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# Research debate intensifies

NORFOLK, Va. (AP) — The debate over the ethics of stem-cell research intensified Wednesday with word that Virginia scientists have created human embryos in the lab solely for the valuable cells.

Medical ethicists say the development complicates the issue at a time when President Bush is weighing whether federal money should be used for research on embryonic stem cells.

Patient groups favor such research because of its breakthrough potential in treating diseases, while anti-abortion groups and others call such work unethical because it entails destroying the embryos.

"The timing of this has been somewhere between disastrous and horrific," said Arthur Caplan, a medical ethicist at the University of Pennsylvania. The development "throws everything in an uproar" and gives ammunition to those who argue that researchers are headed down a slippery slope.

Embryonic stem cells can

be used to repair or replace damaged tissue or organs

**"The in vitro fertilization industry evolved with almost no regulation, which is why you have bizarre custody disputes over fertilized eggs in refrigerators."**

— Kenneth Goodman, director of bioethics at University of Miami

be used to repair or replace damaged tissue or organs

in victims of Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's, diabetes, cancer and spinal cord injuries.

# Wildfire kills four firefighters

WINTHROP, Wash. (AP) — A wall of flame crashed down on firefighters huddled in their silver emergency shelters in a narrow canyon in the north Cascade Mountains, killing four of them in the deadliest wildfire since 1994.

The fire, which apparently was sparked Tuesday by an unattended campfire, quickly spread through stands of 80- to 100-year-old trees in an area left vulnerable by months of drought and unusually high temperatures.

It happened suddenly. Firefighters were mopping up the small fire in the Chewuch River Valley when the flames exploded, engulfing 2,500 acres of fir and pine and trapping 23 people behind the flames.

One five-person crew ran downhill to-

ward the Chewuch River. They climbed into their tent-like emergency shelters that firefighters call "shake and bakes" just as the flames overran them.

Four of them — two men and two women — were killed, and their leader was hospitalized with serious burns. It was the worst loss of life since 14 firefighters were killed near Glenwood Springs, Colo., July 6, 1994.

"This is a great tragedy and loss that is felt by all firefighters and agency employees everywhere," said Sonny J. O'Neal, supervisor of the Okanogan and Wenatchee national forests. "Firefighters are a family, and any time a firefighter is killed, grief is felt by all."

An elite team of U.S. Forest Service investigators arrived Wednesday to investigate.

cells, bone marrow and aborted fetuses, though the embryonic stem cells are the most useful.

In the Virginia case, scientists approached donors and informed them that their eggs and sperm would be used to develop embryos for stem-cell research.

Religious broadcaster Pat Robertson criticized the development on his "700 Club" television show Wednesday. "We're on the slippery slope now," he said. "Before long, we'll be harvesting body parts from fully formed people, not just from something in a petri dish. Once you begin this concept of utilitarian use of cells, then everything is up for grabs."

Kenneth Goodman, director of bioethics at the University of Miami, said such research illustrates the need for federal guidelines.

"The in vitro fertilization industry evolved with almost no regulation, which is why you have bizarre custody disputes over fertilized eggs in refrigerators," Goodman said. "Society, in

the form of government, oversees and regulates a commercial industry. For the government now not to support research would be another step toward unregulated research."

The work was done by the Jones Institute for Reproductive Medicine, a private fertility clinic responsible for the 1981 of the nation's first test tube baby. The findings appeared Wednesday in the journal *Fertility and Sterility*.

The society said it is the researchers are the United States to have embryos explicitly for cell research.

"At one level, it's ethically than using embryos, society spokesman Sean Tipton said. "The question as to what you're going to do with these embryos is up front."

## News in Brief

### Former president urges education

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — Former President Bill Clinton urged Argentine educators and businessmen on Tuesday to support a local private sector effort to connect all of the country's

schools to the Internet. Clinton was in the Argentine capital on a one-day visit. Most paid at least \$1,000 to hear him deliver the 40-minute speech emphasizing the need to increase Internet access, particularly to poor people. Clinton spoke as the paid

guest of educar, a foundation headed by the son of President Fernando De la Rúa. The nonprofit group has so far raised \$250,000 cash and computers to provide Internet access to every public school in Argentina. Clinton's speaking fee was not disclosed.

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# Worship Directory

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603 Church Avenue in Northgate  
(979) 846-5717  
www.aggiecatholic.org

**Pastoral Team**  
Rev. Michael J. Sis, Pastor  
Rev. David A. Konderla, Associate Pastor  
Campus Ministers - Deacon Bill Scott, Deacon David Reed, Martha Tonn, Maureen Murray, Jill Bludau

**Daily Masses**  
Mon.-Fri.: 5:30 p.m. in the Church.  
Sat.: 10:30 a.m. (Korean)

**Weekend Masses**  
Sat.: 5:30 p.m. (English), 7:00 p.m. (Spanish)  
Sun.: 9:00, 11:00 a.m., 7:00 p.m.

**Confessions**  
Wed. 8:30-9:30 p.m., Sat. 4:00-5:15 p.m. or by appointment.

**Presbyterian**

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G. Thomas Huser - Minister

Sunday Service: 8:30 & 11 a.m.  
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fax: (979) 696-4334  
www.covenantpresbyterian.org

**Christian**

**First Christian Church**  
900 South Ennis, Bryan  
823-5451

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.  
Robert D. Chandler, Minister

**Episcopal**

**St. Thomas Episcopal**  
906 George Bush Dr. • College Station, TX  
696-1726

Summer services - 8:00 and 10:00 a.m.  
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**United Methodist**

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College Sunday School 9:45  
Sr. Pastor Dr. Jerry Neff  
am-umc.org