

THE BEST PRANK EVER

The Tornado Prank --

This is circa 1988

I can tell you about the only tornado to have directly hit a CIU building.....

PART I

The Prank

It was only a few months after Hugo hit SC, as I recall. I was living in West II. The tornado season was on, and like any good RA, Jaye Morgan (RA for West) was planning to advise us of what to do in case of a tornado.

Now, we had been having an ongoing feud with the guys from West I, for several weeks. Bubba Danielson (1990's?) would run thru our hall at 2 or 3am, pound on a few doors, or toss some popcorn seeds under a door, then scoot back downstairs before the victims were coherent enough to give chase....Or we'd give some unsuspecting guy a mop bucket of cold water over the shower wall on occasion.. all clean fun....

Well, we had decided it was time to do something about the "problem"... And what better way than at the mental anguish of our West I brothers...

We spent a lot of time planning this over 2-3 weeks. Our floor leader (Dana Danielson -- now a missionary in the Philippines I think) met privately with Jaye, who agreed to not know what was happening, and to be mysteriously out of town for the evening.

It was a completely clear day on campus, but we were scheduled for a dorm meeting that night (at 9pm) to discuss tornado warnings and possible issues.

Now, I happened to have a part-time job at a local PA company (fixing sound and lighting equipment), and was also handy with a microphone (this was the days before one could simply record stuff on a computer and make it come out of the speakers). I begged and borrowed enough equipment to build a concert-level sound system in each end of the upstairs floor stairway, and several of our talented guys worked to create a 2 minute recording of our best rendition of a tornado.

At the appointed hour, we snuck in a ton of speakers, amplifiers, wires, and.....cassette decks.... and stashed them safely upstairs.

At 9pm, Jaye led us thru a 30 minute dorm meeting on tornado warnings and safety issues, dutifully reminding us that SHOULD a tornado hit, all guys from upstairs should come down quickly, and any guys who were downstairs should congregate in the hall, and preferably should bring mattresses and blankets with them for protection against shrapnel. AND we must all stay away from the windows!

Of course we West II men knew this was just a setup, and an hour after the meeting, we quietly set up our equipment and prepared for our storm.

We positioned a few of our guys around campus to follow the security guard, and then we put a guy on the roof of the cafeteria to remove all light bulbs or turn off lights around our dorm. We managed to turn all campus lights OFF around WEST dorm.

At just after midnight, we shut off the electrical power for our downstairs guys so their lights went out and fans stopped. And we fired up the LOUD sound system with the "tornado" recordings.... the whole building rumbled... It was loud....

We were all ready, and we all ran downstairs, yelling and panicky!

Our brothers on the first floor were completely unaware, and they reacted well, having been fully "trained" by Jaye for a tornado.

I ran downstairs in time to see Brian Stuhldreher (1989) in his boxers on his knees under a mattress, praying fervently for God's protection over our lives..... And his roommate Vernel Oberes (an MK from Philippines) who wasn't really sure what to do) was in the fetal position against a wall.

After a minute or so, we WEST II boys all jumped up and ran back upstairs, leaving our brothers to figure out they'd been pranked.

PART II

The Re-Prank

Little did we know that the Student body president (WC Hoecke), who lived downstairs on WEST I, having JUST returned from an evening walk with his fiancée, was fully aware that the evening sky was clear as a bell. AND, he happened to have a meeting with Dean Shaver the next morning...

Well.....right after morning chapel, all participants from West II received (in our mail boxes) official notices from the Dean's office, stating that we were to meet with the "Disciplinary Counsel" for review THAT evening at 7:15! Attendance was mandatory, signed by the Dean of Men himself!!!

I was horrified - - I'd never been in trouble in college, and could only imagine I was going to be thrown out of college right on the spot. I debated calling my folks right then and spilling my guts, only

imagining that I had broken numerous laws and would be a COLLEGE DROPOUT with a future of digging ditches. Dana (our floor leader - who was in on the joke) went directly to Dean Shaver himself, and asked that if there was to be discipline, that he take the blame.....

