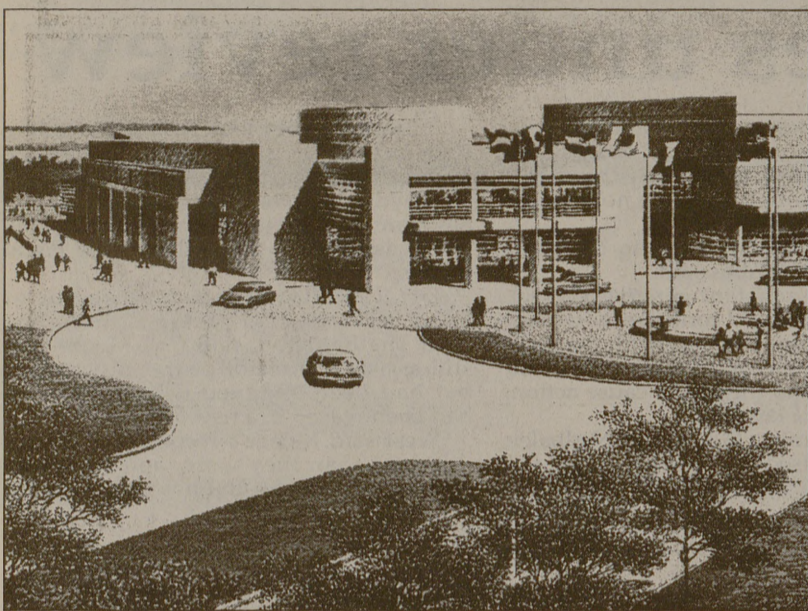


STATE & LOCAL

Officials call Bush Library unique addition to campus



By James Bernsen

THE BATTALION

A&M officials say they are pleased with the finalized design for the Bush Library, which they say will be a unique addition to the campus.

Don W. Wilson, executive director of the Bush Presidential Library Center, said the building will satisfy President Bush's suggestions that it not look out of place.

"It will be distinctive, but will blend into campus," Wilson said. "It will stand out, in the sense of being dignified."

Wilson said Bush has seen a model of the center and was very pleased with its design.

E. Dean Gage, interim president of A&M, said the administration is also enthusiastic with the

plans. "I think it is reflective of the prestige of a presidential library," he said.

The library building will feature a lobby rotunda with a small glass dome on top. It also will use native Texas materials to blend in with other campus buildings.

The center will consist of the library and museum building, a shared-use building that will house an auditorium and conference center and an academic building where classes in political science and economics will be held.

Tim Donathen, assistant vice chancellor for Facilities Planning and Construction, said the building is still undergoing minor changes in the interior design, but no major restructuring is planned.

"We changed some of the outside materials to make it more

presidential," he said, "but the design probably won't change much."

Donathen said there will probably be some minor adjustments to the \$42 million budget, but they will be small.

"It's more or less fine-tuning, nothing that would inflate the budget to a large degree," he said.

Wilson said \$16 million has been raised, and fund raising is on schedule.

The final design details will be worked out by June with ground breaking scheduled for late fall 1994.

Donathen said bids for a construction company will be taken and evaluated by Facilities Planning and Construction, who will advise the Texas A&M Board of Regents. The regents will make the final decision.

The regents will give the bid to

the lowest bidder whose proposal appears in order.

"It's taking a while primarily because it's such a large project," Donathen said.

The library will be completed in late 1996 and will be dedicated in early 1997.

Gage said the Bush Presidential Library will bring added prestige to the University, and he looks forward to its opening.

"It will bring scholars from the entire world to study and research his presidency and long public life," he said. "Just so many of them being here will be a tremendous advantage."



Bush

Administrators say lack of Lynch bids OK

By Jan Higginbotham

THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M University System is not departing from a competitive bid system as was recently reported in the Dallas Morning News, a Texas A&M official said Tuesday.

Dr. Eddie Joe Davis, president of the Development Foundation president, responded to a Dec. 19 story which said Texas A&M hired Merrill Lynch as an investment consultant to coordinate the management of \$140 million in endowment funds without accepting open bids for the position.

"To my knowledge, we never entered into competitive bids in the area of management of financial assets," Davis said.

He also said System officials made their decision based on demonstrated performance and would not seek the lowest bid in such a situation.

