

4-22-74

Members of the college community,

I will greatly appreciate it if you will take time before details slip away to write down what you (and your family) were doing at 3:51 p.m. on April 3rd, what damage the tornado did to your property, any unusual incidents connected with the tornado and its aftermath you were involved in or observed, and any personal reactions to the tragedy. We believe that this material should form part of the historical record of this day which now joins July 4, 1837 (tornado) and December 19, 1941 (Classic Hall fire) as Hanover's third major disaster. I plan to use some of the material in an extended spread in THE HANOVERIAN and possibly as background for a somewhat more ambitious publishing project. Please check below the appropriate permission and then sign and date the sheet. You may, of course, attach other sheets of data if you wish. And do you mind dropping off your contribution to the information desk in the Ad. Bldg. or put it in the campus mail addressed to me? Sometime this week hopefully?

Frank Baker

I was asleep in the rack room on the 3rd floor of the Phi Mu House right before the tornado hit. My roommate, Sandy Schwarz, was also taking a nap. We both awoke at the same time and looked out the window and saw the Tornado at the Theta House. It was dark grey and all kinds of paper and other objects were flying around in the air. We both jumped from our top bunk beds and ran to the stairwell. We got right inside the stairwell when the Tornado hit. We stood in the corner outside the door and held onto each other. ^{Two} Glass window broke and glass, desk, and other junk hit us in the back. We just screamed and held onto each other not realizing what was really happening. As soon as glass stopped breaking and the wind stopped roaring we frantically made our way downstairs. Our mouths were full of glass and dirt. There was glass everywhere and our legs were bleeding from small cuts from the glass. We stepped over debris of all kinds as we made our way to the basement. It didn't really hit me that it was so bad until I looked out the side door of the house and looked up at where our ~~door~~ →

☐ This material is not to be used for publication in any form but only as historical record material to be housed in the college archives.

☐ This material may be used for publication as long as my name or the names of my family are not used.

☒ This material may be published without restriction.

Signed Patti Hopkins

Date April 24, 1974

Room (my roommate and I lived on the 3rd floor) was, only to see a few bricks. We lost many of our possessions and were in a state of shock for some time but are thankful to be alive. Escaping from near death places a great de emphasis on material possessions. B I still shudder each time when I look at the Phi Mu House and see it in such shambles. And I thank God when I see the survivors still standing.