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Special Report to the

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alumni and friends

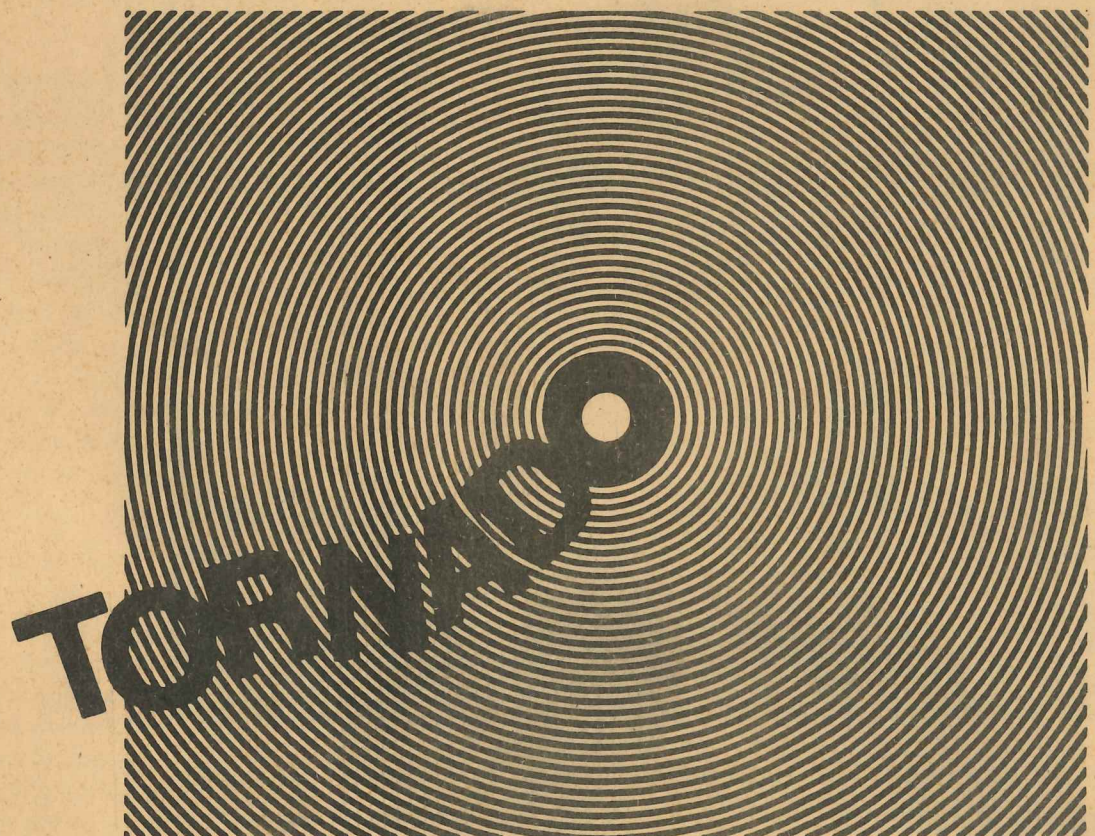
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of The Southern Baptist

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Theological Seminary

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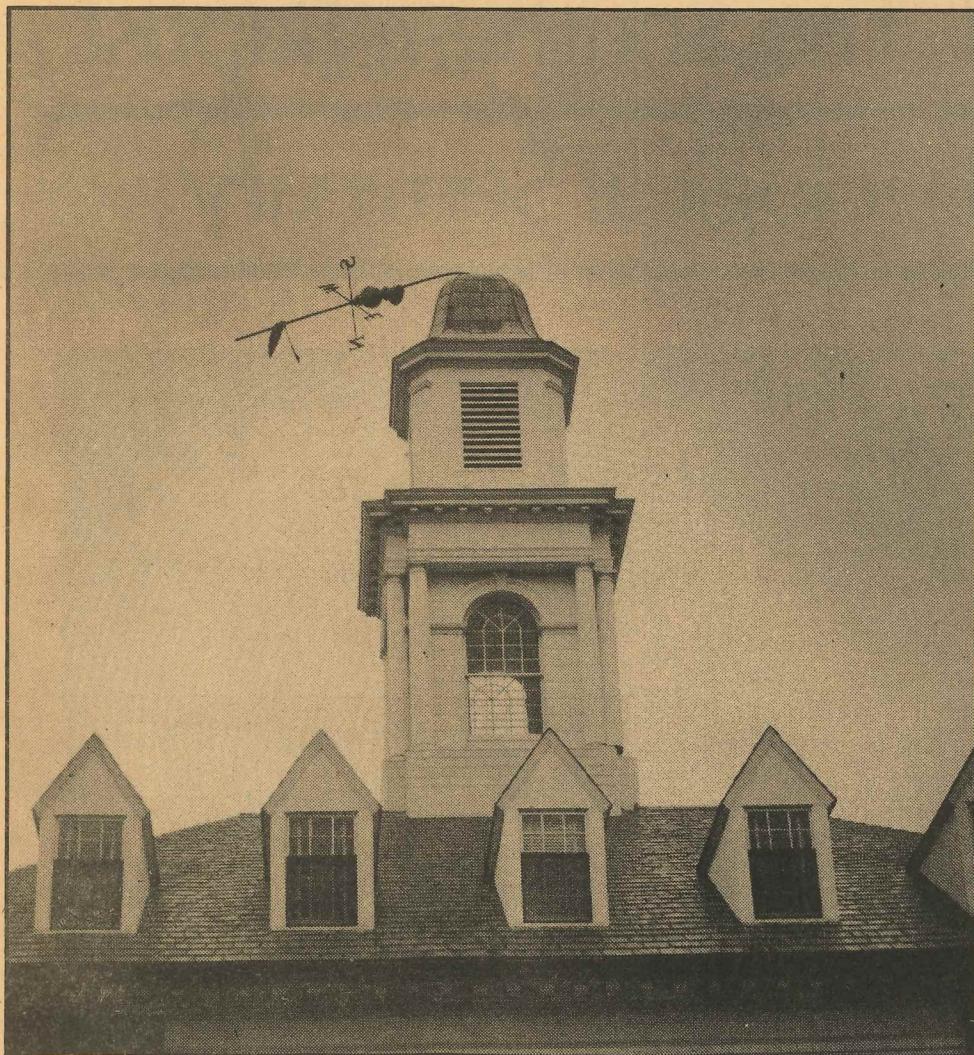




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# TORNADO!

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**It went thataway: The right-angle bend in the weathervane atop Woman's Missionary Union Hall points the direction of the devastating tornado which battered the campus April 3. Here's a summary on the twister, and what it left behind . . .**



**I**t was a costly three minutes. The tornado that ripped a ten-mile gash through the heart of Louisville's most heavily-wooded residential and parkland areas on April 3 left its mark on the campus of Southern Seminary, too.

