



THE BATTALION

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Wednesday, December 8, 1993

Secret radiation testing exposed

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - The government has concealed more than 200 nuclear weapon tests since the 1940s and conducted about 800 radiation tests on humans, some of whom were unaware of the risks, the Energy Department acknowledged Tuesday.

"It left me appalled, shocked and deeply saddened," said Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary about information she learned only recently that 18 civilians had been injected with highly radioactive plutonium in the 1940s to determine what doses workers might be exposed to safely.

"It is apparent that informed consent could not have taken place," she said. All the individuals are dead, although many of them lived for years after the experiment.

Learning of the plutonium tests "just gave me an ache in my heart," she said.

Launching a new era of openness about the weapons programs, her department released summaries of previously secret information about nuclear tests in Nevada, the amount of plutonium produced and currently located at weapons factories, and limited information about government tests during the 1940s and '50s on humans to determine the health effects

of radiation doses.

The department did not release plutonium stockpiles at the Pantex weapons plant near Amarillo, where thousands of warheads are being dismantled, because the number might provide clues as to the number of weapons in the nuclear arsenal.

O'Leary said she was personally stunned by information she has received about the human testing, although she said she was prevented by privacy laws - and an ongoing internal review - from disclosing details at this time.

The Albuquerque Tribune reported the testing last month and identified five of the 18 individuals, including Elmer Allen, a former railroad porter from Italy, Texas. Those five people were injected with plutonium as part of work being done by the Manhattan Project in the 1940s in the development of the first atomic bomb.

O'Leary directed that as much information as possible be released, perhaps as early as next June, on the tests involving the 18 people as well as about 800 other radiation tests involving some 600 individuals.

The fact that some tests were done on humans in connection with the government's nuclear program has been known for years, but few details have been available and officials

have said the participants always were aware of the potential danger.

O'Leary said in the case of the 18 individuals whose cases are being investigated she would not rule out a possible lawsuit against the government by survivors. The last of the 18 died two years ago.

Tara O'Toole, the DOE's assistant secretary for environment, safety and health, said some of the 800 tests on which documents are being assembled were "perfectly legitimate, perfectly valid" but that others - especially those involving plutonium doses - were clearly questionable.

O'Leary said of the plutonium-related tests "the majority of the experiments were clearly below ... the standards of correctness."

Meanwhile, the department said it conducted 204 more underground nuclear tests between 1963 and 1990 at its Nevada test range than previously had been announced, or about one-fifth more than officially acknowledged over the years.

Thirty-four of the tests resulted in some release of radiation into the environment, but officials said in each case the contamination was confined to the vast Nevada test area and did

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FINAL EXAM SCHEDULE

Friday, December 10

7:30-9:30 a.m. Classes meeting MW 5:45-7 or later
10 a.m.-12 noon Classes meeting MWF 8
12:30-2:30 p.m. Classes meeting TR 9:35-10:50
3-5 p.m. Classes meeting TR 11:10-12:25

Monday, December 13

8-10 a.m. Classes meeting MWF 9:10-10
10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Classes meeting MWF 12:40-1:30
1-3 p.m. Classes meeting TR 8-9:15
3:30-5:30 p.m. Classes meeting MW 4:10-5:25

