

# Threat of building's collapse may stop search



OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Rescuers crept gingerly through the federal building Sunday as engineers tried to reinforce weakened columns that threatened to collapse around them. The possibility grew that the search for victims may have to be halted before all the bodies are found.

"What's very important now is to make sure the workers aren't imperiled as they attempt to remove the dead," Gov. Frank Keating said late Saturday.

"I think that building will be a tomb for the victims who will never be found," he said.

But even as officials wrestled with the possibility of ending the search, the rescuers still hoped to find survivors inside the building.

"One of them reminded me of Mexico City, the earthquake there," Keating said. "There was a survivor found after 14 days.

Our 14 days are up Wednesday."

The death toll rose to 131. Sixty-two people were missing, including eight children.

That included six names the state medical examiner's office added to the list of missing over the weekend, after being contacted by a Tulsa woman whose address was found in a fanny pack recovered from the scene.

The Tulsa woman said the pack belonged to a group that included her sister, her sister's boyfriend and her sister's four children, ages 1 through 5, said Ray Blakeney, a spokesman for the medical examiner's office. The woman said she realized the group had been in Oklahoma City to apply for federal assistance, he said.

Later Sunday, Blakeney said the six may have been located in another state, although he wouldn't say where. He didn't give their names or hometowns. He said the matter was under investigation but that

the Tulsa woman had "seemed sincere." People at Sunday's services tried to offer support.

Grief counselor Tom Madden was sent by the Bay Presbyterian Church in Cleveland to help.

"What has happened here has not only touched the people of Oklahoma City, but it touched the people of the world," Madden told worshippers at the First Baptist Church, where plywood covers the stained-glass windows knocked out by the blast.

"The process of healing begins shortly after the tragedy, and it continues for the rest of our lives," he said.

At the nearby federal building, Assistant Fire Chief Jon Hansen said two columns at the front of the building have taken on an hourglass shape at the bottom and could collapse, bringing down more concrete slabs on the area being searched. Workers built 5-foot-tall steel boxes around

the base of the columns and filled them with grout.

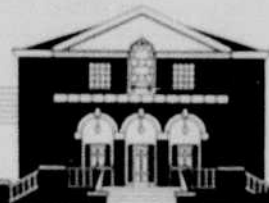
Maj. Pat Caraway of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers said the grout functions like a cast, strengthening the columns.

Structural engineers accompany search teams, advising which directions are safe to tunnel and where strengthening is needed, Caraway said. They use equipment that can detect an eighth of an inch of shifting in the building's load-bearing columns and exterior walls.

Structural engineers were seen examining various parts of the building, with as many as six visible on the roof at one time.

Workers reported seeing bodies behind the two columns in an area known as "the pit," where remains of a day care center and Social Security offices are thought to lie. But the fear of falling concrete stalled access.

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## A-bomb's hometown rejects peace statue

LOS ALAMOS, N.M. (AP) — Standing on a grassy median at the edge of town, Ginger Welch can look past the plateau and see the snowcapped mountains that isolate the birthplace of the atomic bomb.

Welch said the median, which serves as a gateway to the Atomic City, 30 miles northwest of Santa Fe, would have been a perfect setting for a peace statue suggested five years ago by Albuquerque elementary school pupils.

Instead, the idea generated controversy and hard feelings, and the County Council this year rejected it.

"A lot of people opposed to it may have felt that somehow this was being placed here as a punishment," said Welch, a counselor.

The statue, a bronze globe, found a home anyway, at the Albuquerque Museum. It will be dedicated in August — the 50th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Nagasaki and Hiroshima in Japan.

An estimated \$45,000 was donated for the globe, which is now being cast.

Caroline Gassner, the Arroyo Del Oso Elementary School teacher whose students came up with the idea, hopes the globe can also be used as a traveling monument for peace. "So do students."

"We want people to know this is still an innocent idea," said Dana Kaplan, 14. "We're not trying to malign anybody or incriminate anybody."

To some, the work in Los

Alamos helped shorten World War II and keep peace through the Cold War. But the scenic town of 12,000 tucked away in the Jemez Mountains still struggles with its legacy as a key contributor to the Atomic Age, and it remains a focal point for protests against nuclear weapons.

Counselor Morey Pongratz, a space scientist at Los Alamos National Laboratory since 1975, believes the statue would stigmatize the city and that the money could be better spent.

"Money spent on a statue detracts from money spent on the true injustices of the world," Pongratz said.

Welch disagrees. "Those children... were making a very definite statement about wanting peace," she said. "And where better to do this than at the place where the nuclear age was born?"

For the pupils, the project became a bigger lesson than Gassner could have imagined.

"This is teaching the kids how to compromise; it's teaching them how to deal with people of all ages and ideologies," Gassner said.

Welch said the statue served a useful purpose by stirring one of the more feverish arguments she's seen in her 37 years in Los Alamos.

"I felt this statue was an issue that allowed Los Alamos to reach out, not in a defensive way, but to demonstrate that certainly peace has always been the primary mission of this community," she said.

## Center's director hopes to get past Mapplethorpe

CINCINNATI (AP) — It's time for the Contemporary Arts Center to get past Mapplethorpe, according to its new director, Charles Desmarais.

Good things grew from the 1990 censorship controversy, including a heightened national profile and increased membership, but "What we need to do now is move beyond that," he said.

"We'll give them new things to complain about."

Like what? Well, he won't exactly say.

"If I told you, it wouldn't be a surprise, and I want to surprise people," said Desmarais, in his cluttered, yet-to-be decorated office. "It's the job of a contemporary arts center to challenge our audience."

Desmarais, due on the job Monday, was in Cincinnati last week to get acquainted with the gallery and the city.

The center gained prominence when it and then-director Dennis Barrie were charged with obscenity for exhibiting homoerotic photographs by Robert Mapplethorpe. Both were acquitted. The case sparked a national debate on government funds for the arts.

Barrie left in 1992 to head the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum in Cleveland. His successor, Elaine King, returned to academia in November.