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Westhusin: Human clone probable in GenX

By Megan Orton
THE BATTALION

The people of the current generation will see a human cloned before their lives end, said Dr. Mark Westhusin, who spoke Thursday as part of the latest installment of the Bush Museum Issues Forum at the George Bush Presidential Library Complex.

"When this happens, the world's not going to fall, and it's not going to come to an end," he said.

The forum on research and ethical issues of cloning was led by Westhusin, A&M associate professor of veterinary medicine, along with Dr. Duane

Kraemer, professor of veterinary medicine.

Kraemer and Westhusin were involved in the effort of cloning a cat at Texas A&M in January 2002 deemed C.C. (short for Copy Cat), almost six years after the 1996 cloning of the sheep, Dolly.

"One thing that does happen when a significant historic event like Dolly's cloning occurs is it does raise the eyebrows of the world to start thinking about the things they read about in 'Boys from Brazil,' 'Brave New World'



KRAEMER



WESTHUSIN

and 'Jurassic Park' and say 'hey this stuff might really happen,'" Westhusin said.

He said cloning sparks people's interest and creates forums in society to discuss what we are going to do with the cloning technology.

Westhusin described the process of cloning, which involves removing the nucleus of a stem cell from the animal to be cloned. After implanting the nucleus into an oocyte cell, a process of electrofusion breaks down the membranes of the nucleus and oocyte

cell cytoplasm, healing with one membrane and creating a new, fertilized egg with the DNA makeup identical to the stem cell.

There are some questions about the ethics associated with cloning, Kraemer said, and one of the ways to evaluate the ethics is to look at the risk-benefit ratio.

"The problem with this," he said, "is that some people's risks are other people's benefits."

One example of this is the use of animal cloning to develop knowledge that can be used for human cloning. Some people are pleased with that, and some people are afraid of that."

Benefits of cloning include higher quality and less expensive food and fiber, gain of valuable technological information and increasing basic knowledge. This knowledge can be used to investigate overcoming human and animal disease, reducing aging and increasing productivity.

Questions of ethics arose over issues such as the destroying of embryos to produce stem cells, abnormal offspring when producing clones and diversion of resources.

"Some people say that you should be spending the money on studying cancer rather than producing clones,

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Ag wins \$1 million in lottery payout

By Rob Munson
THE BATTALION

Sunny skies and a cool million is the only forecast for former Texas A&M student Dan Brounoff these days.

Brounoff, class of 1999 and a 37-year-old San Antonio meteorologist, won \$1 million in a Texas Lottery scratch-off game June 5.

"After the roller coaster ride my life has taken the past year, and especially the past few weeks, winning \$1 million with the simple scratch of a ticket is just what I needed," Brounoff said. "I have been playing this \$30 game the past month, and I had won \$500 in Georgia on one of its instant games, but I've never won anything like this."

The San Antonio weatherman had been working for The Weather Channel Radio Network in Atlanta until February.

News 9 San Antonio, a new 24-hour news station, hired Brounoff, and he moved back to Texas where he could be closer to his 79-year-old mother Ruth in Dallas. His pregnant wife Stefani stayed in Atlanta until their house could be sold.

As Stefani's pregnancy progressed, Brounoff said he moved her to Houston on May 3 to be closer to him.

Everything seemed to be

going perfectly until Stefani went into labor early while Brounoff was packing up their former home in Atlanta.

His mother-in-law came to Atlanta to help pack, but also brought a piece of bittersweet news.

"She said I was a dad," Brounoff said. "I felt helpless, because I was 800 miles away and there was nothing I could do."

Then his brother called and told Brounoff he needed to come to Dallas immediately.

Brounoff went to Dallas to be with his mother, he said.

