

COMMENTARY

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Editorial

Cloning prohibition shows respect for life

In a decision that dealt with medical, theological and ethical issues, the House of Representatives yesterday not only banned research into human cloning but also prohibited the use in this country of any medical procedures developed from cloning research.

With a vote of 265 to 162, it was a clear and deliberate bipartisan move that shows our representatives are not about to tread into the troubled waters of human cloning. It is a large and difficult issue to deal with, and cloning can be tackled only superficially here. But it does not take much understanding to realize that the replication of life in an alien environment through inhuman methods is wrong.

As one of the chief sponsors of the Human Cloning Prohibition Act of 2001, Rep. Dave Weldon, a Florida Republican, accurately told *The New York Times*: "It clearly sends a message that there is a place we don't want to go, and that is the manufacture of scientific embryos for research."

Fortunately, a majority of our elected representatives feel the same way. One hopes the Senate will also see the inherent wrongs in treating human life as a product to be mass produced.

This decision has further political implications, as it somewhat muddies the waters in the discussion of stem-cell research. That issue, however, can be viewed as distinct from cloning. The ban put forth by the House may in fact give some conservative leaders the means to bend their stance on stem-cell research.

Supporting limits into scientific inquiry is a troubling policy to say the least. Some could argue that a ban here could lead to other roadblocks in less ethically troubling areas that are subject to political agendas. But regarding the issue of human cloning, one has to argue that a line must be drawn. We must continue to hold dear the thought of academic freedom, but we cannot let that freedom threaten the sanctity of human life.

Supporters of the research claim that human cloning will be beneficial to those with serious and chronic diseases. One would be heartless to advocate a prohibition on cloning without acknowledging that any loss in re-

search toward curing such diseases would be a sad loss indeed. But the thought of what could in fact be realized through cloning is more frightening by far than the slim chances of disease-curing research. It is a tough choice to make, and no easier when one takes into account that we are arguing over the very building blocks of life, but we have to make the right choice in this nation to protect that life.

There are areas in which only a thin line based on the law of morality is left to safeguard life, such as in work on embryonic cells. And if not reigned in, scientific progress will invariably cross that line without slowing down or looking back.

Amazon Pool is an old-fashioned summer success

In matters closer to home, it is with sincere pleasure that one can see the Amazon Pool has become a sure-fire success.

Anyone living near the pool can attest to the fact that from its early opening hours in the morning to when it closes late in the evening, the pool is packed with people of all ages swimming laps or doing flips from the high dive. And if one happened to be driving along Hilyard Street last Sunday when it was pretty close to pouring, he or she would have had the amusement or astonishment of seeing both children and adults swimming in the rain.

From those lounging in the sun, lining up at the snack bar or playing in the water fountains, it is easy to see that those in Eugene love their new public pool.

At the risk of sounding a little sappy, Eugene should be looking into more community recreational areas that everyone can enjoy. It keeps adolescents out of trouble and lets older children regain some of that young enthusiasm that is so often branded as "uncool."

One can only hope that the pool's open hours will be extended into the fall so that those who may not be able to go swimming this summer can get the chance later on in the year.

This editorial represents the views of the Emerald editor in chief and does not necessarily represent the views of the Oregon Daily Emerald.

Here's a host of toasts to summer

As I'm writing this, I have a tall glass of lemonade in my hand, with the ice cubes clinking together every time I take a sip. Outside, the sky is electric blue with a few wispy clouds here and there.

In a moment, I'm going to go out and enjoy that sky. For now, though, I ask you to pour your own glass of lemonade and join me in a toast ... to summer.



Peter Hockaday
 Two minutes for crosschecking

Here's to minor league baseball. Here's to microbrews at Civic Stadium, and a team (the Emeralds) that looks like the Yankees sometimes, and the Pawtucket MudSox the next inning. Here's to the crack of the bat and Prince Puckler's ice cream and the kid sitting next to you wearing a Giants hat, watching the game with all the innocence in the world.

Here's to barbecues.

Here's to burnt burgers, three-foot racks of ribs and "special" sauces. Here's to vodka-filled watermelons and getting drunk in less than two seconds because of all the sun you've been getting. Here's to small, organized fiestas, with not a "party patrol" in sight.

Here's to summer movies. A toast to plunking down a five-dollar bill in exchange for two hours of apes, lizards and aliens. Here's to the "summer blockbuster," and the fact that the movie-going public always manages to turn it on its ear. Here's to "Shrek" beating out "Pearl Harbor," and "Something About Mary" topping "Armageddon."

