

# THE BATTALION

106 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Friday • September 3, 1999

College Station, Texas

Volume 106 • Issue 5 • 14 Pages

## A&M researchers clone steer

BY JEANETTE SIMPSON  
The Battalion

Two scientists at the Texas A&M Veterinary School have successfully cloned a calf from an adult steer, possibly the first time this procedure has ever been done.

A year ago, scientists Mark Westusin and Jonathon Hill began research on cloning Chance, which resulted in the birth of Second Chance more than three weeks ago.

This is a major step in cloning because Second Chance was cloned from what is believed to be the oldest animal ever cloned — a steer named Chance, a 21-year-old Brahman. Second Chance will be used to study the premature aging of clones.

Dr. H. Richard Adams, dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine, said this research will help answer more questions about cloning.

"Today we are celebrating a small calf, but it is a large piece of the puzzle," Adams said.

Chance was unable to reproduce naturally because both diseased testicles were removed two years ago. Cloning Chance brought back DNA that would have been otherwise lost forever.

According to a press release, this research could have an enormous impact on the multi-billion dollar cattle industry in Texas and in future cloning technologies related to cattle and other animals.

Second Chance was not cloned from a fetus cell line, as other

clones have been, but from only the cells of the adult steer.

Westusin said the calf was born after six other pregnancies, some of which were selectively terminated, while the others aborted naturally. He said they wanted to research the development of the fetus in the different stages, as compared to a normally bred fetus.

Second Chance's markings and DNA pattern are identical to his father's.

Chance's owners said they wanted to have him cloned because he was calm, tame and very unique.

Hill said this is not the first public appearance Chance has made.

"Chance was great around people," Hill said. "He was in several

TV commercials and performed in the Houston [Livestock Show and] Rodeo."

"He also made an appearance on 'The Tonight Show with Jay Leno,'" he said.

Second Chance has received intensive care since birth from veterinarians and technicians at the Texas A&M Large Animal Hospital and will continue to be monitored until he is able to function on his own, or is seven months old.

Once weaned, he will be returned to Chance's owner in La Grange, Texas.

Hill said although Second Chance experienced problems at birth similar to that of the problems premature human babies experience, he is now in good health.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JEAN WULFSON

Jonathan Hill (left) and Mark Westusin (right) with Second Chance.

### A perfect fit



KIMBER HUFF/THE BATTALION

Tony Stock, a junior construction science major, tries on his senior boots Thursday afternoon with the help of Cecil Drake, an employee of Holick's Boot Makers.

## Association collects for quake victims

BY RACHEL HOLLAND  
The Battalion

The Turkish Student Association (TUSA) will collect donations tomorrow from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Planet Northgate festival, as part of its effort to assist victims of the recent earthquake in Turkey.

In addition to the booth, donations are currently being accepted at the International Student Services office in Bizzell Hall East.

Mehrube Mehrubeaglu, project coordinator for TUSA and an electrical engineering graduate student, said donations will be given to the Turkish Red Crescent Society.

The society, a sister organization to the American Red Cross, provides immediate needs including shelter, blankets and health facilities for the earthquake victims.

Turkish food and collectibles will also be available at the booth.

"The families of faculty and students in the TUSA are donating Turkish food and decorative items for the booth," Mehrubeaglu said.

### Where to donate to earthquake victims

• The Turkish Student Association's booth at the Planet Northgate Festival, open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday.

• The International Student Services office in Bizzell Hall East.

"Visitors can leave donations at the booth in exchange for the food and collectibles."

"Our aim is to assist in providing shelter to all of those who lost their homes," she said.

"People are living in tents. They have lost everything."

According to the ABC News Website, the 7.4 magnitude earthquake left 15,000 dead and 45,000 injured in northwestern Turkey and destroyed thousands of buildings, leaving 500,000 people homeless in the city of Izmit.

Mehrubeaglu said TUSA, in coordination with the International Student Services Association, has collected \$9,000 through donation tables at Post Oak Mall, Target, Wal-Mart and the MSC.

She said support received from the community inspired members of TUSA to continue their effort.

"Also, this hits home for so many of us," she said.

"The telephone lines were overloaded, because everyone was trying to check on their family."

"I finally managed to get through to my brother who is studying at the university in Turkey."

## First Planet Northgate fest to begin today

BY JEANETTE SIMPSON  
The Battalion

This weekend Texas A&M students will have a chance to come together with the Bryan-College Station community at the first Planet Northgate sponsored by the International Student Association (ISA), the Brazos Valley Millennium Commission, the City of College Station and A&M administrative departments.

Tonight at 7 p.m., the first Planet Northgate festival will begin with an opening ceremony followed by a performance by the Aggie Wranglers.

