THE NEWS ARGUS

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Cloning: What Next?

The Roslin Institute of Biotechnology Research in Edinburgh, Scotland made a major breakthrough in technology by cloning a sheep named "Dolly" with an adult cell approximately seven months ago.

In the cloning process of "Dolly," no male reproduction cells were involved. The scientist took unfertilized cells from sheep and removed all of the eggs' DNA. Then they took a mature cell from the udder of an adult, pregnant ewe, fused that cell into the cell that was stripped of its DNA, stimulated it with electricity until the cell fused and began to grow into an embryo. The embryos are kept in a culture dish for about six days, then transplanted into the womb of the surrogate mother. The resulting offspring is genetically identical to the animal that donated the cell.

If this can be done with sheep, monkeys, and rats in laboratories, is human cloning next? I feel cloning humans will result in genocide of the races. What does this say about religious, ethical, and moral perspectives in our society?

According to Gino Concetti, a moral theologian, "Creation of human life outside marriage goes against God's plan. Utilizing Dolly as part of God's creation is acceptable and true concept but how far do we go before it is forbidden."

I agree with Concetti. The beauty of creation (as we currently know it) involves two people coming together with love, intertwining in each other's essence and something remarkable happens. A life is created. If human cloning begins, I fear that good ethics will not be a priority. What happens if something goes wrong in the laboratory?

Do we kill the creation? Do we dispose of it as a bad sample? What happens when someone is selfish and wants to bring a loved-one back to life or save a relative's life at any cost? Do we create a human and take the body part we need, then dispose if it as we do waste? Who will keep the science community in check?

Morally, I feel cloning humans will upset the checks and balances of life. Moral standards for the entire world will have to be reset and synchronized across every culture. Morals are culturally defined in each society. But will we find, what is bad for one culture, may not be so bad for another?

I hope that our world is not willing to sacrifice the three important elements of culture, religion, morals or mores and economic sanity. Without religious intervention into the debate of cloning, all hope may be lost. For me, religion gives hope to people who believe that ultimately they will meet their maker and live in peace forever.

– Cheryl Cash

ISSUES & ANSWERS
ARGUS MAILBAG

Sometimes There Is Something To Do!

by Danielle A. Prophete and Sharonda Wilcox

WSSU students complain that there aren't enough planned activities on campus. Students often say, "There's nothing to do!"

Last month the Campus Activities Board (CAB) tried to eliminate this problem by presenting the Obakunle Akinlana, African Folktales and Drums as part of the university's Black History Month celebration.

To our surprise only two reporters and one photographer from **The News Argus** and **ONE** other person comprised the entire audience. No CAB members attended the event. The multi-purpose room in the Thompson Center, was set up to seat approximately 80 people and only four people showed up for the performance.

A very important question crossed our minds, maybe the student body was not informed about the event?

"I make an effort to contact students on the day of a program to remind them," said Vanessa Hood, CAB adviser. She added that flyers were passed out to students in the cafeteria during lunch time to also remind them about the event.

If the students received the flyers, why didn't some more warm bodies attend the event? "I not only want members of CAB to come out. I'm interested in the student body becoming interested about their history and culture. I'm not trying to reach one group; but a mass of people," stated Hood.

As members of the student media and the student body, we are disappointed at the lack of interest that the student body shows for some cultural programs that are held on campus and even in the surrounding community. Students are eager to go to a "gym jam" or some other type of party; but are slow to attend educational and cultural events. It seems as though students must be coerced or promised prizes to attend these functions.

"Students want to receive something at programs like a prize or something and we don't have the money to do that all the time," explained Hood.

As Rams we must realize that what we can receive from programs such as the one presented on Feb. 10, is much more valuable than any materialistic prize we could win. Knowledge and wisdom about our African culture were presented on Feb. 10. The knowledge that we receive during our college years is the knowledge that will truly bring us wisdom during our professional years.

Rams, will educational and cultural programs presented on campus continue to be viewed by only a handful of students? Or will students start to broaden their horizons and knowledge by attending these types of functions? What are we going to do?

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