

Panel Reveals Fire Findings

Associated Press

COLLEGE STATION, Texas — Texas A&M University students cut corners in construction and school officials failed to adequately supervise them before the bonfire collapse last fall that killed 12 students, an investigating panel reported Tuesday.

Five people asked by the school to determine a cause for the Nov. 18 accident cited organizational failures and structural problems with the 59-foot pile of logs, which weighed more than 2 million pounds.

The commission said student drinking and horseplay were not direct causes but were among the problems that led to organizational failure.

The panel said safe bonfire construction was beyond the capability of student leaders.

"The most important point is the fact that combination of factors and not one factor led to collapse," said panel member Hugh Robinson, chairman of a Dallas construction management company.

Leo Linbeck Jr., the Houston construction executive who headed the panel, said a safe bonfire would have been possible if school officials had taken precautions.

Linbeck made no recommendation as to whether the 90-year tradition be continued. But his comment that the bonfire could be built safely brought cheers from the crowd of 1,500 students who filed the A&M basketball arena to listen to the panel's findings.

Texas A&M President Ray Bowen praised the commission for what he said was its thoroughness and precision, and added, "There's nothing I've heard that

I disagree with."

He said he would take about six weeks to decide whether to continue the bonfire tradition. "If I allow my heart to make the decision, we would continue bonfire," he said. "My heart will not make the decision. My brain needs to make the decision."

The bonfire event annually draws thousands of Aggies to the College Station campus on the eve of A&M's football game against its archrival, the University of Texas.

The structure is built over several weeks with stacks of logs the size of telephone poles put in place by cranes, tractors and student workers.

The logs are wired together, and the structure — which resembles a tiered wedding cake — is designed to twist inward and collapse on itself as it burns to the ground.

COMMISSIONERS

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Hill and Carrboro elitists."

Cook was not included in the primaries because he did not switch parties in time to meet the 90-day requirement to run for office.

Carolyn Thomas, Orange County's elections director, said that while the process of deferring happened infrequently, it was a legal maneuver.

"Should someone win in the primaries and choose not to go any further, they can withdraw and the party of that person, Democrat or Republican, will have to appoint someone in their place to run in November," she said.

The new candidate would be chosen by the party's executive committee.

Cook and Felten finalized plans for the changeover only after intense planning.

"Everything was checked out by the Board of Elections on the state and local levels and the Republican Party to make sure everything was above the board," Cook said.

Felten said his plans of promoting Cook were publicly known from the campaign's beginnings.

"I am going to encourage Wes Cook to run and will work hard as a Republican to get a more moderate voice on the board," he said.

Cook agreed that more diversity was needed on the board and cited the problem as the reason he wanted to join the ballot in November.

"We are just trying to put someone on the board that is in the range of conser-

vative to moderate," he said.

Incumbent Carey said the Republicans were misreading public opinion by supporting issues that were not of paramount concern.

"I think the things that are important to the voters aren't going to change," he said.

"I have been supporting those issues and will continue to do so."

Anderson expressed disappointment at her loss and said she was concerned that voters did not have adequate information on the candidates.

"It was a big split within the party anyway," she said. "The Republican Party came out and voted, but they didn't have the full story."

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Flag Debate Opens Leadership Gap

Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. — The dispute over the Confederate flag flying over the Statehouse has exposed a generation gap in the ranks of South Carolina's civil rights leaders.

Some veterans of the struggles of the 1960s support a deal under which the flag would be moved to a less conspicuous spot on the Statehouse grounds. But a younger generation of civil rights activists wants the flag removed altogether and says the older leaders are too willing to compromise.

"The flag has become a very emotional, symbolic issue," particularly for younger blacks, said Joseph Lowery, president emeritus of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the civil rights group once headed by the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. "It has taken the place of the back of the bus."

The state Senate agreed April 13 to

lower the flag as long as it is raised again above a monument to Confederate war dead on the Statehouse grounds. The House could vote as early as next week.

But many newer civil rights leaders and the NAACP say the appropriate place for the flag is a museum. Proposals to move the flag to a less-visible monument, include it in a circle of flags or encase it in glass at a monument have all run into opposition.

"The flag promotes the Confederacy's existence and white supremacy," said Kevin Gray, 43, who heads the Read Street Freedom House Project in Columbia. "Placing the flag on the Statehouse grounds is simply a slap in the face."

Gray said the NAACP's tourism boycott of South Carolina, which officially began Jan. 1, should continue until the flag is out of sight.

"Older black legislators are tired of the fight or believe they need to work in

the spirit of comity and civility, that they need to bend over backward for their white colleagues," he said.

But Sen. Robert Ford, a black Democrat who grew up in the shadow of Jim Crow laws, said it was unrealistic to think the flag would be removed from the Statehouse entirely, because the state was the birthplace of the Confederacy.