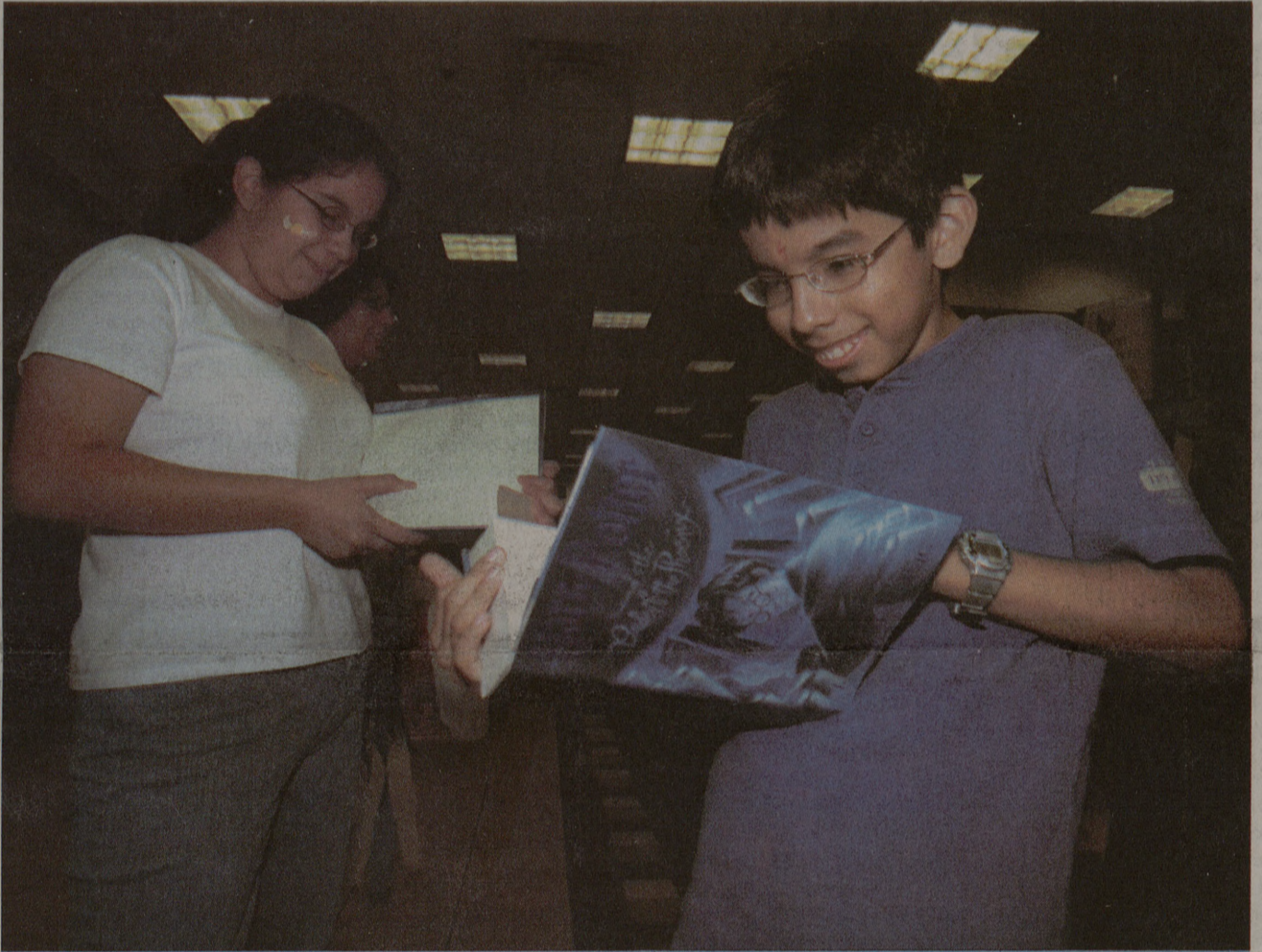
She died with Brounoff at her bedside the next day.

After his mother's funeral, Brounoff returned to Houston to be with Stefani and their infant son.

Doctors monitored Logan

See Lottery on page 2

On the Express again



JP BEATO III • THE BATTALION

After waiting for more than four hours in line at Barnes & Noble on Friday night, Pamela Rios, 14, and Humberto Rios, 11, eagerly shelled out \$17.99 for "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix," the latest and longest installment of the seven-part

series. The new book was already a bestseller before it Friday, and Barnes & Noble sold more than 500 copies after the book went on sale at 12:01 a.m. Saturday. A second shipment is expected to arrive early this week.

Scholarship given in memory of Kerlee

By Karen Yancey
THE BATTALION

The Department of Mechanical Engineering awarded the first two scholarships of the new Tim Kerlee Jr. Memorial Endowed scholarship fund to two incoming freshmen in April.

Anne Dallman and David Hicks, both mechanical engineering majors, will receive \$1,000. The fund was established in memory of Kerlee, who died in the 1999 Aggie Bonfire Collapse. Eleven other students died in the collapse.

