

THE SUN



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SNOWBOUNDED

Governor declares emergency; up to 2 feet predicted



ELIZABETH MALBY: SUN STAFF

People help push a car out of a parking spot in Bolton Hill as other residents take to the street to get around, mirroring scenes across Baltimore.

Storm surpasses blizzard of '96; National Guard ferries doctors, patients

By JOHNATHON E. BRIGGS AND ANDREW A. GREEN
SUN STAFF

A snow storm threatening to become Maryland's worst paralyzed the state with a one-two punch of fast-falling snow and blustery winds that choked roads, grounded Baltimore-Washington International Airport and created waist-high snow drifts that made finding your car — let alone driving it — nearly impossible.

Gov. Robert L. Ehrlich Jr. declared a state of emergency, sending the National Guard into the streets aboard all-terrain Humvees to transport paramedics to accident scenes, doctors and nurses to hospitals, and dialysis patients to their appointments, said Maryland Emergency Management Agency spokesman Quentin Banks.

Hours after declaring a state of emergency, the governor escalated the state's snow response and ordered all nonemergency vehicles off of roads owned or maintained by the state overnight until 4 a.m., on penalty of a \$1,000 fine. Delaware officials made the same order earlier in the day.

The last time a governor declared a state of emergency was during the blizzard of 1996, which hammered states as far south as Kentucky; moved north to Philadel- [See Snow, 9A]

Point man in battle to keep streets clear

Plow: Armed with bottled water and fudge bars, Dave Heinle tries to maintain a sense of humor while he works.

By ERIKA NIEDOWSKI
SUN STAFF

Dave Heinle keeps bottled water and SlimFast fudge bars in a knapsack in his truck, and tunes the radio to classical music as he performs the most important job in the world to a snowed-in region: plowing the streets.

The 44-year-old from Edgewood has been clearing roads for the Baltimore County De-

partment of Public Works for 15 years, and he has a routine that works.

He doesn't eat anything heavy; otherwise he'll get sleepy. And the music relaxes him.

"You gotta keep your sense of humor when it gets like this," Heinle said yesterday while making his rounds in Rodgers Forge. "I used to let it get to me: 'When's it gonna stop?' Well, I can't make it stop. And I'm surely not going home."

When the snow is falling at a rate of 2 inches an hour, Heinle's job is to do what essentially can't be done: keep the roads clear. He makes several passes on streets that are deemed top-priority, or ranked "1's" in snow-plow speak. [See Plow, 6A]



ELIZABETH MALBY: SUN STAFF

Amory Strange shovels the walk outside his home in Bolton Hill. He usually volunteers to help shovel for neighbors in his building.

At BWI, grounded jets leave fliers frustrated

Travelers try to salvage trips, find place to sleep to avoid night in airport

By MARCIA MYERS AND LARRY WILLIAMS
SUN STAFF

Long rows of jets sat idle by Baltimore-Washington International Airport's loading piers yesterday afternoon as giant yellow plows and scoops darted back and forth like ungainly insects, building mountains of snow beside the taxiways.

Inside the terminal, the pace

was less frantic.

Banks of TV screens listed hundreds of flights CANCELED as airline service personnel leaned on counters and told war stories about how they fought their way to work.

Occasionally, a customer appeared, and they went back to work, rescheduling flights and seeking hotel rooms for frustrated travelers trying to salvage trips that threatened a night on airport benches.

In the Burger King and an adjacent public lounge, disheartened travelers stared glumly out the giant glass window walls at the swirling snow.

"I'm a dumb idiot," said Dr. John Keller, a pathologist at Montgomery General Hospital in Olney, as he described the odyssey that brought him from Olney to BWI.

The plan was to run a friend, Susan Jorgenson, up to the airport to catch [See Airport, 8A]

To our readers

Because of the storm, distribution of this morning's paper may be delayed. Home delivery subscribers of the Carroll County, Anne Arundel County and Howard County editions will receive a combined edition of *The Sun* today and tomorrow. We regret any inconvenience and will resume normal publication as soon as weather permits. Customer service phone lines will be open today from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call 410-539-1820 or 1-888-539-1280.



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INSIDE

Good news for your health

For the latest breakthroughs and cutting-edge research, look for the new Medicine & Science pages. [Pages 12A-13A]

Weather

Snow. High, 31; low, 28. Yesterday's downtown high, 22; low, 13. [Page 12B]

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SunSpot

The Sun on the Internet:
www.sunspot.net
The Sun's 167th Year: No. 48

NATO agrees to defense aid for Turkey

But confrontation likely at EU talks aimed to find common stand on Iraq

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BRUSSELS, Belgium — NATO agreed to end a damaging split yesterday over U.S. plans for war on Iraq that created the West's biggest rift since the Cold War, but European Union leaders faced a bruising summit today, with France showing no sign of backing down in its opposition.

The alliance of the United States and 15 other nations reached agreement late yesterday

More inside

Violence: Nine Palestinians are killed by an explosion and three by Israeli army fire on eve of new peace talks. [Page 10A]

day when France was shut out of talks after a month of wrangling. The other holdouts, Germany and Belgium, then dropped objections to begin planning to defend Turkey in the event of an attack by neighboring Iraq, NATO officials said. "Alliance solidarity has prevailed," NATO Secretary-General Lord Robertson said. "We have been able collectively to

overcome the impasse."

The United States wants NATO to send early warning aircraft, missile defenses and anti-biochemical units to Turkey in case Iraq attacks. Planning should be wrapped up quickly, and the alliance would be ready to make a decision on deployment of aid within a few days, a top official said.

After the breakthrough at NATO, France, Germany and Belgium issued a statement balancing their commitment to honor their defense obligations with their desire to disarm Iraq peacefully. The statement said that not all alternatives to military force had been "fully exploited." [See Iraq, 11A]

Transit today

- MTA bus and Metro subway service: May be canceled. Check www.mtamaryland.com.
- MARC train and commuter bus service: Canceled.
- Light rail: Running.
- Amtrak: Running with slight delays. Tracks south of Washington may be closed.
- Greyhound bus: Canceled until at least 9 a.m. Updates: 410-752-1393 or 410-633-6389.
- BWI Airport: May be closed. Call your airline or check www.bwiairport.com.