

SCIENCE'S COMPASS

concerns are indeed crucial for such a philosophical effort to make any sense in terms of ethics. In fact, I belong more or less to what European philosophers often call the "pathocentric" tradition, which emphasizes sentience and suffering as the central issue of ethics.

Nevertheless, a critical analysis of "genome-based" speculations is still necessary, because they are so seductive. In the face of intractable controversies about embryo research and abortion, many people feel the temptation to give the last word to arguments based on "hard science," because such a move is rhetorically appealing. After all, even though science is widely challenged and criticized in our postmodern society, it still retains a measure of persuasion and authority long lost by philosophies, religions, or the state. Furthermore, biology is indeed relevant, up to a point. For instance, we must involve biology in our exploration of the concept of person, if we want to disentangle issues of biological individuality on the one hand and personal identity on the other. What the notion of individuality means for human gametes, zygotes, fetuses, and born humans is a question that certainly needs considerable input from biol-

ogy. But supposing one has sorted out that problem, the questions of what it is to be a person, what it is to have personal rights, and what it is to be "the same person" as some previous stage of human development would still be with us and would mobilize additional philosophical resources.

At the end of the day, we must remember that purely biological accounts of human nature were a part of the ideology that inspired the Holocaust. Ironically, that ideology seemed not particularly concerned with the minutiae of when an embryo becomes a person: its supporters were busy denying—in theory and in practice—human rights to people, that is, to persons in the most ordinary and incontrovertible sense of the word.

ALEX MAURON

Unité de Recherche et d'Enseignement en Bioéthique, Centre Médical Universitaire, Rue Michel-Servet 1, CH-1211 Genève 4, Switzerland.
E-mail: mauron@cmu.unige.ch

CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

REPORTS: "A sperm cytoskeletal protein that signals oocyte meiotic maturation and ovulation" by M. A. Miller *et al.* (16 Mar., p. 2144). In the second line from the bottom of

the caption for Figure 1 (p. 2145), the number "14,1475" should have read "14,147.5."

REPORTS: "X-ray pulses approaching the attosecond frontier" by M. Drescher *et al.* (9 Mar., p. 1923). In Figure 5 (p. 1926), the number "76.0" at the base of the y axis should have read "75.0."

ESSAYS ON SCIENCE AND SOCIETY: "Monkeys in the back garden" by A. Jolly (2 Mar., p. 1705). Due to an editing error, the following citation was dropped from the list of references on page 1705: M. E. Yamamoto, I. T. D. Jarreta, *Int. J. Primatol.* **20**, 281 (1999). The editor apologizes for this mistake.

Letters to the Editor

Letters (~300 words) discuss material published in *Science* in the previous 6 months or issues of general interest. They can be submitted by e-mail (science_letters@aaas.org), the Web (www.letter2science.org), or regular mail (1200 New York Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20005, USA). Letters are not acknowledged upon receipt, nor are authors generally consulted before publication. Whether published in full or in part, letters are subject to editing for clarity and space.

THE CANON NATIONAL PARKS SCIENCE SCHOLARS PROGRAM

"Creating the next generation of environmental scientists"

A collaboration among
Canon U.S.A., Inc.
National Park Service
National Park Foundation

American Association for the Advancement of Science

The Canon National Parks Science Scholars Program will award scholarships to eight doctoral students in 2001. Each student selected will receive \$25,000 per year for up to three years to conduct research in the national parks. The Program is underwritten by Canon U.S.A., Inc.

The 2001 competition will focus on four research topics within the biological, physical, social and cultural sciences. The research topics are of critical importance to the management of the National Park System and selected by the National Park Service. Students applying for 2001 scholarships must submit dissertation proposals that address these topics.

Visit <http://www.nps.gov/socialscience/waso/acts.htm> for an application and guidelines, or contact Dr. Gary Machlis, Program Coordinator, Canon National Parks Science Scholars Program, Natural Resource Stewardship and Science, National Park Service, 1849 C Street, NW (MIB 3127), Washington, DC 20240, gmachlis@uidaho.edu.

Applications are due 1 June 2001. Winners will be announced August 2001.

visit our website and
register
to

WIN

a New
Volkswagen
Beetle from...

spectrum
Laboratory Products

An ISO 9002 Registered Company

1.800.632.9154



ScientistsWanted.com

Circle No. 23 on Readers' Service Card