The path of the storm took it directly through the shady, densely settled Crescent Hill neighborhood which nestles adjacent to the northern edge of the campus along Grinstead Drive. Virtually every house and apartment building which faces the campus across Grinstead is a total loss. In all, more than 900 homes were rendered uninhabitable by this worst tornado in Louisville's history.

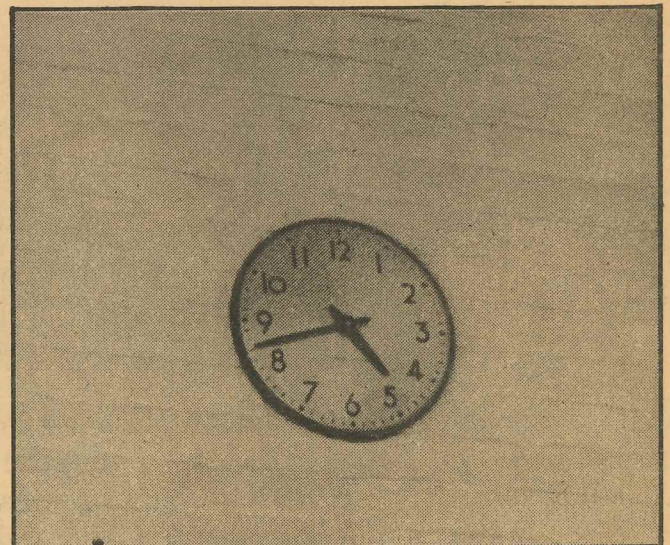
Miraculously, the Southern Seminary campus was spared the full fury of the twister. High winds and accompanying debris did inflict damages of nearly a million dollars on seminary property as it chewed its way northeastward at 60 miles per hour into the expensive subdivisions of Rolling Fields and Indian Hills.

The clearest indications of campus building damage are the missing cupolas on the roofs of Mullins, Fuller and Williams Halls. The quaint colonial steeples are gone, snatched by the twister as souvenirs of an unwelcome tour of the campus. The four ornamental columns on the front porch of Fuller Hall, each a towering 30 feet tall, were also toppled by the high winds. Virtually every building sustained some roof damage, particularly to the distinctive slate roofs on several buildings. Foster Hall, an apartment building for staff personnel, had to be partially evacuated because of severe roof damage. And, of course, hundreds of windows were broken.

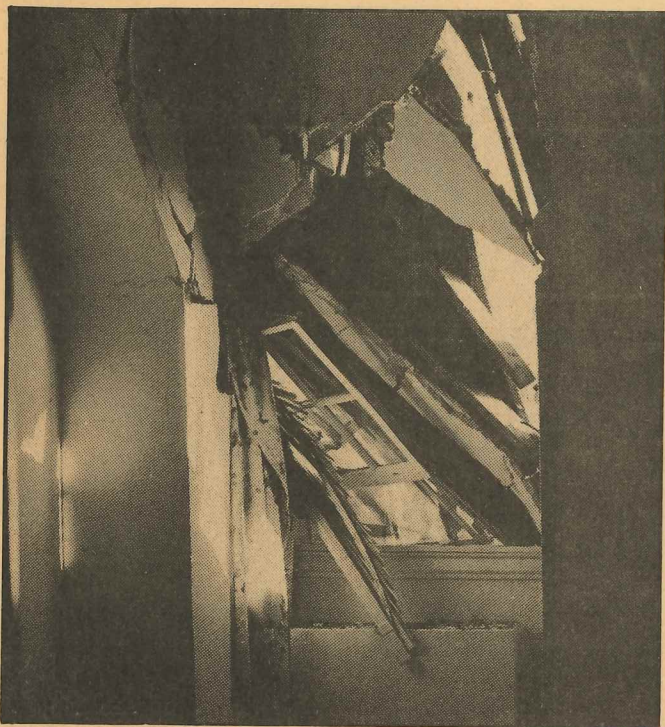
In spite of the highly visible nature of most campus disarray in the wake of the storm, no structural damage to any building has been detected by engineers and contractors who were at work securing the buildings against further rain and wind damage within hours after the tornado passed through the area. All damage to the buildings, tentatively set at \$600,000, is fully covered under the seminary's master policy which insures the physical plant of \$24,000,000. Repairs are already underway by F. W. Owens Construction and Tri-State Roofing



*Campus clocks stopped at 4:42 p. m. on April 3... and didn't start up again until after 4 p.m. nine days later, on April 12.*







*This fourth-floor dormer in Mullins Hall was smashed by a falling tree, but overall the buildings proved their strength and suffered no structural damage. Below, two of the many cars damaged by huge trees uprooted all over the campus.*



Company, both with long-term relationships to the seminary. In fact, both companies sent emergency crews to the campus even before seminary officials could get a working phone line to call them.

