

Probe Accuses Paterno Of Cover-Up

Penn State Officials Concealed Sandusky's Activities, Report Says

BY GEOFF MULVILL, GENARO C. ARMAS AND MARK SCOLFORD

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Joe Paterno and other top Penn State officials buried child sexual abuse allegations against Jerry Sandusky more than a decade ago to avoid bad publicity, according to a scathing report Thursday that exposed a powerful “culture of reverence” for the football program and portrayed the Hall of Fame coach as more deeply involved in the scandal than previously thought.

The alleged cover-up by Paterno, then-university President Graham Spanier and two other Penn State administrators allowed Sandusky to prey on other boys for years, said the report by former FBI Director Louis Freeh, who was hired by the university's trustees to investigate.

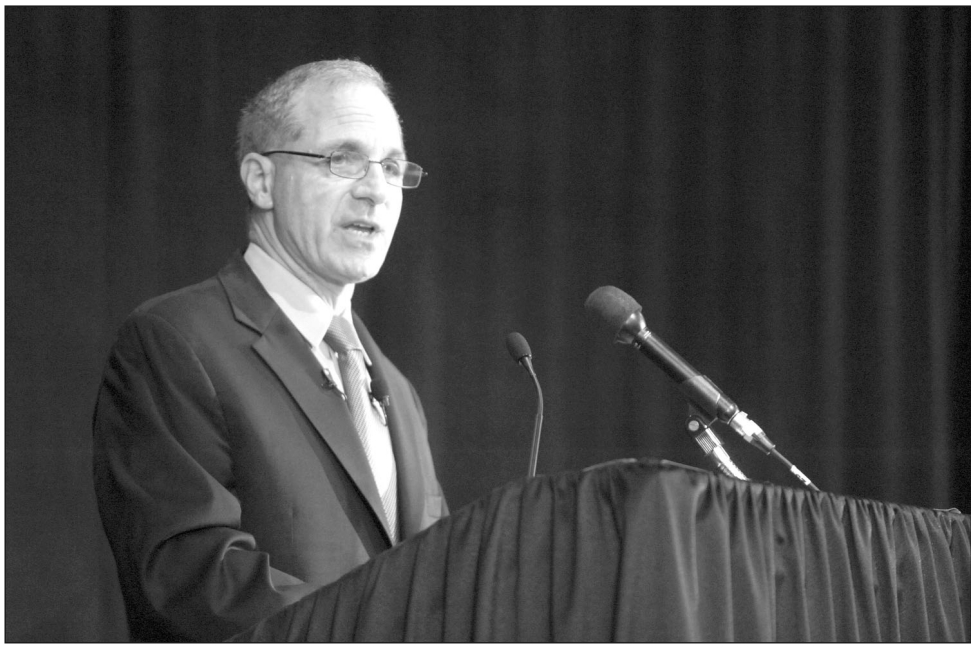
He called the officials' behavior “callous and shocking.”

“Our most saddening and sobering finding is the total disregard for the safety and welfare of Sandusky's child victims by the most senior leaders at Penn State,” Freeh said at a news conference in Philadelphia upon the release of the 267-page report. “The most powerful men at Penn State failed to take any steps for 14 years to protect the children who Sandusky victimized.”

The findings of the \$6.5 million, eight-month investigation into one of the biggest scandals in the history of college sports could further stain Paterno's reputation. The revered coach who emphasized integrity both on and off the field and ran what was considered one of the cleanest programs in sports died of lung cancer in January at age 85, months after he was summarily fired by the trustees.

Freeh said that while he regretted the damage the findings would do to Paterno's “terrific legacy,” the coach “was an integral part of this active decision to conceal,” and his firing was justified.

Asked whether the actions of the four officials amounted to a crime such as conspiracy



CHRISTOPHER WEDDLE/CENTRE DAILY TIMES/MCT
Louis Freeh addresses the media during a press conference at the Westin Hotel in Scranton, Pennsylvania, Thursday, July 12, 2012, where he released the findings of his investigation into the Penn State scandal.

or obstruction, Freeh said that would be a matter for a grand jury to decide.

