

29 November 2001

From:
Eric J. Lakits
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To:
Letter to the Editor
USA Today

I agree completely with your view that banning cloning would unjustly punish ethical scientists seeking cures for diseases. However, I would go even further and say that it does more than punish scientists; it threatens life itself by attacking technology per se.

The opposing view in your paper by Richard Shelby declares, "Cloning devalues humanity." What can this possibly mean? Richard obviously does not understand the relationship between value and human life.

Ayn Rand, author of *Atlas Shrugged*, identified the proper relationship as: anything that promotes or enhances life is a value, while anything that hinders it is vice. How then can anyone say that a technology with so many potentially life saving benefits devalues life?

So far, the only answers given come from the religious right who claim that we are playing God. I had hoped that this type of thinking went away in the dark ages. Just as it was with Galileo, any truth that challenges the faith of religious zealots will be met with brute force.

Perhaps Bush shares something in common with Bin Laden. Both are guilty of attacking life-promoting Western values and both attacks have consequences opposed to Man's life.

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