



FACE OFF



Cloning: a breakthrough in science, here to stay

Cloning is foolish and shouldn't be tampered with



Michaela Cooper
THE CLACKAMAS PRINT

No matter what your moral opinion is on human cloning, it cannot be denied that the United Nations is wrong to deny humanity the opportunity to better ourselves as a race, through the research of human cloning.

When the phrase "human cloning" stirs up images of a science-fiction future where we all look, talk and think the same, thanks to movies like "Gattaca" and "Star Wars II," why shouldn't we be rallying against anything with the word "clone" in it?

While cloning puts horrible pictures in our head of a world where our children are manufactured like a computer from DELL, it is hard for me to believe that the human race would ever take it that far.

Consider nuclear war, for example. Forty years ago, everyone was sure that it was just a matter of days before we were all wiped out by nuclear missiles from Russia.

Did that ever happen? No. Didn't we think beyond a doubt that it would? Yes!

Yet the human race has never taken it as far as our greatest fears have led us to believe.

Now, just because it probably won't destroy the world as we know it doesn't mean we should all go out and get ourselves cloned ASAP. The United Nations has a right to be wary of this new process called "human cloning." Yes, it should be regulated, but banning it outright prevent advancements in medical technology.

First of all, the most popular type of cloning deals with cloning single organs, like a heart or a kidney. It can be used to grow a heart for someone with heart disease or a kidney for someone on dialysis. The process is similar to cloning a full human, except it deals with reproductive cells instead of organ cells as its ground work.

Recently, the U.N. has been debating about a ban on human cloning. Their discussion is not so much geared towards cloning of single organs,

which is already in practice, but more about cloning full humans. So far, the U.N. has not declared human cloning as a "crime against humanity." For this, I am breathing easier.

There are some who have claimed to have already cloned a human. However, they also claim to have done this with only three years of research and with great ease. Specifically, I'm referring to a company called Clonaid, run by a radical group called the Raelians. They have refused to share their research with the rest of the respected medical world, making many skeptics to their claims.

A ban by the U.N. on all human cloning would only push this organization underground and almost out of reach to the authorities. If human cloning were to become well-regulated like all legal medical procedures, the company would be forced to justify itself and share its methods with the world. Regulating such controversial companies such as Clonaid would certainly put some of the public's concerns to rest.

There are those who might benefit from legal, safe human cloning. Presently, we may be able to inform parents if their child is autistic before the baby is born, but there is nothing we can do about it. Again, theoretically, this and similar diseases could be prevented at conception with the help of human cloning research.

Such advances in medical science cannot be abandoned because of a social stigma on human cloning.



Shannon Armstead
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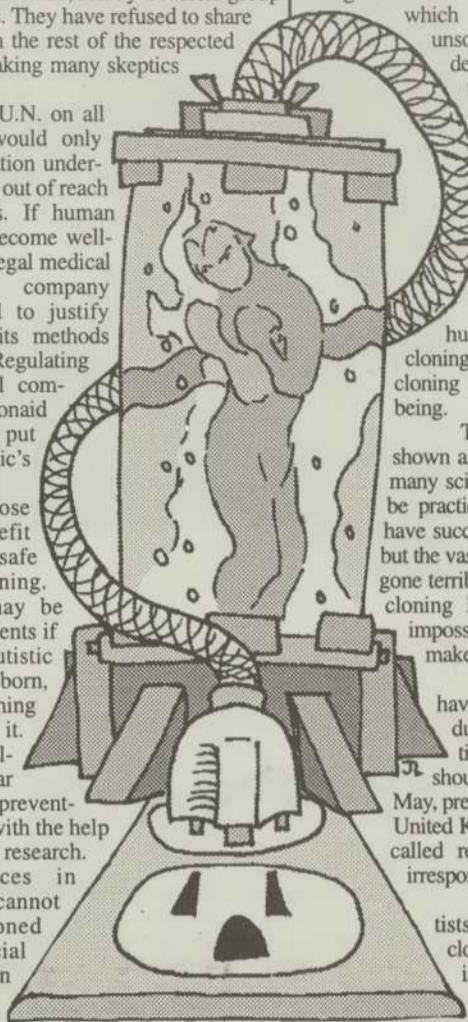
The United Nations voted 80-79 to hold off on voting for a ban on all forms of human cloning, which is unfortunate, because this unsound practice is unethical; it devalues human life and should therefore be banned without hesitation.

There are two forms of cloning, "reproductive" and "therapeutic." Therapeutic cloning, also called somatic cell nuclear transfer, refers to cloning specific human cells, genes and other tissues that do not and cannot lead to a human being. Reproductive cloning, on the other hand, is using cloning technology to create a human being.

