



Features



EDITOR: ALEX OVERCASH

Sept. 22, 1989: Hurricane Hugo Leaves Scars On Our Minds

By Brett Richards and Bill Snyder

Now that we're in the aftermath of Hugo's massive destruction, maybe we can take a look back and laugh. Well, maybe not. Those unfortunate souls at Charleston are still rummaging through the memories of their homes where an estimated \$3 billion in damage has been reported. Myrtle Beach, the second hardest hit, is still scarred by the ruins of the buildings, hotels, houses, and parks which had once formed the paradise of the Carolinas. Even closer to home, Charlotte received wreckage which will take weeks to clear and return to pre-Hugo form. In all its devastation, Hugo did not leave Albemarle unscathed. Power outages and home damage raged across our town, leaving many people uncertain of their immediate future. Albemarle City Schools were closed Friday, September 22, and remained on a one hour delay schedule for the entire following week. Now that things in Albemarle have somewhat "blown over," let us share some of the memories of which, for most of our students' generation, has been the most awesome display of the power of Mother Nature.

Becky Wood: My uncle hooked up our portable TV to a car battery that was bigger than the TV itself. We were out of power but never without TV.

Jamie McPherson: We never lost power through the whole thing!

Donna Poplin: My mother heated my niece's bottle on a Coleman camping stove, but she left it too long and the bottle exploded, covering everything with hot milk!

Holly Allman: My husband and I actually drove in it about 4:00 A.M. We were trying to get to my father's house.

Karen Kirk: After Hugo had passed, I found three baby flying squirrels, about 2-3 days old. I tried to take care of them, but they were too young to survive without their mother.

Jonathan Laton: I remember long lines at Hardee's, waiting at least 45 minutes for food.

Julie Nash: I remember watching trees fall like toothpicks.

Phillip Hedrick: During the storm, I had an asthma attack and tried to get to my truck to get some medicine, but I gave up after watching the tops of pine trees get ripped off by the high winds.

Cristy Smith: I watched my dog house flying around the yard and ending upside down.

Cindi Valentine: I took my rock posters off my wall so that if a tree smashed through they wouldn't get torn up!

Jessica Poplin: I got mad at my mother for not waking me up. I thought I had missed school!

Cale Lambert: I remember sirens going off everywhere.

Carson Treece: I kept thinking about the full grown tree outside my window. Knowing it could fall at any time, I didn't move as though I was preparing for my own possible death.

Jeff Scheble: I will never forget all the trees I picked up afterwards!

Hope Miles: Our roof in places was stripped down past tar paper, just down to the wood frame of the house!

Jody Poole: I had to cut my way out of our road with axes and saws to get to work, and when I finally got there, they said I didn't have to work! I'll also remember no clean underwear or socks for days!

Jeff Richards: I ruined a new pair of shoes chasing our dog, who got out after a tree fell and damaged our fence.

Jeremy Little: I remember watching those electric technicians working their behinds off to get power back on. They deserve a big round of applause for their efforts.

Corina Little: I worked myself to death getting a tree off our trailer!

Mrs. McClain: After waiting 5 days, I finally moved the food from my freezer to Food Lion. One hour later our power came on.

Mike Litaker: I had to take sleeping pills to go to sleep.

Paul Efird: There wasn't any ice to be found in Albemarle or Stanly County.

Sandra Buchanan: My mother woke me up to look at a tree lying on her "just bought" Jeep truck. I looked at her and said, "I don't guess you'll be driving it for a while, huh?" And then I went back to sleep.

Julie Biggers: I remember how devastated the beaches were. Will they ever be the same?

Loisha Everson: The wind was so strong it blew the insulation out of our roof. We had fiberglass everywhere.

Dana Johnson: I remember the smell of kerosene lanterns that we used for 5 days.

George Burris: I remember many details of the storm, but probably the worst was no cable for a week!

Chad Atwater: My life flashed in front of my face when I came head to head with a tree across the road while I was speeding down Pee Dee Ave.

Adam Little: Our front door was blown off, and then I watched it bounce around in the front yard.

Pepa Burns: I remember a silent house full of pounding hearts.

Seth Smith: I remember looking outside and seeing the power lines right at eye-level through the window.

