

Church, civil leaders decry cloning

WASHINGTON (CNS) — News that a U.S. researcher intends to attempt cloning of human beings brought warnings that the effort breaches ethical, scientific and theological standards.

Ethicists, church leaders and President Clinton were among those who said Chicago scientist Richard Seed should not proceed with his plans to treat infertility by impregnating a woman with an embryo created from cloned genetic material.

Seed said he hoped to have a viable pregnancy started in one of four volunteer couples within 18 months. A physicist, Seed said he was seeking financial backers and physicians to participate.

Seed's plans were announced Jan. 6, and he reiterated his intentions in interviews the following weekend, saying he would move the project to Tijuana, Mexico, if Congress were to outlaw human cloning research.

Clinton said in his Jan. 10 radio address that Congress should impose such a ban because the techniques involved are "untested and unsafe and morally unacceptable."

Two days later, 19 European nations signed an agreement to prohibit genetic replication of human beings.

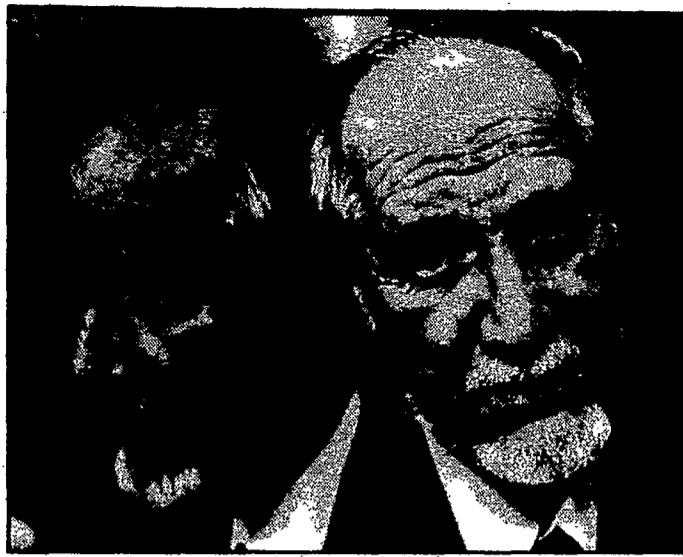
The members of the Council of Europe signed a protocol committing their countries to banning "any intervention seeking to create human beings genetically identical to another human being, whether living or dead."

A human clone would be created in the image and likeness of man, not God, a Vatican authority said.

Bishop Elio Sgreccia, vice president of the Pontifical Academy for Life and director of the Bioethics Institute at Rome's Catholic University of the Sacred Heart, told Vatican Radio human cloning would be "the most serious" violation of natural and divine laws regarding procreation.

"In a formal way, it was already declared seriously illicit in 1987" in a document on the dignity of human procreation issued by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, Bishop Sgreccia told Vatican Radio Jan. 8.

The bishop said cloning "represents a dominion by man over man and includes a kind of desire to replace God's plans in an arbitrary and complete way, creating man in man's image and likeness."



CNS/Reuters

U.S. scientist Richard Seed, who says he is ready to clone human beings, is seen with his reflection in a mirror at his home in Riverside, Ill., Jan. 8.

From the perspective of scientific progress alone, LeRoy Walters, director of Georgetown University's Kennedy Institute of Ethics, said Seed's goal of cloning a human being by 1999 "is just so premature as to be an outrageous proposal."

Walters noted that the Scottish researchers made 277 attempts before producing the sheep, Dolly, in the first successful effort to clone a mammal, announced early in 1997. He said worldwide probably fewer than 25 mammals have been successfully cloned.

"The idea of moving from there into human reproductive technology, I find incredible," Walters said.

While he doesn't object philosophically to genetic research that might help people overcome infertility, Walters said, "this particular technique at this stage isn't ready for human beings."

Attackers kill African nuns

By Lynne Weil
Catholic News Service

ROME — Five nuns were killed at a Rwandan mission near the border with Congo in early January in an attack apparently linked to ethnic tensions in the region.