In a statement, Paterno's family strongly denied he protected Sandusky for fear of bad publicity.

“The idea that any sane, responsible adult would knowingly cover up for a child predator is impossible to accept. The far more realistic conclusion is that many people didn't fully understand what was happening and underestimated or misinterpreted events,” the family said. “Sandusky was a great deceiver. He fooled everyone.”

The findings could have consequences for the criminal case against Penn State athletic director Tim Curley and retired senior vice president Gary Schultz, who are awaiting trial on charges of failing to report abuse and lying to a grand jury. In addition, the Pennsylvania attorney general's office is still investigating the scandal, and others could be charged.

Sandusky, a former member of Paterno's coaching staff, is awaiting sentencing after being convicted last month of sexually abusing 10 boys over 15 years.

Freeh and his team, which included

lawyers and former law enforcement officials, interviewed more than 430 people and examined more than 3.5 million emails, handwritten notes and other documents. Paterno died before he could be interviewed but testified before a grand jury.

The investigation focused largely on the university officials' decision not to go to child-welfare authorities in 2001 after a coaching assistant told Paterno that he had seen Sandusky sexually abusing a boy in the locker room showers.

Paterno and the others gave various explanations for their decision, saying among other things that they misunderstood the allegations, that they did the best they could and that this was the “humane” way to handle the matter.

But the Freeh report said: “It is more reasonable to conclude that, in order to avoid the consequences of bad publicity, the most powerful leaders at the university — Spanier, Schultz, Paterno and Curley — repeatedly concealed critical facts relating to Sandusky's child abuse from authorities, the university's board of trustees, the Penn State community and the public at large.”

Documents Conflict On When Romney Left Bain Capital

BY JACK GILLUM AND JULIE PACE

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Documents filed by Mitt Romney's former company conflict with the Republican presidential candidate's statements about when he gave up control of the private equity firm Bain Capital. President Barack Obama's campaign seized on the discrepancies Thursday to charge that Romney was lying about his background.

Romney, in turn, said Obama was the one being dishonest, rolling out a hard-hitting television ad that accused the president of launching “misleading, unfair and untrue” attacks about the Republican's role in outsourcing U.S. jobs.

“When a president doesn't tell the truth, how can we trust him to lead?” the narrator says in the Romney ad titled “No Evidence.”

Obama has accused Romney of being an “outsourcing pioneer” who invested in companies that shipped jobs to China, India and elsewhere overseas. But Romney, who has made his business experience the central part of his candidacy, claims he had no role in outsourcing U.S. jobs because much of that activity didn't happen until after 1999, when he says he had given up operational control at Bain.

Both candidates dug in on their positions, dispatching aides to level deeply personal criticisms aimed at casting each opponent as little more than a typical politician. Each candidate is seeking to hup his rival's integrity in hopes of gaining ground in closely contested campaign four months before Election Day. But the strategy carries risks: It could



Romney

At issue is when Romney left Bain, and whether he was at the helm when it sent jobs overseas.

The documents, filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, place Romney in charge of Bain from 1999 to 2001, a period in which the company outsourced jobs and ran companies that fell into bankruptcy.

Romney has tried to distance himself from this period in Bain's history, saying on financial disclosure forms he had no active role in Bain as of February 1999. Obama has labeled Romney a job killer in hopes of undercutting the Republican's claim that his private business experience gives him the ability to turn around the struggling economy.

But at least three times since then, Bain listed Romney as the company's “controlling person,” as well as its “sole shareholder, sole director, chief executive officer and president.” And one of those documents — as late as February 2001 — lists Romney's “principal occupation” as Bain's managing director.

The Obama campaign called the SEC documents detailing Romney's role post-1999 a “big Bain lie.” And Obama deputy campaign manager Stephanie Cutter said the presumptive GOP nominee may have even engaged in illegal activity.