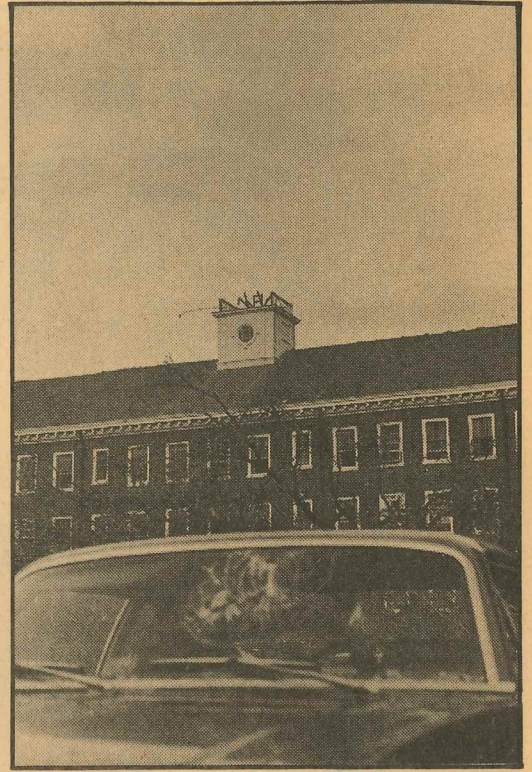
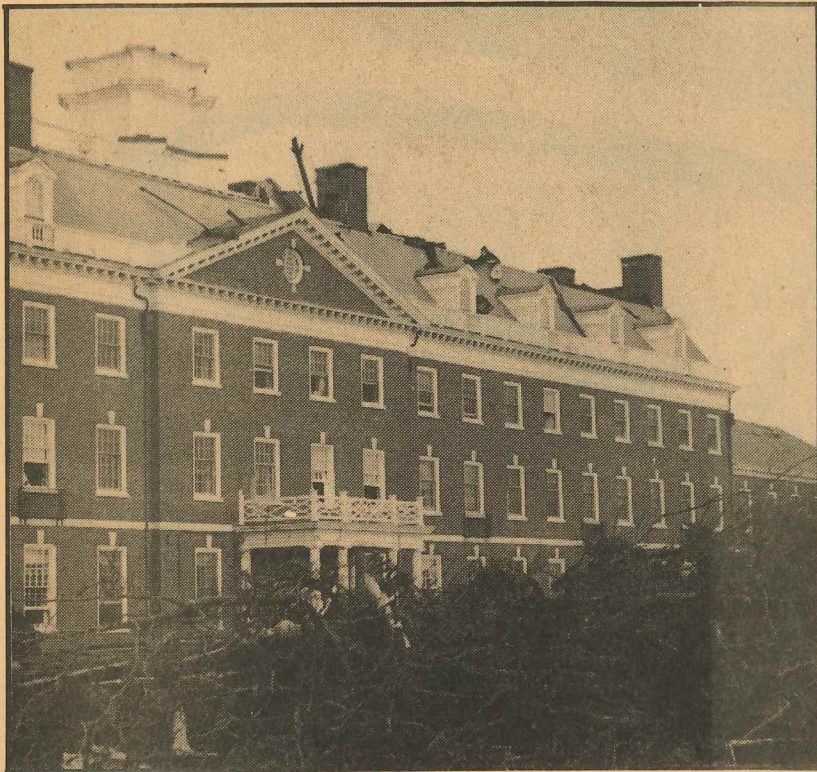
**S**olid masonry construction is credited with the impressive resistance shown by the buildings hit by the storm. "We'd just as soon not have this kind of opportunity to test them," said Badgett Dillard, vice-president for business affairs, "but we're grateful that Southern Seminary's buildings are not only architectural jewels, but structural heavyweights, too."

Heavy damage to two Louisville Gas and Electric Company power substations deprived the seminary campus of electricity and heat for nine days. Two buildings in the southwest quadrant of the campus, Woman's Missionary Union Hall and the Child Care Center, receive their power from trunk lines on Lexington Road rather than Grinstead Drive, so they returned to normal operations two days before the remainder of the campus.

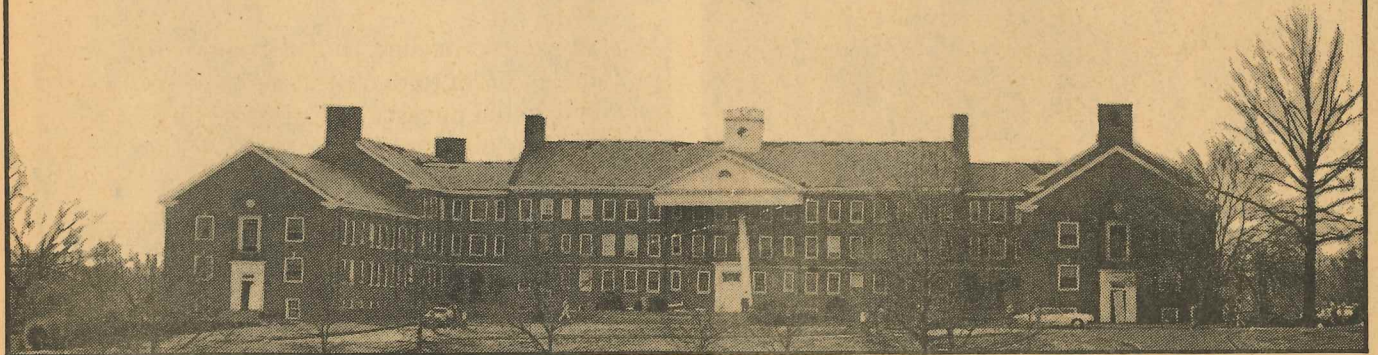
Seminary faculty and staff quickly learned how dependent a modern educational institution is on electric typewriters, xerox and multilith machines, data processing, dictation equipment, audio-visual systems — even the telephones, none of which would ring when called! The Mullins Hall switchboard stayed on battery or generator power during the entire crisis, but messages to offices in Norton Hall had to be carried by runners on foot.

Classes were cancelled Thursday and Friday, April 4 and 5, in order to permit students who were working in the devastated Crescent Hill area to continue their volunteer efforts. Power still was not restored by Wednesday, April 10, and only two days remained before the beginning of the spring recess for Easter revival services. It was decided that the recess should begin a few days early, as dormitories and student apartments — not to mention classrooms — were hovering near 50 degrees much of the time.