Well, our brothers couldn't hold the joke as well as we had done to them -- by mid-afternoon, we found out that the "Disciplinary Counsel" meeting was actually a dorm party in disguise, funded and planned by Jack Layman himself, who had heard about our escapade, and wished to congratulate us.

We showed up for pizza and laughs.

The best part was -- we never got awakened in the night again by Bubba!!

Thanks,
David Wegener

I have no doubt that I am about to share with you the best prank ever. It is likely one of the most elaborate and the effect was unbelievable. I promise that every detail that I am about to share with you is accurate. I wish I could remember the names of the guys and the deans. I do believe that Jay Morgan or Ronnie Wilson was our RD.

It was about 1987. We created a tornado that nearly destroyed West Dorm. At least that is what everyone on West 1 believed. I do remember W.C. Hoecke was on West 1 and he was the only guy that suspected the tornado wasn't real. Yes. The tornado. What happened is that some guys had recorded a tornado laden storm that passed our campus. Many tornados were striking the region that year. They were messing around with recording equipment and adding other sound effects to the storm. I suggested that we create a tornado on campus and the ideas began to flow.

A dorm meeting was called by our RD and both floors gathered for a lecture about what to do if a tornado was ever to come to campus. We were told that heavy storms were coming through that night around midnight. Students were told that the center hall was nearly indestructible since it was designed and build during the missile crisis. There were no rules about white lies or lies with the intent of humor. They had just been removed from the handbook. Everyone was told to come to the center downstairs hallway and if possible bring out a mattress to lie under if possible. Other business was attended to and the meeting was adjourned. Then a floor meeting was called for West 2. When we knew it was safe and with monitors closely guarding the doors the rest of the floor was let in on the prank. Everyone was given a cassette. Remember those things called cassettes. They predated CD's and carried our music tunes. Well everyone was told to put a cassette into their boom box or stereo. (I realize that I am seriously dating myself) Would someone please give a translation to boom box to the younger audience?

At midnight one student walked down the hall of West 1 and flipped off the breakers for the floor. When they got back upstairs everyone got the signal to press play. I forgot to mention a very important detail. There were some guys in the school choir who had borrowed the school sound system and the speakers were placed at either end of the hallway. There were two guys designated as door slammers who ran up and down the hall slamming doors. Two guys stood on the stairwell with boxes of broken glass and smashed the glass back and forth, while the rest of the guys went down stairs in the midst of the most horrific sounding storm ever screaming tornado.

The guys from west one woke with a start and some staggered while others dragged roommates into the hallway. Instantly a prayer meeting broke out. Guys prayed for their parents who would miss them if they died. Some prayed for the guys who didn't make it down stairs. Some valiantly ran back into their room to get a sleeping roommate. WC. Hoecke had been working on a paper in the days before auto save and when the power went down did what any solid Christian CBC student would do. He praised the Lord with joy, walked to the window and notices a star filled sky. He also began to notice that the guys from West 2 seemed to have a glint in their eye when they talked of their fear regarding the tornado. As the sounds died down, WC spoke out. Guys of West 1 We've been had.

The next day the deans scheduled to come to our dorm to expel our RD's and several students. Instead they brought a cake and said the threats of expulsion were part of the RD's plan and they wanted to celebrate the best prank ever.

I search web sites for top ten pranks and I think these rates up with the top 10 of all time that I have read anywhere. Good luck topping it. I could tell some awesome ones from when we were house parents at Ben Lippen when I was in Grad school but they are close to the tornado but not quite that good.

Richard Mull

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Hello Alumni Ministries Group!

The E-Newsletter question about pranks got me thinking, and immediately two came to mind.

I can't remember who the culprits were (probably a good thing). During my undergrad stay in the dorms I lived on M2, M3 & West 2. Whether it was a rivalry between M2 & West 1, or the zoo of M3 pranking anyone and everyone equally, I don't know.

Both of these events took place (I think) during my stay on West 2 (which probably would have been Fall '03 or Spring '04).