Here's to the outdoors. Here's to teeming bike paths and rafts cluttering the Willamette.

A toast to hiking, biking, running and swimming. Here's to the Amazon Pool, which remains filled with children even in a torrential downpour.

Here's to rain, our old friend, coming back every so often to remind us that we live in Eugene, not San Diego.

Here's to fantastic holidays: Memorial Day, Independence Day and Labor Day. A toast to the American flag on every porch, and fireworks.

A quick toast is in order, to golf. Here's to duffing, slicing, sanding and chunking. Here's to that one shot, that 4-iron from 150 yards that sticks two feet from the pin, that makes you come back the next day.

Here's to "The Simpsons" and "Friends" reruns on television. I'll trade in one new episode for three old ones any day.

A toast to T-shirts and shorts, tank tops and skirts. Here's to riding your bike to school every day, just like you did when you were a kid.

Here's to summer school, which no longer sounds like "detention" to your ears. Here's to four-week classes and midterms on the second Thursday of class.

Here's to ice cream. I'd like to raise a glass of lemonade to the kid who drops his double-scoop, double-chocolate sugar-waffle cone all over himself. Hey kid, go inside and get another one. Why not?

Raise your glass to slip n' slides, sand volleyball and the sounds of kids at the pool. Toast convertibles, sunglasses and sandals. Here's to the sun going down at 9:30 every night.

Here's to summer. May you never end. Cheers!

Peter Hockaday is an associate editor for the Oregon Daily Emerald. He can be reached at phockaday@dailyemerald.com.

Violence engenders more violence

GUEST COMMENTARY

Michael J. Kleckner

Here's another viewpoint on the ELF's tactics, which I preface by saying that I do not endorse nor commit violence. First, the media's use of the word 'violence' without a discussion of what it means in an intelligent discourse is disingenuous at least and manipulative at worst. Do we mean only direct physical harm, or something broader?

It seems the Emerald uses 'violence' for any action that directly or indirectly causes physical, emotional or financial harm; hence, damaging property is 'violence.' If this is the case, then many actions of SUV-makers, timber harvesters and the government that privileges their behaviors are certainly violent. Violence is committed on the working poor and the environment every day, and yet the media won't call it terrorism. In responding to this terrorism, the ELF is no more the "extreme edge," as you say, than any others throughout history who have said, "You have committed enough violence against us — we will respond with violence until you stop."

Which brings me to my second issue. Your statement, "History shows that most political change came through nonviolent means," is demonstrably false. Pre-civilization nomads fought over territory and resources. Fiefdoms were overthrown through violent means. Actually, beyond Gandhi and Dr. King, I can't think of many examples of peaceful political change. When people remain peaceful, those in power squeeze harder. Most political change has happened because oppressors kept upping the ante of oppression — although no one would call it oppression — until people said, "Enough."

Particularly disturbing in this situation is that the media won't admit that *the way corporations behave today is violently oppressive to most of humanity*. As long as thoughtful discourse refuses to discuss this, people will turn to "violence" out of desperation for a better solution. When the powers-that-be refuse to talk about the reality of their actions, "violence" occurs, as we saw with the Boston Tea Party.

Revolution is coming slowly this time because corporations, in collusion with the government, have persuaded the masses that owning a car and a TV and being able to buy an unwholesome burger for 99 cents equals freedom. Well, it doesn't. It's still slavery, and people are catching on. And please don't say that Americans should effect change through politics, because only the rich can buy political speech in this country; after all, the Supreme Court decreed that money is speech. Politics doesn't work for the poor in today's world.

Again, I do not endorse violence as a means of achieving social change. History has shown that violent change simply results in new oppressors. This doesn't achieve anything real. I certainly wish that *everyone* would stop the violence so social change could occur without damaging anyone's property or environment or livelihood or life. But violence flows freely in America, from the government to businesses to workers to consumers to activists to action heroes to school kids, and there seems to be no end in sight.

As long as violence is held supreme in this country — and is used by businesses and activists alike to get their way — then I have to disagree with your central point. The ELF's 'violence' is an effective approach; it has proven so in the past, and sadly, it appears that it will continue to be in the future.

Michael J. Kleckner is a summer intern at The Oregonian in Portland. He will be managing editor of the Emerald in the fall.

