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College Station, TX

Tuesday, June 10, 1997

NEWS BRIEFS

Graduate student to accept grant, award

Margaret Hammer, a Ph.D. candidate in education at Texas A&M University, will travel to Washington, D.C. to receive recognition as the recipient of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics Science Teaching.

Hammer received the award, which was announced March 25, for her work at Parker Intermediate School in Aldine, Texas. The \$7,500 grant Hammer received with the award will be used to establish a wildlife habitat at Parker.

Students to receive international award

Two design students will be recognized with the first International Architecture and Service Award today at 10:30 a.m. in the Gallery of the Langford Architecture Center, Building A.

The awarddees received the honor for designing a possible resort to be constructed in Sasaga, Egypt, a well-known area near the Red Sea. A total of 10 second- and third-year design students participated in the project.

The two students, Robert McKay, a senior environmental design major, and Derek Demere, a senior environmental design major, whose design is chosen by the joint venture Italian-Egyptian development company to travel to Egypt this July to present design ideas. The three students, Adam Baldwin, a senior environmental design major, Scott Starnard, a senior environmental design major, and Kim Kowalik, a senior environmental design major, who placed the runner-up project also traveled to Egypt in December to present their plans for the resort.

The award, presented by the College of Architecture, will be given annually to the student or activity judged most effective in promoting international service and awareness.

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'Spirit' campaign raises \$110 million

The 1995-1996 "Capture the Spirit" campaign earned over \$100 million in private donations for Texas A&M University.

The \$110 million of private support ranked A&M 11th in an annual survey of private support at public universities by the Council for Aid to Education and other organizations.

In the past six years, the campaign has raised over \$600 million in pledges to the University.

The money comes from private donors to the University, the Texas A&M Foundation, the Association of Former Students, the 12th Man Foundation and private research grants.

A&M alumnus L. Lowry Mays of San Antonio donated \$15 million, one of the largest single gifts in the history.

TODAY IN BATTALION

LIFESTYLES

Local "music man" Chris Mann steers local bands toward success.

See Page 3.

OPINION

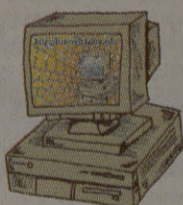
Extremists and their actions cause more harm than good to American society.

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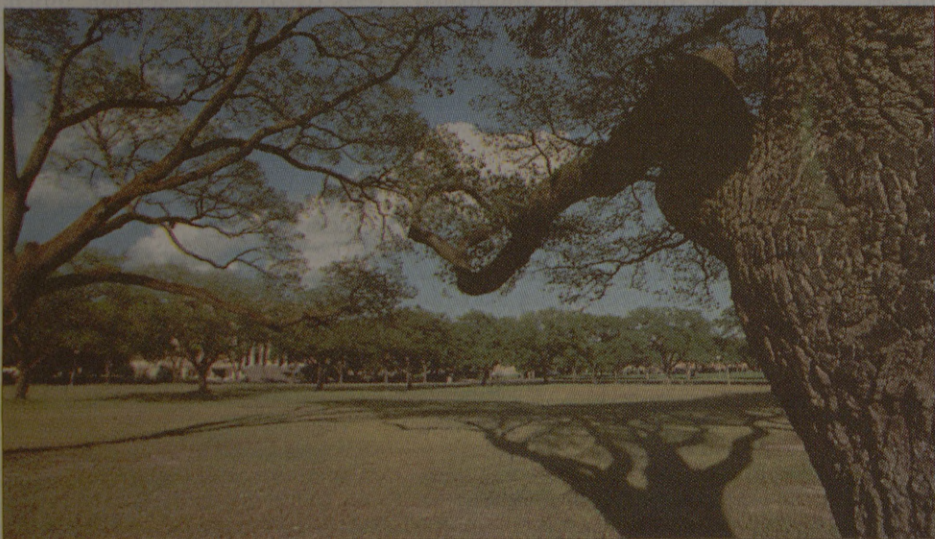
ONLINE

http://bat-web.tamu.edu

Look for additional call on Batt's page.



RHA proposes park for green space



PHOTOGRAPH: Tim Moog

The Residence Housing Administration is drawing up a final proposal to develop the green space where Law and Puryear halls used to stand into a park with a walk-through fountain, benches, picnic tables and barbecue pits.

The Board of Regents will make the final decision

By MICHELLE NEWMAN
THE BATTALION

The lot across from the A.P. Beutel Health Center where Law and Puryear residence halls used to stand may have a new destiny — as a park.

The Residence Housing Administration is drawing up a final proposal to develop the green space into a park with a walk-through fountain, benches, picnic tables and barbecue pits.

Responsibility for funding has not been delegated yet, but the Department of Residence Life is expected to shoulder the costs of development. As of now, the Residence Life office is asking only for plans for the lot, not budget proposals.

Eric Williams, a senior biomedical major and RHA president, said students should have a say in the utilization of the land.

"RHA is the student voice to Residence Life," Williams said. "Being that the department owns the property, it was a way for the students to voice what they wanted done."

The initial idea was to erect a memorial to Law and Puryear, which would have cost over \$50,000.

Students voiced their opinions and ideas through surveys and a general assembly held last spring. Ideas included fountains, benches, a playground, a miniature amphitheater, a terrace and leaving the lot empty.

A Recreation Parks and Sciences class studying park design took on the lot design as a class project this spring. The class conducted its own survey of 120 students, both on- and off-campus.

