eft in cold

arch 5, 19

eople is forever chained to the task of providing for those annot provide for themselves. nfortunately, there are people in ountry who have no families, no eand no jobs; a tragic minority are doomed to dependencywhose only crime is being ally or terminally ill. Pontiac, Mich., the state is

closing one

inion Editor



Alex Walters

cilities because of a funds. The patients who currently live there will be left out in the cold.

Most of those patients will be left one, without families to care for m, much less private mental alth professionals. Michigan corrections officials are

THE BATTALIO ncerned that without proper guidmethese unstable individuals will wbe transferred from one stateubsidized organization, a health faity, to another — a prison. How truly sad it is to see that, alough the government can certainly ey can't help ford to spend billions upon billions defense spending, it fails to de-

endits people from mental disease, plation and, ultimately, starvation. as a shoe-ir In Dallas, a man from Honduras is his sights its alone in his one-room apartment, ed and play fiftx on the wall that serve as his only e puterery decorations. His wonders when and more focus how his next meal will come.

for a jobal This man is a legal citizen of the vas more United States. He followed his childood dream and studied hard to y motiva earn the language, history and cusoms of this country. Compared to Smith said is native country, the United States clubhouse sthe Promised Land. Here, no one torture a man, leaving him for NCAAs. Pad, just because he voices an pinion different from those in powand thereis Unfortunately, he didn't evacuate onduras in time.

When his torturers left him, they she has included thought he was dead. But, he g jumper a trivied and followed his heart to *United States because America ootential eckons to all the world, "Give me ne A&M All purtired, your poor, your huddled s been salf lasses yearning to breathe free."

onts thus a These words are not as true as year would once were. This man from Induras who loves his new counhe truth Cannot work because he never his Universeleved proper medical attention all of puthe injuries he received in Hon-Itas. To answer his cries, and the ies of the thousands of people like m, all his government can say is, We're sorry, we can't afford to train to do a job that you are capable light now, because we have to end our money on \$1000-perate meals to discuss the formaon of a committee to discuss the mation of a special committee at will discuss the possibilities of

slation that will help you." "Of course, in reality we're never ing to get around to doing the rensible thing — the right thing dspend money where it needs to

Last year, the state of Texas closed Austin State School (a facility ilar to the one in Michigan) bese the legislature could not justispending money to support menretarded individuals. This move also left thousands mental patients in the same at as those in Michigan. Fortunately for the residents of the in State School, they are mostly eniles, thus forcing the government and some way to provide for them. patients in Michigan, however, itreceive the same treatment. These people aren't criminals. eir faces are not carved with jailuse tattoos and ice-pick scars. Their es are kind and soft, full of curiosity leagerness. Their faces are sweet gentle. Their faces are scared. All they have is the kindness of ngers and whatever blessings

dchooses to give. As for men and women like the asite with only a flag to remind of his struggle, all that remains

ing

lesus said, "whatever you do to the st of these, so you do unto me." What a shame that message gets in the hallowed halls of justice.

mericans Two heads not better than one

Cloning should be limited to science fiction, not science fact

o clone or not to clone, that is the question, and the answer is a simple "no." To the even more controversial question, whether humans should be cloned, the answer is a definitive and resounding "no." Unfortunately, cloning successes have already been made which could lead to more destructive scientific breakthroughs.

No one dreamed it possible; cloning was not expected by most accredited scientists to become a reality until late in the new millennia.

However, scientists at the Roslin Institute in Scotland shocked the world and sent other scientists into a frenzy when they announced their successful genetic experiment, and Dolly was introduced to the world.

Dolly appears to be a normal Welsh Mountain Sheep, but upon further scientific investigation, it becomes clear she is an exact genetic duplicate of her

Joel Achenbach, Washington Post staff writer, satirized the issue best.

First they clone a sheep, and then, before you know it, we're surrounded by hordes of identical little jug-eared, crewcut twangy-voiced boys with an extremely eerie resemblance to Ross Perot," he said.

Cloning can be compared to the harnessing of the atom; not every country and scientist is ready to take on such a tremendous responsibility.

The nuclear bomb ended the

Columnist

Steve May economics graduate student

world's last major conflict, but has spawned numerous other problems and controversies.

Like the bomb, cloning has been touted as a cure for many world problems. It has been praised for its possibilities in breeding and hailed as an answer to world hunger,

Cloning on a large scale will cause an end to natural selection. No longer will animals be allowed to evolve and adapt to new environmental. With scientists determining what traits are passed along, beneficial genes may possibly be lost. Without

of a copy of a copy of a professor's old test — it's barely readable. When you clone a clone, which is in turn cloned again, the DNA structure will break down and what be-

imperfections

genetic coding, the species could cause its own extinction by genetically de-evolving.

The ramifications of playing God in the animal world won't be told for decades and possibly centuries.

It is not scientists' job to play God and decide who or what should be reproduced and by what means they procreate.

The human soul, the identity which makes us all individuals, cannot be cloned.

The 13th century philosopher Thomas Aquinas believed the soul was placed in a child by God upon conception.

This belief, currently held by Christians, would deter the cloning of human beings. Aquinas wrote, "Without soul, flesh and bone are not truly flesh and bone."

The by-products of human cloning would be no more than empty vessels of flesh and blood. If, by some twist of fate,

cloning became an accepted practice, the effects could be devastating.

Armies of perfect soldiers could be made and used to wage war on countries without the ability to clone. Rulers of the past could be brought back to reign again. Racial genocide

could be carried out genetically. The world saw the demise of such inherently evil humans as Joseph Stalin, Adolf Hitler and numerous others for a reason.

