



Celebrating RESTORATION

Ten years after a devastating tornado, Austin Peay State University and the city of Clarksville reflect on the dawn of destruction and the determination during recovery that restored the community.

“Through it all, was the **indomitable spirit** of the students, faculty and administration that **gave us the impetus** to quickly adapt to the situation and maintain our **educational goals** in the face of what was one of Austin Peay State University’s most **extraordinary challenges.**”

— Dr. Joe Filippo, former Assistant Vice President for
Academic Affairs and professor emeritus of Communication
and Theatre

The voice of Austin Peay State University students since 1929

Jan. 21, 2009

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the **all**state

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This is the front page of *The All State* from the Feb. 10, 1999 issue. The inside featured Meredith Gildrie as Educator of the Year, photo spreads of the damage on campus and an African American Male Museum exhibit.

THE ALL STATE

is not an official publication of Austin Peay State University. The views herein do not necessarily reflect those of *The All State*, Austin Peay State University or the Tennessee Board of Regents

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**On the cover**

Stephanie Martin, staff photographer, shot the cover illustration for *The All State Special Edition: Celebrating Restoration*. The contributed photo below shows what Browning looked like after the tornado blew off the spire.

**SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS**

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The All State would like to thank everyone who helped with this *Special Edition: Celebrating Restoration*. Whether it was by contributing photos, writing personal reflections or by simply providing us with contact information, this special edition would not be possible without your support.

— *The All State*

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Rare Bösendorfer Imperial Grand piano flooded during tornado..... page 11

Operation Restoration..... page 12



The tornado that ripped through Clarksville not only hit the APSU campus but also destroyed much of downtown Clarksville.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

“Tornadoes kill 8, hit historic areas in Ark., Tenn.”

from *The State* of Columbia, South Carolina, January 23, 1999

“Cruel winds tear heart of Clarksville”

“Austin Peay is ravaged by storm”

from *The Kentucky New Era*, January 23, 1999

“Giving thanks amid loss”

from *The Tennessean*, January 25, 1999

“Cleanup gathers strength”

from *The Leaf-Chronicle*, January 25, 1999

“Volunteers ready, willing;

Huge clean-up effort planned for Saturday”

from *The Leaf-Chronicle*, January 27, 1999

**“Action plan taking shape; sights
set on speedy recovery”**

from *The Leaf-Chronicle*, January 30, 1999

“Clock tower found; school’s landmark still ticking”

from *The Leaf-Chronicle*, February 5, 1999



COURTESY OF THE LEAF-CHRONICLE

Though the tornado damaged their office, staff members of The Leaf-Chronicle worked from employee's homes and other available space to produce the January 23 edition, which was printed by the Kentucky New Era.

**“3,000 join forces; ‘huge dent’
made in tornado recovery”**

from *The Leaf-Chronicle*, January 31, 1999

January 22, 1999

Dawn of destruction

By MARLON SCOTT
Editor in Chief

Before sunrise on Friday, January 22, 1999, 10 years ago, a tornado rearranged the face of downtown Clarksville and the APSU community. Afterwards, the tornado was classified as an F3.

A tornado classified as an F3 on the Fujita Tornado Damage Scale is described as producing severe damage: Roofs and some walls torn off well-constructed homes; trains overturned; most trees in forests uprooted; heavy cars lifted off the ground and thrown (www.spc.noaa.gov).

In a survey of the tornado posted at www.srh.noaa.gov, the tornado is documented to have been on the ground from 4:15 to 4:20 a.m., creating a path of destruction 4.3 miles long and 880 yards wide. The property damage was estimated at \$72.7 million.

In both national and local newspapers, pictures of buildings that appear to have been bombed accompanied dramatic headlines. Every story written on that day listed the trees thrown, windows shattered and roofs

obliterated like an extensive bill someone was tallying for Mother Nature. However, the numbers and scientific observations do not adequately tell the story of this horrifying morning and the subsequent recovery that brought the Clarksville community together.