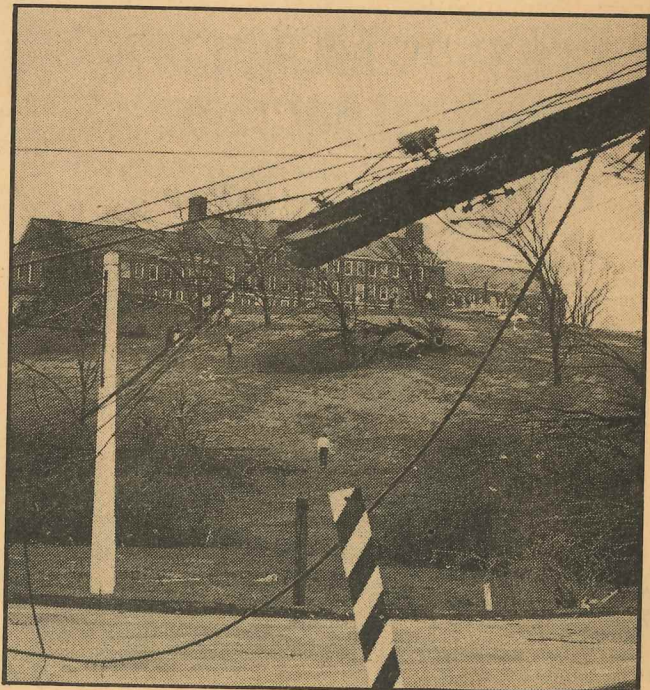
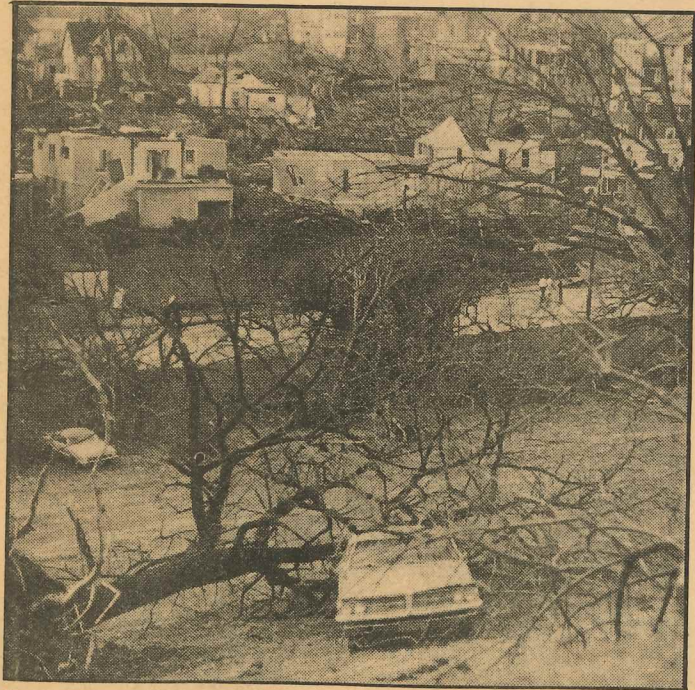
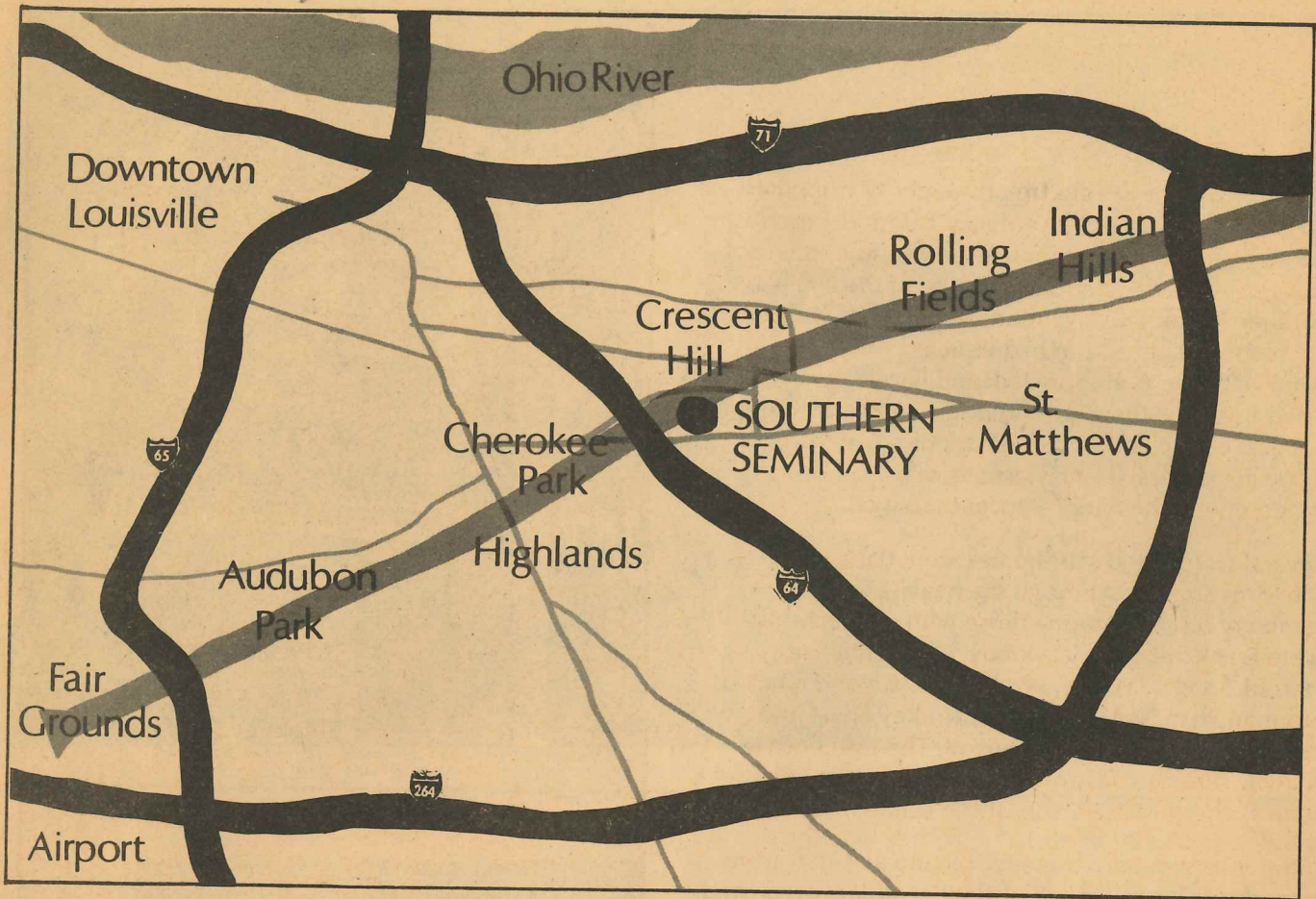




*Fuller Hall lost four  
columns, Mullins lost  
a steeple, but there  
was no structural  
damage to buildings.*







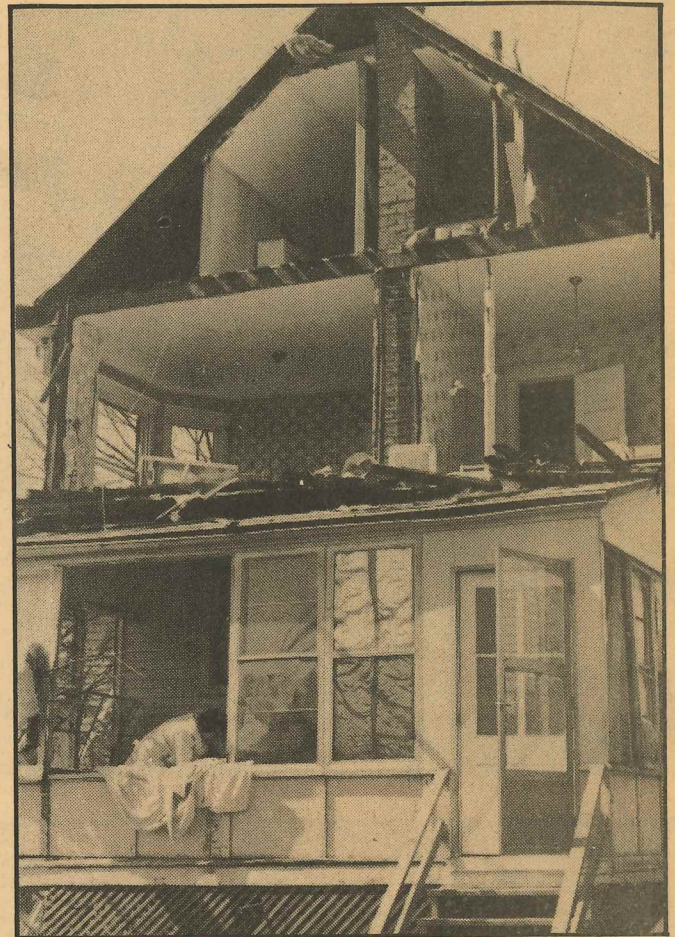


**T**he tornado's deadly trek through metropolitan Louisville began at the Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center opposite Standiford Airport. There, the roof was ripped from Freedom Hall, site of the 1959 Southern Baptist Convention. By the time it reached Crescent Hill, the storm had inflicted severe damage to the Audubon Park and Bardstown Road-Bonnycastle neighborhoods, and had stripped Louisville's famed Cherokee Park of more than 2,000 giant trees, laying waste to what had been called one of the nation's loveliest parks.