First, one morning at breakfast I overheard some guys from East 3 (I don't know how they got pulled into the rivalries...) asking people about who had pranked them that morning. A little inquiry revealed that someone--in the middle of the night, while all the guys were sleeping--filled thousands of Dixie cups with water and covered the hall floor with them. The entire hall floor was covered with half-full cups of water! When the guys opened the doors to their rooms (which opened into their rooms), they couldn't step out into the hall. They couldn't get to the shower, the toilet, the exit...they were stuck. It was an awesome prank!

Second, as a payback in the West 1 vs. West 2 war of '04, one morning we (on West 2) found our ENTIRE bathroom on the lawn in front of the cafeteria. No kidding. Toilets, sinks, stall dividers; shower fixtures...all of it had been unmounted from our bathroom and setup on the front lawn on display for the entire school to see at breakfast.

I think that second prank was in response to what I now remember to be the best prank of all time. (Names will not be mentioned.)

West 1 was all excited about the release of some computer game (maybe Halo 2?). So someone on West 2 coordinated with the campus IT department to shut down the network ports on West 1 for "routine maintenance" just as the Halo party was scheduled to begin. Oh, were they mad. Fun times :)

Ben Byxbe

'02-'05

On April Fool's Day I sent an official looking letter on college stationery to my friend Trina. It was "from" the Field Education office and stated that they had not received any of her reports for the past quarter and would therefore not be getting credit for it. She was told she would have to do double Field Ed in the following quarter to make up for it. I even forged Mr. Bradley's signature. I happened to be in the student center when she checked her mail that day and saw the panic in her face when she read the letter. It was 4:45 and she realized she might catch him before he left for the day. As she ran to the Field Ed office I secretly followed her. When I got to the office I could see her through the window showing the letter to Mr. Bradley, who had a confused look on his face. I caught her eye and mouthed the words "April fools." She smiled and after a pause explained the situation to Mr. Bradley. I then entered the office and apologized to Mr. Bradley for using him to prank Trina. Thankfully, they both forgave me.

Jeffrey Ort
Class of 1995

My freshman or sophomore year some guys made a realistic looking dummy with hay and put clothes on it as well as a hat shoes etc. When some of us were hanging out in the chapel they threw it off the

balcony in front of several people. All of them jumped and screamed because they thought a real person had fallen off the balcony.

Tom Spainhour

Case Manager

How do you pick one prank done at CIU?

The one that stands out at the moment was during what was called "Senior Sneak" that happened during my freshman year. I was rooming with a girl from Long Island and I had lived in New Jersey the summer before I came to CIU where I had been involved in a sting operation bringing down some big drug dealers. We had often shared these crazy stories with each other about supposed mafia connections.

The morning the seniors were leaving to go off campus for the day always was a surprise to the rest of the student body, especially for the unsuspecting freshmen. They left very early that particular morning while it was still dark and we were sound asleep. They came around the back of the dormitories and started to scream and make all sorts of noise, honking horns, big spotlights on the windows, etc.

Immediately Sue jumped out of bed and knocked over the pyramid of soda cans we had stacked in our window. Between the noise outside and our cans falling over, we were both convinced people were shooting at us. I knew some mafia henchmen had found me. Sue was jumping up and down screaming, "They are shooting at us!" while I was crouched on the floor screaming, "Get down, Sue! Get down! Don't let them see you!!"

The sophomores and juniors on our floor had more fun laughing at us, of course, while they tried to calm us down.

Freshmen, beware! (Jane Hartlzer)

You really don't want to know. But if you do, just go ask Mike Thompson – we were involved in dozens of the best. Tab Hunter CBC '88

I don't have any pictures, but I do remember one prank in particular was done to one of my floor mates...I won't say who did it! But while this student was in class, her room was completely emptied of everything, furniture, clothing, everything, and distributed in everyone's room on the floor, and then everyone put a DO NOT DISTURB sign on their doors so that when the student returned to her room, she honestly thought she had walked into the wrong room, but she couldn't ask anyone what was going

on because in those days, you simply did not knock on anyone's door if there was a DO NOT DISTURB sign on it! It was some time before we all broke out of our rooms and returned everything to her room!