The latter has repeatedly been shown as a highly fallible practice and many scientists agree that it should not be practiced on human life. Scientists have successfully cloned a few animals but the vast majority of pregnancies have gone terribly wrong. Some scientists say cloning healthy humans is virtually impossible because of their biological make-up.

The average person should have no trouble seeing that reproductive cloning is a foolish practice and most would agree that it should be banned. Lord Robert May, president of the Royal Society, the United Kingdom's academy of science, called reproductive cloning "grossly irresponsible."

Since the majority of scientists agree that reproductive cloning should be banned, the issue of therapeutic cloning is what really split the UN vote.



Step up to the feeding trough folks, it's time to go wild!

Chiefs' Weekly Column



Cory Price
Co Editor-in-Chief

As we enter into the holiday season tomorrow with an opening day of gluttonous gorging, better known as Thanksgiving, I would like to take this time to reflect some feelings about this day of thanks.

Let's begin with the food, since this is the dominant activity in which people gratefully participate in on this day of thanks. There are not many days in the year when people have the excuse to gorge themselves so full that pant sizes jump up a couple of notches. This is also the only day of the year we Americans make what a sumo eats look like a carnivore in a salad bar.

Every year, I hear people complaining about how tired they are after a big holiday feast, and they blame it

on the turkey. What did poor ol' Tom do to deserve this treatment? He does contain an amino acid called tryptophan, but doctors say his levels of this chemical are too low to make someone drowsy. Instead, blame it on the fact that everyone just ate more food than an Ethiopian would see in a lifetime.

The best thing about this all-out eating fest is the lifetime supply of leftovers. A man can make turkey sandwiches until the next year's feasting session. My all-time favorite, though, has to be leftover scalloped potatoes. Just throw a plate full in the microwave and minutes later it's Thanksgiving all over again.

The funniest thing about this day of gorging, though, is how people roll out of bed the next morning for the first official day of the Christmas shopping season.

And what do they go buy? Underwear and socks! This world has gone too far. People drag themselves

out of bed at the butt crack of dawn to the mall and fight over once-a-year deals on undergarments. A little old lady turns into a raving lunatic and will resort to violence if you get in line in front of her at the fabric store.

Let's put shopping aside and keep the leftovers simmering on the back burner. It's time to talk about the early morning tradition of watching Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

Over 2 million people brave the elements to line the streets of New York City; over 40 million spend precious hours at home viewing the spectacle on TV.

When the marching bands come by to break up the monotony of oversized, helium-filled cartoon characters, all I hear is the same song. Over and over, every band carries the same tune.

Why do millions spend three entire hours watching this tedious procession? Let's axe the parade down to one or two hours! Then, instead of sit-

ting at home, spend the rest of the time playing a local game of Turkey Bowl.

One other alternative to suggest to the corporate giants is changing the time. They could air it from 8-10 a.m. and move the afternoon football up to 10 a.m. So then the breakdown for the day would be play football, watch football, watch more football and then have a giant feast. That way, Mom doesn't fight with Dad, Grandpa or anyone else for that matter, over football being on during dinner.

A great new tradition would be adding a night game to the line-up. This would create an entire day full of the great American sport of football.

Stop bitching about Thanksgiving being a family holiday! Americans have forgotten the meaning of "family time." Let me tell you something about the original Thanksgiving. It was a three-day celebration and giving of thanks for the harvest.

So why invite that crazy uncle of yours or that cousin twice-removed?

Thanksgiving is a celebration where you should only call someone you want to share a time of thanks with.

Set aside the gorge fest and oversized balloons of Mr. Moneybags the Monopoly guy. Don't call Uncle Ralph, the one who has a funny odor and rambles all night about the good days, or Aunt Edna, who pinches everyone's cheeks until they're as red as the cranberry sauce.

Instead, how about calling up a Native American friend. Invite him over, but make sure he says "how" when he comes to the door and is wearing his buckskins and chief's feather hat. This is sure to make an authentic Thanksgiving feast for all to remember.

At least shut up about another holiday that you "have" to do. Call up some friends, get together, have a few non-alcoholic beverages and have a good time into the wee hours of the night.

What are your feelings on human cloning?

<p>Charles Meeker</p> <p>"I think it's probably bad because people have souls. A clone wouldn't have a soul because it wasn't created by God."</p>	<p>Kevin Palan</p> <p>"Do it, don't do it. Doesn't matter to me."</p>	<p>Somer Erickson</p> <p>"I think that embryonic cloning for the purposes of human diseases could be helpful for humankind."</p>	<p>Jessica Poggi</p> <p>"I think it's just wrong, moral wise."</p>	<p>Frank Boothby</p> <p>"I feel in certain cases it would probably be beneficial, but it would have to be severely regulated."</p>
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