Well, last week-end we finally received some much needed rain. However, it came with lots of thunder and lightning. Unfortunately, the telephone service at JSU was the recipient of some of that lightning. I did not have ANY office phone service on Monday. Then, service was sporadic and frustrating. After Marva, the Dean's secretary called me on Tuesday, both our phones would ring but no one placed a call and we could not talk to each other. Tracy's phone decided that no matter whom she dialed, it would ring her home phone. It was not until 2:30 on THURSDAY AFTERNOON that we could make ANY long distance calls.

Of course, this is the last week to purchase computer equipment, some grant applications were due and it was the end of the month. It was not a convenient time to be without phone service. I am uncertain why the phones were not repaired on Monday. Surely telephone equipment is pretty standard and few replacement parts were all that they needed. Maybe instead of complaining I could try taking a week off from teaching and tell the Dean that I was waiting for replacement lectures after I was struck by lightning. Somehow I don't think the Dean would buy it.

-- Lou

**Department News**

**Lock-down Drill**

JSU is holding an announced lock-down drill on Friday morning (30 July). This is in the event of a shooter on campus. We would all like to believe that it would never happen at JSU—but who would have predicted the shooting at Huntsville. Although I expect and hope that we never have to go through a lock-down, it is good to figure out how it could be accomplished.

**Graduation on Friday 6 August**

Please let Tracy know if you can attend graduation on Friday 6 August at 7:30 PM in Paul Snow Stadium. There is the usual reception honoring the speaker at Gamecock Center preceding the commencemnt, and loaner regalia is available if you need it.

**Get Notified for Campus Emergencies**

If you want to be on the JSU Emergency Alert System, please follow these steps:

1. Go to [www.jsu.edu](http://www.jsu.edu)
2. Click on MyJSU and log into your account
3. Look under Featured Links (far left column)
4. Under Banner Links, click on Self Service Banner
5. Click on Personal Information
6. Click on Update Addresses and Phones
7. Look for Mailing Address. Next to mailing is Phones
8. Under phones click on Primary (in blue)
9. Enter today’s date in the valid from this date tab
10. Scroll down to Phone Type
11. Click on the pull down tab next to the first Select and choose cell phone (You MUST select cell phone to be notified)
12. Now enter the phone number that you would like to have called during an emergency. Even though you chose cell phone, you can put any phone number you wish in here. For instance, if you have no cell service in the building you might want to list your office number. You can have multiple “cell phones” listed, too. So, it will try to call you office, your home and your cell phone, if you want!
13. Click Submit
14. The number you provided under cell phone will be number called during tornado warnings and other life threatening emergencies.

Police Chief Giddy stated that nearly everyone at Auburn opted OFF the system after they received too many warnings. He said he would not make the same mistake. He promised the notification would only be for EMERGENCIES. You can, by the way, go in and remove the cell phone number if you feel the service is not helpful.

University News

Phone Service is Repaired.

Degenerate States

Things to Ponder (continuing from last week)
1. Why do people pay to go up tall buildings and then put money in binoculars to look at things on the ground?
2. How come the US chooses from two people for President but fifty for Miss America?
3. If an emergency operator has a heart attack, whom does she call?
4. If the world didn’t suck, would we all fall off?
5. At exercise class I was told to wear loose-fitting clothing. If I’d had any, I wouldn’t have signed up!
6. It would be nice if, whenever we messed up, we could press ‘Ctrl Alt Delete’ and start over again.
7. Stress is when you wake up screaming and then realize you haven’t fallen asleep yet.
8. If raising children was going to be easy, it never would have started with labor!
10. Why do we say something is out of whack? What is a whack?

Contact Details

If you have items of news or interest that you would like included in the Department of Physical and Earth Sciences newsletter, then contact Tracy Casey before noon on Thursdays at: tscasey@jsu.edu or phone (256) 782-5232.