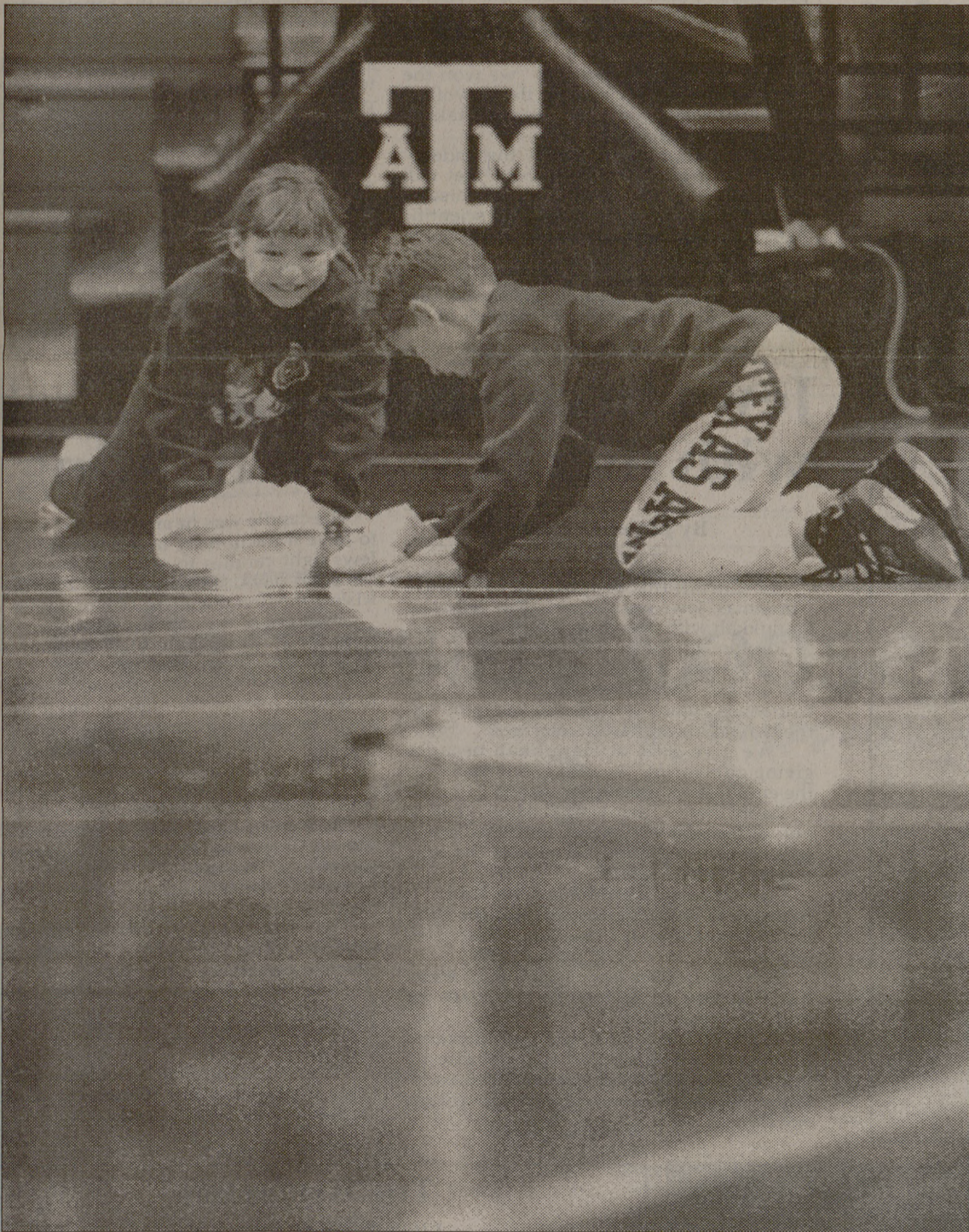
Tuesday, December 14

8-10 a.m. Classes meeting MWF 10:20-11:10
10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Classes meeting MWF 3-3:50
1-3 p.m. Classes meeting TR 3:55-5:10
3:30-5:30 p.m. Classes meeting MWF 1:50-2:40

Wednesday, December 15

8-10 a.m. Classes meeting TR 12:45-2
10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Classes meeting MWF 11:30-12:20
1-3 p.m. Classes meeting TR 2:20-3:35
3:30-5:30 p.m. Classes meeting TR 5:30-6:45 or later

How much do we get paid for this?



Kevin Ivey/The Battalion

Heather and Tyson Hann of College Station help keep the court clean during a break in the action at the Lady Aggie basketball game Tuesday night. Heather is seven years old and Tyson is nine.

University prepares to renovate Sbisa Food Court over holidays

Plan awaits expected approval by Board of Regents

By Kim McGuire

THE BATTALION

The construction of the Sbisa Underground Food Court is set to begin during the holiday break following the plan's expected approval by the Board of Regents Thursday or Friday.

Andy Cronk, Food Services facility manager, said the Physical Plant has already assessed the facility and has begun making renovations.

"Since Sbisa was built in 1912, we obviously have some repairs to do before the construction of the Food Court begins," Cronk said. "We've already started repairing a few groundwater leaks, leaks from the ceiling and air conditioning."

The construction will consist of three phases: repairing the facility, relocating the present retail market and constructing the Food Court.

Cronk said the Underground Market will relocate to the North Dining Hall, a dining facility currently not used for meetings. The dining hall is behind the west wall and is accessible through the main entrance.

"We're hoping to keep the retail market open as long as we can while it's being moved," Cronk said. "It should be open by the time we start construction on the Food Court."

Wes Gideon, assistant facilities manager, said the department will receive input about the design of the Food Court from the vendors and Food Services management.

"Everyone is so excited about this, especially the vendors," Gideon said. "They have been extremely cooperative. They've offered to help with the design, telling us what's worked best for them in the past and offering to help us train the employees that will be working in their locations."