The full impact of this unforgettable morning is best told by those who huddled in bathtubs and closets, listening to radios. The vivid images of the 124 buildings destroyed and more 500 buildings damaged (including 22 at APSU) were captured by the people of Clarksville who stumbled, shocked, through the rubble. Miraculously, while cars were tossed like toys and thick trees snapped like toothpicks, no one was killed, and few were hurt. It was a small consolation as parts of Clarksville lay in ruins.

For this special edition, we prodded the memories of the people who were there 10 years ago. We collected information from a wide variety of helpful people who were students, faculty and staff at the time. With their words and pictures, this edition was compiled to tell the stories that unfolded on a dawn filled with destruction. ♦



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE TENNESSEAN

The tornado left a path of destruction in its wake that included parts of downtown Clarksville, including many historical buildings.

By the numbers . . .

The **F3** tornado that touched down in the Clarksville area on **January 22, 1999**, was on the ground for only **5 minutes**.

It created a path of destruction that was **4.3 miles long** and **880 yards wide**.

Wind speeds were estimated at more than **200 miles per hour**.

In all, **124 buildings** were destroyed and **562** more were damaged -- **22** of them at APSU.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Shattered trees littered the APSU campus after the tornado, though a number of landmarks were untouched.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The main entrance to the APSU campus, on College Street, was damaged by winds and debris.

Across campus, more than **130 trees** were uprooted.

Damages caused by the tornado were estimated to be **\$72.7 million** or more.

Students returned to residence halls just **4 days** after the tornado struck, and classes resumed after **5 days**.

"I didn't recognize anything for a while . . ."

A Personal Account By
CHARLES B. WALL

I was one of the early responders the morning of the tornado. One of my staff members at the time, Darek Manley, lived in an apartment complex on Dunbar Cave Road. His mother who lives in Dickson had called him to say there was a tornado warning in effect for Clarksville. He decided he would be safer on campus in the computer center than in the apartment. He made it to College Street in front of the McCord Building before the tornado hit. He was able to get out of his car, collect a lady who was in another car near him on College Street and make his way into the basement of the Browning Building.

I was in the basement of my home near Dunbar Cave when I received a telephone call from Darek telling me the tornado had struck campus. After finding out that both he and the lady he had brought into the building with him were physically OK, although mentally shaken, I came to campus. (An interesting side note, when Darek and the lady went to find their cars, which they had left in the middle of College Street, Darek's had been blown up on the sidewalk and a street sign was impaled through the driver's seat into the steering wheel of the lady's car. It is good Darek talked her into leaving her car and coming inside with him!)

As I drove down College Street toward campus, there were no streetlights. Debris littered the street and there was no other traffic. I dodged limbs, wood, glass, metal, etc as best I could and made it to the McCord parking lot where I parked. I went first to the computer room and talked to Darek. There was no electrical power on campus. Mark Davis, our telecommunications manager at the time, arrived shortly. He and I decided to walk to the Shasteen building, where the campus Emergency Operation Center would be activated, and see if we could get a generator in place to power our emergency telephone switch that was located in Browning. The main switch located in the Browning building had battery backup but would not operate much beyond four hours if the commercial power was not restored.

On our way to Shasteen, we passed Physical Plant workers who had come in and campus police officers who were tending their duties. Once we made arrangements for powering the emergency telephone switch, I decided to come back to Browning. I rode with one of the campus police officers to the McCord lot. As I got out of the police car, the sun was just coming up so I could actually see the devastation. I looked across College Street to the south. I had lived in Clarksville all of my life and knew what things should look like from that view but nothing looked right! I didn't



STEPHANIE MARTIN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**Charles B. Wall, Director of
Information Technology**

recognize anything for a while until I realized that many of the buildings I would have seen the day before were damaged or destroyed. That was a strange sensation. As I think back on the image, it seemed like a scene of mass destruction in a science-fiction movie.