Several faculty and staff homes were damaged as the tornado swept through the heavily forested seminary district. Among those with property loss were Frank Stagg, Dale Moody, Badgett Dillard, Harold Songer, Wesley M. Pattillo, Clyde Francisco, Norman Shands, Allen Graves, Findley Edge, and Emeritus Dean Hugh R. Peterson. The residence of Marvin Tate was destroyed, as was the home of John Richard McCall, son of the seminary president.

Injuries to seminary students, faculty and staff were remarkably few. Just a half dozen students reported for treatment of tornado related injuries. Only Nigerian student Joshua Oyekan and his wife Beatrice required overnight hospitalization for injuries received when their car was overturned during the storm on a street near the campus. Dean of Student Affairs Elaine Dickson reported that some 30 student families had to abandon their off-campus apartments in the devastated Crescent Hill neighborhood, but that all are now relocated in suitable campus or off-campus housing.

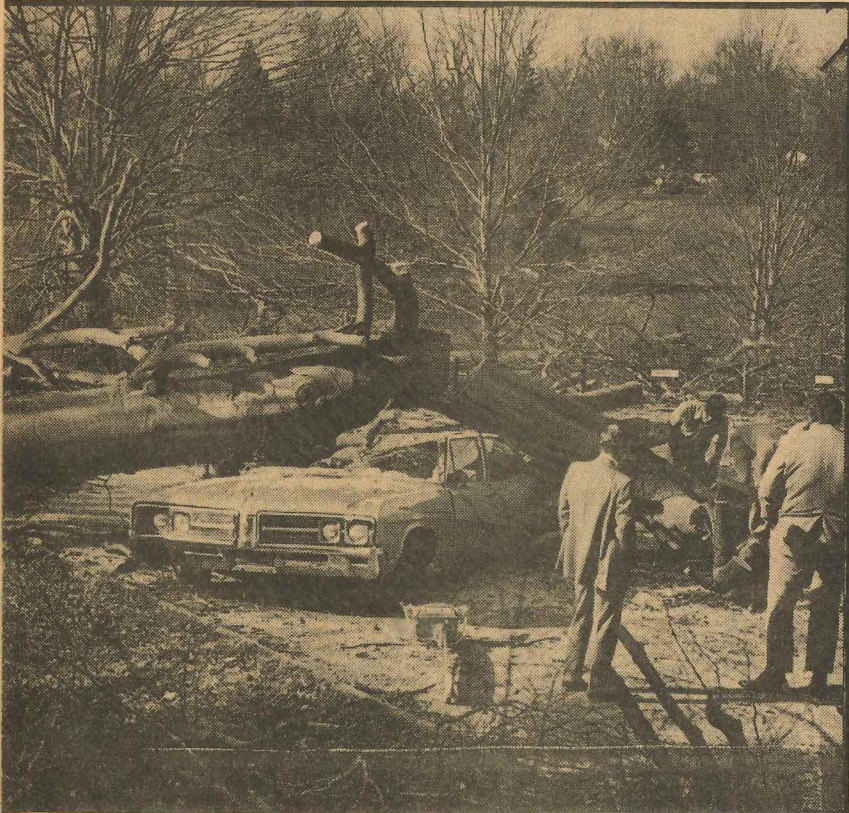
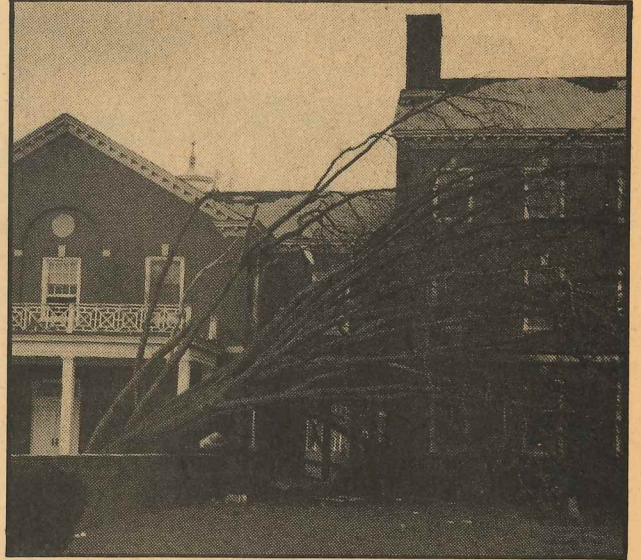
After leaving Crescent Hill, the twister roared through the Brownsboro Road communities of Rolling Fields and Indian Hills, leveling homes valued at \$50,000 to \$150,000 before slamming into the exclusive Northfield subdivision at the Watterson Expressway, where it reduced some streets to rubble, then lifted, its journey through Louisville complete at last. Housing and Urban Development statistics indicate 914 houses were made uninhabitable by the storm, 600 of them near the seminary.