Another memorable prank, and again, I won't say who did this prank, all of the doors down our hallway were tied together with rope, criss-crossing the hall and going from door to door, so that the next morning (which was a Saturday!), no one could open their doors – EXCEPT of course, the one who tied the doors!! That was a hoot! And a lot of screaming going on. Sadly, I can't remember how that one was resolved!

Jacque Brown

Class of 1970

I once entered the room of a big prankster on our hall (East Basement) by prying the trim and vent from the bottom of his door. I removed the vent and slid through the opening and unlocked the door. Then I filled his (far) side of the room with loosely crumpled newspaper. Fully one-half of the room was filled almost to the ceiling. His roommate's side, closest to the door, was left completely undisturbed. Once finished, I locked the door, squeezed back through the vent and trimmed it back into place. When the guy returned from class he was in shock. But, his roommate, our HA, was furious. I had attracted a lot of attention pulling the prank, so the HA found out pretty quickly that I was responsible. Because he saw no humor whatsoever in the situation, he went straight to the Dean of Men. When he returned, I decided to turn myself in, so I went over to the Dean's office. That is when I found out that the dean was in a meeting with all of the RAs and his assistant refused to interrupt it for our HA. I asked if he would see me. The Dean interrupted his meeting for me. (Which only made my HA angrier.) I confessed what I had done to smiles and snickers from 2 of the 3 RAs (including my own). Nothing more came from the matter.

--

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Hello!

While not necessarily a CIU approved prank, Tony Tompkins achieved greatness on Memorial 2 in 2001. I lived across the hall from Josh Chestnut, Phil Drake, and Nick Dentel. Somewhere along the line they pranked Tony and caused him to seek retribution.

Josh hated crickets. So Tony went to Petsmart and bought a few hundred of the little feeder crickets one buys for a pet lizard.

Upon returning to CIU on a night when Josh was laboring away as a cafeteria worker, Tony released the little insects into their new home.

I woke up sometime around midnight to screaming, and then the sound of a dustbuster - sucking up crickets one by one.

There was no infestation, and the only damage was the lives of a few hundred bugs. Their pranking stopped there.

It was famous that year, and still gets talked about to this day.

If that isn't PC enough, I do have another option.

Daniel Coleman sold Dan McGinty his old Honda CRX in 2001 or 2002. McGinty was the subject of many pranks, so he wasn't too surprised when his car would be backed into a different space than where he left it. In fact, he accredited his car being filled with random objects to the ingenuity of his hall-mates. What McGinty didn't realize was that Daniel Coleman and I still had a copy of the CRX key. This made those slight maneuvers quite simple. Eventually, we stopped moving his car to another space behind memorial (where he imagined we pushed, or recruited a dozen guys to carry it) and graduated to the grad/seminary parking lot, in front of the admin building, or in the middle of the soccer field.

He always managed to quiet his frustration or inconvenience by taking solace in the fact that it must have been so much work for us. Ha.

-Matt Lourdeau

BEST PRANK: Picture this. Sunday evening. College Seniors. Nothing to do. Walking through the student center. We see pool table balls. The idea comes in...what if we took all the pool balls and put one in each seminary and college professor's in box on their doors. They could eventually bring them back down when they come for lunch. Two students-and a wonderful memory. The next day in chapel-chastisement for thievery and a plea to return them lest Hellfire and Brimstone be called down. Good prank. Class of 1995.

Not telling who it was, but it was good :) Wendy Cunningham

While I was a student at CBC my room-mate was Dave Frank. He recorded my snoring one night and then showed a slide of me in chapel and played the recording. I was surprised. Bob Ziebarth 1974-

Another time when I was living in the dorm , our desks were on each side of the room and there were cracks in the cement blocks that were somewhat wide enough to put a squirt gun on the crack and wait for the fellow in the next room to be at his desk. Then I would position the squirt gun just right and squirt the guy and he had no idea where it was coming from. Bob Ziebarth 1974---

Some guys took all the hymn books out of chapel one night and hid them. They also climbed the water tower and with a can of spray paint put: "The Devil made me do it!" Bob Ziebarth 197

