

## Chairs, names chosen for bombing memorial

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — One hundred sixty-eight stone-and-glass chairs — one for each of the people killed in the Oklahoma City bombing — will be erected at the site of the blast as a memorial.

The design was selected Tuesday after an international competition.

The chairs, their backs and seats made of stone, will appear to float above glass bases during the day. At night, lights will illuminate each inscribed name.

Across a reflecting pool, the Survivors Tree — an elm scarred by the blast — will be surrounded by a low circular wall inscribed with the names of the survivors.

"When you see an empty chair, you see the

emptiness, the absence," said Torrey Butzer, an Oklahoma native who now lives in Germany with her husband. She and her husband, Hans-Ekkehard Butzer, who both graduated from the University of Texas architecture school, designed the memorial with Sven Berg.

A 15-member committee of victims' relatives, survivors, community volunteers and design professionals unanimously chose the \$9 million design from five finalists, whittled down from 624.

Organizers have already collected \$2.5 million. Construction is expected to begin next year.

The winning design "just exudes the spirit that

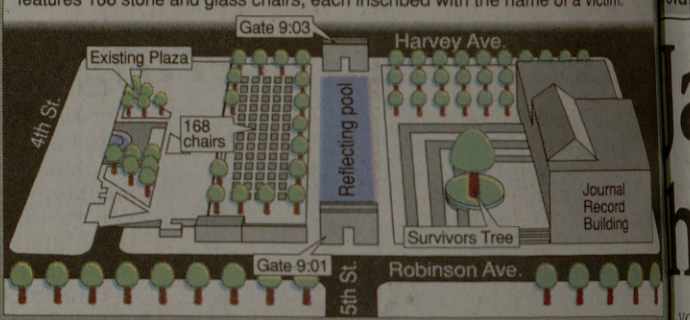
we were looking for," said committee member Cheryl Scroggins, whose husband, Lanny, was killed in the blast. The committee was swayed by a plan to preserve the building's outline, which many victims' relatives view as sacred ground, she said.

Other designs in the competition envisioned a 60-foot leaning granite wall to symbolize both the fall of the building and the pioneer spirit of a barn-raising; a series of glass walls recalling the fence surrounding the bomb site that serves as a makeshift memorial.

and a series of buildings filled with victims' belongings, engineered so the sun would illuminate each victim's area at noon on his or her birthday.

### Oklahoma Bombing Memorial

A design unveiled today for the permanent memorial to the Oklahoma City bombing features 168 stone and glass chairs, each inscribed with the name of a victim.



## Celebrations continue in Hong Kong

# New government tolerates protests

HONG KONG (AP) — Day One of Chinese rule brought promises of tolerance from Hong Kong's new leaders and an important test of that commitment: how to handle 3,000 foes of communism marching down a major thoroughfare.

Police made no attempt Tuesday stop the protesters, whose chants of "Put an end to one-party dictatorship!" would never have been allowed anywhere else in China.

The demonstration was nonetheless a sideshow on a day dominated by celebrations of the territory's return to the mainland after 156 years under British colonial government. Most Hong Kong people enjoyed parades, parties, speeches and the enthusiastic practice of a longstanding tradition — shopping.

Tens of thousands of people lined Victoria Harbor after nightfall to watch a fireworks display that filled the skies with shimmering color and shook the windows of Hong Kong's office towers.

Chief Executive Tung Chee-hwa started his five-year term with confidence, setting ambitious goals that ranged from steady growth toward democracy to bread-and-butter issues such as better schools and easier home ownership.

China's President Jiang Zemin promised anew that Beijing will do nothing to get in the way of Hong Kong doing what it does best.

"The chief executive ... should present our views directly to the Chinese government," said Andrew To, one of the organizers. "He's just a puppet for the Chinese government. But we hope all these people can change his mind."

Local television broadcast the march and newspapers carried photographs of other protests during the overnight handover ceremonies, providing reassurance that Hong Kong pluralism will take more than a simple switching of flags to suppress.

## BONFIRE

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Gallemore also said the distance from campus and student and machinery accessibility to the site are factors in choosing a site.

Lewis said redpots try to choose sites that are close to campus to make it easier for students to come to cut.

"We want to make it convenient as possible," he said.

After the redpots choose a site, Kevin Jackson, the Bonfire adviser, must approve the selection. If a contract with the landowners is needed, then Dr. J. Malon Southerland, vice president for student affairs, must approve the site, and University lawyers draw up a contract. Southerland said that although the University

does not have a list of criteria for approving a Bonfire site, it also considers the distance from campus, clean-up and cost of using the site.

Lewis said choosing a good cut site is one of the most important parts of Bonfire.

"If it's a good place to go out to, people will go out there," he said. "People will enjoy cutting wood for Bonfire."

Also Lewis said site selection begins the process of building Bonfire.

"It completely gets the ball rolling," he said.

Gallemore said they are considering a few cut sites, but he could not comment on the location. Along with cleaning up the Hearne cut site, the redpots also are raising funds for Bonfire and confirming tractor and heavy equipment contracts for the fall.