Mrs. Hathcock: All the yellow jackets. I got stung by one!

John Palmer: I remember the extra hour of sleep we got the next week when school was on a one hour delay.

Doug Talbert: The thing I remember most about Hurricane Hugo was moving to the basement and trying to sleep with a cricket chirping.

James Medley: I remember (boy, I remember) cleaning up after the storm around my neighborhood. I also remember how worried my next door neighbor was about her daughter who had stayed in Charleston.

Maos Baldwin: I decided to move to the hallway to sleep, and just as I shut my door, the window

blew out. I just escaped disaster.

Markita McCormick: I looked out the back door because the dog was barking. He looked like he was flying; the wind was trying to take him away! My brother looked out and said, "That's not a hurricane; it's just windy." He walked outside and promptly got blown down on the ground. When he got up and back in the house, he kept his mouth shut and went back to bed.

Lamont Baldwin: Hugo body-slammed a pecan tree into our oil drum and the branches were rubbing against my window. Through all this, I couldn't get anyone to wake up!

Shawn Rush: Everyone on my road went to our neighbor's house and cooked fish in a big black pot on a fire while we watched the news on a battery TV.

David Lowder: I had to climb on my neighbors' roof to get their cat out of a tree that had taken her for a ride when it fell.

Angie Morgan: I spent the whole night listening to the only radio station I could get, which played only country music. That really hurt my feelings.

Jennifer Pion and Lamont Davis both remember the baby who was killed when a tree fell through the roof. **David Heaton and Bill Aldridge** both watched transformers blow up. **Sally Lowder and Lori Drye** both stood on porches trying to get blown away. **Adrian Dennis and George Blalock** don't remember anything. They slept through it! **Kou Yang** best summed up the storm poetically in his diary remembrances:

Sept. 21, 1989; 9:30 P.M. - I open my window to go to sleep. It is windy outside. I smell a wolf about to attack, but my soft warm bed calls, and I drift away from the danger.

Sept. 22, 1989; 2:30 A.M. - I pull my blanket tight as I hear the sound of the wolf, dashing through my window.



Lois Foley, Loisha Everson, and Dana Johnson won't forget Hurricane Hugo.

College Isn't All Work

By Alex Overcash

A lot of new responsibilities come with college, but fun comes along with it. "The biggest problem is learning how to manage your time, because there is always something to do (besides your work)," says Jeremy Furr, a former AHS student. The biggest source of fun comes from fraternities/sororities. We (Phillip Holshouser & I) decided to take a visit to a few over the weekend at North Carolina State.

First, we visited Delta Sigma Phi. It just so happens that they were having a lawn party that day. We managed to find a ticket, but the officers at the "gate" drew a delta (marking underage) on our hands. Even so, the party was great.

The first band, the Shakers, opened up with some decent new-age beach music. As the party progressed, it became wilder and wilder. Unfortunately, it began to rain. This didn't seem to bother the now-staggering crowd. This brought on a huge mudslide (people literally breaking into a full sprint and sliding on whatever fell first for a surprisingly long way). The girls and guys declared a "Red Rover" game, but nobody could make their way "over". Of course, most were trying to make their way over to the Porta-Johns. Some stocky brute turned over one when someone was in it (seriously!).

The next band, the Waller Family, had to leave because of the rain. We decided to leave all the commotion and go into the "house". To this day I wonder how someone can work in a place like that. Everyone sleeps in a loft, and below is just enough room for a TV, fridge, and maybe a chair here or there. We left the crowd (of about 4,000) to see what else was going on. By the way,

do you remember the gentleman who came from State to lecture us on Textile Engineering? Well, he was at the party (almost?!)

Next, we visited Alpha Delta Phi. These guys were of a different type. You couldn't see past your nose because of all the smoke (cigarette). It was so crowded you couldn't move your arms, which caused a lot of problems among the crowd. This proved to be a helpless situation, so we left. We got back to the residence hall around 2:00 A.M., but some parties could still be heard giving some last heck-raising calls. I could go on, but I'm afraid it wouldn't meet Mrs. Hathcock's standards. Until next time,

Alex Overcash



Phillip and Alex prepare for another weekend at State.

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