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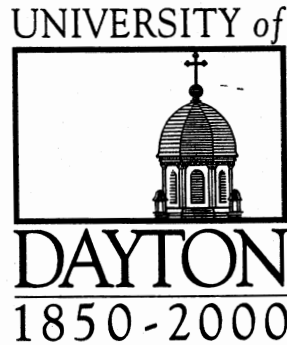
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Jan. 25, 2001
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NEWS TIPS

**BRITAIN LEGALIZES THE CREATION OF CLONED HUMAN EMBRYOS:
UD PROFESSORS COMMENT ON THE DECISION**

ECONOMICS OVERRIDES MORAL CONCERN — Britain this week became the first country to legalize the creation of cloned human embryos, a decision that disturbs a University of Dayton assistant professor of religious studies.

"It's a case of economic interests overriding moral concerns or respect for human life," says Therese Lysaught, who specializes in medical ethics. "What is troubling about this development is that researchers are now allowed to actually create human embryos for research and tissue development."

Lysaught says that once such techniques are legalized, they eventually make their way to the free market to be used for any application. "Researchers will discover non-therapeutic applications of stem cells or the use of human embryos and seek to parlay them into profitable commodities. Eventually, we will have full-blown human cloning."

"In Britain, as in the U.S., groups justify human embryo research by repeatedly stating that the human embryo must be respected," Lysaught says. "It is difficult to construe the manipulation, harvesting, freezing, genetic tampering, cloning and subsequent destruction of embryos as respectful."

For media interviews, contact **Therese Lysaught** at (937) 293-4734 or via e-mail at therese.lysaught@notes.udayton.edu.

THOUGHTFUL REFLECTION AND RESEARCHERS — "One part of me says this research is a great thing and will help millions of suffering people," says Shirley Wright, an associate professor of biology at UD. "Another part says that creating cloned human embryos for research then destroying them is equivalent to destroying life.

"I would ask these fellow researchers to consider what they are doing from an ethical and theological perspective. Science needs to pause for thoughtful consideration on its vision."

Wright sees a day when this debate will end. "In the long run, we'll develop a protein soup, so to speak, that will allow us to tweak specialized cells into unspecified cells. These are the cells needed for human tissue replacement."

For media interviews, contact **Shirley Wright** at (937) 229-2857 or via e-mail at wrights@neelix.udayton.edu.