



The accident occurred before dawn Thursday at the university, which is located about 80 miles northwest of Houston.

COLLEGE STATION, Texas (CNN) — Eleven students have been confirmed dead in the collapse of a 40-foot bonfire structure at Texas A&M University. Officials said 28 students were injured, four critically.

The students had been using large logs to build the bonfire as part of a campus tradition, when the logs apparently shifted, and the pyramid collapsed, crushing several students and trapping others. Ten of the dead were male students; one was female.

Late Thursday, thousands of

students, alumni and families gathered in prayer at a campus memorial service at Reed Arena at Texas A&M.



“We gather together tonight in Aggie Land, but we gather in great pain,” said Corps. of Cadets Cmdr. Forrest Lane, who led the invocation. “Today has been filled with deep tragedy.”

Families of some of the students who were killed attended

Leaders sign European arms control treaty



Leaders of 30 nations signed a landmark arms control treaty on the last day the OSCE summit on Friday

November 19, 1999
Web posted at: 2:56 a.m. EST (0756 GMT)

ISTANBUL, Turkey (Reuters) — Leaders of 30 nations signed a new conventional arms control treaty for Europe on Friday, updating limits on armed forces and heavy equipment set at the end of the Cold War.

President Bill Clinton signed the Conventional Forces in

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au cinéma zempire en avant-dernière, un film débile que des millions d'américains ont adoré



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the evening service. Also present were Texas Gov. George W. Bush, and his father, former President George Bush, whose presidential library is on the campus.

University President Ray Bowen told the crowd: "For the Texas Aggie family, this has been a day of unspeakable grief."

"All of us cried as we watched our loved ones being removed from the stacks of logs. We prayed that all would be alive, but they were not. We prayed that all of the injuries would be minor, but they were not. We prayed that our agony and our grief would end quickly, but it has not."

Grief settles over campus

University president Ray Bowen canceled this year's bonfire for only the second time since the tradition began in 1909. The other cancellation came after President Kennedy's assassination. But he could not say whether the event would be abolished permanently.

As the injured students, and bodies of the dead were painstakingly removed from the tangle of logs, grief descended on the campus. Students hugged one another and cried; a crowd of young people gathered near the accident site.

The logs were wired together, and needed to be carefully removed by cranes "one log at a time," said Kem Bennett, director of a state rescue unit.

Bart Humphreys of the College Station Fire Department said rescuers used sensitive listening devices to detect any sounds.

At several points, rescuers called for an "all quiet" at the scene they could listen more closely for a faint tapping. Humphreys said the last sounds heard from the beneath the pile were at about 10:30 a.m. CST (11:30 a.m. EST).

"Every piece of wood in that pile is unstable and every piece of wood that moves affects other

pieces of lumber," said Humphreys, who said the four-story, mostly white oak log pile was

"like pickup sticks."

One injured student, who had been trapped beneath the pile of logs, was rescued six hours after the collapse.

Hundreds of rescuers and students huddled and dropped to a knee in prayer each time a body was removed from the field on the northeast corner of the campus.

Bonfire was a tradition since 1909

The bonfire, a 90-year tradition at the school, was to have been lit next week before a football game against arch-rival Texas.

Bowen said the wood pile had fallen twice before: once, about 40 years ago, and again in 1994, when heavy rains caused the clay foundation to swell. "Over a period of about four hours, it moved."

"This is the first time it's been catastrophic," he said.

Police stand guard over a makeshift morgue early Friday

"It's just a tragic event," Texas A&M football coach R.C. Slocum said. "The football game, at this time, is very inconsequential compared to this."

Texas A&M students were urged to call family members to let them know they are safe.

University officials said that normally 7,000 to 8,000 logs are piled up to make the bonfire which is built to a height of roughly 55 feet.

Rusty Thompson, the adviser to the bonfire project, said as many as 70 students are allowed on the stack of logs at a time.

The university president said the student builders received training.

"We think our safety program is pretty good," Bowen said. "But in fact, today, we're not satisfied with anything we do. We are going to continue to review all those activities."

snapped'

Students were piling logs on the structure when it collapsed, witnesses said.

Jenny Callaway, a student who was on the stack, said it just fell. She said there was no warning. "It just snapped," she said.

Sophomore Diana Estrada said she was about 200 yards away from the stack when it fell.

"It just toppled over, and the wires snapped and the lights started sparking and going on and off," she said. "We ran over there as fast as we could, and we could see legs sticking out and hear people screaming."

Sophomore Michael Guerra, who was helping build the bonfire, had left for a few minutes and returned moments after the collapse.

"People were running around calling people's names and crying," Guerra said. "Other people were just like zombies. They couldn't believe what had happened."

Bowen said structural experts were on site monitoring the de-stacking of the logs in an attempt to understand what caused the sudden and catastrophic accident.

"Right now, we simply are perplexed," he said. "Frankly, we are also grieving and that is our principle preoccupation at this time."

