

Houston Ballet to perform tonight

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Women's basketball coach resigns

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4 A&M swimmers named All-America

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Texas A&M The Battalion

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Genetics: Hope or hazard?

By ROBIN BLACK
Staff Writer

The recent moral controversy concerning genetic engineering has been troubling society as much or more as the technological difficulties that must be overcome. That controversy, a question of whether the new hope for medicine at Stanford or the hazard for mankind was of greater importance, was discussed Monday night in Rudder Theater by two genetics experts, C. Thomas Caskey, a doctor at the Kleberg Center for Human Genetics at Baylor College of Medicine, and Leroy Walters, director of the Center for Bioethics at the Kennedy Institute of Bioethics, Georgetown University.

The presentation, sponsored by MSC Great Issues, was moderated by James Wild, an associate professor of biochemistry and biophysics at Texas A&M. Caskey, who addressed the audience first, said that because of recent interest and achievements in the area, genetics has entered an exciting new era.

"Right now," he said, "the techniques are incredibly simple and the potential is very powerful." Caskey said new technology in the field of genetics is opening up the possibilities of preventing inheritable disorders such as sickle cell diseases. Correcting genetic disorders is done in two ways: cellular genetic transfer and embryonic genetic transfer, he said.

These are done by injecting the cell or embryo with corrective recombinant DNA.

Currently, therapeutic treatment for disorders like muscular dystrophy, another genetic disease, is highly inadequate," Caskey said, which makes further development of genetic correction even more important. Past genetic breakthroughs have proved vitally successful with few drawbacks, he said.

Insulin, used in the treatment of diabetes, could once be obtained only from the pancreas of horses. Insulin, hormones and interferon can now be synthetically reproduced.

"If we didn't have synthetic insulin today," he said, "there would be a severe world shortage of insulin available to treat diabetes."

Walters, elaborating on Caskey's theme, pointed out that although genetic research is vital and should continue, certain ethics problems must be solved first.

"We have to consider what can be done along with what ought to be done," he said.

There will be ethics arguments both for and against every avenue of possibility in genetics, he said. "Most critics of genetic research see this as just the beginning of the engineering of human life," he said, "similar to that in Huxley's *Brave New World*."

That same argument was made, he said, when the first breakthroughs were being made with "test tube" babies.

"There fears were not realized," he said, "and instead over 300 previously infertile couples have since been able to have children."

Walters said fears about genetic engineering getting out of hand should not inhibit the development of new and potentially promising breakthroughs, but instead should increase our awareness efforts to prevent any of these possibilities.



Photo by DEAN SAITO

Dr. C. Thomas Caskey shows a slide of genetically engineered mice in his speech Monday night. Caskey stressed the importance of genetics work, but also emphasized precautions.

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Iraq says jets hit Iranian targets

United Press International

BAGHDAD — Iraq said Monday its jets pounded Iranian targets east of Basra, and a U.N. team returned to Geneva to report on its investigation of charges that Iraq was using chemical weapons in the 42-month-old Gulf war.

"Iraqi air force jets raided Iranian targets east of Basra, scoring direct and effective hits, and then returned safely to base," the Iraqi military

said in a communique on action during the past day.

The Iraqis said their forces killed and wounded "a number of enemy soldiers, while a vehicle an observation post and a weapon emplacement were destroyed."

They also said Iran continued its artillery shelling of the southern port of Basra and the border town of Mandali.

The Iranian news agency IRNA

claimed it "inflicted considerable losses and casualties" on an Iraqi company "who tried to infiltrate Iranian troop positions" on the western battlefield Sunday.

It said long-range Iraqi artillery fire damaged at least 20 houses and shops in the southern Iranian city of Abadan.

The U.N. experts concluded a six-

day visit to Iran and returned to Geneva after inspecting areas in the war zone where Iran claimed mustard gas and mycotoxin, or "yellow rain," were used by Iraq.

U.N. spokeswoman Therese Gastaut said the experts would prepare a detailed report in Geneva for U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, who would decide whether their report would be made public.

Lack of progress in peace talks triggers more Lebanese fighting

United Press International

BEIRUT — Rival militias, impatient with the lack of progress at the Lausanne peace talks, rained shells on Beirut's neighborhoods Monday. Police and local radios reported one person killed and 20 wounded.

At the same time, U.S. Embassy officials said the search was continuing for American diplomat William Buckley, a political officer kidnapped in Moslem West Beirut Friday, but no hard leads to his whereabouts or the identity of his abductors surfaced.

Monday's fighting in Beirut followed a weekend of shelling and street battles that left at least 16 dead and 50 others wounded.

Local newspapers attributed the fighting to frustration over the stalled peace talks in Lausanne, Switzerland, where the leaders of Lebanon's warring factions remained unable to agree to a new power-sharing arrangement.

"Only a miracle will save the con-

ference from failure," the leftist *As Safir* newspaper reported.

The radio station run by the right-wing Phalangist party said a young woman was killed Monday and five members of her family were wounded by a shell that blew apart their home.

