Father Charles Curran:

By CHARLES RANDISI

"We are on the verge of possibly the greatest revolution in history, a revolution on man him-self. Scientists may create a society in which high intelligence is available to everybody.

Thus Father Charles Curran discussed biogenetics and its possibilities and problems in a talk last Thursday, at the fourth annual Founders Club dinner at Mercy High.

The native Rochesterian is a professor of moral theology at Catholic University, a former president of the American Catholic Theological Society, and past member of the board of directors of the American Society of Christian Ethics.

With so much human behavior being discovered as having a genetic basis, a whole new type of human being may be created when scientists are able to control genes.

Father Curran listed different reasons why scientists are concerned with intervening in the genetic process.

One school of thought approaches biogenetics negatively. "They say that if we can change genes, we can free people from disease. This is a very complex reality that is not yet possible,' Father Curran said.

A more positive approach is taken by geneticists who would recombine genes for the good. This is the science of eugenics, or "good breeding," which is already being done in the field of animal husbandry.

Three types of eugenics that Father Curran mentioned are artificial insemination, "in vitro" fertifization, and cloning

With articifical insemination, the sperm is frozen, and later implanted in the uterus. "In vitro" fertilization is done entirely in the test tube. Mothers could have their children growing fully outside the womb. Cloning, which is a remote possibility, is the process of taking a fertilized ovum and duplicating it. "It's been compared to making 1,000 Einsteins on a Xerox machine, Father Curran said.

After a discussion of Christian ethics and the problems that Roman Catholic theology must face in relation to genetic progress, Father Curran criticized the views of scientists from an ethical standpoint. He said that geneticists must keep in mind what might happen if the possibilities become realities.

"Their view of man is much too Utopian," he said. "Basic problems are much deep er than science can handle. The power of God's love is something that no machine can duplicate.'

He quoted Dr. Herman Muller. who envisions a perfect society where men "take the golden rule for granted."

"But this view is entirely missing the human aspect," Father Curran said. "Suffering is part of humanity. Do we really have the wisdom to do this? Do we know

John Liddle Describes Meteorology

The three fifth grades at Sacred Heart Cathedral School recently had a special treat, as John Liddle, former meteorologist at the Monroe County Airport weather station, spoke to the group.

Liddle's address ranged from describing how weather reports are compiled to highs, lows, cold fronts and warm air masses.

He also showed the students instruments used in weather

One observer noted that after his demonstrations, Liddle was "deluged" with questions.

balloons.

intervene? to haven't been that smart in the

past. His second criticism of biogenetics is the identification of humanity with the scientific. "Is there a time," he said, "When man must say 'no' to the possibilities of science? I would have to answer with a loud

He gave cloning as an example, saying that many might agree that it would be great to have 1,000 Einsteins, but "what about the psychological, sociological, and educational aspects of such a society?"

The third danger is the understanding that man is always interested in good results, good consequences, and success. "Does man exist just for what he does, for what he makes?" he asked. "No. In the last analysis, man exists for God as well.

He said that if society were to change as radically as suggested, there would be "no real room for human suffering or failure. Can we, for the sake of our goals, sacrifice human individualism?

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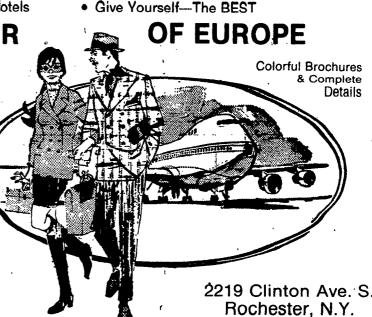


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