Hurricane Isabel Creates Day Off for Students

Swimming in the five-foot-deep puddles, playing capture the flag, and sliding down muddy hills are not standard Friday morning activities on the EMU campus, but it's not very often that school is called off for a hurricane either.

Hurricane Isabel made landfall Thursday morning in North Carolina and made its way 300 miles northwest to Harrisonburg by late that night. According to the Daily News Record, sustained winds of 30 miles per hour left 200 local homes without power. But on campus it was mostly fun and games since school was cancelled due to the weather.

"At one in the morning, we were swimming in the big pond behind the science center," said junior Adam Patterson. "We were all really excited," said first-year Brenna Beck of her hall on Northlawn second. "We were running through all the puddles. It was really, really fun ... Then we took pictures of us all soaked."

Some took the opportunity of a three-day weekend to go home or take a trip. Junior Hanna Martin was one of those students. "I went to my grandparents' house in Pennsylvania and ate a lot of good food," she said.

Sophomore Joel Shradley left campus, too. "I went mudsliding behind the Science Center and ... went to see 'Five Iron' in Lynchburg. The roads were clear the whole way."

The storm had passed for the most part by noon on Friday, and the sky was clear. "I was kind of wondering why they canceled school," said junior Adam Patterson.

For others who would have needed to commute Friday morning, though, the decision to cancel school was a relief. Seminary student Rachelle Lyndaker Schlabach, who makes the drive from Harpers Ferry, said, "It's a good thing we didn't have class."

"A number of the houses on campus, like the rental properties owned off-campus apartments weren't so lucky."

"We had play practice Thursday and Friday," said Kurtz. "Residence Life duties were also expected to go on. Kauffman explained: 'We were all prepared with flashlights in the case of the electricity going out. It was pretty interesting."

"The decision to cancel classes was made by Interim President Beryl Brubaker, Undergraduate Academic Dean Marie Morris, and Physical Plant Director Eldon Kurtz. 'I was looking at things like weather patterns and what we might anticipate happening,' said Kurtz. 'We were concerned about classes not having power.'"

"The main campus didn't lose power at any point during the storm, but some of the EMU-owned off-campus apartments weren't so lucky."

"Other campus activities had to continue, though. 'The show must go on,' said junior Hosanna Goins. 'We had play practice Thursday and Friday.'"

\*See ISABEL pg. 3

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Viruses Worm Way Onto Campus

By Jason Garber
Web Editor

The EMU computer network has survived the latest wave of viruses that paralyzed other institutions, but Information Systems says more are sure to come.

Many students in recent weeks have been surprised to discover their network connections disabled by IS to help control the spread of several harmful viruses on the EMU network. Some 40 students have had their ports turned off since IS first noticed the viruses while performing some work on Sept. 9.

"We were building a computer for one of our projects and before we could complete the installation of Windows XP and apply the patches, it was being infected with the viruses," said Jack Rutt, Director of Information Systems. "We began scanning the network with a sniff tool to determine the source of the problem."

The cause was several dozen student computers infected with the Blaster and Nachi-A worms. Unlike ordinary viruses, worms don't require a medium like email or floppy disk to transmit themselves. They spread through open ports, network doorways into computer systems necessary for communication with the outside world. In finding other computers to infect, they create a high volume of network traffic—in some instances enough to bring the entire network to its knees.

"We fared really well, mostly thanks to our network capacity," said Rutt. "The gigabit connection handled the extra load that left some schools flat on their backs."

Because of the high threat the international virus outbreak posed, other universities had to take more drastic action. George Mason University disconnected all 3,600 students until technicians could check each computer and apply the appropriate fix. Massachusetts Institute of Technology, in an extreme attempt to control the worm, required students with infected computers to format their hard drives and reinstall the operating system. Many used the opportunity to install a non-

\*See WORMS pg. 2

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News Briefs

Poet, dramatist, musician, and writer David Brendan Hopes will speak on "The Poet and God" in chapel Friday, Sept. 26, at 10 a.m.

Homecoming Weekend festivities will begin Friday, Oct. 10 with Chapel Assembly in Lehman Auditorium at 10 a.m.

Students wishing to vote in the upcoming 2003 election can register to do so in the Campus Center all day this Friday, Sept. 26.

Tickets are now on sale for Godspell, which EMU Theater will perform at 7:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, Oct. 3-4 and 10-11; and 2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 5 and 12. Call the EMU Box Office at 432-4582.