

# SNOW JOB

## Grounded by Winter Hog

Ground Hog could not see a shadow because of the blizzard conditions of heavy winds and light snow flakes that piled up more than 18 inches in suburban Chicago.

A civil emergency was declared throughout Northern Illinois as the winds drifted the heavy snow fall into impassable road conditions. Emergency crews could not guarantee any rescue for stranded motorists. An early afternoon work exodus turned into hours upon hours of time to get home.

Iconic Lake Shore Drive turned into a frozen parking lot where motorists were stranded throughout the night due to traffic accidents that snarled the exit ramps near Belmont and Fullerton. Motorists ran out of gas and had to abandon their vehicles which increased the log jam of frozen metal.

Other expressways were closed due to high winds and snow drifted pavement. The National Guard was called out early to help find and help people trapped in the elements.

This storm system will not be a record breaker but in certain respects a back breaker to some.

Public and private snow removal crews were out throughout the night fighting a losing battle against the



elements. At one point, around 11 p.m., a worker was dragging his snow blower down the middle of the suburban street as the sidewalks were too deep with snow. At the same time, the village had to use heavy construction front loaders to move and pile the snow into six foot cul-de-sac mountains.



### Daze Off

*What to do with an unexpected day off from work due to the fact that certain parts of driveways had bumper high drifts and the roads seemed iffy at best?*

IT IS TEDIOUS AT BEST.

*The local news stations have gone wall to wall with snow coverage. The routine Weatherman standing in the blinding conditions is par for the course. There has been little change in the "news" aspect of the blizzard since the 10 p.m. casts. The sunrise just confirmed the fact that the roads are isolated and snow packed, and producers are putting together highlight reels for the local Emmys.*

IS CABIN FEVER REAL?

*A few souls decided to attempt to shovel their driveways, but the winds kept pushing the tosses back into their faces. Another person decided to walk the neighborhood down the middle of the street. Brisk exercise against the howling wind. The furnace continues to pour dollars out the chimney as the temperatures will begin to drop to double digit below zero by night fall.*



At 4 a.m., private plows arrived to attempt to plow out driveways overblown with snow.



The winds were so fierce at times, that parts of buildings were blown a part. Portions of the Wrigley Field siding and press box roof were torn off by the blizzard winds. Clark and Addison Streets were closed to both automobile and foot traffic as a result of the damage.

The white out conditions continued throughout the night and into the early morning hours. By 9 a.m., the unofficial 6 a.m. snow total of 16 inches had expanded quickly to more than 17.1 inches with new snow fall.

As the night progressed, the gusts picked up and created massive drifts than engulfed SUVs and vans.