Dr. Dennis O'Neal, interim department head of mechanical engineering, said the

department's faculty started the scholarship fund shortly after the Bonfire collapse. The previous department head asked permission from Timothy Sr. and Janice Kerlee, Tim's parents, to establish the fund in memory of their son.

O'Neal said when he met the Kerlees two years ago, Janice was receiving royalties from the sale of her book and wanted to donate some of the money to the scholarship.

Her book, "The Chance to Say Goodbye" tells the story of the Kerlees' experience during the three day period after the Bonfire collapse when they flew to College Station from Tennessee to be with their son during his final hours.

The scholarship is intended to go to

mechanical engineering majors who are in their first semester at A&M. To qualify for the scholarship, applicants must have a good academic record and experience in leadership, O'Neal said.

O'Neal said that when the fund was being established the goal was to award one scholarship, but that contributions from former students and corporations they work for allow the department to award two.

"You have to have a minimum of \$20,000-\$25,000 to endow that level of scholarship," he said. "The fund is still open. We are only limited by the amount of funds in the endowment."

The Kerlees were unavailable for comment.

Commons circle parking, loading zone reopened

By Lindsay Broomes
THE BATTALION

The circular driveway located at the main entrance of the Southside Commons area has been opened to students for short-term loading and unloading purposes, according to Transportation Services.

Along with the project to open the driveway, Transportation Services will open additional handicapped spots on the Southside for easier access.

"(This project) has also made the handicap parking more readily accessible and available without having to pay the hourly garage fee," said June Broughton, communications coordinator for Transportation Services. "Service delivery vehicles benefit from this improvement as well."

The initial proposed cost totaled more than \$500,000, she said.

"We abandoned our plans to implement any costly changes. The current modifications are expected to cost less than \$60,000," Broughton said.

Southside residents said they welcome the changes.

"The costs are well worth it. The convenience of this improvement will greatly benefit the incoming students as well as others using the commons

COMMONS DRIVEWAY
NOW OPEN

Initial cost: \$500,000

Will cost: less than \$60,000

Allows for short term loading and unloading

Allows for the opening of more handicapped spaces

RUBEN DELUNA • THE BATTALION
JOSHUA HOBSON • THE BATTALION
SOURCE: TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

area," said sophomore engineering major Brent Faulk.

Broughton said the opening of the new handicapped spots will help with parking access on the Southside.

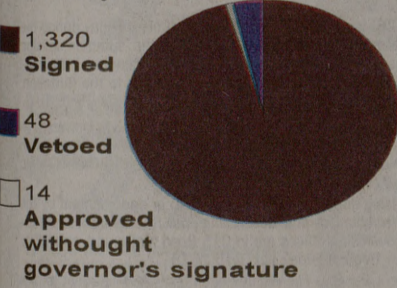
"Prior to the garage construction, there was an endless stream of traffic traveling down Lubbock and Lamar streets as through traffic poured into the

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Perry signs 20 bills into law on deadline day

2003 Texas Legislative Session

Bills passed in the 2003 regular legislative session and signed into law or vetoed by Gov. Rick Perry

RUBEN DELUNA • THE BATTALION
SOURCE: TEXAS GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

AUSTIN (AP) — Cleaner skies over Texas and help for consumers to prevent identity theft were among the intended benefits under bills signed into law Sunday by Gov. Rick Perry.

Perry signed 20 more bills into law Sunday, the deadline for a signature or veto. He also could allow bills to become law without his signature. The \$117 billion state budget, the only legislation lawmakers are required to pass every two years, was the top priority.

Perry also signed legislation to help the state pay for the Texas Emissions Reductions Plan, a program approved during the 2001 legislative session that targets diesel emissions.

The program is considered essential to cleaning up the air over the Houston/Galveston and Dallas/Fort Worth regions and lawmakers were under pressure to find the money. The bill increases the vehicle

title transfer fee Texans pay when they buy new cars.

The current fee of \$13 will go up to as much as \$33 for some parts of Texas.

It also calls for surcharges on on- and off-road diesel vehicles and equipment.

The identity theft bill allows consumers to place a freeze on their credit file and provides for the confidentiality of Social Security numbers.

Identity theft often involves a person using someone else's information — such as a Social Security number — to open bogus credit accounts, often leaving the victims facing bill collectors and trying to clear their name with credit agencies.

More than 14,000 Texans filed complaints with the Federal Trade Commission last year saying their identities were stolen.