Activists: Massacre In Syria Kills More Than 100

BY ELIZABETH A. KENNEDY

Associated Press

BEIRUT — Syrian activists reported a new massacre late Thursday in the central Hama province, saying regime forces killed more than 100 people in shelling and other attacks.

There were few details on the attack, which was reported by the Local Coordination Committees activist group and the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

The Observatory said it was aware of up to 100 killed from sources on the ground, but the group had only confirmed the names of 30 people so far.

Death tolls are nearly impossible to independently verify in Syria, where the government restricts journalists and where more than a year of violence has convulsed much of the country.

There were few details of the violence in Hama's Tremseh area.

Activists say more than 17,000 people have been killed since the uprising against President Bashar Assad began in March 2011, and he is coming under growing international pressure to stop the violence. But as the bloodshed continues, and the conflict morphs into an armed insurgency, hopes for a peaceful transition are dimming.

The latest report of violence came in the wake of the highest-level defector yet from President Bashar Assad's regime — his ambassador to Iraq.

Defections from the Syrian regime have stirred hopes in the West Assad's inner circle will start abandoning him in greater numbers, hastening his downfall.

But the tightly protected regime has largely held together over the course of the 16-month-old uprising, driven by a mixture of fear and loyalty.

The latest official to flee, Ambassador Nawaf Fares, announced that he was joining the revolution, asserting Thursday that only force will drive Assad from power.

“There is no road map ever with Bashar Assad, because any plan, any statement that is agreed on internationally he delays on and ignores,” Fares told the Al-Jazeera satellite channel. “There is no way that he can be pushed from power without force, and the Syrian people realize this.”

Syria's Foreign Ministry denounced Fares, saying he should face “legal and disciplinary accountability.”

In Washington, State Department spokesman Patrick Ventrell hailed what he called the “first major diplomatic defection,” adding: “We think this a wider sign that the regime is feeling the pressure. The pressure is up and the regime is really starting to fall apart.”

Fares is the second prominent Syrian to break with the regime in less than a week. Brig. Gen. Manaf Tlass, an Assad confidant and son of a former defense minister, defected last week, but has not spoken publicly.

Wedding Announcement of Chelsey Kathleen Faehrich and Kendrick (Ken) Vincent Kasik on July 14, 2012 in Newton Hills State Park, Canton, SD. Come celebrate with them at the dance in the Community Center in Hudson, SD featuring the Lugnuts from 8pm to Midnight.



Schuurmans-Van Winkle

Mr. and Mrs. Scott Schuurmans would like to announce the engagement and upcoming wedding of their daughter Brittany Schuurmans to Tyler Van Winkle, son of Mr. and Mrs. Randy Weier and the late Scott Van Winkle. Brittany is the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Schuurmans of Tyndall, SD and Mr. and Mrs. Ken Wermers of Yankton, SD. Tyler is the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Terry Schramm of Yankton, SD, Mrs. Sheryl Van Winkle and the late Rick Van Winkle of Tyndall, SD, and

Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Weier of Hurley, SD. Brittany is a graduate of Dakota Wesleyan University and is a Registered nurse at St. Benedicts Hospital in Parkston, SD. Tyler is a graduate of South Dakota State University with a Bachelors of Animal Science and Minor of Business degree and is self employed as a farmer in Tyndall, SD. The couple will be married on July 28, 2012 at St. Leo's Catholic Church, Tyndall, SD.

Biden Rallies For Obama At NAACP To Cheers

HOUSTON (AP) — Vice President Joe Biden rallied support for President Barack Obama before the nation's largest civil rights organization on Thursday, declaring that Republican challenger Mitt Romney's election-year agenda would hurt — not help — working families in the black community.

Biden, appearing before the NAACP's annual convention one day after Romney addressed the group, offered what amounted to a rebuttal of the Republican rival as both campaigns sought support from a key constituency in several swing states.