The five members of the Daughters of the Resurrection order killed Jan. 8 were all Hutu born in the area, according to press reports. A Rome-based member of the order told CNS there were 12 nuns at that mission.

Two other missionaries were injured in the incident, which was first publicized Jan. 11. Vatican Radio reported their condition the next day as serious.

Authorities could not immediately determine whether those responsible for the attack were members of the Tutsi-led Rwandan army or Hutu rebels. The rebels and the military had been engaged in a series of violent attacks, often resulting in civilian casualties.

The Rwandan government was holding nine Hutus, six from Rwanda and three from Congo, in connection with the incident. There was no immediate explanation for the attack.

The mission, located in the northern Rwandan town of Busasamana, was operated entirely by African members of the order. Nuns of both Hutu and Tutsi origin reportedly worked there.

CALENDAR

All Dioceses

Religious Activities

■ **WED, JAN. 21** — Charismatic Mass: St. John Fisher College, Murphy Hall Chapel, 3690 East Ave., Rochester; 7:30 p.m.; Fr. William Moorby, celebrant.

Social Activities

■ **TUE, JAN. 27** — Reservation deadline: for Jan. 31 Winter Cabin Party; sponsored by Odyssey for Catholics 20s-30s; Northampton Park, 304 Salmon Creek Rd., Brockport; 2 p.m.; call Karen Rinefield, 716/328-3228 or 800/388-7177, ext. 255 or krinefield@dor.org.

Workshops

■ **FEB. 6-8** — Marriage Encounter Weekend: for happily married couples; sponsored by Worldwide Marriage Encounter; Holiday Inn-Airport, 911 Brooks Ave., Rochester; call Mike & Kathy, 716/872-3180 or John & Belinda, 607/776-4870.

■ **TUE, FEB. 10** — Presentation: Cantor Master Classes; presented by Fr. Daniel McMullin; Holy Ghost Church, Rochester; 7:30-9:15 p.m.; to register call Ginny, 716/328-3228 or 800/388-7177, ext. 345.

■ **FEB. 10-12** — Workshop: "Resolving Conflict Before It Happens"; Watson Homestead Conference and Retreat Center, Painted Post; led by Dr. Richard Harrington; to register call 607/962-0541 or write Watson Homestead, 9620 Dry Run Rd., Painted Post, NY 14870.

Livingston County

Religious Activities

■ **SAT, JAN. 17** — Workshop: "Lord, Teach Us to Pray ... What Do YOU Do During the Eucharistic Prayer"; by Fr. Virgil Funk; St. Mary's Church, Geneseo; 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.; call Elaine, 716/328-3210 or 800/388-7177, ext. 328.

■ **MON, JAN. 19** — Registration deadline: for Jan. 24 Catechist Formation presentation; St. Mary's Parish Center, 13 North St., Geneseo; 10 a.m.; call Cathy, 716/243-5249.

Monroe County

Education

■ **SUN, JAN. 18** — Presentation: "Joy and Bliss"; psychologist Craig Bullock; Manse House of St. Louis Church, 64 Main St. S., Pittsford; 3 p.m.; to RSVP call Lucretia, 716/586-8467 or e-mail LDavie1027@aol.com.

■ **MON, JAN. 19** — Lecture: with Carl T. Rowan; Nazareth College Arts Center, Arthur J. and Marie M. Callahan Theater, 4245 East Ave., Rochester; 8 p.m.

Fundraisers

■ **SAT, JAN. 17** — Coffee house: to benefit Hope Hall, 1612 Buffalo Rd., Rochester; 7-10 p.m.; live entertainment, drawings; freewill offering; 716/426-5824.

■ **SAT, JAN. 17** — Reservation deadline: for Jan. 24 luncheon and card party to benefit Catholic Women's Club; Monroe Golf Club; \$18; for reservations, call 716/461-9173.

■ **SAT, JAN. 17** — Clothing drive: by Nazareth Academy Parents Association; Nazareth Academy, 1001 Lake Ave., Rochester; 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Religious Activities

■ **SAT, JAN. 17** — Discussion: on inclusive language; sponsored by St. Andrew's Synod Goal 3 Committee; St. Andrew's Parish Meeting Room, 923 Portland Ave., Rochester; 9 a.m.; call Joyce, 716/227-1513.

