

ATTENTION:
FALL 1998
Student Teachers
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WHAT: Pre-Student Teaching Informational Meeting

WHEN: Thursday, February 5, 1998



TIME: 7:00 p.m.

WHERE: Rudder Tower Room 601

This meeting is **MANDATORY!**

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- Gene Shalit, TODAY, NBC-TV

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FDA warns against illegal cloning

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Food and Drug Administration has a warning for the Chicago physicist who wants to clone a human: The agency will shut down anyone who tries without its permission.

Richard Seed's cloning plans have sparked a public outcry and a race by Congress and more than a dozen states to ban cloning. With the FDA filling what critics had called a regulatory vacuum, scientists say lawmakers should take more time to ensure vaguely worded anti-cloning bills do not also ban lifesaving medical research.

"It's been a public and media assumption that there is nothing on the books that would even slow or stop Dr. Seed," Carl Feldbaum of the Biotechnology Industry Organization, which represents biotechnologists involved in cloning research, said. FDA intervention "creates at least some breathing space."

FDA investigators plan to make clear to Seed that federal regulations require he file for FDA approval to attempt cloning — permission highly unlikely.

"We're not only able to move, we're prepared to move," said Dr. Michael Friedman, FDA's acting commissioner, noting the agency can go to court to stop unauthorized cloning attempts.

"The scientific issues are far

from clear and...there are some significant ethical concerns that have to be dealt with," Friedman said, noting that the first cloning success — the Scottish sheep Dolly — took 277 tries. For safety reasons, "we're more interested in the 277 failures than in the success."

"The scientific issues are far from clear and...there are some significant ethical concerns that have to be dealt with"

MICHAEL FRIEDMAN
FDA ACTING COMMISSIONER

Seed did not return a call for comment, but has said he plans to clone a person within 18 months.

A physicist, Seed has no medical degree, no laboratory backing and little money, so scientists are not taking him seriously. But President Clinton urged Congress to ban human cloning, congressional leaders have pledged quick action after they return next week, and bills are pouring into state legislatures.

Scientists say broadly worded bills already pending in Congress would ban cloning-related research that could one day grow replacement organs, mend spinal-cord in-

juries and better treat infertility. The key, they say, is banning only baby-making by cloning.

"One man who's on the fringe has drawn a lot of attention in Washington and state capitals," Dr. Benjamin Younger of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine said. "If they are going to do this, come up with legislation that bans cloning but protects research."

But scientists' biggest alarm came from Florida, where a bill proposed making any cloning of human DNA a felony — even though cloning human genetic material is standard practice in genetics research, the making of critical medicines and even police DNA fingerprinting.

The bill was withdrawn after its authors "realized this would have stopped biomedical research in Florida in its tracks," Feldbaum said. After Dolly's creation last year, Clinton proposed a narrow ban: a five-year moratorium on creating humans through "somatic cell nuclear transfer technology," the Dolly method.

That involves creating a pregnancy solely by replacing an egg cell's nucleus with the nucleus of another cell.

No lawmaker is yet sponsoring Clinton's bill, and Congress didn't act last year because few members then thought human cloning attempts were close.

GOP gives education leading role in Congress' 1998 agenda

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hoping to wrest the offensive from President Clinton for this congressional election year, Senate Republicans are ready to unveil an education package that includes an initiative to boost reading skills and \$2.6 billion in tax breaks for parents who save for private school tuition.

The multibillion-dollar plan will get a starring role in the congressional leadership's agenda for the compact 1998 session, which begins next week.

With the entire House and one-third of the Senate facing re-election in November, Republicans also plan to focus on cutting taxes, revamping the unpopular Internal Revenue Service, fighting illegal drugs and an accelerated effort to balance the budget this year or next.

When Senate GOP leaders announce their education proposal at a Tuesday news conference, it will be one of the rare times they have grabbed for the spotlight since Congress adjourned in mid-November.

Since then, Clinton has dominated with an-

nouncements that he plans to balance the budget next year, expand access to Medicare and child care and other initiatives.

Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, R-Miss., tried to turn that to his advantage Sunday, saying on CNN's "Late Edition" that he cannot see how to balance the budget this year "with all these proposed increased spending initiatives" from Clinton.

But many conservatives are already unhappy with the agenda laid out by Lott and House Speaker Newt Gingrich, R-Ga., and will try to force changes. They want leaders to be less accommodating with Clinton and aggressively pursue deeper spending cuts, wholesale overhaul of the tax system and other issues — even if it takes longer than the Oct. 9 adjournment target set by House and Senate leaders.

"They've already decided what's on the agenda: meet a minimal amount of time, get out of town and win the election," conservative Rep. Tom Coburn, R-Okla., said in an interview Monday.

"The planning of our leadership is to do what's best for Republicans, rather than what's best for our country," he said.



Gingrich

Poll portrays mixed view on abortion

WASHINGTON (AP) — Twenty-five years after landmark Supreme Court ruling, an Associated Press poll finds about 80 percent of Americans say abortions should be legal in some circumstances. But about 47 percent of those who favor the 1973 Roe v. Wade ruling, in which the Supreme Court ruled a woman has the right to have an abortion at any time during the first three months of pregnancy, said they opposed the ruling with the rest either not answering.

The poll portrays a bivalent American public. On one hand, 83 percent said abortion should be allowed in at least some circumstances. But only 47 percent favored the 1973 Roe v. Wade ruling, in which the Supreme Court ruled a woman has the right to have an abortion at any time during the first three months of pregnancy. Forty-three percent said they opposed the ruling with the rest either not answering.

The ambivalence appears in one question. 21 percent said abortion should be legal in any circumstances. But in a follow-up question more than four in 10 of all-out opponents said it should be allowed in at least one of the following circumstances: when the life of the mother is seriously endangered; when the fetus is likely to be born with serious defects; when a woman comes pregnant through rape, or when a woman does not want the baby.

Overall, strong support for abortion should be allowed if the mother's life was in jeopardy (78 percent) should be legal (83 percent) if the woman was raped (71 percent) or if the baby was likely to have serious defects (32 percent).

But a majority, 56 percent, said abortion should not be allowed in a case where a woman decided she did not want the child. The nationwide telephone poll of 1,102 adults was conducted Jan. 8-12 by ICR of Michigan.

The margin of sampling error was plus or minus 3 percentage points.

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