Snowplows Keep East Campus Awake and Annoyed

Jenrette, From Page 4

ensure smooth running as you plow.
(b) Take out the plows immediately and try to get the area between Walker and the Great Sail clean.
(c) Wait until 4 a.m. and plow the area between Walker and the Sail, backing up whenever possible.

The answer, after applying the three commandments of phys-plant, is of course choice (c). If you answered this question correctly, you too can join the storied ranks of the Snowplow Drivers.

As the term wore on, we started having breaks between snowfalls and could actually see the grass again. When it did snow, it often warmed up enough to melt what little fell. The snowplow drivers, for lack of anything better to do, started other, equally useful tasks. One example: digging a hole outside of East Campus, creating a ruckus in the process, and then putting cones around it — all before noon. Perhaps they thought that the residents of East Campus missed the oh-so-soothing sound of metal scraping concrete at seven in the morning, and decided to give us all a special encore. Fortunately for us (and the pavement of McDermott Court), the scraping resumed.

Now the snowplow drivers, seeing the end of winter a paltry eight weeks away, decided to spend as much quality time plowing as possible. A fellow resident awoke one morning to find the plows going even though all of the snow had melted. After calling to complain, he was informed that Physical Plant was plowing to remove any stray patches of ice that might “damage the equipment” before the next snowfall, scheduled for that night (which subsequently turned into slush). Now I am not as knowledgeable about snowplow care as phys-plant workers, but it seems to me that scraping the blade against dry pavement would be, well, bad for the plow.

I have reached the end of my sordid tale, wondering what the future holds for East Campus and the snowplows, what new boundary of stupidity will be broken. Just this past morning, as I was ending my first all-nighter of the term, I heard the familiar incessant beeping of the plow coupled with the requisite scraping. There was no snow on the ground that morning, and I did not even look to see what the plow was doing — I did not want to know. I can only be thankful that the city of Boston doesn’t adhere to the creed of the Physical Plant. I tremble to think what horrors would await us on snowy mornings, where the parking lot of the local Dunkin’ Donuts is scraped as clean as a whistle while Massachusetts Avenue lies under a foot of snow, waiting for the traffic to trample it down.

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