

# Workers Hustle To Clear Campus

By SHAHRZAD REZVANI  
Staff Writer

As students and faculty venture back to classes after three days of being shut out by snow, Grounds Department workers are still working feverishly to clear campus roads and walkways.

Snowplows and workers with shovels covered campus in the early mornings of the week to make the roads and sidewalks accessible to students.

The University is operating today under Condition I, which advises students and faculty to use caution while traveling to and from campus.

Students and employees are also allowed to park in any legal non-reserved space on a first-come, first-serve basis including visitor lots other than the Cardinal and Dogwood Decks.

Provost Dick Richardson said conditions had improved to the point where classes could resume at 9 a.m.

"There's been more melt-off and they've cleared more parking areas," he said.

But Grounds Department Director Kirk Pelland said that regardless of when classes began, he could not determine when the workers' job would be over. He said workers were now concentrating on clearing sidewalks in the quad and building entrances.

Pelland also said Thursday that workers were focusing on clearing the Smith Center and nearby parking lots in preparation for the UNC-Maryland basketball game, which was moved from Wednesday night to Thursday night.

Workers hit South Campus sidewalks Thursday afternoon to prepare for the flood of students that would be making their way to Friday morning classes.

"There's going to be some trouble working on campus (no matter what we do) because there's just too much," he said.

He said workers only had a small amount of time to clear roads until the snow turned to ice. "It's too packed down," he said. "Whatever we don't get plowed, we'll put sand down so you can walk on top of it."

Because the severe weather conditions and cancellation of classes is so

unusual, workers are working extra hard to get conditions back to normal.

This week's closings resulted from what the Department of Public Safety calls Adverse Weather Condition III, defined as unusually large accumulations of snow, sleet, ice or freezing rain on campus and in the University employment area.

"Condition III means there are no classes, faculty and staff are not to report to work and basically the University is closed," said Public Safety Director Derek Poarch.

He said essential employees, such as those who worked to clear the roads, were still expected to report to work. Dining employees also remained on duty throughout the week as all campus dining facilities remained open during the storm.

Adverse weather conditions are declared by the chancellor's office in the event of weather interrupting normal University operation.

Condition II cancels classes but leaves University offices open.

Richardson said he agreed with the decision to upgrade the condition from Condition I to Condition III this week.

"The reports that we got were much more serious this time than any other time."

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# Snowstorm Slows Town Services

By SARAH BRIER AND WALTER HERZ  
Staff Writers

Local governments, businesses and schools are still struggling in the icy grip of this week's record-setting snowstorm.

The 20 inches of snow that blanketed Orange County Monday night caused the cancellations of schools, local government meetings and closed businesses, and left thousands of residents in the dark.

Andrea Ray, spokeswoman for Duke Power, said the number of customers without power had dropped drastically from the peak 11,300 outages on Wednesday night. But, she added, progress in restoring power to the remaining customers had slowed.

"We are at the smaller blocks of customers so it is not going as quickly," she said. "The rest of the customers should see relief soon."

In preparation for the approaching storm forecasted to hit Orange County Saturday night, Ray said Duke Power had taken precautions against further outages.

"We are tracking and making preparations," she said.

"We have crews from seven states here and we are going to keep them here for the weekend."

Officials at the Orange Water and Services Authority said services had not been seriously impaired because of the snowstorm. A news release reported water systems were operating on a normal basis Tuesday and Wednesday.

But, mobility posed a major problem

for emergency personnel, who faced a harder time responding to calls due to the icy roads. Kent McKenzie, deputy director of Orange County Emergency Management, said the department's vehicles were struggling in the winter weather.

"Our ambulances have not been doing really well in the deep snow, and our response cars have not been doing well at all," he said. "We've been using National Guard hum-vees to get people to hospitals and shelters."

No major snow-related emergencies were reported.

Area schools have had to change their schedules or close because of the potentially dangerous driving conditions.

Chapel Hill-Carrboro schoolchildren have had an indefinite amount of time to play, as the snow forced class cancellations today for the fourth day in a row.

Neil Pedersen, Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools superintendent, said the six make-up days already included in the school calendar were exhausted Wednesday, leaving days to cover Thursday and Friday's cancellations in question.

"We had make-up days planned up until Wednesday," he said. "We will have to identify make-up days for Thursday and Friday, probably at the

next board of education meeting on February 10."

Local grocery stores also have had to alter their business hours. Chris Smith, store manager at the Harris Teeter located at 1200 Raleigh Road, said all the local stores were working on similar schedules.

"We'll be opening at 8 a.m. and have no idea about closing," he said.

Banks, restaurants and other stores on Franklin Street all seemed to follow a similar trend of being closed on Tuesday and Wednesday but are now open with modified schedules.

Britt Keele, owner of Goodfellows, said the storm increased his business and did not cause him to drastically change his hours.

"There is not as much to do and people don't have to wake up in the morning," he said.

"People are cooped up and want to get out."

Keele said they were doubling up on food orders and were ready for another potential storm Saturday.

Food deliveries have also been a problem for Linda's Bar and Grill.

"We have limited amounts of food," manager Dennis Almond said. "Nothing is getting delivered and we are required by law to sell food in order to sell liquor."

Students without classes to look forward to flooded Linda's during the snow days, Almond said.

Lowe's Home Improvement Warehouse Store of Chapel Hill reopened Thursday with normal hours after operating under reduced hours Tuesday and Wednesday.

"Business has been the same, or maybe a little slower because of the snow," co-manager Michael Bowman said.

Buses shut down by the icy conditions finally began running again, but on modified routes, said Iris Schwintzer of the Chapel Hill Transit Authority. Bus routes F, D, J and T opened back up Thursday on modified service.

"We will have some service out tomorrow but probably not full service," Schwintzer said.

Sgt. Tyrone Ross of the N.C. Highway Patrol said local road conditions were better than those in other parts of the state.

"The main roads are pretty much passable," he said. "However, the biggest problem we're having is running across stranded vehicles, because they keep the (DOT) snowplows from clearing all the lanes."

The City Editor can be reached at [citydesk@unc.edu](mailto:citydesk@unc.edu).

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## Kelly McLaughlin

The University of North Carolina and Wachovia would like to congratulate Kelly McLaughlin, the Wachovia Woman of the Week.

Kelly is a senior swimmer from High Point. Serving as the 99-00 co-captain of the currently ranked #17 Tar Heels, Kelly earned ACC Academic Honors for both her freshman and sophomore seasons; maintaining Dean's List status every semester at Carolina with a 3.7 GPA. She is also the Women's Swim Team representative for ACC-Carolina Outreach and served as a summer camp counselor at Athletes in Action (AIA) national camp.

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