



# COLBY FREE PRESS

## Genetic engineering topic of local forum

By JAY KELLEY

Colby Free Press

Three experts in the fields of science, ethics and biology met at the Northwest Kansas Cultural Arts Center at Colby Community College to discuss genetic engineering and agreed on one thing — they didn't have the answers.

Dr. Mike Klymkowsky, professor of biology at the University of Colorado, Dr. Don Messer, president emeritus of Iliff Theological College in Denver and Professor Peter Tramel, ethics instructor at Fort Hays State University agreed that the issues were complex and that the full range of ramifications had not yet been discovered.

The forum allowed each speaker to present his portion of the lecture to the audience. Questions were reserved for after all three had spoken.

Klymkowsky, who has authored more than 60 papers and is currently researching the interrelationship between cellular organization and gene expression during embryonic development, said his talk was simply from a technical perspective.

"I'm going to focus on how we can, not why we should," said Klymkowsky, adding, "Those decisions (what should be done) are political decisions to be made by the people, not scientists."

Klymkowsky defined a clone as "a group of cells derived by non-sexual means." He said cloning removes the genetic "shuffling" that occurs in natural reproduction and compared the clones to identical twins.

The first experiments were done on frogs in the 1960s and still required a number of cycles to be capable of normal development.

With mammals, there are two ways to clone, he explained. The first is to remove the nucleus from an egg and replace it with a somatic cell, that carries both male and female chromosomes.

The second is to fuse a somatic, or male cell with an egg. This, said Klymkowsky, is the method used to create Dolly, the cloned sheep in Scotland.

Stem cells, he explained, can divide without differentiating. This means they can be used for research or "spare parts" without fear of tissue rejection.

"I know that sounds horrible, and it is," he said. "I'm just telling you what can be done."

Klymkowsky also said that adult stem cells, such as skin cells, could be used, but presently it is easier to use embryonic cells. Scientists are working on ways to genetically modify cells that could be implanted in embryos.

"It's not perfect," he said. "It's very inefficient, but it is possible, in theory."

Uses might include treatment of hemophilia, Parkinson's disease and some forms of muscular dystrophy. Humans might be re-engineered to be immune to the AIDS virus.

Discussing genetic modification, Klymkowsky said the human genome had been mapped and it was possible, in theory, to create even a new species.



JAY KELLEY/Colby Free Press

Three experts in their fields, from left, Dr. Don Messer, Dr. Mike Klymkowsky, and Peter Tramel waited for time to present their views during a lecture in Colby on Tuesday.

Closing, he quoted Anthony Daniels, a noted bioethicist, "There is nothing so foolish that a philosopher has not said it, and nothing so evil that a bioethicist has not suggested it."

"These are not decisions for experts, they are decisions for the people," he concluded.

Tramel, who will receive his doctorate in December, teaches a wide variety of bioethical and meta-ethical — the study of what moral claims mean, the reality that underlies them and why they should matter — at Fort Hays State University.

Tramel proposed three ethical models and some questions each model raised concerning mapping the human genome, cloning, stem cell research and agricultural genetic engineering.

He said that the time allotted would not allow a full discussion of the possible questions, or even varieties of the ethical models in view, but he hoped to spur discussion. The models, social utility, the golden rule and proper function, have adherents in both religious and non-religious groups, he said.

"Social utility is simply a cost-benefit analysis," he said. Questions concerning benefits and possible drawbacks are the only things considered. Success rates versus mortality in stem cell research and cloning, would be considered. In agricultural research, the possibility of destroying ourselves with unseen side effects must be considered.

"The problem with cost-benefit is that it removes the human factor," he said. He used the example of five healthy, loved people in Colby and one needs a heart, two need a lung each, one needs kidneys and one needs a liver. There is also a bum, no family and not only unloved, but unloving, but healthy and able to donate.

"The social utility model demands that we kill the bum," he said, "and I would have a problem with that."

The golden rule model is patterned after the teachings of Jesus Christ, he said. It requires us to place ourselves in the world that would be created by the technology in question.

Some key questions include living the life of a cloned child. Tramel asked, "How would you like to be the spare parts clone? I wouldn't like that very much." Also on the list would be the

choice of living in a "test-subject ecosystem."

"Do we really want Monsanto or our neighbors decide this for us?" he asked.

