

EXTRA Statesman

Special Extra Edition

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Storm Swamps Campus

The storm inundating much of the New York metropolitan area early yesterday morning caused flooding on campus roads, South P-Lot, in G and H-Quads Residential Colleges, the Graduate Physics Building and closed down the Stony Brook Union and all Union services at 9:15 AM.

Electricity was then temporarily cut off from the Union and G and H-Quads, which are served by the same power substation.

"The power plant cut the line to stop water from hitting the transformers" said Union Building Manager Gary Matthews, adding that water hitting the transformers could possibly cause short circuits.

WUSB's transmission was interrupted for approximately 20 minutes while the crew moved to an emergency broadcasting set-up in the transmitter room atop the Graduate Chemistry Building. Regular broadcasting resumed when power was returned to the Union at about 3 PM.

The Graduate Physics Building was hard-hit by the flooding with 10 inches of water covering the entire basement level. The water accumulated in an enclosure by a stairway outside the Math Tower,

eventually pushing the doors in, filling the entrance lobby.

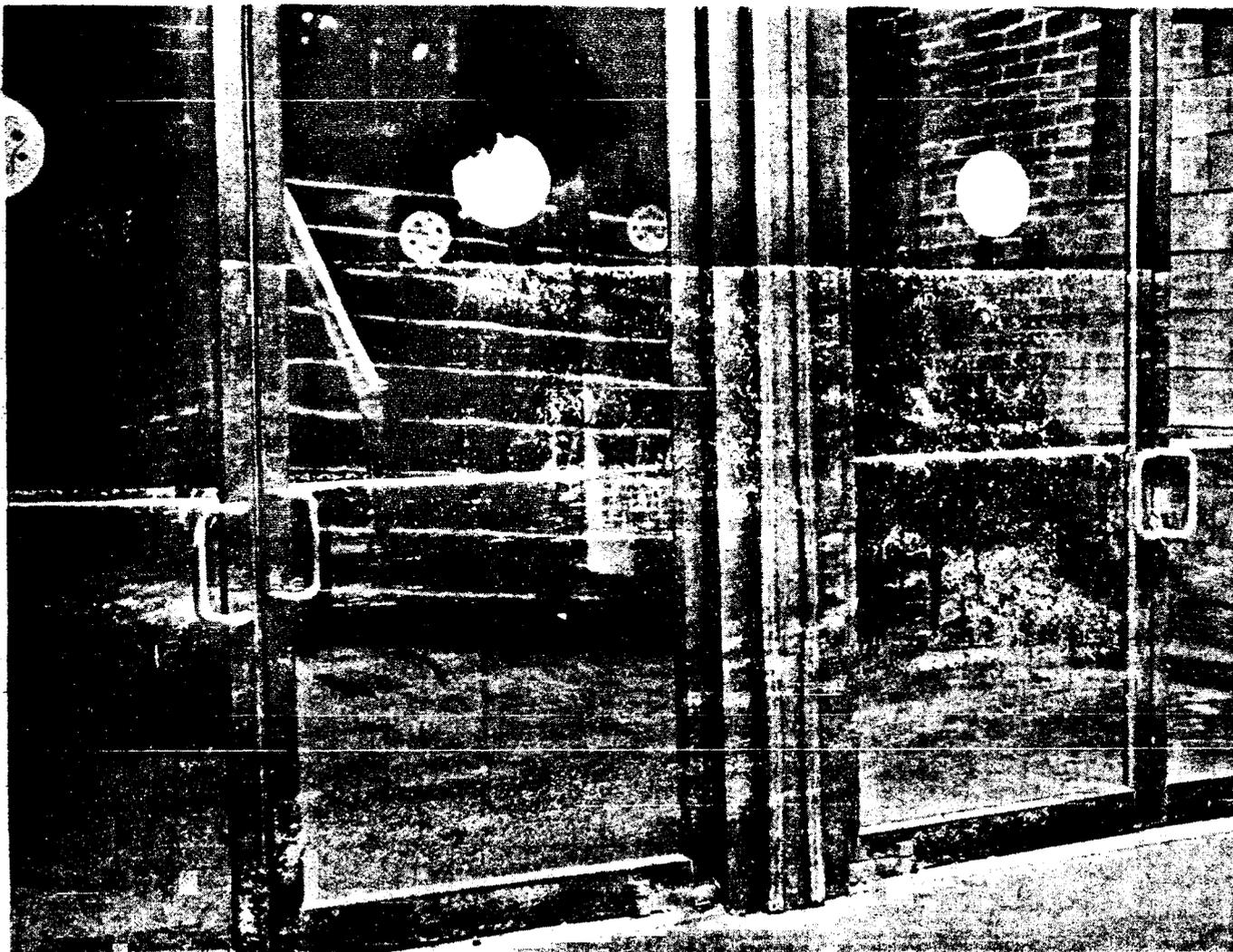
"When the door gave, the water just came pouring in" said one maintenance worker helping pump out the water. Most of the water was removed from the Graduate Physics building by noon yesterday.

Campus roadways were flooded with as much as four feet of water at the storm's peak at about 9 AM yesterday. South P-Lot, usually crowded on weekday mornings, was covered by one and a half feet of water, as many commuter students were arriving for class. In some low-lying areas, cars were stranded and abandoned until the waters subsided.

