



Journal: Possible fraud haunts A&M fusion results

FROM STAFF & WIRE REPORTS

Experiments at Texas A&M might have been manipulated to give results supporting the concept of cold fusion, according to a prominent science journal to be published today.

Science, published by the American Association for the Advancement of Science and one of the most widely read journals in the world, said A&M hasn't conducted a formal investigation though fraud is widely suspected.

"The result is that after a year of experiments that most scientists view with a great deal of skepticism anyway, A&M researchers are still haunted by this specter of possible fraud," an article in the journal said.

John Fackler, dean of A&M's College of Science, said in an interview Thursday he

had no reason to believe fraud had occurred and there were no plans to investigate cold fusion experiments.

"I have no concrete evidence of anything other than possibly fairly sloppy chemistry," he said.

Dr. John Bockris, one of the primary scientists in the cold fusion experiments, referred all phone calls to University officials, who released a vague statement on the magazine article.

"The University has policies and procedures in place to determine the facts of any question of scientific misconduct, while protecting the reputation of any who may be unjustly accused," the statement said. "Should any evidence of impropriety arise from continued research efforts in this or any other area of research, those policies would then come into play."

The University statement also said A&M researchers will continue to conduct experiments in cold fusion and study the conflicting data coming from various laboratories at A&M and elsewhere in the United States.

Cold fusion experiments in Bockris' laboratory last year were among the first in the world to report finding tritium, a form of hydrogen that can be key evidence of a fusion reaction.

Fusion is the merger of hydrogen atoms into helium with the release of substantial energy.

It is the principal reaction of the sun and of thermonuclear weapons, and is believed by most scientists to take place on a substantial scale only when the hydrogen has been heated to millions of degrees.

"Cold" fusion, in which the reaction would take place and liberate energy in the

form of heat at ordinary temperatures, would be a stunning scientific breakthrough — and mystery — if it really happens.

Bockris reported the tritium within weeks after Stanley Pons at the University of Utah and his colleague Martin Fleischmann announced to a stunned scientific community they had achieved fusion in a laboratory jar.

The Utah announcement set off a worldwide scramble to confirm the possibility of cold fusion, but most experimenters could not duplicate the Pons-Fleischmann results, and the concept now has few supporters among scientists.

Science said A&M's quick findings of tritium gave early support of the Pons-Fleischmann findings, and were instrumental in a decision by the state of Utah to in-

vest \$5 million in cold fusion research.

A&M, the magazine said, received an additional \$150,000 from the Electric Power Research Institute.

Yet, Science said, "suspicions were raised almost from the first that the tritium in the A&M cells (experiments) was put there by human hands."

The magazine said some scientists had suggested the tritium detected in the A&M experiments was a result of someone deliberately "spiking" the chemical analysis.

This could be done, Science said, by injecting tritiated water, which contains some tritium atoms in place of hydrogen in the water molecules, into the flasks of heavy water, or deuterium oxide, that are used in the cold fusion experiments. Deuterium is

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Stores sell cleaned up rap album

By SEAN FRERKING
Of The Battalion Staff

2 Live Crew's "As Nasty As They Wanna Be" is just too nasty for some record store owners in Bryan and College Station.

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In reaction to a request by San Antonio police to remove the rap group's album from shelves of record stores in San Antonio, Books and Video, the parent company of Hastings Music, has ordered all its stores in Texas to stop selling the "obscene" album.

Greg Smith, an assistant manager at Hastings at Manor East Mall, said the major reason for the removal of the album is to protect store owners and employees from possible legal action.

"Personally, I don't care for the group," Smith said. "Unfortunately, I think the ban in San Antonio has a certain degree of censorship to it."

He said the government should regulate obscenity in the music business with something similar to the rating system used for movies.

"They're arresting people in Miami and banning the album in San Antonio," Smith said. "But they're not doing anything about any adult pornographic magazines or comedy albums by people like Andrew 'Dice' Clay."

The album, which has brought 2 Live Crew into the national spotlight, has been labeled "obscene" by a Florida judge and a San Antonio assistant district attorney.

The "As Nasty As They Wanna Be" version is said to contain overly sexually explicit lyrics.

Two members of the group were arrested in Miami after giving a concert before an all-adult audience. A Florida record store owner also was arrested for selling the banned album.

The group released an edited version of the album, "As Clean As They Wanna Be," which Hastings still offers to the public.

Smith said the Hastings in Manor East Mall still carries the "clean" version of the album, although they have removed all objectionable tapes, compact discs, singles and albums by the group from the store.