■ **SAT, JAN. 17** — Songfest: 14th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Gospel Songfest; Colgate Rochester Divinity School, 1100 S. Goodman St., Rochester; 6-9 p.m.; free.

■ **MON, JAN. 19** — Community Worship Service: presented by Martin Luther King Jr. Greater Rochester Commission; Eastman Theatre, 26 Gibbs St., Rochester; 9 a.m.

■ **MON, JAN. 19** — Program: part of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. commemoration; with Dr. Keith Jenkins; 10:30 a.m.-noon; Kearney Auditorium, St. John Fisher College, Pittsford; music by Fisher Gospel Choir.

■ **TUE, JAN. 20** — Program: "A Tribute to Martin Luther King Jr."; with Gospel Choir of Corpus Christi Church; Rochester Psychiatric Center, 111 Elmwood Ave., Rochester; 7-8 p.m.

■ **TUE, JAN. 20** — Marian Night of Prayer: Mercy Motherhouse, 1437 Blossom

Rd., Rochester; 7 p.m. start; 7:30 p.m. liturgy; Fr. Peter DeBellis.

■ **TUE, JAN. 20** — Presentation: "Revisiting Vatican II"; SSJ Motherhouse, 4095 East Ave., Rochester; 1-3 p.m.; Msgr. William H. Shannon.

■ **TUE, JAN. 20** — Program: "Lord, Teach Us To Pray"; by SSJ Spirituality Center; SSJ Motherhouse, 4095 East Ave., Rochester; 2-4 p.m.; \$10/session; to register, call 716/336-4370.

■ **WED, JAN. 21** — Mass: to mark 25th anniversary of *Roe vs. Wade*; St. Theodore's Church, 168 Spencerport Rd., Rochester; 7 p.m.; Fr. Anthony Mugavero; followed by film, 24-hour prayer vigil, Liturgy of the Hours 7 p.m. Jan. 22.

■ **THU, JAN. 22** — Centering Prayer: Guardian Angels Church, 2061 E. Henrietta Rd., Rochester; 7:30-8:30 p.m.

Social Activities

■ **SAT, JAN. 17** — 35th Annual: Gala Ball; Federation of German-American Societies; Mapledale Party House, 1020 Maple St., Rochester; 5:30 p.m. cocktails; 716/288-3368.

■ **SAT, JAN. 24** — Big Band Dance: Italian American Community Center, 150 Marconi Blvd., Rochester; 8 p.m.; 716/594-8882.

Workshops

■ **THU, JAN. 15** — Program: "When a Child or Young Person Dies"; St. Joseph's Church Resource Center, 43 Gebhardt Rd., Penfield; 7:30 p.m.; 716/264-8089.

Steuben County

Religious Activities

■ **SAT, JAN. 17** — Presentation: "Building a Small Christian Community"; Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Rogers Hall, Painted Post; 9 a.m.-3 p.m.; Deacon Claude Lester; registration required; call 716/328-3228 or 800/388-7177, ext. 328.

Yates Ontario Wayne

Meetings

■ **WED, JAN. 21** — Breakfast meeting: Route 96 Divorced/Separated/Bereaved Support Group; Steak-out Restaurant, Rts. 96 and 31, Manchester; 9 a.m.; call Rose, 315/462-3841, or Marjorie, 315/462-9670, or 315/789-2686.

■ **THU, JAN. 22** — Presentation: "Getting a Positive Self Image"; with Barbara Haefele; St. Januarius Parish Center, 180 N. Main St., Naples; 7-9 p.m.; 716/374-2414.

Religious Activities

■ **WED, JAN. 21** — Queen of Peace Night: St. Dominic's Church, Rt. 21 & Main St., Shortsville; 7 p.m. start; 8 p.m. Mass; Fr. Douglas DellaPietra, celebrant; anointing or healing service will be included.