Jason Royster, chair of Planet Northgate and a junior political science major, said the festival is a celebration of diversity and will promote

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**"It is a way for the University and community to strengthen ties ..."**

— Jason Royster  
Planet Northgate chair

unity throughout A&M and the community.

"It is a way for the University and community to strengthen ties that al-

ready exist, all the while having fun," he said.

The festival will resume tomorrow at 4 p.m. and will include the talents of live bands Root 1, Blue Earth, Chris Wall, Last Free Exit, the Brazilian band Sambaxe and the salsa - meringue band Ka-Che.

There will be informational displays for patrons to learn about various cultures, and booths will sell cuisine from India, China, Brazil and other countries. There will also be tables set up by local businesses, such as local radio stations and A&M organizations.

Gustavo de Sousa, president of ISA and a senior food science major, said ISA has been working hard to organize the upcoming event.

"ISA and the [Planet Northgate] committee have worked hard on Planet Northgate," he said. "It is our mission to promote cultural exchange among individuals of all nations and backgrounds in College Station."

Daniel Sanchez, vice president of finance for ISA and a senior biological systems engineering and food science technology major, said in all, ISA hopes the festival will be two days, of food, fun and music in which the community can spend time getting to know each other and the cultures that surround A&M.

"They have Carnival in Brazil, Mardi Gras in New Orleans, and now there is Planet Northgate in College Station," he said.

## Student body president sets goals

BY BRADY CREEL  
The Battalion

Student Body President Will Hurd and the Student Government Association have changes in store for Texas A&M as the campus and student body travel into the next century.

Hurd, a senior computer science and international studies major who took office in the spring of 1999, said one of his priorities for his term is to improve the recruitment process of freshmen and upperclassmen.

He said the goal is to coordinate recruiting among the various colleges and departments, rather than allowing each department to gain new prospects on its own.

Hurd said another major objective is to have a more comprehensive information resource for students. The Student Government Association is working toward technology that would allow student access to course syllabi, professor grade distributions and teacher evaluations on the World Wide Web.

"We've been working closely with faculty and academic departments about coordinating a Website that paints a picture of a complete variety of tools to evaluate teachers and professors and their ability," he said.

Hurd said an initiative high on the list of priorities for this year is to reorganize the flow of information between University committees and student government.

"We want to reorganize in an attempt to improve two-way communication with University committees," he said. "Student leaders should have an intimate understanding of University processes and procedures for student government."

Hurd said he believes reorganizing the exchange of information between students and administration will not only improve issues this year, but will allow future student government bodies to be more effective in their representation of the students.

"The real issue is to improve our duty of being the advocates of the students," he said.

Hurd said he supports restructuring the University's mass transit system to improve efficiency in the connection between main campus and West Campus. He said by decreasing the bus cycle time from 15 minutes to eight minutes, students will find it easier to get back and forth from classes on West Campus.

A final priority for student government this year is to refocus of its overall vision and concentrate on academics.

"Student government will focus more heavily on academics because that is why



BRADLEY ATCHISON/THE BATTALION

Student Body President Will Hurd.

"We're here," he said. "We want to represent and advocate the 43,000 plus students on campus, improve effectiveness, increase the quality of our degrees and also improve the image of Texas A&M University for the people outside the Aggie community."

## Open House to bring students, groups together

BY APRIL YOUNG  
The Battalion

The MSC Marketing Team will host the annual MSC Open House Sunday from 2 to 6 p.m. to introduce students to the many diverse organizations available for involvement at Texas A&M.

More than 260 recognized student organizations and University departments will be represented, with many providing live entertainment.

Student Body President Will Hurd said Open House provides a wealth of opportunity in one location.

"This is the one time every organization can reach out to students," he said.

"This is the one time students who want to get involved can see all the different committees they can get involved with."

Hurd said getting students involved in organizations is an important component which builds a sense of community on the campus.

Heath Hendricks, development executive for Aggie Leaders of Tomorrow and a senior chemical engineering major, said making the transition from a high school graduating class of six to the hustle and bustle of college life was simplified by his attendance at Open House.

"In high school, I was never forced to have good written or communication skills," he said. "I wouldn't be where I am today if it weren't for getting involved."

Hendricks said he established valuable friendships that will last forever through the organizations he joined after attending Open House.

"I have been in many organizations throughout the years," Hendricks said.

"The friends I've made during my freshman year are going to be my true friends, I really believe that," she said.

Michelle Walker, MSC executive director of marketing and a junior finance major, said Open House is available to anyone who wants to get involved regardless of their situation.

"Whether you have a change of major or you're just looking for something to get involved with, this is a phenomenal resource for student development," Walker said.

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