Hi. My name is Cory Verge. One fond memory was the "**Awanita Away**" prank. A tent had been set up outside of the grad building to advertise the upcoming retreat - Awanita. Unfortunately a group of ladies kidnapped the tent and put a sign in its place. Everyone thought Barb Blink and I (Cory Verge) took the tent because we were known for our pranks. So when we went to our first class that morning everyone was laughing, asking us what we did with the tent and when did we take it. We had no idea what they were talking about as we never saw the tent in the first place. Of course no one would believe us because of our reputation. After class we were more than determined to find out who took the tent. A few days later the ladies who took the tent called me and asked if they could meet with me. They had something very important to tell me and didn't want anyone to know. (It made me suspicious so I decided to bring a pocket tape recorder.) I proceeded to meet with them and tape the conversation. Sure enough, they informed me that they took the tent and wanted to present it at Awanita. They were asking for my help in giving them an idea as to what they should do next. They didn't want anyone to know as they didn't trust anybody. I happened to be the coordinator for the first evening program for Awanita; so I suggested they do a skit presenting the tent at that time.

When I went home that evening, I took the tape and dubbed it to say a few phrases in a preferred order. I had a plan. I told Barb about the tent and we decided to infiltrate their dorm, take the tent, replace it with a blanket so that they didn't know it was missing and then make a skit ourselves and present the tent at Awanita. I successfully took the tent, replaced it with a blanket and then organized the evening program (first night at Awanita) so that the girls would be the first skit to present. I also convinced them to not set up the tent until 5 minutes before the program.

What a surprise when they found the tent missing. They came running to me asking what they should do. I encouraged them to go ahead with their skit just pretending that the tent was in their hands. (Kind of a pantomime) They did their skit and the crowd loved it...still wondering who really had the tent. I arranged the program so that Barb and I were the last to present. We were also known to go fishing. So our skit was about fishing, it was a comedy. After a few laughs we caught the "big fish" and reeled it in from the side of the stage - the TENT. Followed by the dubbed tape with the girls laughing and saying they didn't trust anybody. When everyone saw the tent and heard the tape - they went wild!

The best thing about the prank was gaining a very close friend (one of the original pranksters who took the tent in the first place - Ginger Lovin Ferguson). That is why this prank was the best!

Mr. Braswell, the dean of men, gave permission for several of the under-grad men to do the following, I was not involved. My first year at CBC was the first year on the present campus. My room was at the north end of the dorm next to washroom (with sinks to do personal washing small clothes items). Early AM on Sat. around 5:00 a very loud noise woke me up, I thought it was a fire alarm, so I ran out into the hall yelling at the top of my voice FIRE. Several of the guys had recorded this loud noise & played it on their boom box in that room next to our dorm room. Then they put the boom box in our

dorm window & pointed it in the direction of the women's dorms, some of them came running out in their bath robes just as the sun was coming up. Those same fellows pointed the boom box toward the grad men's dorm & one of the grad men came running out yelling at the top of his voice ABANDON SHIP several times, he was not joking.

Allen C. Heatherly

Lois M. Heatherly

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OH yes..... :)

The grad women in 1962-63 lived in the bottom floor of the men's dorm. We were always told to keep our curtains closed when the lights were on in the rooms. As we prepared for bed that night, we turned off the lights and opened the drapes. I SCREAMED a blood curdling scream heard by the whole dorm.... as in my window was a MAN! right after I screamed, the man went flying up through the air to the room above me... I realized at once, it was a prank by the boys..... but the whole dorm was now awake. Mrs. Brabazon came to me wanting to know what had happened. I tried to tell her it was only a prank, but she alerted the grad assistant on the floors above to check out the guys' rooms. The boys were all "asleep"..... but in the closet, was found the figure of a man tied to a rope. Needless to say, they ended up digging a ditch, I think. :)

Mary Ann Shutt McCloy

David Nissly painted "WE LOVE C.B.C." on the rusty old ugly water tower and got kicked out of school. I wished he had invited me to help him. His roommate,

--

Rev. George Van Syckel

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There were a number of pranksters while we were at CIU. But Marilyn Jackman and I had great fun playing a joke on Brian Anders and Steve Ford. It was a formal open dorms night so while all were at the auditorium watching the skits, Marilyn, with two accomplices (Sam Jackson, RA and Gary Ogle-now my husband) went into Steve and Brian's room and 'decorated' it. We tried to short sheet their beds but they didn't use a top sheet! So we just put macaroni under the sheet. We silly stringed the room, put a lipstick message on their mirror and Vaseline on their door. We switched all of their drawers and put

balloons in their closets. Then we put 'poppers' on the floor and a teddy bear and lollipop on their pillows.