"The roadways have always been passable" said Public Safety Director Robert Cornute, adding that the only stranded vehicle complaints received by his office were in the morning.

University President John Toll had decided early yesterday not to close any campus buildings unless there was "imminent danger to life and property." after having conferred with campus Public Safety officials.

Notices posted on the Union entrances stated that the Union will reopen this morning at 8 AM.



GRADUATE PHYSICS BUILDING DOOR is marked with mud at the four-foot high water mark after flooding yesterday.

A Hard Rain Falls

The halls smell heavily of mildew, carpets squeak when people walk on them, and everywhere there are signs of what appears to be a small-scale disaster on campus. This time, however, the disaster is not man-made, but is a gift from nature. The Union, the Gymnasium, and portions of the library were rendered inoperative by an early morning torrential downpour. Flooding and electrical outages took their toll on many of the residents on campus. The results could not be called catastrophic on the whole, but individual incidents affecting particular-G and H Quads, caused a series of individual disasters in many of the colleges.

The rains came early yesterday morning, while most of the campus slept. There was a severe accompaniment of thunder and flashes of lightning which appeared to be in close proximity to many of the residential colleges, particularly those in Tabler Quad. One of those bolts of lightning actually hit the B wing side of Toscanini college. Rene Ghadimi, a resident of Toscanini B1, described it as such:

"I heard several claps of thunder followed by an even louder claps." When the noise subsided, he said he could hear the sound of the fire alarms, which had been set off by the lightning.

Rich Romanoff, the MA for B wing, suspected that the TV antennas were affected, because TV reception was "crummy," he said.

The main cause of problems, seems to be the flooding. Although electrical outages occurred in G and H quads, the Infirmary, and certain academic buildings where classes were being held at the time, life appeared to go on as normal, and very few operational functions were disrupted. But the massive rainfall still did it's damage.

Gray College was deluged by a flood of water. According to Tom Costello, the RA for Gray A3, the basement was completely flooded. "There were about thirty people in the basement bailing out the water", Costello said.

One of those people, Robert Blayer, RA for Gray C1, who was not wading in the water in his gym shorts, noticed that the Cominuter College was not affected because it was 130 steps higher than the rest of the basement, but that "the water was right up to the top of the steps" he said, adding "there were leaves which were washed down into the basement, and all types of debris floating around." Blayer and some others were attempting to shut off the power, for safety reasons, when somebody shut off the power for them. They were left standing in a foot or so of debris filled water until the emergency power came on.

In Ammann College the situation was no better. Kerry Giftos, a resident of Ammann A1 said that the halls were flooded with four inches of water, adding that "residents of the building wept the water into the bathroom in order to clear it out of the halls." On top of that, Giftos claimed that he saw a Volkswagon floating in the water outside.

All throughout the flooded portions residents struggled to keep the water from flowing to where it could cause more damage. Steve Lamel, a resident of A1, saw that at about 9:30 AM, the hall was flooded with ankle deep water outside of his room. Lamel immediately ran for towels and sticks to keep more water from seeping into his room. Although the end hall lounge of A1 was completely drenched and covered with silt and sewage, the hall residents were able to bail out most of the water within two hours. The only appreciable damage to the lounge was to a foam rubber couch and a shag rug, both of which were destroyed. According to Karen Goldsmith, the RA on Ammann A3: "The hall worked quickly to stop the flooding that was coming in through the ceiling." adding that "everyone pitched in." When the lights went out, Goldsmith immediately produced candles and flashlights in order to continue the mopping up.

In one of the worst hit colleges, O'Neill, Ken Livi, Kevin O'Mara, and Mitch Kaufman saw a wall of water outside their corridor door. The water exerted so much pressure that all attempts to stop the flooding from underneath the door failed, and the water gushed in anyway. O'Mara added that "everybody rushed like mad to save their and everybody else's stuff from being ruined", and that "everybody worked continuously together for three hours."

Kaufman noticed a geyser gushing out three feet into the air from a sewer nearby. The hall organized a bail-out line for the water.

The story in H quad was considerably better. Langmuir D1 reported that at about 9:30 AM the end hall lounge was under five inches of water. Residents also reported a Gremlin buried in three to four inches of mud. However, there was no major damage reported in either James or Benedict colleges.

All throughout G and H Quads, residents and maintenance crews could be seen struggling to clean up the mess left by the flooding. By day's end, it seemed that most of the clean up had been accomplished, and everyone settled down to wait for the new rains that were expected for the night to come.



WATER IN THE UNION BASEMENT forms a reflecting pool in front of the Statesman offices.

Statesman EXTRA

"Let Each Become Aware"

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This extra issue of Statesman has been printed in response to the crisis created when a sudden storm hit the University, flooding buildings and roads as well as doing a great deal of damage to the campus.

Statesman did not escape the effects of the storm itself. Currently there are two inches of water in our office preventing us from using any of our normal production equipment. We thank Dave Woods and the staff of University Relations for allowing us to use their typesetting equipment to bring you this issue.

The Statesman recruitment meeting originally scheduled for last night will take place Monday at 9 PM in the Statesman Newsroom, Room 059 in the Union.

The Statesman office will be closed today to allow us to dig out, and tomorrow in observance of Yom Kippur. Regular office hours will begin again Friday and we will begin our normal three weekly production schedule again with our Monday issue.

Because of the water damage only one Statesman phone line is operational. We can be reached on urgent business only at 246-3694.