The survey showed that a majority of students wanted some development on the land. Developments such as basketball and volleyball courts were not favored, according to the survey. Five class groups turned in plans of how to develop the Law-Puryear lot in response to the survey results.

The class tried to incorporate a unique feature to draw students to the area.

Please see PARK on Page 6.

Cloning Controversy

A&M genetics researchers comment on the issue of human replication

By JOEY JEANETTE SCHLUETER
THE BATTALION

Controversy over human cloning may soon swell if President Clinton signs a bill that would allow experimentation with human cloning but forbid the actual replication of a human.

A federal advisory panel said the partial-cloning bill could lead to valuable research improving mankind. The panel recommended researchers be allowed to clone human cells but not be allowed to implant them in a mother's womb. All embryos would have to be killed after experimentation.

Mark Westhusin, an assistant professor of veterinary medicine at Texas A&M University, has worked on embryo transfer experimentation at A&M for the past eight years.

"I think no one wants to see humans cloned," Westhusin said. "What I am concerned about is the shutting down and inhibiting of research that involve good things."

Westhusin added that cloning research on human tissue growth and cancer cells could lead to cures for diseases that affect society.

"If this piece of magic happens, a cure for cancer could be found," he said.

Brain tissue that does not heal, non-growing cells or paralyzed cells could be replaced with healthy cloned cells, Westhusin said, but even in this process problems could arise.

The research approved in the bill would be funded mostly with federal money.

Cloning became realistic with the successful cloning of the Scottish sheep Dolly last spring by scientists. The experiment was aimed at improving the quality of livestock in Scotland and the agricultural industry as a whole.

With Dolly's birth came the possibility of cloning humans. If Clinton signs the cloning bill, the federal government will be able to regulate science experiments dealing with human cloning.

The Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine Ultimate Genetics Lab has been working cloning livestock as well. However, no progress has been or is intended to be made toward the cloning of humans, said Dr. Duane C. Kraemer, associate dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine.

One concern government must address when considering the partial-cloning proposal is the private sector's role.

Westhusin noted that a company in Canada named Clonaid says it will attempt to clone a human for a price of about \$200,000. The Wisconsin State Journal documented the company as saying nothing is 100-percent sure.

Westhusin, who is cloning pig and cattle embryos, said Texas A&M's cloning process differs from the process used to create Dolly.

Please see CLONING on Page 6.



PHOTOGRAPH: Tim Moog

Angie Baxter, a senior biomedical science major, is collecting bovine eggs to incubate for 24 hours before fertilization. A&M researchers will continue to focus on animal, not human, genetic advances.

New Student Conferences give freshmen glimpse of college life

By JENARA KOCKS
THE BATTALION

The confident smiles of student orientation leaders and executive committee members of the Aggie Orientation Leader Program (AOLD) greeted the excited and scared faces of incoming freshmen in the Commons Lobby Monday afternoon.

Monday marked the first day of programs for the New Student Conferences for the Fall 1997 semester. This session is one of 12 three-day New Student Conferences offered to freshmen this summer. Three conferences will be offered to transfer students this summer.

Four hundred and fifty to 500 students attend each conference. Leslie Lueckemeyer of Corpus Christi, Texas, a freshman at this conference, said she hopes the experience will help her adjust to attending Texas A&M.

"I hope to learn to feel more comfortable," Lueckemeyer said. "I'll have my class schedule and



PHOTOGRAPH: Tim Moog

Robert Needham, a senior environmental design major, and Kelly McMillan, a sophomore agribusiness major, lead a campus tour as part of the New Student Conferences.

will start feeling more comfortable with what I'm doing, so it will become a routine to me."

April Peterson, an incoming freshman from San Antonio, said she hopes the conference gives

her a preview of life at A&M. "I want to get a feel of what it's going to be like so I won't be coming into it blindly," Peterson said.

Please see FRESHMEN on Page 6.

Witnesses tell of changes in McVeigh's character

DENVER (AP) — Timothy McVeigh blushed, smiled and even laughed Monday as penalty-phase witnesses chronicled his life, from a happy-go-lucky teen-ager and model soldier to a disillusioned veteran fixated on the disaster at Waco.

"I'm torn, confused," McVeigh's longtime neighbor Richard Drzyzga said in a choked voice. "There is a part of me that still remembers him from a little kid. And then there's a part that sees what everybody else sees on TV and gets angry. And I can't put the two together."

Drzyzga, who lived four doors down from the McVeigh family in Pendleton, N.Y., recalled that after McVeigh served in the Gulf War he disappeared for about a year, and then one day in 1993 sent him a videotape critical of the FBI's deadly raid on the Branch Davidian compound near Waco.

"It scared me," he said. "It scared me to the point that I turned to my wife and said, 'What the hell has he gotten into?'"

McVeigh's attorneys sought to spare him the death penalty by showing jurors the human side of the convicted Oklahoma City bomber. They began with a parade of Persian Gulf comrades to tell how he was a compassionate "soldier's soldier" with a top-gun aim and a bright future.

"He was it, the man, the top dog of the company," said Bruce Williams, who served in a cramped Bradley fighting vehicle with McVeigh during the 1991 war against Iraq. "I just assumed he would go and do great things."

McVeigh, who showed no emotion during last week's prosecution testimony about the horrors of the bombing, appeared more animated that at any time in the trial, swelling with pride and often smiling as his old buddies sang his praises. Later, he dropped his head and placed his hands over his mouth when a neighbor told how he went off to war with the tearful prediction: "I'm coming home in a body bag."

Please see McVEIGH on Page 2.



McVeigh