The best part came from their reaction. Brian was cold and so went back to their room (before we wanted them to). As he walked in and saw the room he tried to protect our joke so Steve could see it. But as he went he ran into more and more that we had done and had trouble not ruining it!

They figured out who it was that night. The next week we took Marilyn out for her birthday. As the guys got in the back of the car they started batting a balloon around. Next they whipped out the lollipops and started licking them. When we got out of the car they threw the poppers at our feet! Then they presented us a list of the clues that 'convicted' us, including handwriting analysis of our message. They had 'lifted' it off the mirror. I don't think we ever truly confessed but it was just such a fun thing all the way around. They were such good sports and their 'revenge' was hilarious!

It was the best practical joke I have been a part of thanks to the recipients!

Judi Ogle

From Sylvia Phelps:

When any one of the guys had a birthday the other guys would throw him in the shower or in the fountain outside of McQuilkin Hall.

When my RA had her birthday I thought it would be funny to do the same to her. So, quietly I rallied the other girls on my hall. We would congregate at her room precisely at 7 PM when the bell rang.

The day came. The hour came. And I innocently made my way over to the library to study.

Next day a notice was posted on the bulletin board:

No One May Throw Anyone In The Fountain In Front of the Admin Building.

Shortly thereafter the water was turned off and a beautiful garden was planted. Not till George Murray took office was the fountain reopened. Thanks, George.

Sorry, Louise!

During my senior year my younger sister was here as a freshman and we were on the same hall in the dorm. One day a small package appeared outside my room but it was for my roommate. Even before opening, the stench of formaldehyde indicated suspicious contents: a sheep's heart! (from Biology Lab).

She knew immediately who it was from (a friend down the hall) and headed promptly toward the trashcan. I thought to myself, "This one's too good to let go," and went to recover it.

Disguising my distinct handwriting, I composed a passionate love letter to my sister, imposing as a would-be suitor.

Dear Sharon,

After many months of being deeply in love with you, I have finally decided it's time to disclose my heart to you. Every time I see you I long to have you as my own. Your eyes, your smile, just being in your presence.... Please do not say a word about this to anyone. But please, please let me know if you love me too.

Your admirer

And carefully I tucked the note inside the bag that contained 'the tell-tale heart'--and headed for the mailboxes.

That evening we chit-chatted as usual, but not a word.

Next morning after chapel she and her fiancé joined the mass exodus to the student center. After reading the note together he promptly made a trash deposit, wondering which of his classmates might have the nerve to interfere.

Once again our evening chat brought the usual girlish giggles. Suddenly, breathlessly,

"Ah! Aaaaah!" She jumped up, searching for the mysterious note. "Look at this!"

I read it with the appropriate intrigue. "Oh, my!" I laughed out loud. "Who's it from?"

"I don't know! It looks like Nick's handwriting, but it sounds like something Jeff might do!"

"Let me know when you find out!" And her poor roommate was trying hard to keep a straight face (she was the only one I had told).

A couple days later I could contain myself no longer--I had to tell somebody. Turning to Butch beside me in class I related the details of my well-thought-out prank. "But promise me you won't say a word to Sharon."

"Promise!"

Next day at lunch I'm walking toward the door and nonchalantly wave at my sister across the dining room.

"SYLVIA PHELPS!!!" And I ran! Knowing that she's faster and stronger than I, I pinned myself against the wall as she caught up with me. "Uncle! Uncle! I give! I give!"

"I'm going to BEAT YOU UP!!!

(I forgive you, Butch, for telling Keith :))