The "whippersnappers don't know what's going on and don't care," said Sen. Kay Patterson, 69, a black Democrat who has fought to remove the Confederate flag from the Statehouse since 1975.

House Minority Leader Gilda Cobb-Hunter, a 48-year-old Democrat who is among the most prominent in the new wave of black leaders in the House, shrugged off Patterson's whippersnapper remark. Some black legislators' leadership style "is go-along, get-along, as opposed to some whose style is less of a willingness to settle.

SPEAKER

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ent than if you use the yardsticks of the corporations and the government."

He said poverty, homelessness and unemployment were widespread and international debt was dangerously high, despite economic growth.

Nader compared the Green Party to

the Populist Party started by farm workers in the late 19th century. He said the populists brought many reforms to government when railroad companies began consolidating power and that modern international corporations needed similar opposition.

Later in his speech, Nader described the beginnings of his political career. In the 1960s, Nader fought for reform in the automobile industry. He went on to run

for president in 1996 before announcing his candidacy again this year.

Sophomore Etai Rosenbaum, who said he attended the recent protests against the World Bank in Washington, D.C., said the issues Nader raised needed action. "Nader's honesty is frightening," he said. "But at the same time it's inspiring."

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ALUMNI

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Moeser himself negotiated one of the gifts, \$32.2 million for the creation and operation of a honors program in computer science and engineering along with a building to house the project.

"James Moeser is one of the most alumni-friendly chancellors in the country and has been a great fund-raiser for that reason," said Ed Paquette, executive director of the UNL Alumni Association.

Nebraska also is in the middle of Campaign Nebraska, a multimillion dollar fund-raising effort for capital improvement similar to the Billion Dollar Campaign which UNC hopes to launch next year. "We had a \$115 million goal, and we're hovering around \$400 million raised," Castner said.

At Nebraska, all fund-raising efforts are done through the University Foundation, separate from the school's alumni association. But at UNC, there are 16 different foundations and a central office of development which does fund raising for the University in conjunction with the alumni association.

In the past, these efforts have been highly successful, with \$145 million raised and 8 percent of total funds coming from

private gifts and the endowment in 1999.

Major projects such as the establishment of the Johnston Center for Undergraduate Excellence and the renovation of Carroll Hall for the School of Journalism and Mass Communication have also been financed by alumni.

"Private gifts make a tremendous difference on our campus — the education of the students, the level of teaching we can offer and the level of research we can engage in," Hallman said.

UNC has traditionally ranked high in total alumni-giving nationwide. According to a recent Chronicle of Higher Education report, it ranks 19th.

Nebraska did not rank in the top 20.

However, Moeser's priorities still focus on increasing the amount of gifts UNC is able to rake in to meet capital needs and improve campus life.

"North Carolina is similar to Nebraska in that they are not seeing a tremendous increase in state support, and if they are going to add a margin of excellence, it must be through private gifts," Castner said. "Chancellor Moeser focused on areas where he could increase quality (at UNL). I'm sure he will do the same at UNC."

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THE Daily Crossword

By James E. Hinsh

ACROSS

1 Innermost part
5 Identifier
10 Cartographer's creations
14 PC operator
15 Writer Calvino
16 Et ___ (and others)
17 Flushing stadium
18 Short-term investment, for short
19 Family group
20 Chummy
22 Top-drawer
23 Health supp.
24 Conference
26 Prepare
30 Demonstrate
32 Porthos' pal
33 Helter-skelter
38 Bankruptcy
39 Polar explorer
41 Ballplayer
42 Circus-owner
44 Dental tool
45 Eight; pref.
46 Wisconsin city
47 Eskimo boot
51 Prohibit
52 Actress
53 Magnani
54 Haphazardly
60 Singer Redding

DOWN

1 Pointed end
2 Workplace watchdog grp.
3 Film spool
4 Periods of time
5 Airhead
6 Standing by the plate
7 Letters
8 Building wings
9 Short and plump
10 Talking parrot
11 Sanction
12 Baby grand
13 Tendon
21 Saint
25 Nocturnal raptor
26 "Mr. Mom" star
27 Needle case
28 Dilute
29 Tape track
30 String in Bologna
31 "And I Love ___"
34 Japanese ship

name
35 Wallace and Whitney
36 Hit by The Kinks
37 Humdinger
39 "The ___ Papers"
40 Way in, in brief
43 Reed or Rawls
44 Phooey!
46 Intercept unex-

pectedly
47 Polynesian
48 New Zealander
49 Stiletto or dagger
50 Goes on
51 Shriek
54 Inactive
55 Poetic meadows

56 Afflictions
57 "___ of Faith"
58 Peru's capital
59 Barks shrilly

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The Princeton Review
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June 24 – August 15

GMAT: May 6 – July 9

LSAT: July 8 – August 10
August 26 – October 3

MCAT: June 10 – August 14
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