

COMMENTARY

Editor in Chief:
 Michael J. Kleckner
 Managing Editor:
 Jessica Richelderfer
 Editorial Editors:
 Salena De La Cruz, Pat Payne

Tuesday, December 3, 2002

The value of seeing double

Since Dolly, the first cloned sheep, was introduced to the world in 1997, massive developments in cloning science have occurred. Given the history of scientific breakthroughs throughout time, it is pragmatic to be wary and maybe even scared of a new technology. But cloning is definitely a positive idea that could help change the world.

Cloning falls into the category of scientific progressions that demand a second (and third, and fourth) look. But the cloning issue is not all or nothing, as some would like you to believe. The Bush administration has looked to completely ban cloning. While the ideology behind a complete ban on cloning would be understandable, the consequences will be felt by everyone suffering from multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's Disease, arthritis and diabetes, not just in the people wanting to make human copies of an already existing being.



Kathryn Petersen
 In other words

Last week, the press reported that Italian researcher Severino Antinori has successfully cloned the world's first human being, and the birth will occur sometime in January. Antinori has yet to disclose the name and location of the parents. Panos Zavoseq, a former colleague of Antinori, has stated that five human cloning projects are in progress, telling a U.S. Congressional Committee in May that "there is every indication that 2002 will be the year of the clones."

When scientists cloned Dolly, they didn't know the repercussions and thought that they had created a healthy animal. Through the years, they have found that Dolly suffers from arthritis that may have a genetic basis, and it has been found that animals reproduced by cloning may suffer from forms of genetic damage that are not fully understood by the scientific community.

It should be of little or no surprise that much of the American public is frightened of such developments and has sought to make these practices illegal. The thought of these scientific progressions almost seems like a plot in a Stephen King novel, except scarier because it's real. But before you get scared, look at the facts. Cloning doesn't just have to be about creating humans, and it doesn't have to be about pulling parts out of babies. Instead, it can be about taking something that's already yours and using it to help your body heal or function normally.

Given enough funding, cloning for therapeutic purposes is possible, but not quite here yet. More research needs to be done before it can become a reality. Just because cloning a human being is also possible (or so says Severino Antinori, although we have yet to see it), it doesn't mean that we have to group the two together. Being scared of the possibility of a world full of the same people is one thing, and cutting part of the population off from being well is another.

Contact the columnist at kathrynpetersen@dailyemerald.com. Her opinions do not necessarily represent those of the Emerald.



Steve Baggs Emerald BAGGS

'Peace' rally lacks peace, tolerance of all viewpoints

Guest commentary

I was one of the people standing at the "peace rally" last week with a "Bush Cheney" sign. The one image that I cannot put out of my mind regarding the "peace rally" is how a group of otherwise intelligent people could look at you with such loathing and contempt and not even know what you believe.

At one point, one of the speakers turned the crowd toward us with cries of, "If you want war so much, go join the military." Little did they know that about a third of our

crowd either is or was military and/or is married to a person in the military. That was the one comment that infuriated me and provoked an angry response from me.

At the top of my lungs — in order to drown out the hate cries from the peaceniks — I shouted that my husband is in the Army and that they can all go to hell. I got a few surprised looks from those close to me but the majority did not hear or care to hear. I knew going out to show our support for America with "Bush Cheney" signs would not be met with open arms by this crowd, but in my innocence, the vehemence of their hatred took me aback.

At one point, a speaker from my parents'

generation stood up and started his speech, sounding very methodical, and I could even agree with his comments about the military needing new equipment. Then, he went from reason to hate. He called on those in support of the rally to turn on people like us (those of us standing in the "Bush Cheney" crowd) and get in our faces and let us know with forcefulness what we believe is not right. Also, the students shouldn't hold peaceful rallies, but instead hold "days of rage." I am not sure what he meant by that, but the crowd was right with him.

