, and it was extremely dangerous even to walk outside. The wind chill factor was 30 below and stayed there. Still, they wondered...

Monday morning came, and the

dreaded announcement arrived: classes would still be held. The students moaned, complained, and basically slid to class.

These weather conditions, not to mention the fact that all surrounding schools and the majority of businesses closed, should have indicated that Brevard College needed to close. Yet its doors remained wide open.

First of all, the roads were not safe to be traveled by faculty, staff, and commuter students. The roads were still extremely icy and hazardous. One resident of Ross Hall slid, almost uncontrollably, down the hill in a car

with front-wheel drive. One commuter student slid into a tree trying to get to her class. Many teachers were unable to come in, so students braved the sidewalks for no reason.

Secondly, the sidewalks were also rather treacherous. Students slid on icy patches and steps. The sidewalks had been neglected, therefore causing several falls and slips. The sidewalks were especially hazardous to those students with previous injuries.

Next, the wind chill factor caused the temperature to drop even further, which presented a health hazard for students who must walk to classes. The rush of

arctic air into one's lungs reduces the ability to breathe effectively.

Lastly, the students who went home, or spent the weekend off-campus, were stuck. They were unable to get back in time to attend classes, so they missed and will have an unexcused absence on their record. When these people do have an emergency, they will not be able to take time off from their classes.

In conclusion, we believe that keeping the College open was a ludicrous waste of time and a danger to all involved.

Rhonda L. Parker
Amy A. McDonald

Letters To The Editor

Editor:

Among other concerns, the editorial, "Facility Hours Unreasonable," in the December 14, 1995 issue of The Clarion, highlights the need for more library hours in the evening and on Saturday.

At present, the James A. Jones Library is open 78.5 hours a week, including Saturday and Sunday. According to daily library use statistics, expansion of library hours is not warranted at this time. In reviewing statistics for Fall 1995, the average student count taken of students in the library at 10:00 p.m., for the period of Sunday through Thursday, was 17. At that hour, most students are using the library for studying rather than checking out books, using indexes, reserves, periodicals, reference books, and other

library materials. On Saturday afternoon, the average hourly count showed 6 students in the library, some of which were local students from the Brevard area. Expanded library hours are available at night and on the weekend during Final Exams.

The library would like to see more use of library materials and staff to consider additional hours. Collections, services, and access to a wealth of material highlight our primary function, in addition to a quiet place to study. The Spring Semester has started out slow for library use and activity, and it is hoped that daily use will improve very soon.

At this time, there is no additional staff available to expand current library hours. However, I will keep this in mind for future planning needs, especially in

consideration of additional four-year programs.

Thank you for bringing this to my attention.

Sincerely,
Mike McCabe
Library Director

To the Editor:

In response to student requests for extended weekend computer lab time, in February, we will begin opening the main computer lab in MG 219 on Saturday afternoons between 1:00 and 4:00. The lab will be open during this time on a trial basis to determine if Saturday

student usage is sufficient to warrant continuation of extended hours.

Spring semester evening schedule for the computer labs in MG 219 and MS 108 is as follows:

MG 219: Sun.-Thurs., from 6:00 to 10:30; and Sat., from 1:00 to 4:00.

MS 108: Sun., 5:30 to 10:30; Mon., Tues., and Thurs., 6:30 to 10:30; and Wed. And Sat., closed.

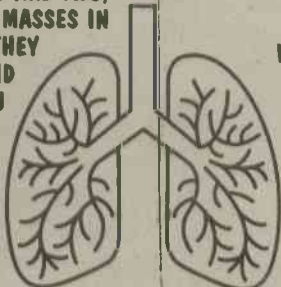
* Students may use the labs Monday-Friday, 8:30-4:30PM, while classes are not in session.

Please remember that academic work must take precedence over Internet or other personal or entertainment related computer activities.


Alyse Hollingsworth
Michelle Choate
Directors of Academic Computing

Did You Know?

YOUR LUNGS ARE TWO, SPONGE-LIKE MASSES IN YOUR CHEST. THEY FILL WITH AIR AND EMPTY AS YOU BREATHE IN AND OUT. SOFT AND FRAGILE, THEY ARE WELL PROTECTED INSIDE THE RIB CAGE.



ALTHOUGH PARROTS ARE KNOWN TO TALK, THEY DO NOT ACTUALLY "TALK" AS WE DO. THEY SIMPLY IMITATE WHAT THEY HEAR.



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