Bryan Lynch, a manager trainee at Camelot records in Post Oak Mall, said his store never carried the unedited album, although the store does sell the "clean" version.

"We really never wanted to get involved in it," Lynch said. "We're a family-oriented store, and the obscene version by 2 Live Crew is just too objectionable for our standards."

Lynch said he believes the album should be able to be sold without censorship, but he also said he

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A&M student dies in accident

A Texas A&M graduate student died Wednesday as the result of a one-car accident on Highway 6 south of Navasota.

Raj-Kishore Saxena, a 27-year-old A&M graduate student of finance, died in a local hospital after his car veered off Highway 6 and rolled over.

Saxena, who was from India, is survived by his wife, Amrita Saxena, an A&M student.

A memorial service for Saxena will be held at 3:30 p.m. today in the All Faiths Chapel.

Just hanging around



Photo by Thomas J. Lavin

Camp Adventurer Angie Frazer repels from the stairs outside DeWare Field House Thursday afternoon with help from kinesiology instructor Kathy Craig.

By MIKE LUMAN
Of The Battalion Staff

With animal rights activism on the rise, some Texas A&M scientists defend the need for animals in the laboratory.

Secretary of Health and Human Services Louis Sullivan, with an indirect reference to a Texas Tech University scientist whose lab animals were stolen, recently blasted animal rights extremists for disrupting important research.

Dr. Elvin Smith, a professor of medical physiology in the A&M College of Medicine, said animals do not suffer and are essential to medical advancement.

"Every single medical advance in the past 100 years has depended on animal testing," Smith said.

"There are no alternatives to animal testing if we are to continue to make progress against disease," he said. "It's that simple."

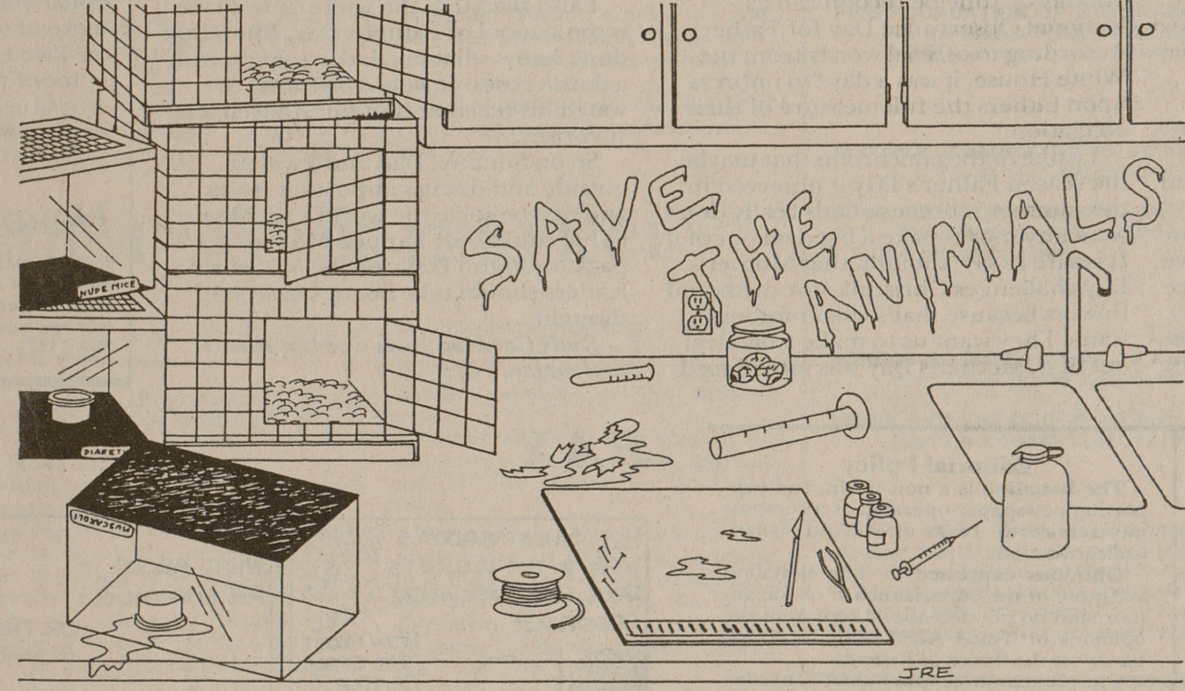
Dr. John A. Shadduck, dean of the A&M College of Veterinary Medicine, said the quality of life enjoyed today could not have been achieved without animal research.