It was in that moment when I looked around and saw the American flag turned upside down and all the Iraqi flags being waved that I realized

that I wasn't in Kansas anymore, so to speak. I knew intellectually that this was what I had to expect at an event such as this, but it was then that the emotional aspects hit me. As well as the long-term physical ramifications of being labeled a warmonger, regardless of my true beliefs, I don't like the implied threats of violence that I heard at this "peace rally."

In the end, however, it will not change my stance — no one there found out what it was, because no one wanted to listen. Maybe my next piece will be to speak out about what I do believe. But does anyone really care, anyhow?

Gabrielle Guidero is a junior geology major.

Letters to the editor

Stuttering Foundation offers help

We applaud Brook Reinhard's excellent article ("Local stutterers share tough experiences," ODE, Oct. 24) and the effort to shed some light on this complex disorder affecting more than 3 million Americans.

However, your readers should also know how to contact an excellent nonprofit source of help — the Stuttering Foundation of America.

We provide information on the latest research on stuttering, a worldwide resource list of speech pathologists who specialize in stuttering, and videotapes and books on stuttering compiled by the leading authorities in the field.

For more information, offered free of charge, you can check out www.stutteringhelp.org, or e-mail us at stutter@vantek.net.

Jane Fraser
 president
 The Stuttering Foundation

Column was barely about art

I noted Salena De La Cruz's column ("The bare facts," ODE, Nov. 20) about "nude models." Sounds like she was lured to a more seedy side of modeling having little to do with art.

Actually, nude modeling in a university art department or city art league is very legitimate and dignified. I've modeled for the Western Kentucky University Art Department for two years. While a WKU student (I graduate next year), I have been offered to model for the Lexington, Ky., Art League. The students and staff have been very friendly and professional towards me.

Indeed, some students themselves have become models. I happened to be a naturist/nudist beforehand, which helped, but both models and students soon take the nudity for granted. Male and female models of all ages and shapes/appearances are desired. Actual pay ranges from \$8 to \$15 per hour. Models are rarely photographed but instead used for drawing, painting and sculpting classes.

Hope you find this information — from first-hand experience — helpful.

George M. Gumbert III
 Western Kentucky University

Modeling ads deserve consideration

Thank you for doing a column on the advertisements that are placed in your newspaper ("The bare facts," ODE, Nov. 20). I was a little surprised the first time I read the Emerald and saw so many advertisements for nude model-

ing. I just kind of laughed at the idea, but it is a serious subject that students should consider before jumping into things all willy nilly.

Liz Harp
 student

Lane Community College

Editor's note: The Emerald has a two-fold policy attempting to ensure ads for modeling are legitimate and accurately described. Those wishing to advertise modeling opportunities must offer proof of an actual business, and when we receive complaints about a classified ad of this nature, we remove it from the paper.

Emerald photo choices show political bias

I have to applaud Jenny Sherman for her article ("Adding their voices," ODE, Nov. 21) on the anti-war rally on campus Nov. 20.

She managed to be objective, despite what appears obviously as bias on the part of the Emerald's photographers. Adam Amato, photo editor, and Mark McCambridge, photographer, managed to fundamentally misrepresent the rally, despite the fact that their photos captured mainly trees and blank space.

Dissenting groups (the Bush advocates, in this case) should have been acknowledged in this article, but only to the degree in which

they were present. McCambridge's large front-page photo explicitly focuses on the counter-protesters, who made up only about two percent of the crowd of hundreds.

Even worse — Amato's front-page photo was taken after the three-hour rally had ended. This not only smacks of political bias — this is poor journalism.

Jackie Prange
 junior

biology and political science

Editor's note: The Emerald stands by its photographers in the assertion that this example of terrible photojournalism was not political bias. See "An apology to the community," ODE, Nov. 25.

Letters to the editor and guest commentaries policy

Letters to the editor and guest commentaries are encouraged. Letters are limited to 250 words and guest commentaries to 550 words. Authors are limited to one submission per calendar month. Submission must include phone number and address for verification. The Emerald reserves the right to edit for space, grammar and style.