

THE BATTALION

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

A&M domestic pet cloning sparks debate

By Emily Peters
THE BATTALION

A&M researchers have stirred up ethical whirlwind surrounding their feat: cloning a cat in conjunction with a private company that plans to commercialize pet cloning. Controversy about the effects of cloning has been aroused by recent news that formerly cloned mice and sheep have developed obesity, and the first cloned sheep, has developed arthritis. Psychologists and the Humane

Society denounced the project.

Three years ago a private millionaire offered \$3.7 million to a university that would clone his beloved pet dog, Missy. A&M realized the scientific breakthroughs the money could produce, bid for the grants and won partly for its prestige as the first university to clone numerous species, including pigs, goats and cattle.

A&M researchers created Cc, short for "carbon copy", as a step in the "Missyplicity" project.

People already have paid the private company working with A&M, Genetic

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— Dr. Sandra Barker
professor of psychiatry

Savings and Clone, \$900 to have their pet's cells stored until research allows for commercial pet cloning. Gift certi-

icates are offered online for cell storage. The company hopes to commercialize clone a dog in the next few years and offer limited experimental cloning of customers' cats within the next year.

Dr. Sandra Barker, professor of psychiatry at the School of Medicine at Virginia Commonwealth University, said that in her experience counseling people who have lost a pet, the grieving period can be comparable to losing a family member. Replacing a pet is not the answer.

"Some owners try to get another pet that is as similar as possible with

the same breed, same color, but that typically doesn't work," Barker said. "Those are the people trying to avoid the grief process, and they often have had to return the pet."

Barker said pet owners looking to replace their old pet will be disappointed with current cloning technology, where color is unpredictable and personality may not compare to that of the lost pet.

Genetic Savings and Clone addresses this issue through a statement that pets will only have some of

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Pretty bird



RANDAL FORD • THE BATTALION

Sophomore biomedical science major Heather Macphail trains Oliver, a blue and gold Macaw parrot, to pronounce words and do tricks. The macaw parrot is found in many parts of the tropical regions in of South America.

9 U.S. soldiers killed in raid

Americans lead Operation Anaconda in Afghanistan

WASHINGTON (AP) — As many as nine American soldiers were killed and 40 more were wounded Monday when two U.S. helicopters took enemy fire during the most deadly allied air and ground offensive of the war in Afghanistan.

The U.S. assault, code-named Operation Anaconda, marked a new approach. Instead of relying on Afghan forces to take the fight to the al-Qaida, with U.S. troops in support, the Americans took the lead. Afghan, Canadian, Australian, German, Danish, Norwegian and French forces were supporting.

U.S. ground troops and pilots were operating at elevations between 8,000 and 11,000 feet, said Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld, cold, icy and snowy "like the Rocky Mountains in the middle of the winter."

Army officials said Apache

attack helicopters had been hit with extraordinary amounts of small arms fire but were able to continue their assaults. Air Force AC-130 gunships, armed with howitzers and 40mm cannon, were serving as the ground troops' airborne artillery.

Air Force bombers and Navy and Air Force strike aircraft had dropped more than 350 bombs by Monday.

The men killed Monday were not the first U.S. casualties in the new offensive, which appeared far from finished. Army Chief Warrant Officer Stanley Harriman, 34, of Wade, N.C., was killed in a ground attack Saturday shortly after American forces, joined by Afghan and other allied troops, began the offensive against hundreds of fighters of the al-Qaida terror network and the former ruling

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Jensen criticizes middle class

By Jessica Watkins
THE BATTALION

Americans need to stop the systemized brutality the government inflicts on other countries in its war on terrorism, said Dr. Robert Jensen, professor of journalism at the University of Texas. Jensen spoke to A&M students Monday at a program on "Radical Citizenship Reactionary Times," hosted by the Campus Greens. In addition to being a professor, Jensen is a freelancer for several progressive journals. He is known for controversial comments he made after the Sept. 11 attacks, writing that the World Trade Center bombing "no more despicable than the massive acts of terrorism — the deliberate killing of civilians for political poses — that the U.S. government has committed..." Americans must make the decision to know what government is doing in other parts of the world, Jensen said.

