

# 12 Memorialized a Year After Bonfire Collapse

The Associated Press

COLLEGE STATION, Texas — More than 25,000 people weathered driving rain Saturday to observe the one-year anniversary of the collapse of a log bonfire that killed 12 Texas A&M students.

"It was a healthy night for our university," said student Ricky Wood. "For some it brought closure."

Students and others huddled under umbrellas on the muddy campus polo fields for a memorial ceremony at 2:42 a.m. — the exact place and time A&M's 59-foot-high log stack collapsed Nov. 18, 1999.

The log stack, weighing more than two jumbo jets, toppled while it was being assembled for the school's annual pep rally on the eve of its football game against archrival Texas. In addition to those killed, 27 were injured.

Family members of each student who died in the accident sat together under umbrellas in rows of seats in a 150-foot circle. Behind each set of seats stood a 5- to 6-foot wood pillar bearing each victim's name and the year he or she was to graduate.

"I think people got what they needed out of the ceremony. It was very

poignant," student Laura Coward said. "To me it was amazing to see so many people stand in the pouring rain to honor those who were killed."

At the start of the 40-minute ceremony, lights on the fields were turned off and a memorial flame atop a platform in the circle's center was lit. A cannon was then fired 12 times.

The flame will be kept lit until 8 p.m. Sunday, to correspond with the time the last victim died.

Saturday afternoon, College Station officials dedicated a plaque and 12 antique-style lampposts inscribed with the names of the victims at a city park near the university. The ceremony was moved indoors because of continuing rain.

"It was an opportunity for the community to share its grief," said Texas A&M President Ray Bowen.

Bowen announced in June that the traditional bonfire would continue, but not until at least 2002 and only with greater school supervision and a professionally engineered design.

In May, a five-member commission appointed and funded by the university blamed the collapse on flawed construction techniques and the lack of adequate supervision of students assembling the stack.



## The University and Towns IN BRIEF

### Graduation Speaker Chosen for December

Peter Kaufman, professor of religious studies, will be the keynote speaker at UNC's December Commencement ceremony.

The ceremony recognizes students who completed degrees in summer or December.

Kaufman was nominated to speak by the senior class marshals.

A selection committee endorsed that choice, said Richard Edwards, interim provost.

Kaufman is the faculty coordinator of the Johnston Scholars Program and the Carolina Scholars Program.

He is also the coordinator of the Collegium on Religion in American

Intellectual Life.

### West Cameron Avenue Closed to All Traffic

West Cameron Avenue, from Graham Street to Merritt Mill Road, closed Saturday and will reopen Wednesday.

Automobile traffic will be rerouted to Graham Street, West Franklin Street and Merritt Mill Road.

The closure is due to the routine repair of a railroad spur crossing Cameron Avenue, said John D. Masson, UNC Cogeneration Systems project manager.

"The rail that is crossing the street was installed about 10 years ago and it just needs some repair work," he said. "The most expeditious way to do it is to close the road and do the entire width of it at one time."

Pedestrians and cyclists will be detoured around the south side of the repair area via a driveway in front of the Kennon-Cheek-Rebecca Clark building.

"We get a delivery of coal at Cogen about three or four days a week and automobile traffic causes wear on the track over time as well," he continued.

"By doing the maintenance now we hopefully prevent a problem in the

future."

### Trustees Recognize 4 Davie Award Recipients

The Board of Trustees presented four William R. Davie Awards at its meeting Wednesday.

The trustees recognized sportscaster Woody Durham of Chapel Hill, former General Alumni Association president and Educational Foundation director James Harrell Sr. of Elkin, private investor Ben Jones III of Naples, Fla., and founder and CEO of Aaron Rents Inc. R. Charles Loudermilk Sr. of Atlanta.

The annual award recognizes extraordinary service to the university or to society.

It is the highest award given by the trustees.

### Dey Hall Tutoring Canceled for Tuesday

There will be no peer tutoring in Dey Hall on Tuesday, the day before Thanksgiving break begins.

The last dates that peer tutoring will be available for the year are Nov. 28 and 29.

Questions can be directed to Martha Keever at the Learning Center at 843-

6533.

### Local Woman Arrested On Several Charges

Chapel Hill police arrested Robin Gail Andrews, 39, of 101 Martha Lane for assault and battery, communicating threats and second degree trespassing on Friday at 7 p.m., police reports state.

Andrews was arrested, charged and released on a written promise bond.

Her trial date is Dec. 1 in Orange County District Court in Hillsborough.

### Belk Reports Larceny To Chapel Hill Police

On Friday at 8:22 p.m., Chapel Hill police responded to a call from an employee at Belk at 201 S. Estes Drive. Reports state that an employee reported that an unspecified amount of money was stolen from the cash register.

### Yogurt Pump Robbery Reported on Friday

On Friday, Chapel Hill police responded to a call at the Yogurt Pump at 106 W. Franklin St. at 8:36 p.m. The suspect pushed the clerk back and took money from the cash register, reports state.

### Campus Calendar

Today

4:30 p.m. — The **Minority Film Series** continues in room 039 Graham Memorial.

Robert Anderson, associate director of Latin American studies, will facilitate a discussion on **Latin images in film**.

5 p.m. — Learn about what it takes to get an **acceptance letter** from the

### UNC School of Medicine.

The admissions committee, along with several current UNC medical students, will hold a panel at for any students interested in applying to medical school.

6 p.m. — There will be a general **interest meeting for "Challenging Institutional Racism at UNC: A week of awareness and education"** in Union 206.

All organizations and individuals that

are interested and would like to participate in the event in February are welcome.

6 p.m. — The **Wesley Foundation** will host a **potluck Thanksgiving dinner**.

Anyone planning to attend should dress for the occasion.

Tuesday

7:30 p.m. — An **interfaith vigil** in 111 Carroll Hall will precede the exe-

### cution of Marcus Carter.

Following the campus vigil will be a procession to the post office and a **candlelight vigil** at Central Prison in Raleigh during the execution.

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