

Father Charles Curran:

A Thousand Einsteins

By CHARLES RANDISI

"We are on the verge of possibly the greatest revolution in history, a revolution on man himself. 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" fertilization, and cloning.

With artificial 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 human problems are much deeper 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 balloons.

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

Courier-Journal

enough to intervene? We 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 'yes.'"

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?"

EUROPE '73

Get The MOST From Your Vacation!

- Compare Itineraries
- 3 Meals a Day
- First Class Hotels
- Escorted—by Professionals
- Complete Sightseeing
- Give Yourself—The BEST

GRAND TOUR OF EUROPE

16 Days Only **\$647**

Call **244-8121** TODAY!



Travel Arrangements by

WHOLESALE TOURS INTERNATIONAL



Colorful Brochures & Complete Details

2219 Clinton Ave. S. Rochester, N.Y. 14618

Help us move Sesame Street out of the girls' gym.

You know how public television programs like Sesame Street have revolutionized education.

But maybe you didn't know that, here in Rochester, Big Bird and his friends are brought to you each day from the girls' gym in the basement of the old East High School building.

It sounds preposterous, yet that's where Channel 21's broadcasting studios are located.

For public education, the old school wasn't good enough. So the city built a new school in 1955.

For public broadcasting, the basement of the old school isn't good enough either. But it's all we've got. And all we can afford.

Unless you help. Charitable foundations, local industries, and private donors have already contributed, and contributed generously, to our new building fund.

But we're still \$500,000 short. Which is why we need your support. And, most of all, your check.

Public television is, after all, only as good as public support. Your check, and thousands like it, will help us build a new Public Broadcasting Center.

A Public Broadcasting Center that will house a new TV studio. A new FM radio station. And four cable television channels, too.

A Public Broadcasting Center that will not only produce a greater variety of better programs, but will also provide greater public access for community issues and problems.

Your community. Because this is your station.

Please send us your check today. And help the area's only underground TV station break ground.

To: Channel 21
Capital Funds Campaign
410 Alexander Street
Rochester, N. Y. 14607

Here's my tax-deductible check for \$ _____ to help build the new Public Broadcasting Center.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Make it happen at channel

