

## Test tube insemination prompts questions

December 28 marked the birthday of a truly wondrous being — America's first test-tube baby. All manner of media were quick to ballyhoo such a marvelous event. Nary was heard a discouraging word on the amazing vitro fertilization process that was successful for Judith Carr. But if you look at the whole picture it's not so rosy — in fact, it's rather frightening.

The proud parents were quoted as saying they had "no words to express our thanks to those who helped make this possible." May we suggest the Carr's thank the legion of scientists, geneticists and computer programmers who had a hand in this "miraculous" conception. And lest we forget to thank — all the mad scientists of fictional literature who dared to dream of creating life-in-a-bottle. In the immortal words of Colin Clive — as the monster twitched under the exploding electrodes in the movie *Frankenstein* — "Now I know what it feels like to be God."

"We have the technology" a television show used as its rationale for reconstructing a human being from various tubes and wires and space-age alloys. The implication was that having the technology to reconstruct a human made its implementation obligatory — ethical and moral considerations be damned. This pervasive attitude is the reason the atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki. The devastation of Hiroshima, it was felt, was not enough proof to the Japanese. Having the technology has been the justification for other instances of reckless scientificism. Needless atomic tests — the abuse of Agent Orange — the testing and leaking of biological warfare agents, these and other abuses were all justified under the banner of useful technology. We have the technology to kill. Now, through test-tube insemination, we have the technology to create life-in-a-bottle.

Isn't it rather frightening — technology that is both life and death — being used with who knows what results for the future? A test-tube inseminated human being smacks of dangerous tampering. It raises fundamental questions that will one

day have to be resolved. What if the test-tube inseminated being is not normal? Who orders it to be destroyed? With the test-tube insemination can the "parent" be a third party unrelated to the couple? Would it then be possible to breed a race of superhumans? If so, it will also be possible to breed a race of slaves?

What is really appalling in this media celebrityhood of America's first test-tube baby is the reaction from childless couples. There were thousands of parentless children seeking adoption. But now childless couples are contacting the vitro fertilization clinics seeking test-tube insemination rather than adopt racially-mixed, handicapped, or older children.

It's odd that right-to-life groups are not damning such unnatural means of conception as loudly as they damn abortion. It seems strangely incongruous for an anti-abortion group to be declaring that all conception is mandated from God and should not be tampered with — and then to be only slightly opposed to laboratory insemination.

There will come a time, perhaps very soon, when technology will become all-too-pervasive and outstrip its usefulness to humankind without moral and ethical considerations. Instead of a partnership of science advancing society we may see science disrupting the society and plunging us into dark ages.

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OPINION



SOLIDARITY REAFFIRMED

## letters

### Disrespected

Free, black, and 21.

I have been treated very unjust, put down, disrespected, and they messed with my manhood.

Valuable things have been stolen from me.

My race of women have turned against me. Some of them became prostitutes. Homosexuality is involved in this type of ugliness.

If someone would like to help me with this, you can call me at this number: 344-1841.

My nationality is Black and Indian.

Peace to all.

Let's love each other.

Let's share with each other.

Under God all people are sisters and brothers.

The rich should share with the poor.

I will pray for you.

Stanford Brown  
Lawrence St.

### Porn's place

I would like to applaud the author of "What's all this fuss about pornography?" (Emerald Dec. 14). Sex is the next best thing to making love, so we should encourage porno shoppes all across America. I used to always get terribly alarmed and raise disproportionate ruckuses when ever I saw skin, but now I realize that we should carry on the Botticelli tradition and exploit skin as much as possible. Lusting after the human body is the best way to appreciate its beauty. I used

to think my religion would condemn this kind of enlightened education, but hey, God isn't against porn — He created Adam and Eve naked, didn't He?

I really lament missing out on the dirty grizzly-bearded hairy-fingered old men of the good ol' days, long black coats decked out with outrageously priced dirty pictures (how quaint). I'll be sure to take my son to see some "stag films" — that way he'll know all about it and won't be asking me embarrassing questions, and stag films will sure teach him more about being a man that any rough and ready Western could.

I don't know much about hell, so I'll have to take the author's word for it that it hasn't overflowed. But since it hasn't, mainstream (good) pornography must be okay. So let's all

fight to overthrow old-fogey parents and traditional values and humble Springfield citizens, and to give obscenity, pornography and erotica their proper place in American society.

John J. Gibbons  
GTF

### Rousted

Dec. 11 I crashed at the Outdoor Program. I had spent a good part of the day working on the OP's van, and that evening I tried to get caught up on my homework there. It became late, so I decided to sleep off the rest of the night there. In the morning I planned to study some more. But at 3 a.m. three security officers came in and rudely woke me. They told me "Get out, or you'll be taken to jail for trespassing." After confirming that I was indeed a student, they gave back my ID. By this time there were five security officers present (at a hefty rate per hour that came from, of course, University funds), to lay down a bullshit rule on me, a mere student. I left. I waited out-of-sight to see them leave, and an hour after the whole ordeal began they were still there. I figured I'd found their hangout. The next day the door was locked, against policy.

The Outdoor Program is a cooperative, and the room it occupies in the basement of the

EMU is supposed to be unlocked 24 hours a day, all year long. This is because it is intended to be used at any time, in any non-destructive manner, to serve students and the community alike.

So why did I get busted for doing such a "destructive" thing as sleeping there on a chance occasion? If I were to live there I could see the difference. But not for just once during Dead Week.

It is ironic that I put as much work and energy into the Outdoor Program as I do and yet I still get treated like this by Campus Security. Though I realize there has been somewhat of a problem with transients using the OP, this still does not justify the rude treatment I received. I am sure there is nothing in their work contract that calls for them to be the crude assholes they were that Friday night.

The most important aspect of this is that I let it happen to me — as I will never do again. I'll refuse until they jail me next time.

Our tuition goes up — we do nothing. Security plays a power trip and we do nothing. The apathy of the '70's is a habit to be changed. The crap is getting too deep. We need to stand up for our rights and be proud of it.

Bob Breeden  
Psychology

## oregon daily emerald

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