The proper function model is the most complex of the three, he said. "I will do this model the least justice." The question is to what extent are we changing the proper function by our research?

"What is the purpose of an embryo?" he asked. The answer to that question and others like it will determine where our research goes, according to Tramel. As far as cloning, Tramel said people will have to decide whether or not the "roll of the dice" entailed by normal reproduction is essential to proper human function. Messer, who wrote *The Befuddled Stork*, was the last speaker, and focused on basic theological questions, including "Does God care how we make babies?"

"There are two basic historical approaches for Christians and Jews," he said, adding that, like the others, he would be unable to do either approach justice in the time.

The first approach is a "seamless garment" meaning that one core assumption leads to another.

"This is basic to Roman Catholic and most Evangelical Protestant ethical teachings," he said. If one ascribes to this thinking, there are not "test tubes, cohabitation or pre-marital sex," he said.

"The other is a coat of many colors, to borrow from the Hebrew Bible," he said. Context and circumstances, along with social utility are taken into account. Social concepts of love and sharing are most important.

Messer said not everyone fits either pattern, but most would be somewhere between. Ethical questions raised include what to do with the embryos already created.

"If you believe they are life, then they are in limbo somewhere," he said. Messer was unequivocal that, once life was determined, it was sacred and should be protected.

All three could agree on another thing. If it is possible, someone, somewhere will do it. "This is simply biology," said Klymkowsky. "It costs about \$50,000 to set up a lab. It's being done in India and China."



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Colby High School freshman Christopher Finley and Shanda Draper, senior and president of student council, were among many students who tied hundreds of streamers to antennas on cars in the high school parking lot Wednesday in support of the country. The streamers are available at Pioneer Memorial Library, Dillons and Wal-Mart for people wanting to join them in dealing with the tragic events of Tuesday.

## Colby students go into action

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

Colby High School students are showing their support during this tragic time by coming up with ideas to promote unity and patriotism.

The high school's student council and service club held a meeting Wednesday to decide on how they could help, said Shanda Draper, a senior and president of the student council.

"We all decided to make red, white and blue pins to wear on clothing, red, white and blue ribbons to fly from car antennas, and construct a large flag in the commons area of the school," she said.

The ribbons were then tied to every car in the school parking lot by the clubs, while others distributed ribbons to Pioneer Memorial Library, Dillons and Wal-Mart for people in town to use.

Brette Pfeifer, advisor of student council, said she was proud of the students for looking at positive ways in deal-

ing with this tragedy.

"It was an incredible show of what students can do to empower themselves," she said.

Involved in the project from student council were Draper, Jamie Quenzer, Kassie Juenemann, Emily Bailey, Melissa Tittel, Lori Jumper, Lori Ziegelmeier, Carla Sloan, Sam Wolf, Whitney Adams, Raya Mazanec, Amanda Seemann, Rachel Albers, Jordan Cranston, and Christopher Finley. Service club members were Damien Severson, Kayla Mengel, Jessie Brenn, Meagan Augustine, Melissa Augustine, Marci Wilson, Amanda Schmidt, and Lydia Leondaris. Advisors included Pfeifer, Roni Dietz and Liz Strand.

"We also want to thank Joyce's Fabric for donating the fabric for the ribbons and Wal-Mart for donating the yarn and safety pins," Draper said.

Draper is encouraging all students and staff to show their support during this tragic time by wearing the pins or displaying the streamers.

## Toll slowly climbs in New York

NEW YORK (AP) — The ghastly toll of terrorism came into focus today, as the mayor said 4,763 people had been reported missing in the devastation of the World Trade Center. Crews combed through the ruins, desperate to find a living soul.

"It could turn out we recover fewer than that; it could be more," Mayor Rudolph Giuliani told reporters this morning. "We don't know the answer."

He said the city had some 30,000

body bags available to hold the pieces taken from the rubble, and parts of 70 bodies had been recovered. There were just 94 confirmed dead; 30 or fewer had been identified.

"Let's just say there was a steady stream of body bags coming out all night," said Dr. Todd Wider, a surgeon who was working at a triage center. "That and lots and lots of body parts."

A vast section of the city was sealed off today. Work was slowed by hellish bursts of flame and the collapse of the

last standing section of one of the towers taken out by twin suicide jets.