As I walked back toward Browning, I met a project manager from TBR who was on campus for a meeting that morning to turn the Ziegler building over to a demolition contractor. Both Ziegler and the old University Center were to be demolished to make room for the current University Center. Since it was now daylight, he and I decided to walk around campus to see the extent of the damage. As we walked around Browning, we could see the roof was gone on the Clement building as well as Harned Hall, and much of the roof on Harvill Hall was missing. Trees were mangled all over campus and there was debris everywhere. The most disturbing memory I have is of the dead birds and squirrels lying on the streets and sidewalks. At that time, there was a line of pine trees between Claxton and Archwood. A large number of birds used those trees as a roost and were destroyed along with the trees when the tornado came through.

By daylight, police had stopped access to downtown, and it was difficult for our staff to get into work. The Information Technology staff who were able to get to campus spent the day removing computer equipment from the damaged buildings. It was raining, but the temperature was warm for January and we were able to work in light jackets. Around mid-morning, I received a cell phone call from a friend in IT at TBR who wanted to know what he could do to help. He knew we were scheduled to produce W2 tax forms that day. I told him the computer center was undamaged

but had no electrical power and it didn't look like we would get power for several days. He said he would take care of that. A short while later he called back and said a generator was on the way. He was a member of the Tennessee National Guard and by dark, we had a generator in place along with a National Guard crew who kept it fueled and running. We produced the W2s the next morning and got e-mail as well as the Web site operational. As TEMA arrived and formal meetings began to occur with all affected agencies, I think they were surprised to learn we already had a generator.

I talked several times during the day with my wife to find out how friends and family had fared. It was several days before I had an opportunity to get to our family farm to see if there was any damage there. Fortunately, there was not. We ate what we could find in the way of snacks that first day. I went to move my car around noon and discovered I had a flat tire. No surprise there! Folks who were leaving campus were having trouble getting back due to the roadblocks. Someone who did get in brought me a can of Fix-A-Flat and I used that to temporarily repair my tire when I left campus. I went to Sears to have the tire repaired; it was the only place I found that was open and they were closing shortly after I got

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There were lots of volunteers to help clean up the campus including students, faculty, staff, and community members. Some were discouraged because they wanted to help but they could not get into the area to do so. Difficult tasks seemed to be protecting property from vandals and protecting those who wanted to help from possible harm due to unsafe conditions. ♦



COURTESY OF THE APSU OFFICE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS AND MARKETING
Darek Manley's car, which had been parked on College Street, was blown onto the sidewalk.

“Everyone . . . wanted things to be right again”

A Personal Account By
DEBORAH SHEARON

On January 22, 1999, I reached the intersection of College and 9th at approximately 7:30 a.m. Not knowing the extent of the damage on campus, I was a little surprised when I was stopped a block from campus by a Clarksville police officer.

The streets leading to campus were all blocked by police. I told the officer that I worked on campus and was told no one was being allowed on campus at that time. When I told him I worked in the Physical Plant and that we were essential employees, he allowed me to pass.

Driving down Eighth Street, turning on Marion and heading behind the stadium to reach the Shasteen Building, I did not see much damage. Upon arriving at the Shasteen Building I learned the campus had received damage but at that time no one knew to what extent.

There was no electricity on campus and therefore we had no telephones. Luckily most of us had cell phones so we were able to communicate. Not everyone from the Physical Plant made it onto campus. Some were turned away by the Clarksville Police and some never ventured from their homes.

The director of Purchasing at that time was Nate Siegel (not sure of the spelling of his last name) and the director of the Physical Plant was Bill Taylor. The workers in the Physical Plant went to work quickly. The men in the trades were sent out on campus to help in any way they could. The number one concern was to make sure that no students had been injured.

Joe Mills, director of Housing, and Jennifer Menningal, vice president of Student Affairs, were also in action, checking on students and calming everyone down. As one of the only office workers who were able to get on campus, Mr. Siegel and I spent the day contacting TEMA and FEMA, ordering generators, getting supplies and making whatever outside contacts we could.

It was late in the afternoon before I was able to break away and walk around campus. It was amazing the damage that had been done in just a matter of a few minutes.