*The home of Marvin Tate, Old Testament prof, resembled a giant dollhouse after the tornado ripped off a wall. Tate and family are now living in Seminary Village. Below, an example of the devastation along Grinstead Drive, opposite the campus.*

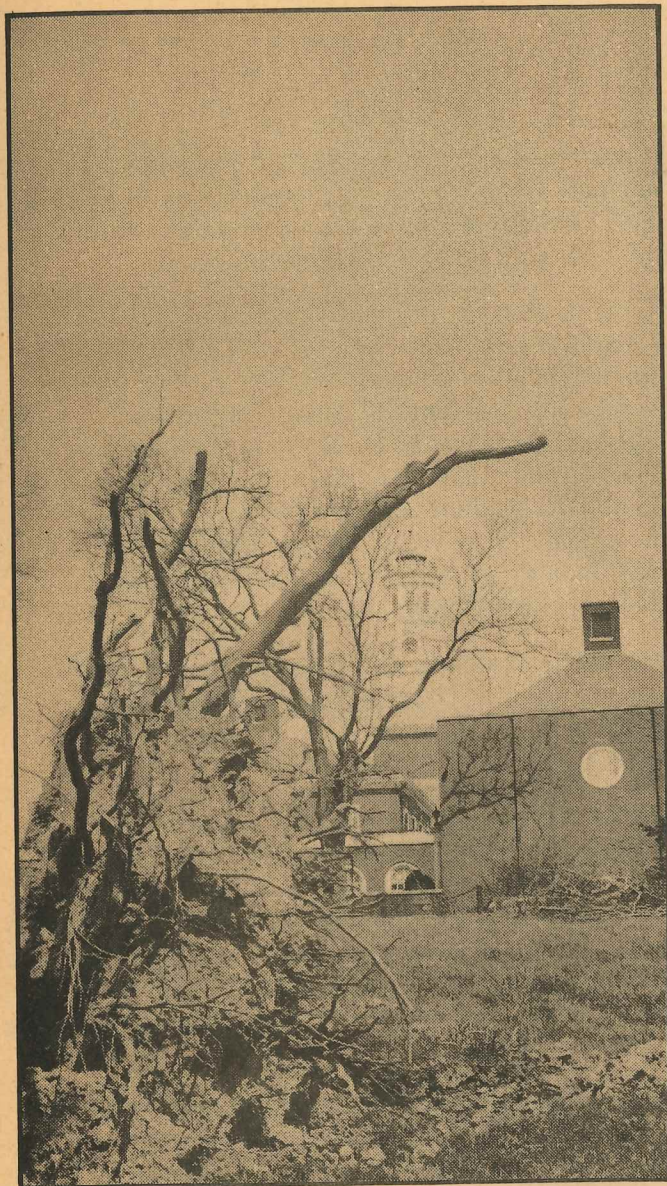






*Almost 500 trees were lost, and uninsured. Replacement costs may exceed \$500,000... Landscape specialists to guide restoration.*





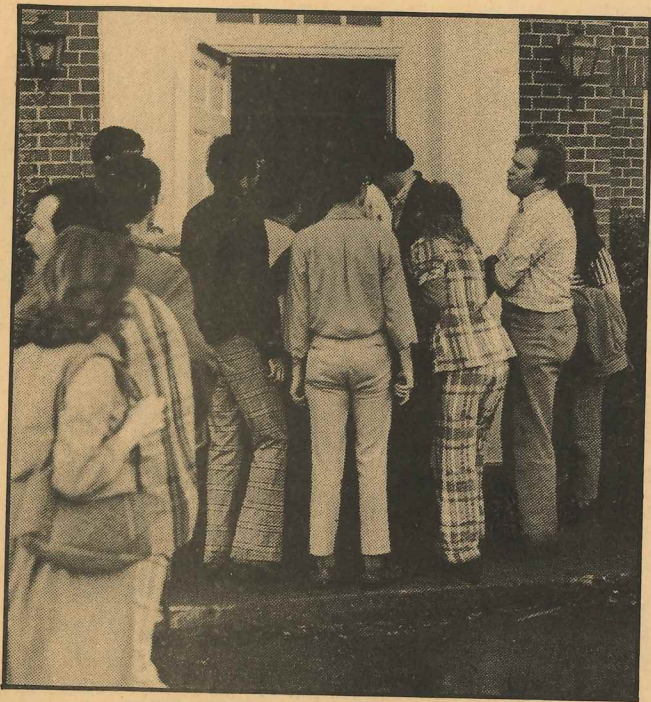
**W**hat about the trees? That's a question many alumni and friends of the seminary have asked in the days following the tornado. And small wonder, for Southern Seminary's tree-shaded campus, long nicknamed "The Beeches," has been distinguished since its opening in 1926 as a showpiece of landscape design. Many have said the seminary's setting is one of the finest in America, 106 acres of rolling, natural beauty. Charles Sanders, supervisor of grounds, has surveyed the campus and says at least 460 trees were destroyed or severely damaged. Many of those lost were 50 to 100 years old — and none of the 460 were insured. That means all of the stately oaks, maples, elms, beeches and evergreens felled in the tornado must be counted a total loss estimated at more than a half million dollars in restoration.

But no amount of money can bring back the historic tree that campus tradition held to be "the largest sassafras tree in the world."

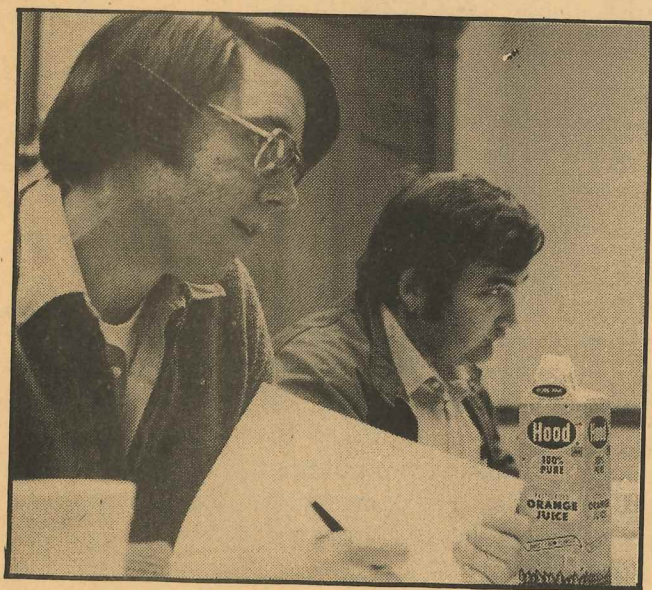
Even though the number of trees lost is huge, the campus isn't stripped of all foliage: there were perhaps 800 to 1,000 trees in place before the tornado, and 400 or more remain — including most of the beech grove in front of Norton Hall and virtually all the trees around Alumni Chapel and along Godfrey Avenue. The greatest losses occurred on the northern perimeter of the campus on Grinstead Drive, and the valley between Norton Hall and Woman's Missionary Union Hall. Only two weeks after the twister's fury, the dogwood burst into full bloom at several locations on the campus, as if to signal a rebirth of beauty.

In mid-April, seminary officials conferred with a representative of the famed landscape design firm which originally laid out the campus in the 1920's — Olmsted Associates of Brookline, Massachusetts. A Campus Restoration Fund has been established to provide an opportunity for friends of the seminary to make contributions toward the re-landscaping and reforestation of the grounds, under supervision of competent landscape architects.