Gallemore said they are setting the dates now to pick up equipment.

"This is where we do our main coordinating for the fall," he said.

A meeting will be held in the next two weeks to discuss ways to improve safety at Bonfire cut and stack.

Last year changes were made to increase Bonfire safety after a Sept. 22, 1996 accident that caused the death of an A&M student returning from cut site.

Because of the accident, a rest stop halfway between campus and cut site was set up, and students riding in the back of pickup trucks were not allowed into the site.

Gallemore said they will continue to make Bonfire as safe as possible for students.

"All the changes that were implemented last year after the accident will be used this year," he said.

First cut will be on October 4, and Bonfire will burn on Thanksgiving night.

## TROUBLES

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"We were robbed of our deposit," she said. "This isn't the first time either. It seems like where ever we live, we never get our deposit back."

Smith said subleasing has become another area of concern for students. Sometimes students sign leases for longer than they plan to live in town. Most complexes offer nine-month and 12-month leases, but most state in the lease that residents are responsible for subleasing or paying rent for time they lease but do not occupy the space, she said.

"The best prevention of the problem is to not sign a lease for a time when you are not going to be there," Romero said. "But if you cannot predict what will happen in the next year, then you should immediately find someone to take over your lease."

Romero said more than 400 subleases will be available this summer, and 200 will be filled.

"A lot goes on during the summer," he said. "It's really tough to sublease in the summertime because there is very little traffic."

Rick Powell, an A&M student attorney, handles cases involving lease problems between students and off-campus housing complexes. Powell said students can contact him for legal advice about their leases.

In some cases, full-time students are not able to live in certain complexes because of their income.

Saddlewood Apartments manager Stephanie Brounoff said the privately-owned complex does not lease to full-time students, and even part-time students must pull in a \$14,000-minimum yearly income to qualify for a lease on a two bedroom apartment.

"We are a tax credit property," Brounoff said. "The IRS makes the rules, and we follow them."

Brounoff said the tax credit is a "win-win" situation for the residents and the complex.

"The idea of the tax credit is for middle income residents to have a nice place to live and be able to get ahead financially to provide for a family," she said.

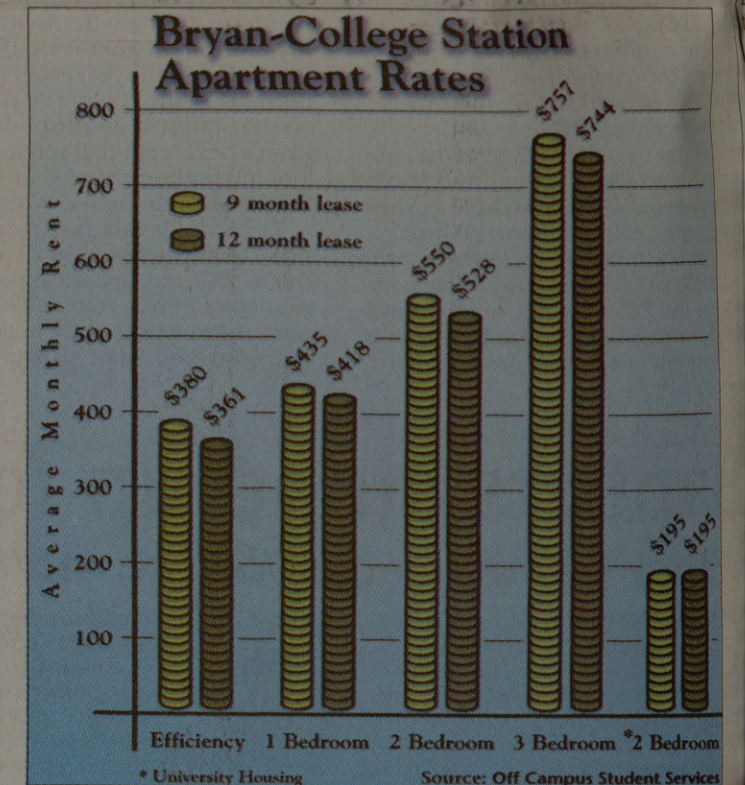
Brounoff cited exceptions to the full-time student leasing policy. Married students who file a joint tax return or single parents with a minor dependent child or on government-sponsored programs may be eligible to lease at Saddlewood.

Texas A&M offers housing for graduate students and married students in the University Apartments on University Drive.

However, John Sodalak, student apartments manager and assistant director of Student Life, said those who wish to live there are placed on a waiting list for 18 months to two years.

"We have over 800 people on the list right now and only 600 units on the site," Sodalak said.

Romero said that although apartments and duplexes are abundant in the Bryan-College Station area, another form of



housing some students prefer — mobile homes — is limited. Trailer parks provide a less expensive way of living than do apartments and because the demand for trailers and mobile homes is high, occupancy is full. He said mobile home growth in the area is stagnant because no new parks

are being developed. The Department of Student Life in the John J. Koldus Building helps students choose the best place to live off campus.

This year the department distributed more than 15,000 off-campus housing survival manuals and 22,000 price lists of complexes.

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