"Without empathy, there is not much hope of changing the world," Jensen said. "We have the choice to know or not to know. We have the choice to be willful-ignorant. We have the choice to act." Jensen said survival of the United States is dependent on Americans becoming pain-seeking individuals.

"If we want to be more than just Americans we should seek pain and reduce pleasure," he said.

Jensen condemned the United States' use of cluster bombs in the Vietnam and Gulf wars. He said 5 to 20 percent of cluster bombs do not detonate and then become land mines.

"If we do not act, we are not simply turning our backs on the children who might bend down to pick up a cluster bomb, but we are in fact turning our backs on our humanity," he said. "Pain is inherently part of the human condition. Cluster bombs are not."

Jensen said Americans need to dismiss their middle-class lifestyles.

"People in middle-class America are willing to support policies of dominance because they believe their comfort is based on these policies," Jensen said. "Standard, middle-class lifestyle in the United States is unsustainable in the long term. If this way of living was extended to the whole world, the planet could not sustain us."

Jensen said U.S. citizens should reevaluate what the war on terrorism is trying to accomplish.

"Next time you are told we are fighting for freedom, ask whose freedom we are fighting for," he said.

China updates property laws

By Araceli Garcia
THE BATTALION

Since joining the World Trade Organization last year, China has made many amendments to its intellectual property laws to comply with WTO's regulations, said Chinese delegates, visiting Texas A&M Monday to discuss China's role in the WTO.

"The quantity of inventions is higher for foreign inventions than domestic inventions in China. The average growth rate of these inventions is 14.7 percent. Fifty percent of these inventions come from nonsergeants, 10 percent from universities and 10 percent from enterprises," said Zheng, professor from a Chinese university and an expert in technology transfer.

Currently, China has 1,000 universities and 8 million enterprises.

Six different methods of technology transfer have been developed for within Chinese universities. Sixty to 70 percent of the research for new inventions in China is funded by the government, and 30 to 40 percent is funded by enterprises.

The transfer of technology within universities is about 5 to 10 percent and the transfer out of universities constitutes 90 to 95 percent.

Advantages of the transfer of technology include "different disciplines, fresh people, (and) new ideas," Zheng said.

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RANDAL FORD • THE BATTALION
Zheng Yongping gives a presentation concerning the implications of China joining the WTO.

Travel safety tips for spring break

By Anna Chaloupka
THE BATTALION

Spring break is less than a week away, and while many students are making plans for the ultimate party experience, the U.S. State Department is warning students about conditions that may affect their safety and welfare during vacation.

Each February, the department distributes information to more than 1,500 college campuses to alert American students of hazards they may encounter while on spring or summer breaks. Drugs, alcohol and disorderly conduct top the list of what students should avoid for safe travel experience, whether in the United States or abroad.

More than 1,200 American citizens are arrested abroad each year on charges of possession of an illegal substance. The department said many drugs that are legal in one country may not be legal in another, and students should be aware of the laws, customs and standards of the country they are visiting to avoid confrontation with local authorities.

Alcohol is another substance that gets many students in trouble when on vacation. The department said students have the misconception that local authorities will over-

TIPS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL

- Be aware of what medications are legal to carry
- Learn the legal drinking age
- Avoid advertising you are a foreigner — don't flash travelers cheques, passports or rental car keys unless necessary

Source: US Department of State

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look drunken behavior because they are visitors, but this is not the case. Students should refrain from public intoxication, underage drinking and drunk driving.

Dr. Susan Dennis, a Texas A&M professor and faculty coordinator of a Spanish immersion program in Mexico, said alcohol can be the downfall of a student's semester break.

"People just go overboard on spring break," Dennis said. "When people get drunk, they really put themselves in a position for someone else to do harm to them."

Dennis said if students are going to

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INSIDE



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Ags face OSU in tourney
Teams to duel for third time

AggieLife Pg. 3A
High & low
Students search for their study niche

WEATHER

TODAY
HIGH 65° F
LOW 25° F

WEDNESDAY
HIGH 70° F
LOW 45° F

FORECASTS COURTESY OF
www.collegeweather.com