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Winter storm blacks out campus

Power outages began at 8:00 p.m. and lasted for much of the evening

by Adam Baber
ORIENT STAFF

A typical Maine Nor'easter took an unexpected turn last night as a storm-related power outage left much of the Bowdoin campus in the dark. Students seemed to take the inconvenience in stride, however, dusting off flashlights and taking to the Quad for snowball fights.

While Senior Vice-President for Finance and Administration S. Catherine Longley declared a weather emergency at 2:00 p.m. yesterday afternoon, the storm had had little effect on student activity beyond the hassle of walking to class or practice in several inches of slush. By late evening, however, the weight of the slushy accumulation proved too much for area power lines and transformers.

According to Mike Veilleux, Major Maintenance Project Manager for Facilities Management, the local outage was triggered by a downed power line on Federal Street. Central Maine Power's web site reported widespread outages across Maine due to the storm.

Students first noticed problems with power shortly after 8:00 p.m. The outages were initially spotty, as students in first-year dorms reported that, in some rooms, lights in bedrooms worked while those in common rooms did not.

Some students reported seeing flashes akin to lightning just before the outage. Meaghan Kennedy '06, a Coles Tower resident, saw "blue flashes" outside before her room went dark. Eddie

Briganti '05 reported seeing the flashes from the fifteenth floor of the Tower at about the same time.

By 10:00 p.m., however, nearly the whole campus was dark. Only a few buildings with generators, such as Moulton Union and Thorne Hall, had power. The social houses also retained power throughout the outage, with light from Baxter House's porch and Ladd House's windows puncturing an otherwise eerily dark landscape.

Campus officials were quick to respond. Security's Communication Center was initially swamped with calls from concerned and curious students, and used the calls to compile a list of where the power was out, according to Assistant Director of Security Mike Brown. A number of calls were placed for the student escort van service, which had been suspended due to weather conditions.

Brown also reported that the Security office had brought in extra officers to respond to alarms and field questions. Officials had to manually activate a number of the generators scattered around the campus.

Security also responded to an odor of smoke in the Moulton Union kitchen. Brunswick firefighters, already busy with reports of wires down and transformer fires, investigated and determined there was no fire. Officials cited a shorted-out fan as the source of the odor.

Dean of Student Affairs Craig Bradley, who was monitoring the situation at the Communications Center, reported at 10:15 p.m. that the dining halls were being opened so students could pass the time in a lit area.

The outage also affected last night's scheduled events, including the celebration and concert marking the tenth anniversary of the opening



Karsten Moran, *Bowdoin Orient*

Crews struggled to keep walkways clear during yesterday's steady snowfall. As night fell, conditions worsened as travel became hazardous and the heavy snow brought down power lines.

of Smith Union.

The well-known steel drum band JahPan was scheduled to play an 8:30 p.m. show in the Union. After waiting for nearly an hour for power to return, the band took to the stage and played an acoustic set, pleasing those students who had stayed.

"This is so weird," said Kerry

Elson '05, who didn't allow the unique circumstances to keep her off the dance floor.

Director of Student Activities Burgie Howard wouldn't let the unexpected problems spoil the fun. "This is not the program we had hoped for, but people are having a good time and coming together, and

that's why this building was built," he said.

The Japanese puppet troupe Bunrakumass' show in Kresge Auditorium was drowned out by the noise of nearby generators, according to Tim Katlic '08, and was

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Perkins Loans, Upward Bound absent from White House plan

by Ted Reinert
ORIENT STAFF

The White House's budget proposal for the 2006 fiscal year proposes the elimination of 48 Department of Education programs, including Upward Bound, which has had a chapter at Bowdoin for 40 years. The Orient reported last week on speculation that the program would be cut in the budget, which was released Monday.

Upward Bound is one of the fed-

erally-funded TRIO programs established in the 1960s and aimed at helping low-income students and those who would be the first in their family to attend college.

Another program slated to be cut is Perkins Loan program, which provides low interest loans to students.

"We've been able to fund a fair percentage of our aid recipients with that program," said Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid Jim Miller. According to Miller, the reduction or elimination of Perkins Loans "could create some problems for us to offer students the best loan opportunities." Forty to 45 percent of Bowdoin students receive financial aid.

The Education cuts are part of an overall "lean budget" proposal released Monday. According to the Associated Press, 150 programs will be cut or eliminated under the \$2.5

trillion budget.

"It's a budget that sets priorities. It's a budget that reduces and eliminates redundancy," President Bush told the AP.

Overall, the Education budget has been decreased by 1 percent from 2005, to \$56 billion. The funds from programs such as Upward Bound, which was budgeted at \$279.7 million last year, would be redirected to the High School Intervention Initiative, part of a \$1.5 billion extension of the No Child Left Behind program to high schools. The new budget would also increase funding for Pell Grants, a federal financial aid program.

Upward Bound is one of five Education programs which received an Ineffective rating under the Bush Administration's Program

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Endowment remains vigorous

by Haley Bridger
ORIENT STAFF

Bowdoin's endowment performance among peer institutions has been in the top quartile over the one, three, five, and ten-year periods. The endowment's performance following the stock market slide three years ago is exceptional due to the structure of the investment portfolio, which has outperformed those of other Maine colleges, such as Bates and Colby, by as much as eight percent.

Bowdoin receives gifts from alumni and contacts and hires external market managers to invest the

gifted money. The College received more than \$26 million in voluntary support gifts in 2004. Endowment money is used to help cover operating expenses and to provide financial aid. One of the College's goals is to grow the endowment in order to continue a need-blind admissions policy.

The endowment per full time student this year is \$314,329. Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration and Treasurer S. Catherine Longley said that this number is calculated annually based upon annual audited financial statements. The value of the Bowdoin endowment at June 30, 2004 was

\$514,243,000. Expenses per full time student in the current year are approximately \$56,000.

Vice President of Investments Paula Volent added that over the past several years, the endowment per student has increased steadily.

"There has been a significant trend upwards," Volent said. "And this takes into account the fact that there are more students at Bowdoin than in years past."

Volent noted that there are several reasons why Bowdoin's endowment has out-performed other schools.

"Each school's endowment differs

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