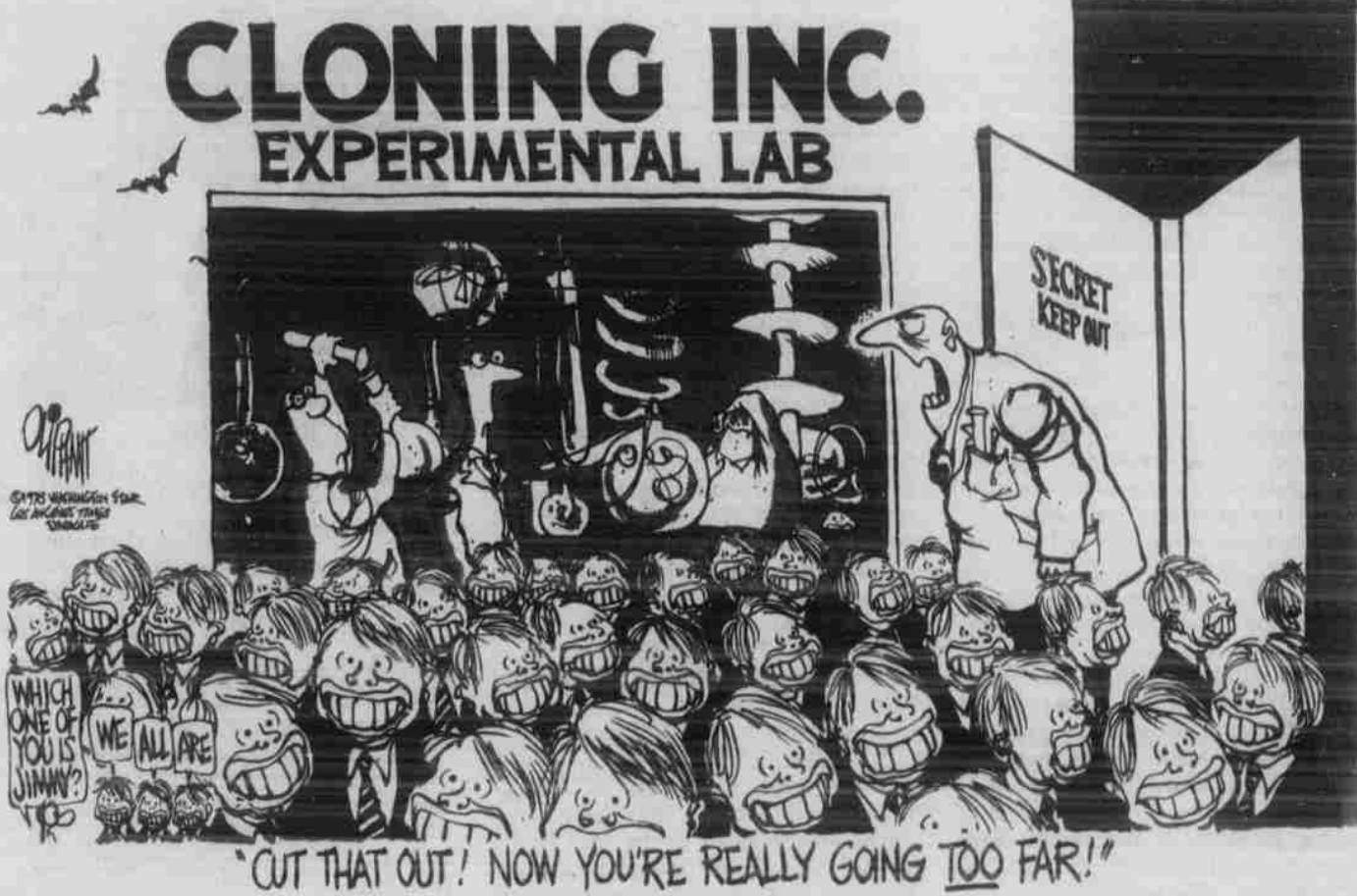


John Scariano

Beowulf, the modern man and survival of the fittest

Several years ago the school board of an affluent Chicago suburb banned the reading of Mark Twain's *Huckleberry Finn* in sophomore English classes because of several references to "niggers." It seems odd in a high school which offers Chinese calligraphy and has its own TV station that this favorite would be forever disallowed. In fact, the only thing lacking from the curriculum of New Trier Township are the Negroes themselves, not to mention any niggers. At any rate, this happened a long time ago and should be forgotten if it weren't for the recent developments of the Bakke case.

They probably replaced Mark Twain with such classics as *Beowulf*, or even worse, Nathaniel Hawthorne. *Beowulf* is good for high school kids because they can see the values of their own society reflected through an ancient script: beer guzzling, slaughtering one's in-laws, bragging, lending blood money and, of course, the funniest of them all: plundering. Teachers are fond of this because it is one of the first testaments from the society dedicated to the advancement of themselves at the cost of others. Perhaps the adult fantasies of power running through *Beowulf* relate better than Twain's boyhood longings.



ability to survive in the Third World cold war dilemma, or do they just measure one's ability to survive in college?

My friend Bob and I have developed an alternate solution to the entrance examination problems. This test accurately esteems one's intellectual acuity. It's called the Sea Wolf Game and it is found universally dispersed among bars and pinball arcades. The object is (on a

video grid) to aim and fire torpedoes synchronized to the criss-crossing of speedboats, freighters and destroyers. The faster the boat, the higher the score per hit. The test procedures are simple; recruit the prospective college-bound to Myrtle Beach over Easter break of their junior year in high school, and make them select the game of their choice. Whether it be Aztec, Space Mission, Tanks or Breakaway, if they score highly or get free

ball, then they're in; we'll mail their pre-registration right away.

The way talks have been going between the Middle East and us and Russia, who knows who might end up behind those little red buttons.

John Scariano didn't do so hot on the SATs but he got a free ball from the Space Mission last night.

What are the goals of high schools? Are they just to prepare the student for the ACT and SAT? There seems to be a trend, especially in small innovative private colleges, away from the test scores and towards individual profile and recommendation. Do the standard entrance examinations measure one's

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