It called the shelling of residential areas in Christian East Beirut "a massacre."

Rival gunners opened fire with artillery during the morning rush hour, trapping commuters in their cars and sending residents scurrying for cover in basement bomb shelters.

Shells hit Dora, an industrial area northeast of Beirut, and the residential suburbs of Zalka, Tdeide and Baouchriyeh.

Clashes along the so-called green line that divides the city into Christian and Moslem sectors raged through the afternoon, with Moslem militiamen pouring rocket propelled

'Pokes sold; Bum hopes for Bright future

United Press International

HONOLULU — The Dallas Cowboys were sold Monday for the largest price ever paid for a sports franchise — an estimated \$80 million — to an 11-man limited partnership headed by Chairman of the Texas A&M Board of Regents H.R. "Bum" Bright.

Bright, the senior partner in Dallas-based Bright and Co., will be the general partner of the club owning 17 percent, and Tex Schramm, the current general manager, will be named managing partner and will continue to run the club the same way he did under Clint Murchison since the team was founded in 1960.

Ed Smith Jr., of Houston and J.L. Williams of Dallas each own 15 percent while George M. Underwood Jr., of Dallas will own 10 percent and his son George M. Underwood III will own 5 percent.

Bright did not specify the percentages owned by the other general partners, who are L. Brad Camp of Dallas, Craig Hall of Dallas, J.L. Huffines Jr., of Dallas, Arthur Temple of Diboli and S. Foster Yancey Jr., of Dallas.

The NHL has a provision specifying that each team must have a 51 percent owner, but the league waived the provision while approving this sale at the league meetings which began Monday.

Bright said Schramm would have more power as a managing partner of a limited partnership than the chief operating officer in many corporations with 51 percent control would have.

Bright refused to give any financial figures, but it is believed the Cowboys were sold for \$60 million with the other \$20 million coming for the right to run the lease at Texas Stadium in Irving.

The group is expected to build more luxury boxes at Texas Stadium to recoup some of their investment.

Bright said there will be no difference in the way the Cowboys will be run under him than the way Murchison directed the club. Murchison was noted for staying in the background and letting Schramm run the team. Tom Landry, the only coach the team has ever had, has one year on his contract and will remain as coach.

"If you think Clint Murchison was an invisible owner, you will be shocked at me," Bright said. "I will be more invisible than he was."

Bright said he would not interfere with the way the club is run.

"It's like owning a good piece of art," he said. "You don't have to paint it to enjoy it."

Bright, who was involved in bringing Jackie Sherrill to Texas A&M from the University of Pittsburgh with a multi-million dollar contract, said he would not be directly involved in the team's operation.

"Tex will run the club," he said. "You will not notice a change. It would be ludicrous for any one to think they could add to Tex's direction."

When Bright was asked what he would do if the Cowboys failed to make the playoffs next year, he said, "I'd be disappointed."

Schramm then cut in and said, "I'd be more disappointed than he would."

Bright then finished his statement by saying, "That (the Cowboys' failing to make the playoffs) would not make me think I was an oracle."

Bright said the other limited partners will be as invisible as himself.

"Their role is to furnish me with money when I call for it," he said. "The failure to do so gives me the right to drop the hammer on the heads."

Bright said he was interested in buying the Cowboys because they were "the premier franchise in the premier locale."

Under the direction of Murchison and Schramm, the Cowboys have had a record 18 straight winning seasons and have made the playoffs in 17 of those years. That record and the lucrative television contract are the main reasons why the Cowboys were considered to be worth \$60 million.

The last time a franchise changed hands in the NFL was four years ago when Edgar Keiser bought the Denver Broncos for an estimated \$30 to \$35 million.

When Murchison named Schramm to run the club, Schramm hired Landry as head coach and Gil Brandt as chief scout. Those three men have been together ever since and apparently will continue their relationship in the Bright regime.

But the Cowboys are at a crossroads after losing their final three games of last season. Bright is confident that they will bounce back next year.

"They always have," he said.

See related editorial, page 2.

In Today's Battalion

Local

• A Brazos County official talks about the area's continual preparation for a nuclear attack. See story page 3.

State

• Texas traffic fatalities decreased in 1983 while arrests for drunk driving in the state went up 33 percent. See story page 3.

National

• The Supreme Court has given the go-ahead for the March 31 execution of "Candyman" killer Ronald Clark O'Bryan. See story page 3.

positive word came from the negotiations in Lausanne.

The committee's failure to meet dashed hopes that Beirut airport, closed since early February because of fighting, would be reopened quickly. It also postponed plans to have French peace-keeping troops man a buffer zone between the warring militias.

In Tripoli, 40 miles north of Beirut, police reported heavy fighting overnight between Syrian forces and the fundamentalist Moslem Tawheed movement. There were no immediate reports of casualties.

The Tawheed movement is a strong backer of Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yasser Arafat, whose guerrillas were forced out of Tripoli last year after a prolonged siege by Syrian-backed Palestinian rebels.