

January blizzard slaps New England

Kyle West

Staff Writer

Jan. 23 saw the Patriots win the AFC Championship game, and nearly three feet of snow fall on their home state of Massachusetts.

The blizzard dumped 40 inches where it developed over Nantucket Island. Parts of Massachusetts were hit with up to three feet.

New York, New Jersey and Connecticut were also hit hard, each receiving as much as 18 inches.

Businesses across the Northeast saw very little traffic as families holed up or dug themselves out. With Sunday came more snow and the AFC Championship game, keeping more people from stores and businesses, the *Washington Post* said.

The hardest hit were travelers, as most of the Northeastern airports were shut down. More than 1,200 flights were canceled in the New York area alone, according to the *New York Times*.

"It was crazy," said Morgan McCluskey, a resident of Bangor, Maine. "We hadn't had any snow for two weeks, and then we get handed two feet!" Although snow continued to fall throughout Maine, the weekend blizzard was all that brought snow for most of the Northeast.

Due to the early warnings from meteorologists

across the states, and also the diligent efforts of the snow removal teams, most businesses and schools reopened on Jan. 24.

There were few deaths, most of which were due to heart attacks started by shoveling. In New York City 10-year-old Markita Weaver was struck and killed by a snowplow as she waited for a friend on a snow bank, according to the *New York Times*.

Dave Melendez, a member of Portland, Maine's Public Works Department's snow removal team, was one of many who worked almost nonstop to removed the snow from roads and highways.

"Our whole lifestyle changes when we get a big storm like this," Melendez said, according to the *Bangor Daily News*. "We're owned by the city come winter operations. That's ok, it's worth it." Melendez also said that although the storms are hard for those with families, the plow drivers take pride their work.

First-year Julia Kartman from Phoenixville, Pennsylvania was surprised with the way many in Greensboro handled the recent ice storm.

"Apparently, a lot of people went to the BP because of the storm ... They wouldn't do that up north, since they get crazy storms all the time," Kartman said.

Despite the huge snowfall, many ski resorts in northern New England reported less than desired

amounts of fresh snow. Sunday River in Maine reported only 4 inches, while Sugarbush in Warren, Vermont received almost 20 inches.

Many would-be skiers were stuck at home during the blizzard, but as the week progressed, "we'll see our call volumes go up ... as people get out of their driveways, and get their kids back to school," J.J. Tolden, communications manager at Sugarbush said, according to the *Bangor Daily News*. ❧



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Massachusetts home buried in snow

Democracy in action: Yushchenko to lead Ukraine

Hannah Whaley

Staff Writer

According to the *New York Times*, Viktor A. Yushchenko took the oath of office as president of Ukraine on Jan. 23, vowing to unite the country. Ukrainian citizens casted ballots three times in attempts to achieve democracy within the nation.

The inauguration was the culmination of an extraordinary period in Ukraine's history that included two rounds of voting last fall, then huge street protests and a legal challenge that ultimately overturned the declared victory of his opponent, Viktor F. Yanukovich. This led to the third round of voting on Dec. 26, in which Yushchenko triumphed.

Yushchenko's plans include addressing the

parliamentary assembly of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, France, addressing the European Parliament in Brussels. He also plans to discuss the steps he will take to accelerate Ukraine's membership bid into the European Union.

The newly-elected president also recently attended the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, a Nazi death camp by the Soviet Red Army. According to the *Washington Post*, Yushchenko's father was a Red Army prisoner of war there.

Viktor Yushchenko won the third election with just under 52 percent of the popular vote against Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich. But Yanukovich still would not give up the election.

Mr. Yushchenko started the campaign as the most popular politician

in Ukraine, and it took a very large propaganda effort on state-run TV channels to make his rival, Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich, look like a real contender, says BBC news.

BBC also noted that there were many attempts to discredit Mr. Yushchenko. However, the worst attempt was his poisoning weeks before the crucial vote that left scars and blisters on his face.

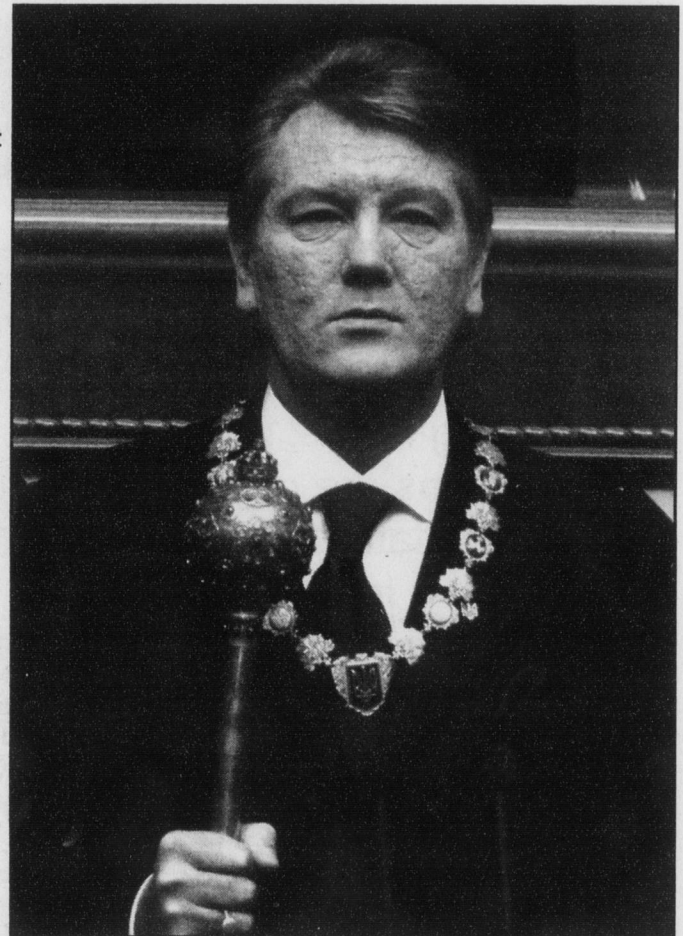
"You have to remember that these people have been oppressed for a long time," said Mark Koehler, American missionary in Ukraine and relative of a *Guilfordian* staff writer. "They've been told what to do and how to do things."

Koehler is currently renewing his visa in the United States, and in a recent interview with *The Guilfordian* he

shared some personal reflections.

"Yanukovich wanted nothing to do with the weakest and oldest people in the country," Koehler said. "A friend of mine was even offered money to vote for him!" All the protests and demonstrations Koehler saw were non-threatening, and he feels that now, after three time-consuming elections, "most of the country is happy."

"That's democracy," says Guilford first-year Alden Stevenson. "If the people as a whole didn't feel like the government was being run fairly, it was entirely their right to voice their opinions." ❧



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Viktor Yushchenko is sworn in as President of Ukraine