From the front of campus, on College Street, one could see all of the broken windows in McCord, Browning and Clement. I cannot remember all of the damage but there are a few things I can still picture. One was the large piece of wood sticking out of the side of the Kimbrough Building. It looked as if someone had taken a 2x4 and driven it into the brick. It



PATRICK ARMSTRONG/MANAGING EDITOR
**Deborah Shearon, secretary,
College of Arts and Letters**

is hard to imagine that wind can do that.

The other thing was the Ag bus had been picked up and flown into the grassy area behind the Marks building. The worst thing to me though was all of the beautiful trees that had been in the middle of campus, in what we all call the Bowls. All of the old trees were uprooted and lay destroyed all over the campus. Harned Hall was missing its roof through the middle of the building. (We do have a before and after picture hanging in the hallway on the first floor)

The next day we were able to get generators set up in the Shasteen Building so that we had electricity and phone service. Things were very crazy there. Everyone was working long hours and doing jobs that were not normally their job. A few days later the typical January weather was back. This made cleaning up a task.

Over the next few weeks everyone on campus worked very hard to get things back to normal. I think everyone really took ownership in the campus and wanted things to be right again. Student Affairs put students who had lived in the dorms and did not go home up in hotels around town. Physical Plant employees, including myself at times, drove students back and forth from the hotels to campus.

It took several months for things to look normal again. It took several more years for things to be right. Even after buildings are repaired and trees are cleared, the paperwork for such a tragedy goes on for a long time. Our campus once again is beautiful but I am sure most would agree the center of campus will not be the same for years. The beautiful old trees that lined the bowls cannot be replaced. ♦



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Fallen trees and debris littered the front lawn of Browning, which lost its bell tower during the storm.

“The campus came together”

A Personal Account By
RET. LIEUTENANT LORIS ELLSWORTH

It doesn't seem like it has been ten years since that morning.

At that time I was the Operations Supervisor Lieutenant with the Austin Peay Campus Police. I was off duty and when I was notified by the on duty sergeant, Sgt. Mackin, that the university had sustained damage from a tornado. I responded, as did other off duty officers, to the campus and assisted with evacuating the residence halls and securing the campus. The university had a report of only one injury. That

incident occurred when we were evacuating the students from the Sevier/Blount area.

No words can fully describe what the campus looked like; there is no way to explain the damage we witnessed. A great amount of credit should go to Student Affairs, which was under Dr. Jennifer Menningal. The administration did an outstanding job getting housing for students and for the continuation of classes within the week. Campus Police received assistance from the Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency in securing the campus. The campus came together to assist in the clean up which followed. ♦

“. . . losses and destruction”

A Personal Account By
BARBARA PHILLIPS

My memories of the 1999 tornado include the devastating damages throughout the path of the tornado, in Clarksville and on the APSU campus; the destruction of many buildings; the loss of belongings by students, faculty and staff; the destruction all over the campus; and all the emotions expressing the losses and destruction.

On the other hand, I saw many positive results of the tornado -- the quick response of the Residence Life staff to the tornado predictions; the many students, staff, faculty and local residents who assisted in the clean-up process and helping

to feed people who were living and working there; the many students who collected personal items, books and supplies and then distributed them to those who lost their belongings in the tornado; the entire staff of Student Affairs, who spent numerous hours helping students to relocate temporarily to local hotels, responding to family members who wanted to know that their children were safe, assisting students in their adjustment to the many changes to class locations for the semester because of the closing of several buildings, and their constant support to those who were suffering emotionally from all the loss and destruction.

What memories! ♦

Mills, first on the scene



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Above: A large tree crushing a car is just one of many examples of destruction resulting from the tornado.
Below: Winds drove wood into the side of the APSU Music/Mass Communications building.

A Personal Account By
JOE MILLS

I got here probably about 4:30-4:35, right after it had happened. I think the two things that I remember the most were it was dark. There was not a light anywhere. The only lights were coming off my truck.

When I got out of the truck, it was the most silent, noiseless situation I have ever been in. It wasn't windy. There were no birds; there were no people outside; there wasn't traffic.