The effort was mirrored at the Pentagon, where 190 people were feared dead and 70 bodies had been recovered.

The 4,763 missing reported by Giuliani, added to the deaths in Washington and Pennsylvania when commandeered airliners crashed into the Pentagon and a grassy field southeast of Pittsburgh, would bring the total to more than 5,000.

entrance. Four officers continued to patrol the Statehouse, instead of the usual one.

Joyce Glasscock, secretary of administration, said those security measures — as well as restricted entry into other state office buildings — would remain in place at least through Friday.

## Heightened security continues at state and federal buildings in Kansas

TOPEKA (AP) — Gov. Bill Graves tried to give state government an aura of normalcy, even as his administration decided to keep heightened security in place through the end of the week.

Graves returned to the Statehouse on Wednesday, a day after terrorist attacks on the Pentagon and World Trade Cen-

ter. Spokesman Don Brown said the governor did not have additional security.

However, the Statehouse did. Barricades continued to block all but one entrance for vehicles to the Statehouse grounds, and Capitol Police maintained a checkpoint at the remaining

entrance.

Four officers continued to patrol the Statehouse, instead of the usual one.

Joyce Glasscock, secretary of administration, said those security measures — as well as restricted entry into other state office buildings — would remain in place at least through Friday.

The security measures were imposed shortly after the terrorist attacks. Officials said they don't know of any threats to state buildings.

A routine fire call at the Landon State Office Building, across from the Capitol, had nerves on edge, one official said.

About 800 employees were evacuated at about 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, after smoke was detected on the building's sixth floor.

Topeka fire and police search the building before allowing the employees to return about an hour later.

Joe Fritton, director of facilities

management for the Capitol complex, said a motor in an air handler on the sixth floor burned.

The floor houses some of the state's computer operations, and the Department of Revenue was forced to go to its backup systems, state officials said Wednesday.

## Briefly

### Weather: Cooler, damper

Cooler weather and better chances for moisture appear in the local forecast at least through Saturday. Tonight, cloudy, a 70 percent chance for thunderstorms, lows in the upper 50s and southerly winds 10-20 mph. Friday, cloudy, a 50 percent chance for thunderstorms, highs in the upper 70s and southerly winds 10-20 mph. Friday night, cloudy, a 50 percent chance for thunderstorms, lows in the lower 50s and winds continuing out of the south. Saturday, partly cloudy, a 20 percent chance for thunderstorms and highs in the middle 70s. Colby's high temperature Wednesday was 92 and the overnight low this morning was 55. Rain-fall for the month remains at 0.72 inches. The soil temperature at the four-inch depth is averaging 74 degrees. The

records for Sept. 13: 100 in 1955 and 31 in 1974. (The daily temperatures, precipitation and records are provided by the Northwest Kansas Research-Extension Center, Colby.)

### Where to call to give blood

The Thomas County Chapter of the American Red Cross has received many calls from area people wanting to donate blood for victims in New York and Washington D.C., said Donna Finley, director. Since the next blood drive is not scheduled in Colby until Oct. 16, Finley is suggesting that people call Wanda Davis at (785) 462-4797, and leave their name and phone number, so that when scheduling begins next week, they will be included. "We would like to thank the community for all its support and the response

for blood has been tremendous," she said today.

### Church service planned Friday

There will be a prayer service for our nation and its leaders, and for comfort for victims, from noon-1 p.m. Friday at the Berean Church, 1000 S. Franklin. Pastor Fran Harwerth invites people to come and go as it works out for them.

### Red, white and blue day

Staff and residents of Lantern Park Manor are having a special dress down day on Friday in remembrance of the tragic events on Tuesday. In recognition of that day, people will be wearing red, white and blue to express their sympathy

for those who grieve. Officials said the red will honor the fallen firefighters, blue to honor the fallen police officers and white for those innocent people who lost their lives. Officials said they hope other Colbyites will join them in wearing red, white and blue.

### Sorority issues challenge

Members of Kappa Upsilon, a sorority of Beta Sigma Phi, which is a service organization in Colby, met Wednesday night and decided to give \$300 to the American Red Cross. "We are also issuing a challenge to other groups in our community to donate to the Red Cross or some other organization to help with the tragedy in New York and Washington, D.C.," said Pam Augustine, president of the sorority.

