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Blizzard buries city, GW closed Tuesday



by Julie Gordon and Rachel Gould
News Editors

GW officials announced Monday evening that the University will be closed Tuesday because of severe weather conditions.

Road conditions in the District, Maryland and Virginia prompted the University to decide to close at about 6:20 p.m., Robert Chernak, senior vice president for Student and Academic Support Services, said.

Chernak also said the University took into account that many students are stranded out of town for the long weekend and that D.C. Mayor Anthony Williams has asked that people avoid traveling into the city until snow from the weekend's blizzard is cleared.

Chernak said the University expects J Street venues to be open Tuesday, though it is possible one or two may be closed if not enough employees can get to work. Aramark management planned to spend Monday night at GW so they could be ready to open for students in the morning.

Jeff Baum/Hatchet photographer

Metrobus employees attach a bus to a tow truck in front of City Hall Sunday evening. The bus was freed after being stuck for a few hours.

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University advises students on security

by Kate Stepan
Editor in Chief

An e-mail to the GW community Friday outlined campus emergency plans, which officials said may include evacuating students to Mount Vernon or other area colleges in a worst-case scenario.

The University's security status remains at "normal," meaning campus officials have not requested outside help for any situations, as the U.S. Homeland Security Council

continues to deem the country's threat level "Code Orange," or high risk.

The e-mail referred students and staff to GW's online incident manual at www.gwu.edu/~response, which outlines how members of the University community should prepare for, respond to and recover from an emergency situation.

John Petrie, assistant vice president for public safety and emergency management, advises stu-

dents to print out this e-mail, which also includes emergency phone numbers and Web site addresses.

Petrie said students should stay inside a safe building in the event of an incident outside. He suggested keeping a flashlight, medications, a battery-powered radio and extra batteries on hand but said there are no special precautions students should take to prepare for a possible terrorist attack.

"General guidance is appropriate," he said. "Does that mean that I

think you ought to have gallons and gallons of water? No."

All University Police vehicles – patrol cars, 4-RIDE vans and three buses – have been equipped with public address loudspeakers that GW will use to disseminate information in an emergency.

GW's system of four alert levels is designed to describe specific incidents, Petrie explained, and the campus status will not be elevated unless an event occurs that would require officials to seek outside

help.

Petrie said he met with presidents and security officials of area universities, including the universities of Maryland and D.C. and American, Marymount and Howard universities Friday. The group had the idea to move students from a threatened campus to a safe one in a severe emergency. Petrie said the plan is a "great idea," but details will have to be worked

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Jeff Baum/Hatchet photographer

A visibly shaken police officer sits in his cruiser early Saturday morning after hitting a pedestrian at the corner of 24th Street and New Hampshire Avenue. The car has a broken grill, dented hood and shattered windshield.

Metro cruiser hits pedestrian

by Michael Barnett
Hatchet Staff Writer

A Metropolitan Police cruiser ran a stop sign and hit a pedestrian at 24th Street and New Hampshire Avenue early Saturday, a witness said. The pedestrian was taken to the GW Hospital emergency room by ambulance. MPD officials declined to release the name of the pedestrian pending investigation, and it has yet to be determined if the pedestrian is affiliated with the University.

The male pedestrian, who was wearing a long black coat, lay motionless in the street for a few minutes after the incident until help arrived, the witness said.

Detective John Paprcka of MPD's Second District said the pedestrian was treated for injuries and would fully recover. Paprcka

declined to comment further, citing an ongoing investigation of the accident. GW hospital officials also declined to comment.

The pedestrian was hit while crossing New Hampshire Avenue, near 7-Eleven at about 2:15 a.m., said junior Mosheh Oinounou, who witnessed the accident while walking home to City Hall. Oinounou is news managing editor at The GW Hatchet and the only uninvolved witness, police said.

Oinounou said the pedestrian appeared oblivious to the oncoming MPD cruiser, which turned on its sirens shortly before hitting him. Oinounou said the pedestrian seemed to expect the cruiser to stop at the stop sign.

But the car did not stop at the stop sign and struck the pedestrian, who hit the hood and windshield

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