**Joe
Mills**

It was just eerily silent.

When I walked up to Harvill, it was still dark at that point in time and I couldn't see what was around. My concern was making sure the students were okay.

When I opened up the lobby door, all of the students from Harvill, including all the housing staff were all down in the lobby. I remember because they had the emergency lights on and I had just taken a flashlight and I have never seen a group of more scared kids in my life.

We walked upstairs to see what the

damage was. It basically ripped about half the roof off that building. On the top floor there in Harvill, you could actually stand in those rooms, look up and see the stars.

I remember one of the craziest things I saw. There was a piece of board that was stuck in the side of Music Mass Comm. That was crazy, just stuck right in the brick.

I think I was one of the very first people on campus. What was really kind of weird was that driving up, when I came off Riverside Dr. and came up Marion Street, like I said there was not a light to be found. I didn't start seeing garbage until I started getting down where the new rec center is now and up towards Harvill. I've never seen so much garbage: bricks and boards.

One really goofy thing was, as you drive down that road in front of Harvill, they have a kind of parallel parking. All the cars were exactly opposite the way they should have been. It was the weirdest thing I have ever seen.

There were two cars stacked on top

one another. But they all got shifted exactly the other way and all just crammed right up against one another. Every one of them got turned. There were probably 25 cars that parked right there.

When the whole thing got over with, I

think the thing I think about all the time is the fact that when we got everybody evacuated out of housing, we had no student injuries.

The one thing that was thankful was the fact that it happened about 4:20 in the morning. If it happened in the middle of the day, there is

no telling what would have happened. People out on campus walking around, doing all that kind of stuff, so I felt very lucky.

I think it was a great reminder for us of why we do our drills and why we have our floor meetings. I was really proud of housing staff and the fact we were able to get everybody evacuated and get everyone to a lower level basically with no injuries. I hope we never go through it again. ♦

**"I think I was one of
the very first people
on campus."**

**Joe Mills, director of
Housing and Residence Life**



Jones awakened on campus that morning



PATRICK ARMSTRONG//MANAGING EDITOR

Jones reminisces about the tornado in front of her old dorm.

A Personal Account By
JASMINE JONES

I was a freshman living in Sevier Hall when the tornado hit campus in 1999. My friends and I had just returned from a basketball game at UT Martin. They thought the bad weather was heading there, so we tried to get home as fast as we could to avoid it.

About 4:15 a.m. we started hearing several voices in the hallway. When we opened our door my RA was yelling, "Get downstairs! Get downstairs!" We really didn't know what was going on, so we just did as we were told.

A group of us were sitting in the lobby watching the weather report when the front door blew open and one of the campus policewomen was flying from the hinge. Well, of course, this scared us to death and we all ran into the hallway.

I could hear the rumbling and then we heard glass from the stairwell windows blowing out.

Just as soon as we thought it was over, the girls from Blount Hall

were brought over and we were told to take cover again because another one was heading our way.

About 7 a.m. that morning Joe Mills came in to give us a report of what had taken place. I think everyone's mouths dropped when he told us about the damage. I think the most memorable thing is when he told us that the little Ag bus that was located behind the old UC had flown over Blount and landed in the trees behind Marks.

We were then informed to get dressed and head to the Dunn Center. I remember walking out of Sevier and thinking I had entered a war zone. I couldn't believe the damage that I saw to our beautiful campus.

All of the big trees that used to surround the walkways were uprooted. Harned was completely gutted and the top of Browning was sitting in

one of the Bowls. People's cars were sitting on top of one another. But, I think the most heartbreaking sight was when we looked over and saw Harvill's roof completely gone and

knowing that there were students in there.

Luckily, no one was injured that day. When we were finally able to use the phone I called home and my mom informed me that my house had been like a telephone

switchboard all morning. She had been awakened around 5 a.m. by my aunt in Nashville asking how I was doing. Of course she had no idea that the campus had been hit until that phone call.