In a previous interview with The Battalion, Dr. Richard Floyd, interim Food Services director, said Chick-Fil-a, Whataburger, Pizza Hut, Taco Bueno and Columbo Frozen Yogurt have given final commitments to operate in the Food Court.

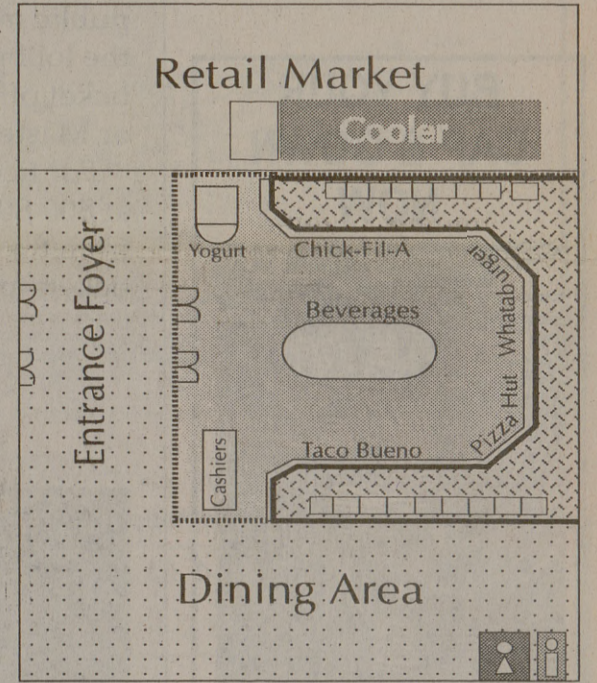
The construction of the Food Court includes widening the foyer area and enhancing the seating area.

"We definitely expect a huge flow of people when the Food Court opens next fall semester," Cronk said. "We'll widen the foyer area when you first walk into the facility to accommodate the immediate masses and are thinking about adding an exit near the dining area."

Gideon said the kitchen used by the current Food Court will also be used by the new vendors.

"Most of their food preparation will take place there," Gideon said. "The vendors have all said the kitchen will be a great help to them because they won't have to bring in their outside equipment."

Gideon said he expects the prices to be the same as in any other of the vendors' locations, and each



The proposed floor plan of the Sbisa Food Court.

vendor will determine their menu items. "They know what works best for them," Gideon said. "I expect they'll be trimmed down somewhat to what sells best for them."

Gideon said Little Bernie's menu will also be altered to best accommodate the students.

"With Pizza Hut coming in we'll have to make a few changes," Gideon said. "Pizza Hut will specialize in their personal pan pizzas which they have told us is one of their best sellers and Little Bernie's will still offer the larger pizzas."

Gideon said the Columbo Yogurt stand will probably be like an ice cream bar.

"It won't be a help-yourself format," he said. "Most likely, it will be a small kiosk, and possibly in the future, it may offer gourmet coffees and pastries."

Gideon said the vendors will establish their own hours.

"I would imagine the hours would be later than normal for some and earlier than usual for some of the ones that will serve breakfast," he said. "But, it is really up to them and what the students want."

Cronk said the University hopes to make the Food Court pleasing to everyone.

"We don't want this facility to be haphazard," Cronk said. "Our ideal goal is for the finished product to be something all the students are proud of."

New editor hopes to make The Batt more reader-friendly

By Jan Higginbotham

THE BATTALION

The Battalion will have a new face next semester, or at least a new face in the editor's chair.

Juli Phillips, editor in chief for the Spring 1994 semester, said she already has many plans for the Texas A&M University student newspaper next semester. Phillips will move up from the position of managing editor to fill the spot of editor.

Phillips said she has made many contacts throughout her year-and-a-half of work at The Battalion and through her activities in several on-campus student organizations. She hopes these

contacts can be used to help increase the paper's news coverage.

Phillips said her knowledge of Texas A&M will help her make the paper more reader-oriented.

She has already decided to publish the Aggiefire section twice a week, instead of once a week, and to include more special sections covering items such as Black History Month and health issues.

"I want to hit features a lot harder," Phillips said. "It will be more than doom and gloom."

The new editor said these efforts should help the paper seem more "friendly" to readers, fulfilling one of the newspaper's roles.

Phillips said she sees the role of The Battalion at Texas A&M as an

important one: informing students about the events that affect them and giving them a forum, through the Opinion Page, to comment on these events.

"We have to keep the students informed about what's directly going to affect them," she said.

Dr. Benton Cocanougher, senior vice president and provost, approved Phillips for the position of editor last week. Texas A&M's Student Publications Board, a group made up of students, teachers and administrators, nominated Phillips to the position.

Phillips started work at The Battalion in the summer of 1992

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Phillips