Father describes son's fall

Charles Hill of Crockett, Texas, told radio station WBAP-AM that his son, Caleb, was on the stack when it fell.

"He happened to be very fortunate. He has only a broken arm and a broken nose. He fell about 50 feet," Hill said. "Caleb is very emotional and very scared. Being part of the tradition, he feels a responsibility for those who have been injured. In a sense his family has been hurt."

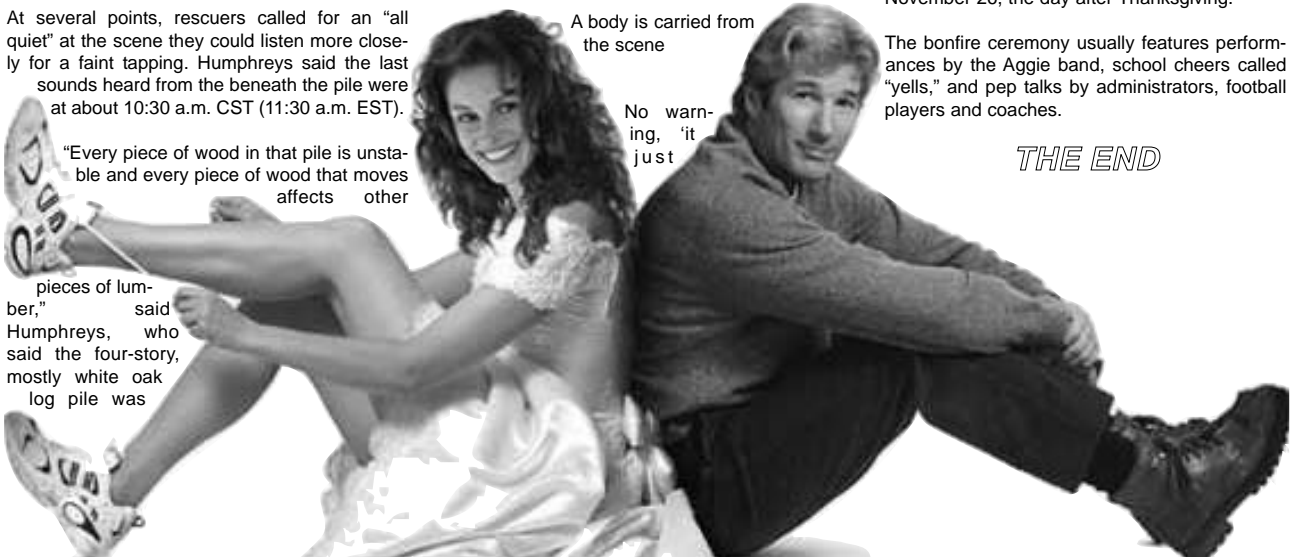
The Texas A&M Aggies are set to play Texas on November 26, the day after Thanksgiving.

The bonfire ceremony usually features performances by the Aggie band, school cheers called "yells," and pep talks by administrators, football players and coaches.

A body is carried from the scene

No warning, 'it just

THE END





Turkish President Suleyman Demirel referred obliquely in a speech to the fact that Russia is in breach of the treaty in its military offensive in Chechnya, saying: "The full implementation of the present treaty...is crucially important until the agree-

ment signed today comes into force." The treaty sets ceilings on five major categories of military equipment — battle tanks, artillery pieces, armoured combat vehicles, combat aircraft and attack helicopters. It also limits the forces that countries can deploy in flank regions such as the Caucasus, a provision which Moscow admits it is breaching.



the summit of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

The treaty was the first of four documents to be adopted at the summit, including a European Security Charter setting out the principles and role of the OSCE for the 21st century, a final declaration that will give the OSCE a role in Chechnya and a document on confidence and security-building measures.

The CFE treaty, designed to rule out the risk of a surprise attack, sets limits on conventional forces on a national basis instead of the bloc-to-bloc totals set in the 1990 document, opening the agreement for signature by states other than from NATO or the former Warsaw Pact.



c'est avec une joie incomparable et infinie que nous présentons dans ce nouveau "examen blanc" du 5 janvier 2004, le dernier film de Richard Gere et de Julia Roberts: "Pretty Man". On revoit dans ce film Richard Gere en gigolo super cultivé, beau et séduisant et Julia Roberts en femme d'affaires américaine style "golden woman".

Les salles étaient comblées aux Etats-Unis hier, date de la sortie officielle du film. On parle de millions de téléspectateurs. Au Liban, chez *DVD Pirat-Sahbi Ali*, le film était déjà sur les rayons à 4,000 Livres Libanaises.

Malgré les critiques hautement positives aux USA (James Critik titre dans sa rubrique hebdomadaire: "It was the second time I cried, the first time was when my girlfriend had lips surgery", on n'espère pas que le film fera un carton en Europe...

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