Being the "Daddy's girl" that I am, my dad told me to go pack a bag and he was coming to get me! Needless to say, that is a day that I will never be able to get out of my mind. ♦

"I remember walking out of Sevier and thinking I had entered a war zone"

Jasmine Jones



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE APSU OFFICE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS AND MARKETING

Above: A bus was thrown into some trees by the tornado.
Below: The bus left a trail of fallen trees in its wake.



"I didn't recognize anything for a while . . ."

A Personal Account By
CHARLES B. WALL

I was one of the early responders the morning of the tornado. One of my staff members at the time, Darek Manley, lived in an apartment complex on Dunbar Cave Road. His mother who lives in Dickson had called him to say there was a tornado warning in effect for Clarksville. He decided he would be safer on campus in the computer center than in the apartment. He made it to College Street in front of the McCord Building before the tornado hit. He was able to get out of his car, collect a lady who was in another car near him on College Street and make his way into the basement of the Browning Building.

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As I drove down College Street toward campus, there were no streetlights. Debris littered the street and there was no other traffic. I dodged limbs, wood, glass, metal, etc as best I could and made it to the McCord parking lot where I parked. I went first to the computer room and talked to Darek. There was no electrical power on campus. Mark Davis, our telecommunications manager at the time, arrived shortly. He and I decided to walk to the Shasteen building, where the campus Emergency Operation Center would be activated, and see if we could get a generator in place to power our emergency telephone switch that was located in Browning. The main switch located in the Browning building had battery backup but would not operate much beyond four hours if the commercial power was not restored.

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STEPHANIE MARTIN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**Charles B. Wall, Director of
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As I walked back toward Browning, I met a project manager from TBR who was on campus for a meeting that morning to turn the Ziegler building over to a demolition contractor. Both Ziegler and the old University Center were to be demolished to make room for the current University Center. Since it was now daylight, he and I decided to walk around campus to see the extent of the damage. As we walked around Browning, we could see the roof was gone on the Clement building as well as Harned Hall, and much of the roof on Harvill Hall was missing. Trees were mangled all over campus and there was debris everywhere. The most disturbing memory I have is of the dead birds and squirrels lying on the streets and sidewalks. At that time, there was a line of pine trees between Claxton and Archwood. A large number of birds used those trees as a roost and were destroyed along with the trees when the tornado came through.

By daylight, police had stopped access to downtown, and it was difficult for our staff to get into work. The Information Technology staff who were able to get to campus spent the day removing computer equipment from the damaged buildings. It was raining, but the temperature was warm for January and we were able to work in light jackets. Around mid-morning, I received a cell phone call from a friend in IT at TBR who wanted to know what he could do to help. He knew we were scheduled to produce W2 tax forms that day. I told him the computer center was undamaged

but had no electrical power and it didn't look like we would get power for several days. He said he would take care of that. A short while later he called back and said a generator was on the way. He was a member of the Tennessee National Guard and by dark, we had a generator in place along with a National Guard crew who kept it fueled and running. We produced the W2s the next morning and got e-mail as well as the Web site operational. As TEMA arrived and formal meetings began to occur with all affected agencies, I think they were surprised to learn we already had a generator.

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“Everyone . . . wanted things to be right again”

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DEBORAH SHEARON

On January 22, 1999, I reached the intersection of College and 9th at approximately 7:30 a.m. Not knowing the extent of the damage on campus, I was a little surprised when I was stopped a block from campus by a Clarksville police officer.

The streets leading to campus were all blocked by police. I told the officer that I worked on campus and was told no one was being allowed on campus at that time. When I told him I worked in the Physical Plant and that we were essential employees, he allowed me to pass.

Driving down Eighth Street, turning on Marion and heading behind the stadium to reach the Shasteen Building, I did not see much damage. Upon arriving at the Shasteen Building I learned the campus had received damage but at that time no one knew to what extent.

There was no electricity on campus and therefore we had no telephones. Luckily most of us had cell phones so we were able to communicate. Not everyone from the Physical Plant made it onto campus. Some were turned away by the Clarksville Police and some never ventured from their homes.