The vice president did not specifically cite Romney's argument to the NAACP on Wednesday that he could serve African-Americans better than Obama, the nation's first black president. Romney was booed when he said he'd repeal Obama's sweeping health care reform law but otherwise got a polite reception as he reached out to a traditionally Democratic voting bloc.

Biden predictably drew a far more rousing reception as he outlined differences between Obama and Romney on health care, education, energy, women's rights and research, saying the two rivals had “fundamentally different visions.”

Biden offered a rundown of Obama's first term, pointing to a landmark health care law, launching the mission that killed al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden and the decision to rescue the financial system and U.S. automakers General Motors and Chrysler.

U.S. Records \$904.2B Deficit Through June

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. budget deficit grew by nearly \$60 billion in June, remaining on track to exceed \$1 trillion for the fourth straight year.

Through the first nine months of the budget year, the federal deficit totaled \$904.2 billion, the Treasury Department reported Thursday.

President Barack Obama is almost certain to face re-election having run trillion-dollar-plus deficits in each his first four years in office. That would likely benefit his opponent, GOP presumptive nominee Mitt Romney.

Obama and congressional Republicans remain at odds over how to lower the deficit. Unless their disagreement is broken, a series of tax increases and spending cuts could kick in next year. Economists warn that could dramatically slow an already weak U.S. economy and even tip it back into a recession.

The Congressional Budget Office predicts the deficit for the full year, which ends on Sept. 30, will total \$1.17 trillion. That would be a slight improvement from the \$1.3 trillion deficit recorded in 2011, but still greater than any deficit before Obama took office.

Stone Tools From Cave Offer New Evidence

GRANTS PASS, Ore. (AP) — Stone tools and human DNA from ancient caves in Oregon offer new evidence of how some of the first Americans spread through the continent: Quite apart from the better-known Clovis culture, a separate group occupied the West.

Archaeologists said Thursday that using multiple techniques, they have dated broken obsidian spear points from Paisley Caves to about 13,200 years ago, as old as much different stone tools from the Clovis culture found in the southeast and interior United States. Radio-carbon dating of human DNA from coprolites — ancient desiccated human feces — shows people lived in the caves as early as 14,300 years ago.

The dates indicate that the Clovis style of chipping stone was not the mother of Stone Age technology, as others have theorized, and that the two styles were developed independently by different groups, said Dennis Jenkins, an archaeologist with the University of Oregon's Museum of Natural and Cultural History who led the excavations. That development may have happened in the Ice Age region of Beringia, where Siberia and Alaska were linked, before the two groups migrated south, he said.

The findings by an international team of scientists from the U.S., Britain and Denmark were reported online Thursday in the journal Science.

1 Chimp Dead, 1 Tranquilized After Escape

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Las Vegas police say they had no choice but to kill one chimpanzee and tranquilize another after the agitated animals escaped a home.

Officer Marcus Martin told KLAS-TV (<http://bit.ly/NrM6wT>) that a caller reported a chimp atop a vehicle and another caller reported a primate banging on a police car after the escape was reported about 10 a.m. Thursday.

Martin said the chimps were very large and estimated they weighed 170 pounds or more.

Police sent out tweets calling the animal dangerous and urging residents to stay inside their cars or homes.

By noon, the chimps were both stopped. Video showed one of the animals lying face down in the middle of a road surrounded by animal control and police cars.

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60th Anniversary



Mr. & Mrs. Floyd Gross

Mr. and Mrs. Floyd & Joyce (List) Gross of Yankton, SD will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on Sat, July 14, 2012 with a family gathering.

Their family requests a card shower. Cards may be sent to: 707 E 17th St., Yankton, SD 57078.

Joyce List and Floyd Gross were married on July, 14, 1952 at St. John's Lutheran Church at 8th & Locust, Yankton, SD.

They have 5 children: Deanna (Tim) Garvey, Steve (Anita) Gross, Randy (Mary) Gross - all of Yankton, Julie (Steve) Bloch of Lesterville, SD, and Sheri (Jeff) Jenkins of Ozark, MO.

The couple has 12 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.