"You can't get answers to fundamental and important questions about human and animal health and improving health without doing some animal experiments," Shadduck said.

Dr. Gary Joiner, director of the campus laboratory animal care program, agreed.

"I think animal research plays a valuable role in improvement of the quality of life for people," Joiner said.

The researchers said animal rights activism is on the rise and had some criticism aimed at the activists.



Graphic by Richard Ellis

According to an Associated Press story, break-ins and thefts by animal rights extremists have cost the nation's medical schools \$6.5 million during the past five years.

A bill by Rep. Charles Stenholm, D-Stamford, that makes it a federal crime to steal animals from research facilities and farm lots was scheduled to be discussed by a House agriculture subcommittee this week.

The three A&M scientists said activism at the University has not reached the level of that at Texas

A&M faculty plays key role in super collider's projects

By JULIE MYERS
Of The Battalion Staff

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From the superconducting super collider site selection to the readying of new technology, Texas A&M faculty have been intimately involved in the SSC, an A&M physics professor said.

"With the SSC, we have the good fortune to see exciting spinoff technologies emerging from the development of the SSC," Dr. Peter McIntyre said.

The super collider, to be built in Waxahachie, south of Dallas, is a 54-mile underground ring where protons directed by superconducting magnets will be smashed together and photographed by scientists studying the fundamentals of matter.

McIntyre said the SSC will be the essential tool to probe the ultimate energy frontier.

Technologies emerging from the SSC development already are being put into practice by universities, laboratories and industries in Texas, McIntyre said.

These technologies include:

- Improved Medical Resonance

Imaging (MRI) being developed by the Texas Accelerator Center and the Texas Medical Center. This would increase the device's ability to produce a clearer picture of the human body, reduce its cost and reduce the biological hazards to MRI operators caused by strong magnetic fields, which cause headaches.

• The discovery and ongoing development at the University of Houston of high-temperature superconductors, which would increase the cooling power and efficiency of refrigerator units.

• A compact accelerator system for high-energy ion implantation of metals being built by A&M scientists, that can be used to manufacture artificial hips and prostheses that do not produce friction when implanted in humans.

Additionally, jet engines and turbines made using high-energy ion implantation will not rust.

• Superferric magnets developed by the Texas Accelerator Center for the SSC, which are an ideal choice for compact, low-cost synchrotron

Court OKs sobriety checkpoints

WASHINGTON (AP) — Police seeking to curb drunken driving do not violate motorists' privacy rights by stopping them at sobriety checkpoints, the Supreme Court ruled Thursday.

The 6-3 decision upheld Michigan's checkpoint program and, by extension, similar operations in most states.

"The balance of the state's interest in preventing drunken driving ... and the degree of intrusion upon individual motorists who are briefly stopped weighs in favor of the state program," Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist wrote for the court.

The three dissenters said the decision sacrificed indi-

vidual liberty in favor of a police tactic that might not make any difference in the fight against drunken driving.

The sobriety-checkpoint ruling was hailed by various groups seeking greater crackdowns on drunken drivers, but was denounced by the American Civil Liberties Union.

Mickey Sadoff, national president of Mothers Against Drunk Driving, called the decision "a great victory for all of us who care about the safety of our loved ones on the highways."

The chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board, also applauded the ruling but said, "More needs to be done."

vent animal suffering. "We have an enormous number of rules and regulations to follow," he said.

Smith said laboratory animals are given the same anesthetics used on humans and therefore do not suffer.

"The written federal requirements for the care of animals during experiments actually exceeds the requirements for the care of humans in a hospital," Smith said.

Joiner said a federal inspector from the U.S. Department of Agriculture visits A&M's 20 animal testing sites at least once a year.

Shadduck said a researcher will be investigated and punished if found not following proper procedure.

He also said A&M has been visited by various animal rights groups.

"We don't have anything we are ashamed of," Shadduck said.

Smith said many animal rights groups claim they are not against research, only cruelty.

"That goes against their literature, though," he said. "What anti-experimental groups believe, from looking at their literature, is that animals have absolutely equal rights with humans."

"They argue animal experimentation is worthless and cruel and that no advances have been made in the treatment of humans by using experimental animals," Smith said. "That just won't sell."

He said two people die of heart disease every minute and that animal research is the most probable hope of solving this and other problems.

Joiner said about 80 percent of the animals used are rats and mice.

Phone calls to the Houston Animal Rights Team, an activist group, were not returned.