The director of Purchasing at that time was Nate Siegel (not sure of the spelling of his last name) and the director of the Physical Plant was Bill Taylor. The workers in the Physical Plant went to work quickly. The men in the trades were sent out on campus to help in any way they could. The number one concern was to make sure that no students had been injured.

Joe Mills, director of Housing, and Jennifer Menningal, vice president of Student Affairs, were also in action, checking on students and calming everyone down. As one of the only office workers who were able to get on campus, Mr. Siegel and I spent the day contacting TEMA and FEMA, ordering generators, getting supplies and making whatever outside contacts we could.

It was late in the afternoon before I was able to break away and walk around campus. It was amazing the damage that had been done in just a matter of a few minutes.

From the front of campus, on College Street, one could see all of the broken windows in McCord, Browning and Clement. I cannot remember all of the damage but there are a few things I can still picture. One was the large piece of wood sticking out of the side of the Kimbrough Building. It looked as if someone had taken a 2x4 and driven it into the brick. It



PATRICK ARMSTRONG/MANAGING EDITOR
**Deborah Shearon, secretary,
College of Arts and Letters**

is hard to imagine that wind can do that.

The other thing was the Ag bus had been picked up and flown into the grassy area behind the Marks building. The worst thing to me though was all of the beautiful trees that had been in the middle of campus, in what we all call the Bowls. All of the old trees were uprooted and lay destroyed all over the campus. Harned Hall was missing its roof through the middle of the building. (We do have a before and after picture hanging in the hallway on the first floor)

The next day we were able to get generators set up in the Shasteen Building so that we had electricity and phone service. Things were very crazy there. Everyone was working long hours and doing jobs that were not normally their job. A few days later the typical January weather was back. This made cleaning up a task.

Over the next few weeks everyone on campus worked very hard to get things back to normal. I think everyone really took ownership in the campus and wanted things to be right again. Student Affairs put students who had lived in the dorms and did not go home up in hotels around town. Physical Plant employees, including myself at times, drove students back and forth from the hotels to campus.

It took several months for things to look normal again. It took several more years for things to be right. Even after buildings are repaired and trees are cleared, the paperwork for such a tragedy goes on for a long time. Our campus once again is beautiful but I am sure most would agree the center of campus will not be the same for years. The beautiful old trees that lined the bowls cannot be replaced. ♦



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Fallen trees and debris littered the front lawn of Browning, which lost its bell tower during the storm.

“The campus came together”

A Personal Account By
RET. LIEUTENANT LORIS ELLSWORTH

It doesn't seem like it has been ten years since that morning.

At that time I was the Operations Supervisor Lieutenant with the Austin Peay Campus Police. I was off duty and when I was notified by the on duty sergeant, Sgt. Mackin, that the university had sustained damage from a tornado. I responded, as did other off duty officers, to the campus and assisted with evacuating the residence halls and securing the campus. The university had a report of only one injury. That

incident occurred when we were evacuating the students from the Sevier/Blount area.

No words can fully describe what the campus looked like; there is no way to explain the damage we witnessed. A great amount of credit should go to Student Affairs, which was under Dr. Jennifer Menningal. The administration did an outstanding job getting housing for students and for the continuation of classes within the week. Campus Police received assistance from the Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency in securing the campus. The campus came together to assist in the clean up which followed. ♦

“. . . losses and destruction”

A Personal Account By
BARBARA PHILLIPS

My memories of the 1999 tornado include the devastating damages throughout the path of the tornado, in Clarksville and on the APSU campus; the destruction of many buildings; the loss of belongings by students, faculty and staff; the destruction all over the campus; and all the emotions expressing the losses and destruction.

On the other hand, I saw many positive results of the tornado -- the quick response of the Residence Life staff to the tornado predictions; the many students, staff, faculty and local residents who assisted in the clean-up process and helping

to feed people who were living and working there; the many students who collected personal items, books and supplies and then distributed them to those who lost their belongings in the tornado; the entire staff of Student Affairs, who spent numerous hours helping students to relocate temporarily to local hotels, responding to family members who wanted to know that their children were safe, assisting students in their adjustment to the many changes to class locations for the semester because of the closing of several buildings, and their constant support to those who were suffering emotionally from all the loss and destruction.

