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Clinton bars federal cloning research

► **The president directed all federal agencies not to allocate money for cloning of human beings.**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Declaring the creation of life "a miracle that reaches beyond laboratory science," President Clinton on Tuesday barred the spending of federal money on human cloning. He also urged a halt in private research until the ethical impact is better understood. Clinton, warning against "trying to play God," directed all federal agencies not to allocate money for the cloning of human beings — although he acknowledged Tuesday that the government is not currently funding such research. "I just wanted to make sure that we keep it that way," Clinton said during an Oval Office ap-

pearance before departing for Arkansas to inspect tornado damage.

Citing the cloning of an adult sheep in Scotland, Clinton asked the National Bioethics Advisory Commission last week to review the ramifications cloning would have for humans and report back to him in 90 days.

Clinton said he decided to restrict use of federal funds after learning that researchers in Oregon had cloned two rhesus monkeys from embryos — the world's first cloned primates and the closest step yet to humans.

"Human cloning would have to raise deep concerns, given our most cherished concepts of faith and humanity," Clinton said. "Each human life is unique, born of a miracle that reaches beyond laboratory science. I believe we must respect this profound gift and resist the temptation to replicate ourselves."

Current law prohibits spending federal money on human embryo experiments until the prohibition expires Sept. 30. Sen. Christopher Bond, R-Mo., has urged Congress to make that ban permanent.

Those restrictions did not explicitly address cloned embryos, nor did it apply to all federal agencies, so Clinton moved to close that loophole.

"Science often moves faster than our ability to understand its implications," Clinton said. "Any discovery that touches upon human creation is not simply a matter of scientific inquiry. It is a matter of morality and spirituality as well."

Clinton also asked private researchers to voluntarily hold off at least until the National Bioethics Advisory Commission can study the matter, a move with which biological and medical researchers agreed.

UT ordered to release names of rejected white applicants

List may result in more lawsuits against the University

AUSTIN (AP) — The University of Texas must reveal the names of white law school applicants who were put on a waiting list and didn't get in.

The ruling by a state district judge could mean more lawsuits to challenge the school's admissions decisions.

Steven Smith, the attorney who sued UT in the *Hopwood* case, which ended racial preferences for Texas college students last summer, made the open records request in September. He asked for the names of white and "non-preferred minority" applicants on the waiting list in 1995 and 1996.

At the time, race was still a consideration in evaluating applicants for admission.

When UT refused to release the names, Smith sued. Travis County Judge Jeanne Meurer ruled on Feb. 18 that the list was public information that must be released. UT officials said they learned of the decision Friday.

"I was disappointed because it certainly has the appearance of soliciting cases," UT System Vice Chancellor and General Counsel Ray Farabee said Monday.

Smith admits he plans to pursue more lawsuits against UT by using the list. He believes that 150 applicants in the last two years could sue, and he said he plans to write to all of them.

UT gets about 4,000 applications a year for 500 seats and those closest to getting in make the waiting list, Smith said.

UT has asked the Texas attorney general's office, as the state's representative in court, to appeal the ruling.

Although the attorney general has not made a decision, he agreed that the open records law does not require information to be released when a lawsuit is anticipated or under way, said spokesman Ron Dusek.

"Without question the issue of what constitutes anticipated litigation is something that the courts may want to deal with further," Dusek said.

Smith has filed three cases against UT that are similar to the *Hopwood* case, which involved four white applicants who filed a reverse discrimination lawsuit against the UT law school when they were denied admission in 1992.

All of the cases accuse UT of giving preference to less qualified black and Mexican American applicants when denying admission to his clients.

Although UT says it now has race-neutral policies in place, it is worried the policies will mean qualified minority students will go to schools in states that don't have the same restrictions.

Judge: Culkin can use fortune to help family

NEW YORK (AP) — *Home Alone* star Macaulay Culkin can use some of his \$17 million fortune to help his family from homelessness, a judge ruled yesterday.

State Supreme Court Justice David Saxe also moved the young actor's warring parents as guardians of his property and replaced them with Macaulay's choice, his longtime accountant Billy D. Breitner.

Saxe said he had heard regularly of crises that occurred because Macaulay's parents, who have six other children, were unable to pay rent on the family's three apartments.

The only source of income for Christopher "Kit" Culkin, 52, and Patricia Brentrup, 42, "had been management fees derived from their children's acting income, which recently has not been enough to support the family's lifestyle," Saxe said.

"Moreover," the judge said, "the parents' finances are currently so poor that there is a real possibility of this millionaire and his family being evicted and left without any home."

He said it would take "but a small fraction of his estate" for Macaulay to buy an apartment or other housing. Macaulay, reportedly the highest-paid child actor in history, earned up to \$8 million a movie after starring in "*Home Alone*" at age 10 in 1990.

Most of a child star's earnings are protected in accounts that usually can be tapped only by court order.

Court papers filed in January 1996 said the Culkin family's annual living expenses totaled about \$350,000, including rent and private school bills for the children.



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