Clem: two sides to gene issue

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gene tic structure of those people who are hemophiliacs that science would have made a valuable contribution utilizing a technique to solve a problem that had to be solved and whose solution would reduce suffering and anguish for a great number of people.

On the other side of the coin is that genetic engineering also provides the power . . . to determine that everyone will have blue eyes, or that every couple would be able to determine the sex of their first child.

Obviously I think the potential for abuse of that type of resource is awesome. If in our recent history we can have individuals who have substantial amounts of power at their disposal who try to eradicate millions of individuals because of their religious heritage, then I believe that we should not be naive (enough) to think that there will not be individuals who will try to utilize genetic engineering to screen out certain types of individuals, and I think that's an obvious abuse of that power.

How then does one deal with that conflicting issue — do you simply say "Stop, we do not want to learn genetically" or does one say "allow inquiry to go forward, but limit its application."

A lot of people argue that the information and the knowledge is neutral, and that its application must be regulated. That is easier said than done, and I personally am not optimistic that we will be able as a society to handle complex genetic engineering issues in the near future. But I honestly believe that the Cambridge City Council, in many ways quite by accident, has begun a tremendous and important debate within our society at large of how we are to regulate scientific inquiry, and I think that this episode will be looked upon several years from now as an important beginning.

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American Greetings

Starting time will be "Mini Information" for those interested. A speed chess tournament for Saturday, Feb. 12, in Room 407 of the Student Center. An entry fee of 50 cents will be charged; all money will be returned in prizes. Starting time will be 1pm. If insufficient entries, a highschool tournament will be held the following week. For more information, call Brian at 25-9714.

Registration for English conversation classes for foreign students is going to give you one more opportunity to improve your English. The classes will be held Tuesday, Feb. 8, in the first Rogers Room, 16-340. Beginning intermediate and advanced classes will be available. Child care will be provided for pre-school children for a $5 fee. The course of 18 classes will meet Tuesday and Thursday mornings. The fee is $90. For further information, call Ms. Joshua B. Feldman at 25-3656.

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