What memories! ♦



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE APSU OFFICE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS AND MARKETING

During the tornado, the sensors went off in the Music/Mass Communications building, unleashing water onto the stage and destroying a rare Bösendorfer Imperial Grand piano.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE APSU OFFICE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS AND MARKETING

Singers are accompanied by the Bösendorfer Imperial Grand piano.

Rare Bösendorfer Imperial Grand piano flooded during tornado

Faculty members traveled to Vienna, Austria to retrieve replacement

By **MARLON SCOTT**
Editor in Chief

Tales of the damage caused by the tornado were on the lips of astonished Clarksville community members for many years. Details spoken in awed voices ranged from images of buildings that appeared swatted by giants to cars that were impaled by large trees like spears.

Thomas King, an APSU music professor and co-artistic director at the American Institute of Musical Studies, told a unique story of loss and recovery that occurred as a direct result of the tornado.

Sitting on the stage in the concert hall of the Music/Mass Communications building on Friday, Jan. 22, 1999 was a rare Bösendorfer Imperial Grand piano. When the tornado touched down, wreaking havoc on campus, it set off sensors in the Music/Mass Communications building.

"The sensors in the building thought there was a fire," King said. "A fire means that all of the water on top of the stage gushes down to put the fire out. We have really hot theatre lights, so there is a tank of water ready above the stage."

The water from the tank did its job well. According to King, it flooded the entire stage and the rare piano sitting on it

"[The water] covered the stage, which was

wooden. It buckled and had to be replaced. [The water] went into the piano and, also being wooden, that buckled and could not be played again," King said. "It filled the orchestra pit with water, so it had to be pumped out. It was a lot of water."

The piano became one item on a very long list of items APSU that would look to replace as a result of the tornado. Though it took years, the university was eventually able to assess all the damage caused by the storm and rebuild or replace what was necessary. However, replacing the piano resulted in a pleasant surprise.

The destroyed Bösendorfer Imperial Grand piano was originally worth \$55,000. King remembers the insurance company that was working with the university specifically agreed to replace the original with the same kind of piano.

However, the Bösendorfer is a rare brand of piano made only in Vienna, Austria by a piano manufacturer established by Ignaz Bösendorfer in 1828.

"They had four in the factory in Vienna, Austria," King said. "The insurance paid for three faculty members to fly to Vienna. They were there four days. They looked at all these pianos, picked one and flew back home."

King further explained that the whole process

took over two years before a new Bösendorfer Imperial Grand piano arrived at APSU. But the APSU music department reaped benefits from the final result.

"By the time we bought the second one, it was worth \$175,000," King said. He attributes the new piano as one of many ways the university benefited from the unexpected disaster.

"It really turned out to be a great thing because we got a brand new piano," King said.

"Three faulty members got to travel to Europe and see the sites a little bit as well as pick out [the piano] and they were not spending their own money buying pianos, so that was nice. We all came out ahead." ♦

"[The water] covered the stage, which was wooden. It buckled and had to be replaced. [The water] went into the piano and, also being wooden, that buckled and could not be played again."

Thomas King, music professor

AUSTIN
PEAY
STATE UNIVERSITY



Operation Restoration

Restoring the Past, Building the Future

GRAPHIC BY PATRICK ARMSTRONG/MANAGING EDITOR

Once the **shock** wore off and the community shared the **relief** from no serious injuries occurring, everyone's **focus** changed.

Inevitably, everyone shared a unified **determination** to **recover**.

Assessments were made, plans were forged and willing **volunteers** appeared ready to rebuild.

Operation Restoration was the result.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE TENNESSEAN

Workers high above repair the many roofs damaged by the tornado.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE APSU OFFICE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS AND MARKETING

Above: Volunteers from the community spread out over APSU campus cleaning up as part of Operation Restoration.

Right: One man stands among the debris in front of a damaged Browning building after the tornado.

