

Tornado Season to Last For Next Four Months

By JOEL MYERS

The next four months are known to the weatherman as the "tornado season."

The tornado, which is the most intense storm in the world, is more common in the United States than anywhere else in the world.

Pennsylvania does not escape the wrath of these small but devastating storms, being hit by an average of four or five each year.

Tornadoes cause hundreds of deaths and millions of dollars in damage in the United States every year.

The tornado, which appears as a black cone-shaped cloud, causes a loud roaring sound as it approaches an area. This combination of a big, black, funnel-shaped cloud and the deafening roar that accompanies it, strikes fear into the hearts of most people in the vicinity of the storm.

These storms usually have a forward speed of 30 or 35 miles an hour, although the winds within the cone are estimated to exceed 300 miles per hour. Besides these whirling winds of high velocities, strong updrafts of tremendous speeds are also present.

Total destruction occurs in the path of the tornado, which usually ranges from 200 to 1000 feet in width. This is due to the combination of the high wind velocities and reduced pressure within the storm.

As a tornado passes over a building it causes a pressure difference between the outside and the inside of the building causing the structure to explode. Much of a tornado's destruction results in this manner.

While these severe storms have been responsible for considerable destruction and loss of life, occasionally as many as 700 dying from one storm, they have been the cause of several amusing occurrences.

Take the instance of the small baby that was carried out of his crib while sleeping, lifted out of the open window of his bedroom and gently placed in a tree some 300 feet away.

He was none the worse because of this flight, receiving not one scratch.

Once, a tornado picked up an entire house and all its contents except for its lone inhabitant, who was left sitting undisturbed in a chair located where the living room had been.

Another time, one of these storms picked up a tree from a Midwestern farm and, as it carried it along in the air, it shaved all the branches from it. It then thrust this huge spear-shaped object earthward at a great speed, causing it to penetrate a concrete bridge that was several feet thick.

Another prank often played by the tornado is the driving of thin straws into steel girders, a feat that cannot be performed by any human.

The condition that often results in tornadic development occurs most frequently in the Central and Southern Plain states, but can and often do appear in any section of the country. Every state in the Union has been hit by at least two tornadoes during the last forty years. Some states have been hit by 100 such storms in one year.

It can be seen that no locality in the nation is really safe from these small but devastating storms.

The United States Weather Bureau recognized the need for tornado forecasting years ago and set up the Severe Storm Warning Center in Kansas City. This Weather Bureau office studies upper air and surface weather maps night and day in an attempt to discover conditions that might give rise to tornadic development.

When such a condition is noted a warning is sent to that area. The threatened areas are notified immediately by all means of communication so they will prepare for the possibility of a storm.

The Civil Defense network in that section is also advised of the impending danger and it stands should it be needed.

IFC Applications Deadline Extended

The deadline for submitting applications for chairmanships of Interfraternity Council committees has been extended until Saturday.

Applications are available at the Hetzel Union desk and must be returned there.

Any fraternity man is eligible to apply, but preference will be given to those who have already served on the committee, according to the IFC.

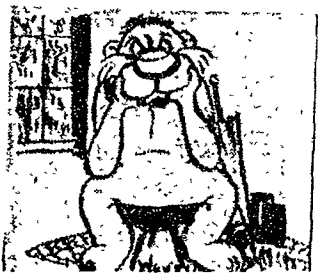
Applications for positions on the committees will not be available until the fall.

AIM Board to Meet Thursday

AIM Board of Governors will meet at 7 p.m. Thursday instead of tomorrow this week.

Strong Wind, Rain Expected Today

Scattered thunderstorms this afternoon and tonight will bring some severe weather to Pennsylvania, possibly to the State College area.



They will be accompanied by heavy rain, strong gusty winds with velocities in excess of 50 miles an hour and even some hail.

Today will be warm and humid, with showers and thunderstorms developing, especially during the afternoon. Today's high temperature will be 70 degrees.

Tonight will see a continuation of the showers and thunderstorms with a chance of occasionally heavy rains. The low will be 55 degrees.

STUDENTS! Remember Mother



No telegraph charge on all Mother's Day orders placed before May 3

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Frings to Talk About Albatross

Dr. Hubert W. Frings, professor of zoology, will speak on "Sounds, Sodium Ions and Scaevola" at 4:15 p.m. today in 112 Buckhout Laboratory.

To illustrate his lecture, Frings will use tape recordings of the "language" of birds. He will show films and slides of experiments which have been made on encouraging the albatross, known as the "goony bird," to accept new habitats at man's convenience. Frings holds academic degrees from the University of Oklahoma, University and Minnesota University. He has taught in college departments of biology, natural science, physics and zoology. In 1945 Frings served as an insect physiologist at the Army Chemical Center at the Edgewood Arsenal. His research interests have included the chemical senses of insects, the effects of sounds on animals and the comparative physiology of taste.

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