The article also alleged that a written contract did not exist between Texas A&M and

Merrill Lynch, and that several money management firms were hired without the approval of the Board of Regents.

Davis said a written contract was drawn up in July 1991 when Merrill Lynch was chosen. Five money management firms were also hired in July 1991 by a process involving System staff and Merrill Lynch.

"The regents, in the area of the investment of the financial resources delegated to the chancellor in 1987 the authority to hire external money managers," Davis said.

This action by the regents enabled the chancellor to choose money management firms without any specific action by the Board approving the hiring of each individual firm, Davis said.

"The investment program has had outstanding performance since the money managers were hired," he said.

The net returns due to the change in investment policy have increased, adding over \$13.5 million to the endowment's total performance.

"The System investment advisory committee, made up of external people who have some expertise in these matters, are of the conviction that we can always increase our return on investment by hiring outside experts," Davis said. "What you're doing when you're hiring money managers is you're hiring experts."

The work done by the money management firms and by Merrill Lynch is overseen by System staff, the System Investment Advisory Committee, the Board of Regents, an internal auditor and a state auditor.

The Texas A&M System returned the funds to its own System after it had previously been overseen by the University of Texas and made the decision to hire external sources to oversee the investment.

"To say we'd be better off doing it internally, I think the answer is no," Davis said.

Given the increased returns since the change, Davis said, the new policy was the best decision.

Three die in blast after car, truck crash into gas pump

The Associated Press

CORRIGAN — Three people were killed Tuesday when a tractor-trailer collided with a car at a highway intersection, hurling both into the fuel pumps of a convenience store where they exploded.

"You don't have time to think. I heard a loud scrunching noise, I left the store immediately," Donna Swilley, 39, of Livingston, the clerk at Stubby's Food Mart, said. "I just heard a loud boom. I knew it was bad."

She ran out another door to call for help.

"It really scared me. I didn't know what might happen. I thought the whole store might explode," she said.

Two men in the cab of the truck and a woman in the car were trapped in the flaming wreckage and died.

Their names were not immediately released.

Texas Department of Public Safety Trooper Greg Sanchez said investigators believed the truck struck the car at the main intersection in town, highways U.S. 59 and U.S. 287, and careened out of control before slamming into the gas-line pumps and supporting beams of the canopy over the pumps at the Exxon outlet. A third vehicle, a van, was parked outside the store and also burned in the blaze.

"Supposedly the truck was northbound and hit a passenger car from behind and actually pushed the car into the gas pump," said Mike Cox, a DPS spokesman. Neither vehicle hit the store.

The crash site was sprayed with a foam used in chemical fires as a precaution, Sanchez said.

The truck, carrying a shipment of auto parts, had a hazardous cargo sign on it and officials initially were worried that fumes from the burning wreckage might be toxic.

"It seems to be safe," said Sanchez.

Bubba Haley, Red Cross disaster coordinator for the town about 100 miles northeast of Houston, said the blast could be felt a quarter-mile away.

Corrigan school officials evacuated a nearby elementary school and took several hundred students to the district high school. All students were sent home a short time later.

Economy

Continued from Page 1

Mansur said. Up to 500,000 tourists will need accommodations, and more hotels will be constructed in the cities as a result of

the library. New restaurants, such as the Olive Garden, the Outback Steakhouse, and Brangus Feed Lot will soon have more competition, Murphy said, with several new restaurants looking to feed the tourists the library will bring. Gary Basinger, of the Brazos

Valley Development Council, said population has also increased in the area. From 1980 to 1992, Bryan's population grew from 44,337 to 57,151 and College Station's population grew from 37,272 to 56,671, he said. Ray Shanaa, director of plan-

ning for Bryan, said Texas A&M University is the driving force of the area's economic development and population growth. Bryan-College Station is a high traffic area, Shanaa said. Shanaa attributes the traffic in part to the University's leadership in research.

work abroad

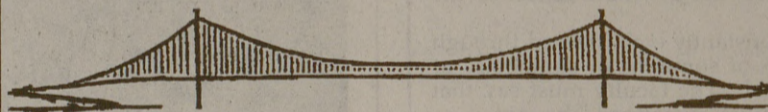
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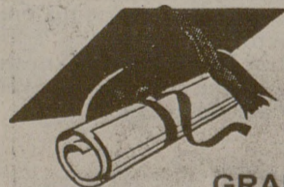
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