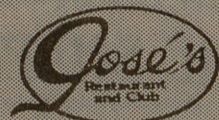


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## A&M gene researcher gets endowed veterinary position

**University News Service**  
A pioneer in the "mapping" of genes in cattle, which are animals with hereditary disorders similar to humans, has been appointed to fill a prestigious endowed faculty position in the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine.

Dr. James Womack, who grew up near Abilene, has been named the W.P. Luse Endowed Professor of Veterinary Pathology and Genetics. The position was established through a \$150,000 grant from the W.P. and Bulah Luse Foundation of Dallas — a grant matched by A&M. The Luse Professorship is the first endowed faculty position for the veterinary medical program at A&M. Womack's work in biochemically mapping mouse genes has made him a recognized world authority in molecular genetics, Dean of Veterinary Medicine Dr. George Shelton said.

Using hybrid cells, Womack has drawn the most complete map yet of cattle genes, a useful step that not only identifies genes associated with genetic diseases, like those that affect humans, but also pinpoints traits that would produce better livestock.

Cattle exhibit more than a dozen genetic diseases that mimic the same disorders in humans.

In his previous work, Womack showed that as much as one third of several major chromosomes in humans, cattle and mice contain virtually identical genetic material, apparently left intact across species lines during evolution. His research could help other geneticists predict the location of specific genes in all three species at once, he explained.

Womack was raised in the small

community of Hawley and the A&M faculty in 1977. He previously taught at Abilene Christian University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in 1964. He received his Ph.D. in genetics from Oregon State University in 1973-77. He was a scientist at the Jackson Laboratory in Bar Harbor, Maine.

Womack was the 1985 president of the American Genetics Association and has memberships in Xi, Phi Sigma, Gamma Sigma and Phi Zeta professional societies. He also is on the board of directors for the Texas Genetics Society.

He won the 1986 Beecham Award for Research Excellence and received an outstanding alumnae award from Abilene Christian.

## Clements: New conditions force change in tax stance

AUSTIN (AP) — In changing his stand on taxes, Gov. Bill Clements says he was responding to changing conditions.

"I can't be in granite in a changing panorama," he said. "That's just not possible."

When he filed to run for governor on Feb. 3, 1986, Clements promised to veto "any and all" tax increases if elected.

On Feb. 4, 1987, Clements asked the Legislature to adopt an additional \$2.9 billion in taxes beginning Sept. 1 and said he would sign it.

He never used the words "tax increase."

He called his plan "maintaining the revenue stream" created by what was supposed to be a temporary tax increase passed before he took office. He called the eight-month sales and gasoline tax hikes signed by Democratic Gov. Mark White last fall "not my tax, . . . his tax."

That temporary tax increase is set to expire Aug. 31. So White, interviewed Wednesday after Clements'

State of the State address, said that in his view, "It becomes Bill Clements' tax increase" on Sept. 1.

After three months of study, Clements and his aides apparently concluded that despite spending cuts, preserving vital state services required more money than was available without more taxes.

Secretary of State Jack Rains, one of Clements' closest political allies, said, "We're not Huns. We're not going to dismantle state government." During his first news conference since his inauguration, Clements faced a series of tough questions about last year's no-new-taxes campaign promise and this year's tax increase proposal. He said he was only being realistic.

"I'm trying to be responsive to the facts as they exist," he said. "Last year . . . that was under then-existing circumstances. As other people, including (Comptroller Bob) Bullock, changed those circumstances, I reserved the right to change my position."

## New judge selection plan offered

AUSTIN (AP) — Backers of a change in the way Texas selects judges proposed Thursday that all Texans be given a say on the controversial issue.

"The people of Texas have shown they want a change," Sen. Kent Caperton, D-Bryan, told a news conference.

Other sponsors of the measure, which resulted from findings of the Committee of 100 for Merit Selection of Judges, are Sen. Bob McFarland, R-Arlington, and Reps. Terral Smith, R-Austin, and Bruce Gibson, D-Cleburne.

The panel was named by Chief Justice John Hill of the Texas Su-

preme Court, Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby and Speaker Gib Lewis. Twelve public hearings were held throughout the state.

The sponsors said a proposed constitutional amendment introduced in the House and Senate would let voters decide this November if they want "merit selection" of judges, instead of the current election process involving political party primaries.

Bills also have been introduced in the House and Senate to put the plan into effect Jan. 1, 1989, if the constitutional change is made.

Under the plan, there would be 29 nominating commissions to select

three nominees for each position, from district court to Texas Supreme Court. The governor then would appoint one of the three, subject to confirmation by the Senate.

Each judge appointed would be subject to the voters' decision at the next general election on whether or she would remain in office. However, each judicial position would be able to choose in an option election before whether its district judge would be named by the appointment process or in contested non-partisan elections.

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