*Helicopters landed in front of Library...  
Mullins became crisis operations center...*



**I**t was Missions Emphasis Week at Southern Seminary when the April 3 tornado turned it into a week of intensive missions involvement for most of the seminary's 1,500 students and staff.

Moments after the storm had cleared, students realized that personal injury on the campus was minimal, but they could quickly see that the neighboring Crescent Hill community across Grinstead Drive was badly hit. Spontaneously, a mass of seminarians raced down the hill behind the Mullins residence hall complex to provide immediate aid to victims trapped in the rubble of the hundreds of frame houses devastated in Crescent Hill.

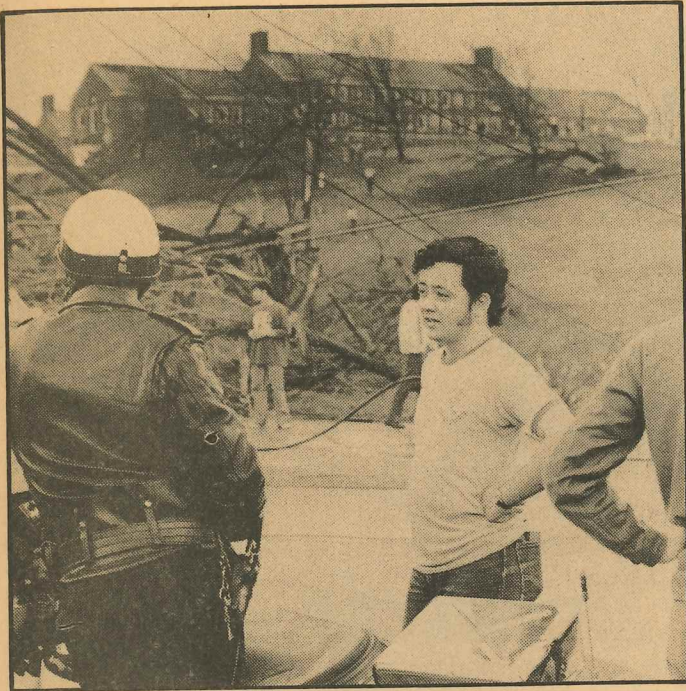
One elderly resident, his home in shambles, said he was still standing dazed when a seminary student began to go through his home looking for injured persons.

Several victims needing medical assistance were carried up the long hill to the seminary's Hart Hagan Clinic, already staffed by registered nurses who are students in the seminary. National Guard helicopters — as many as three at one time — airlifted a dozen or more seriously injured victims from a makeshift landing strip in front of the Boyce Centennial Library.

Only one hour after the storm had ravaged the area immediately north of the campus, seminary students met to coordinate and plan an extensive operation to bring aid to the stricken area. The lobby of Mullins Hall was set up as an impromptu command post under the direction of two theology students, Robert Rainwater of Shreveport, La., and James Doss of Charlotte, N.C.

Woman's Missionary Union Hall, which was not heavily damaged, was immediately opened and manned by students to provide disaster victims with food, shelter, clothing and help in moving from their damaged homes into the building for the night. It made an ideal refugee center: 100 beds were already made up and waiting for a conference which was to have begun the following day!





Students worked long into the night Wednesday, moving families to the campus and helping residents who chose to stay in their homes prepare for night. Several hours after the student relief efforts had been underway, various county, state and national agencies began their operations in Crescent Hill, expressing admiration for the quick and effective action of the seminarians.

Thursday morning, students began assembling in the Mullins Hall lobby to volunteer their help. Under student leadership, they were organized into groups and given assignments for specific tasks that were needed — removing trees from roofs, assisting elderly persons to make provision for temporary housing, and providing pastoral care where needed.

Students, acting as scouts, went door-to-door through the entire community asking residents what help was needed and how the seminarians could best respond. The scouts then reported back to the command post, where they listed which families needed food, medical supplies, clothing, shelter or some other assistance.

Throughout the day and into Thursday night at numerous locations in the Crescent Hill area, up to



300 students at a time were providing specific assistance. Civil defense officials said that seminary students were the backbone of relief efforts.

Friday morning, April 5, students were back in the area, patching holes in walls and roofs of damaged houses, operating chain saws and swinging axes to clear trees from yards, off cars, and away from homes. Rolls and rolls of plastic were stretched across gaping holes to secure walls and roofs against the elements.

A team of students, led by church history professor E. Glenn Hinson, erected a temporary wall to protect the heavily damaged home of retired Dean Hugh R. Peterson on Birchwood Avenue, one of the hardest-hit streets. Similar help was given to Professors Allen Graves and Marvin Tate, whose homes were severely battered.

The Ryder Truck Rental company loaned a fleet of 25 large trucks to the students, and even provided the bus fare for seminarians to travel to Indianapolis to pick up some of the trucks. Saturday and Sunday, students began to haul the rubble out of the area to city and county landfills, and furniture and personal possessions to temporary homes of relocated victims.



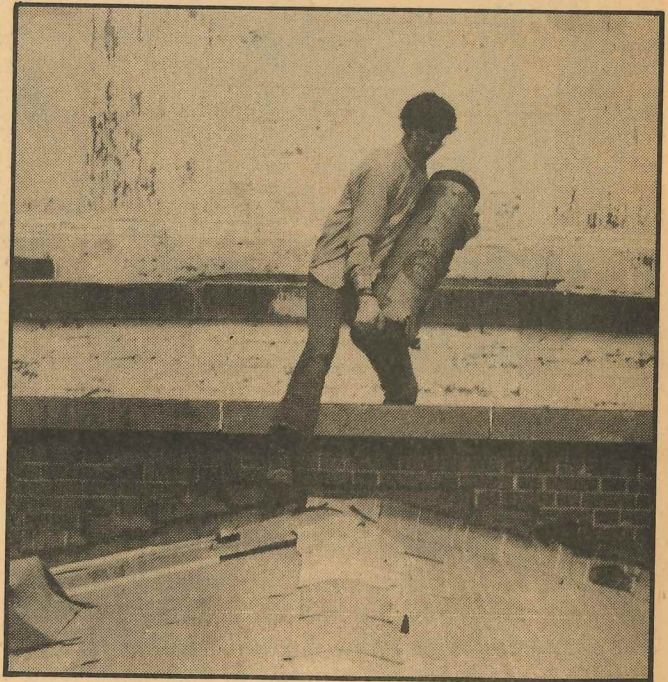
A week after the disaster, student teams were still hard at work loading trucks, cutting away debris, trimming damaged trees, and meeting the more personal needs of victims still in a state of shock from heavy property loss or injury. More than 600 homes in a four-mile stretch of the tornado's path nearest the seminary were made uninhabitable by the wind's fury.

