

Texas A&M University — Celebrating 125 Years

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Scientists clone human embryo

BOSTON (AP) — A research company reported Sunday it had cloned the first human embryo, a development it said was aimed at producing genetically matched replacement cells for patients with a wide range of diseases.

But the news from Advanced Cell Technology of Worcester, Mass., drew swift protests from religious and political leaders who saw it as a step toward cloning human beings.

Several states, including California, have banned human cloning, and Congress is considering such a ban. But company officials insisted their work is the first step in providing hope for people with spinal injuries, heart disease and other ailments.

"These are exciting preliminary results," said Dr. Robert P. Lanza, one of the researchers at Advanced Cell Technology.

Lanza and the company's top executive Michael West said they had no interest in transplanting such early embryos into a woman's womb to give birth to a cloned human being, nor was it clear that their embryo would be capable of that.

Encourage children that goal, the actions, the appearance, spokeswoman said the "too broad" and to pay for the women if the Texas Department of Services, 11 about in 2000, under, incest or other year, there in the ages of aid program, actors want a accipione said on anything, executive director Reproductive the current women of ion.

PUBLIC EYE

Average student expenditures for 2001-2002

On-campus \$11,593

Off-campus \$12,233

TODAY

AGGIELIFE

Page 3

Put your hands up

• Police officers give the nitty-gritty of the risks, benefits of their job

SPORTS

Page 7

Aggies cruise, 91-70

• Second half outburst gives A&M third win

OPINION

Page 9

A proud tradition returns to A&M

• As Bonfire fades, Fish Drill Team a welcome addition

WEATHER

TODAY

50% HIGH 55° F

LOW 45° F

TOMORROW

100% HIGH 45° F

LOW 35° F

FORECASTS COURTESY OF www.weathermanted.com

FBI looks at international students

By EMILY PETERS THE BATTALION

Federal agencies have requested information about international students from colleges and universities in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks and following anthrax investigations, but Texas A&M officials said no private A&M student information has been released.

More than 220 schools reported that law enforcement officials had requested student information as part of their investigation into the Sept. 11

terrorist attacks, according to a survey of 1,188 private and public institutions by the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admission Officers. Recent anti-terrorist legislation has made it easier for federal agencies to obtain court orders for an individual's private information.

A&M officials said they have not received any court order requests for private international student information. It is typical for the FBI to request public information, said Director of International Student Programs Suzanne Broleskey.

"It has always been true that the FBI has questioned various international students, faculty and staff and other non-international individuals on campus," Broleskey said. "These types of inquiries are made on a fairly regular basis."

Bryan FBI officials said the requests are normal and only come into the spotlight now that there is new legislation and the agency has been searching more stringently.

"We just make sure a student is a student," an agent from the Bryan office said.