However, in the event that a figure from the past was brought back, some scientists claim the clone would not act or develop in the same manner as the original.

Cloning a human being is closer to reality than one might imagine; scientists in Oregon have already achieved embryonic cloning in monkeys.

> been banned in Britain, and President Clinton barred federal funds from being used for such experiments.

> Do not rush headlong into something which is beyond comprehension. Just because something is possible does not mean it should be



Lucky dime leads to introspection, productivity

s busy college students, Aggies rarely pay attention to life's small pleasures. We find ourselves focusing on the big things lawsuits, increasing fees and fountains that don't work. But last week, I had a day that reminded me of the importance of details.

It all started one morning when, as I left my room, Candice Bergen tossed me a dime. Suddenly everything started going my way.

The rain stopped when I stepped outside, leaving me dry and happy.

At Sbisa, my student ID card worked the first time it was swiped through the cardreader, and breakfast was just like Parents' Weekend — complete with ice sculptures and strawberries dipped in chocolate.

I then wandered to my 8 a.m. class. I didn't have a single encounter with an out-of-control bicyclist or an over-anxious campus driver. Class was empty as usual, but when my professor saw the poor attendance, he gave all the attending students two extra points on the day's

Columnist



Iunior mathematics major

I thought, "This is some dime!"

After class, I walked to the computer lab in Blocker, where I was able to choose from a row of computers with working keyboards and mice. Netscape loaded in less than five minutes, and during my Internet session I never saw a

"file not found" message. The bus showed up just as I left the lab, and on the way to West Campus, there was not a train in sight.

These incidents affected my entire attitude. Soon I was smiling, saying "Howdy!" and making others smile too. This was shaping up to be a great day.

The Battalion had more good news to offer. The front page reported that Student Government had been dissolved, and the Student Service Fee Allocation Board lowered next year's fee. The whiny columnists were still at it, but some things never change.

I tested my good luck and went to Evans Library to do some research. The elevator arrived at the same time I did,

and every book I looked for was on the shelf where it belonged. I found everything I needed and had exact change for

I walked back to my room, and I finally came up with the perfect answering machine message. Afterwards, I napped for two hours while the rockstar wannabe player next door didn't

make a sound. When I woke up, I remembered some errands I needed to run. Climbing in my car, I was delighted to see it was still full of gas and had eluded blackbird deposits. No one was in front of me at the Wal-Mart checkout line, and on my way out of the store a friendly Girl Scout sold me the last box of thin mints in

central Texas. I drove back to campus and a friendly PTTS officer directed me to a prime parking space beside my dorm, saving

me a 15-minute walk from Fish Lot. When I dropped off my groceries in my room, I discovered an old friend had called. He complimented my answering machine message and invited me over for a home-cooked dinner.

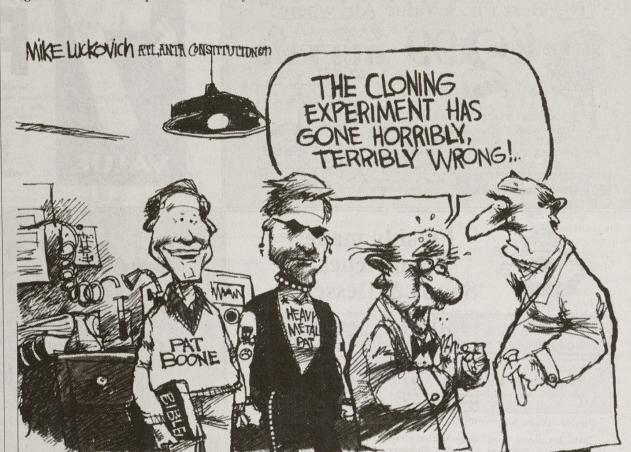
Now in a euphoric state, I ambled over toward Rudder Tower to study for a few hours. On the second floor, my favorite couch was vacant, and I was able to study in bliss. I opened my textbook and fluid dynamics suddenly began to

As I left campus, I tossed the dime to one of the untenured professors. Who knows, maybe next time university officials increase the General Use Fee, someone besides top administrators will see a salary increase.

This was a day I will always remember. Not because I won \$10 million from Ed McMahon, but because the day was free of annoyances. Even so, it all eventually came to an end, and the rest of the week plagued me with small irritations like long lines and term papers.

Most days are punctuated with problems – computers crash, alarm clocks don't go off and cash machines break down. I suppose anyone who places too much focus on circumstances, big or small, will always find reasons to be a grouch.

Even so, I hope I find another dime like that when I sell my books back.





Fish Camp honors Beutel employee

I have recently been named a Fish Camp namesake for Fishcamp '97 and needless to say, I am very honored and proud.

To me, Fish Camp is one of the strongest, most positive and endearing traditions Aggieland holds near and dear.

I will cherish this event forever. A special thanks to Jamie Straughn and Roseanne Petruica for nominating me, and to Libby Edwards and Jason Jaynes for being my camp's co-chairs.

I grew up roaming the halls of the Chemistry Department (my father is a retired Professor Emeritus of Chemistry here) and

watched as my twin brother graduated from the charter class of Texas A&M Medical School. Now I have something to be proud of, too. Mimi Sicilio

Physical Therapist A.P. Beutel Health Center

The Battalion encourages letters to the editor. Letters must be 300 words or fev include the author's name, class, and phone

The opinion editor reserves the right to edit letters for length, style, and accuracy. Letters may be submitted in person at 013 Reed Mc-Donald with a valid student ID. Letters may also

> The Battalion - Mail Call 013 Reed McDonald Texas A&M University College Station, TX 77843-1111

Campus Mail: 1111 Fax: (409) 845-2647 E-mail: Batt@tamvm1.tamu.edu