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## A blizzard in the city that works

By Ryan Kamphuis

CAMPUS EDITOR

It came. It saw. It conquered. After days of warning, the great blizzard of 2011 hit Chicago. Dumping over 20 inches of snow on the ground, the blizzard brought the city to a halt and shut down almost everything. Wednesday after the snow stopped, the city looked like a ghost town, populated only by those who were willing to brave the snow to see the aftermath. Lake Shore Drive was filled with abandoned cars and buses. People skied down the middle of State Street. Chicago Public Schools were empty.

IIT ran into just as many issues as the city of Chicago did. Initially shutting down from 4:00 p.m. Tuesday, February 1 to 3:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 2, IIT eventually canceled all classes on Wednesday. Students awoke to a campus totally covered by snow on Wednesday. Academic buildings and the MTCC were snowed in and had to be dug out in order to be entered. Roads could not be seen, the Quad was covered in 5-foot snow drifts, and the wind coming in off Lake Michigan created wind chills below zero degrees Fahrenheit.

The blizzard canceled many events that were planned for Tuesday and Wednesday, including a chemistry colloquium, a psychology presentation, the Black History Month kickoff event, and many meetings. Even with all the cancellations, IIT students still made the best of the horrendous conditions. Snow forts became commonplace on the quad, and many snowball fights were had.

In what many students felt was a controversial decision, IIT decided to restart classes on Thursday, February 4. Many were angered by this decision since the Chicago Public Schools and many other schools decided to stay closed on Thursday.

Despite this fact, IIT was ready for the return of students on Thursday. Facilities had spent all of Wednesday plowing and salting the sidewalks and paths west of State Street in order for students to move between classes. The conditions east of State Street were another story, however. Paths had formed between the dorms and the MTCC, but only because they had been packed down by the repeated travels of students.

Many of the entrances to most of IIT's buildings were closed off on Thursday. This was either because snow hadn't been cleared from the front of the door or, in the case of the MTCC rotating door, all the snow and wind broke it.

While IIT's sidewalks and paths were cleared on Thursday, the same couldn't be said for the roads crossing IIT's campus. While the city of Chicago did begin to plow the roads on campus, they weren't fully cleared on Thursday. State Street was down to one lane through campus, and snow still covered the median, making it tough to cross on foot.

If one thing was learned from the blizzard of 2011, it was that Chicago truly is the city that works. While cities like New York and Philadelphia were crippled for days by blizzards in late 2010, Chicago got just as much snow and was back on its feet in less than one day. By late Thursday, flights were heading out of both Midway and O'Hare. Roads were cleared, and businesses were open. Life was back to normal.

(Photos by Ryan Kamphuis and Chris Roberts)