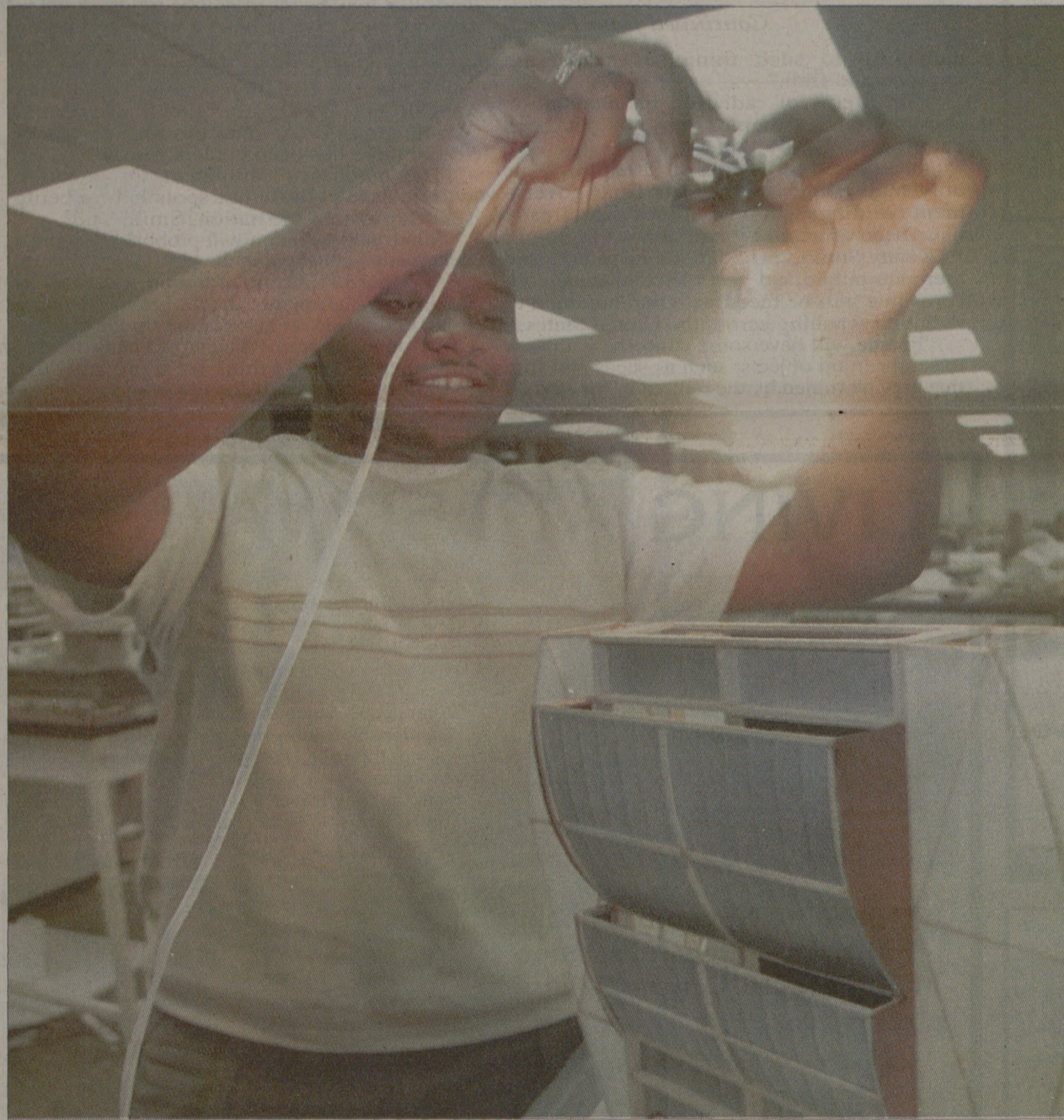
FBI headquarters spokesper-

sons would not comment on what the agency is seeking through the inquiries, or why inquiries are made into particular individuals.

Survey results show that most law enforcement inquiries requested directory information

See STUDENTS on page 2.

Guiding light



CODY WAGES • THE BATTALION

Jeryl Hamilton, a sophomore environmental design major, installs a light bulb into a conceptual light house project for an Environmental Design 205 class project Monday night in the Langford Architecture Center.

Website developed to help students with homework

By ERIC AMBROSO THE BATTALION

College students across North America have access to an online service that allows them to pose exact academic problems and receive answers from graduate students. Grant Goodwin, creator of the Ridethebellcurve.com, said it is designed to assist students with 42 subjects any time of the day. Graduate students from across Canada and the United States operate 24 hours a day to give step-by-step solutions for the specific needs of the students.

"We want to work with universities to improve the quality of education for undergraduates," Goodwin

said. "Eventually, we plan to use real-life professionals to assist students with problems they are having in their field. We also plan to hire undergraduates to tutor high school students online."

A \$3 fee is charged when the students accept the solution to their problem, 80 percent of which pays the graduate student that posted the solution. The company currently is working on a solution bank that would allow students to view previously posted solutions to problems that are similar to their own. Ridethebellcurve.com has also created an essay-review service enabling students to have their papers edited by graduate students. Many university officials in the

United States have speculated that the Website will promote cheating.

"Undergraduates will cheat and are cheating now," Goodwin said. "We figure that if they cheat using our system that they would have cheated anyway. It is our intent to allow students to use the service to gather sample solutions from the site as they study for their examinations, thus relieving university teaching assistants (TA's) of some of the burden during these hectic periods of the academic year. If students are willing to pay money and spend time learning how to solve the problem, then they will want to learn the material anyway."

See HOMEWORK on page 2.

Radiation a possible terrorist weapon

By TANYA NADING THE BATTALION

The possibility that terrorists may use radioactive materials as weapons against the United States means that first responders, such as emergency crews, firefighters and law enforcement, should be prepared, according to a study released this month by the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurement.

First responders need to know how to identify the biological and medical effects of radiation and must be trained to handle situations where radiation contamination has occurred, said health physicist John W. Poston Sr., a nuclear engineering professor at Texas A&M and an author of the council's report.

"Our intent was to provide assistance to first responders, to give them tools for the kinds of events they might face: events concerning weapons of mass destruction or improvised nuclear weapons," Poston said.

The possibility of using radioactive exposure as a terrorist weapon seems more likely than terrorists using nuclear weapons, Poston said, because radioactive materials can be released in small locations and amounts.

"A terrorist organization is more likely to release a small amount of radiation, possibly with an explosion likely caused by dynamite or another explosive, rather than use a nuclear weapon," Poston said. "It is an unlikely case that a nuclear weapon would be used. We know countries have nuclear weapons, but hopefully there is a strong safeguard around them."

Poston said he believes some terrorists will use the threat of nuclear weapons against the United States as a scare tactic.

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USPS to radiate mail, kill anthrax

By TANYA NADING THE BATTALION

With an increase in anthrax being sent through the mail, the U.S. Postal Service has announced that it will use radiation to kill traces of the bacteria before mail is distributed.

The results from radiation tests performed by Dr. Leslie Braby, a Texas A&M nuclear engineer and research professor, show that electronic-beam radiation will not damage most mail.

"Our results show that radiation has not caused error in CDs or CD-RW," Braby said. "I suspected that the radiation would bleach the colors of a photograph, but there was no change in the coloring of the photographs or of ink-jet materials."

Braby said the study did reveal that certain materials were harmed by the radiation waves.

"Unprocessed film will be ruined by overexposure to the radiation. Plant seeds and plant cuttings will be damaged as well," Braby said. "Any other mail screening processes, as opposed to radiation to eliminating bacteria spores, would be equally

See MAIL on page 2.