Countless small pastoral-care experiences occurred during the crisis because such a large number of seminarians were able to be in the disaster area so quickly and for so long a time. Louisville Police Headquarters issued orders to officers in the area that a seminary identification card was to be honored with the same privileges as a Red Cross armband.

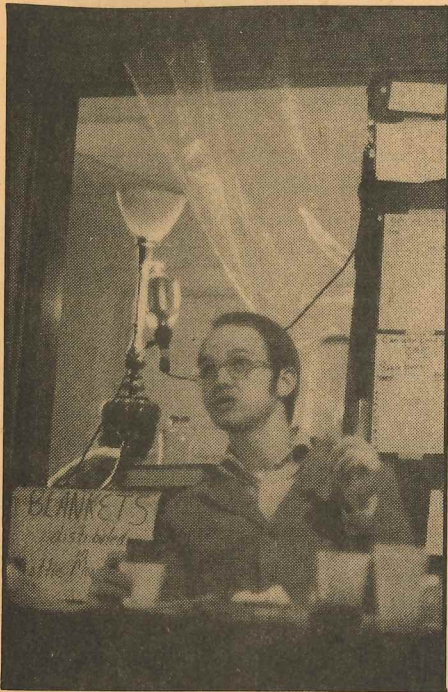
One elderly woman, still sitting alone Monday night, April 8, in her damaged home which had no lights, no heat; no telephone, no cooking facilities, would not heed Civil Defense pleas for her to move to warmer quarters until a seminary student came and talked to her and convinced her to leave her home. She moved to WMU Hall.

Crescent Hill wasn't the only target of student volunteer efforts. About 100 students worked several days in Brandenburg and other small towns in Kentucky and Indiana which were heavily hit by the twister.

## *Missions Emphasis Week came to life as events let students put love into disaster help...*







An observer watching the relief operation would hardly guess that many of the students suffered property damage themselves. Scores of student automobiles were severely damaged, some beyond repair, when the storm ripped huge beech and oak trees up by the roots on the campus. About 30 student families were displaced from their apartments in the old Victorian homes wrecked in the Crescent Hill neighborhood.

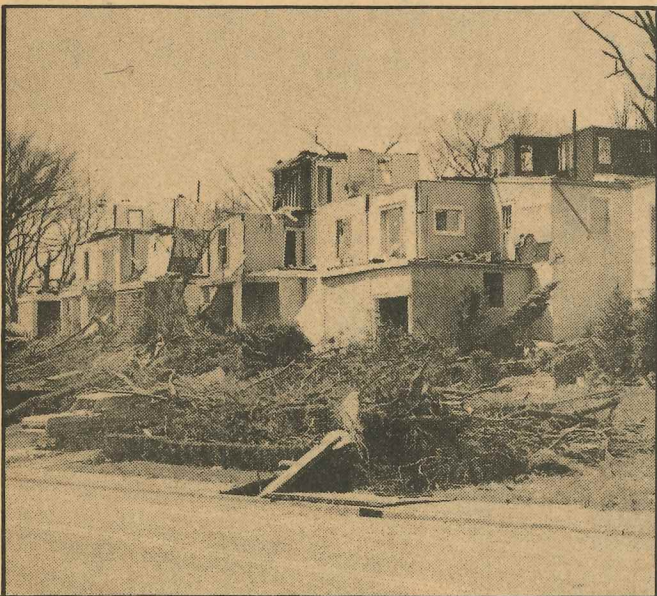
Amateur radio buffs in the student body set up a disaster message center in Mullins Hall to send word around the country — and even overseas — to families of students and community residents. The radio equipment, as everything else in the emergency command post, was powered by generators hauled to the windows of Mullins Hall. The seminary campus was still without power and heat nine days after the tornado, and telephones were operating under battery power.

Food for victims and volunteers was brought in by Baptist churches and businesses in the area, and the students obtained a refrigerated truck to keep perishables cold. At one time, 500 persons were being fed at each meal by the team of student volunteers in Mullins Hall, and another 100 or so were being fed in WMU Hall.





*The students won wide  
applause for selfless  
service to victims...  
Civil Defense praises  
volunteer efforts...*



The resident staff directors for the Mullins Hall complex, Tom and Donna McKibbens of Mississippi, spent night and day helping coordinate emergency food and housing arrangements in the 350-student dormitory building, where there was no heat or electricity. The Mullins lobbies resembled a nightly military bivouac, lighted by camping lanterns and candles and protected from cold night temperatures with dozens of borrowed blankets.

In a called meeting of the student body 24 hours after the twister's deadly invasion, President McCall praised the student volunteer effort. He termed it "a compelling example of Christian concern in action, and certainly the finest Missions Emphasis Week in my memory." The packed Alumni Chapel resounded with a moving "Blessed be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love" as darkness began to close in on the campus.

A quiet confident good humor pervaded the mood of students who spent long hours working in the grim disaster zone. At one point, the word was passed around that "next semester's goal for Missions Emphasis Week is a .6 on the Richter scale," a wry reference to the measurement for earthquake intensity.

The many accolades received by students and staff of the seminary in the aftermath of their massive volunteer effort could perhaps be summarized in a tribute from a Roman Catholic pastor in Crescent Hill. In a letter to the editor of the *Courier-Journal and Louisville Times*, the Rev. Richard F. Fowler of the Church of St. Frances of Rome praised Professor Dale Moody and the team of seminary students who accompanied him on one of many similar expeditions of mercy in the disaster area.

Fowler closed his letter saluting the seminary's relief operation with these words: "What a beautiful witness, for a change, of man's humanity to man. May God bless them all!"

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Appreciation to Larry High, Bob Terry, Toby Druin and Robert O'Brien for story materials, and to Steve Coppock, Chris Robinson, Doug Van Devender and Larry High for photographic assistance in this report, which was edited by Wesley M. Pattillo.



## *Here's how you can help Southern Seminary...*

The treasurer's office of the seminary is currently accepting gifts designated for the Campus Restoration Fund. If you would like to have a part in re-landscaping the historic campus of Southern Seminary, simply make out a check today and send it to the Treasurer, Southern Seminary, 2825 Lexington Road, Louisville, Kentucky 40206.

Perhaps your circle of friends would want to plant one or more trees on the campus as a contribution to the restoration project. Replacement costs will range from \$500 to \$2,000 per tree, so every gift will find immediate usefulness. All planting will be under the supervision of trained landscape architects to insure the appropriate steps are taken in keeping with the overall campus master plan.

Your gift for Campus Restoration is fully tax-deductible, and will be gratefully received by the entire seminary community and those who will follow through the years to enjoy the beauty of the campus.





The  
Southern Baptist  
Theological  
Seminary



2825 Lexington Road / Louisville, Kentucky 40206 / Duke K. McCall, President