

# Genetics, business do not mix

By TERRY MELLOR  
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

Corporations can now patent and sell all new forms of life they create in their laboratories, Jeremy Rifkin, head of the Peoples Business Commission told a Colloquy audience in the HUB last night.

He said that was one reason why he called for a four-year moratorium on genetic research. He said that during this time the people should be informed about the pros and cons of genetic research so that they can voice their opinions.

According to Rifkin, a small corporation called CETUS, which is composed of some of the major scientists in the genetic field, already is planning to capitalize on the new findings in genetics.

In regards to genetic research, Rifkin said "monumental decisions" are being made without public awareness.

Leading scientists in the field of genetics predict that within the next 15 years, advances such as the first live carbon-copied clone of a human being will be seen, he said. Cloning is the process of taking one cell and

trying to derive the total organism from it.

He said scientists may be able to produce new organisms, but they will not know the effects the organism will have on the environment until it's too late to stop it.

Rifkin said that a beneficial aspect of the research is the production of synthetic insulin. However, the detrimental aspects far outweigh it, he said. He analogized the consequences from the splitting of genes with the splitting of the atom.

All genetic changes are irreversible, according to Rifkin.

He said he became involved with genetic research while he was a writer for the New Times magazine after he received a tip about a drug company doing research in genetic recombination. After doing his own investigation of the subject, he said he decided prompt action was called for.

He said that in his research he found that Nobel Prize-winner Linus Pauling has proposed legislation requiring every person in the United States have their genotype tattooed on

their forehead to prevent certain people from mating with others. The genotype is the fundamental composition of an organism in terms of its hereditary factors.

Referring to the present generation, Rifkin said, "We are at the crossroads. If this society doesn't make a commitment, we will have sealed the fate of future generations from now to eternity."

Rifkin said that he is trying to form committees all over the country on all the major campuses to discuss the ethical questions raised by the tampering with the genes. For further information, he said to write to the Peoples Business Commission, 1346 Connecticut Ave. NW, Washington D.C. 20036.

He said the Peoples Business Commission has been researching the developments in the genetic field for about a year.

A book documenting the findings and possible effects has been written by Rifkin and Ted Howard entitled "Who Should Play God?" It is scheduled for release by Dell Books in about three weeks.

# OTIS plans consumer gripe day

The consumer committee of the Organization for Town Independent Students (OTIS) will sponsor a "Gripe Day" Wednesday for Centre County consumers.

Joseph Sobel, attorney-in-charge at the Harrisburg regional office of the Bureau for Consumer Protection, will be at the program to hear complaints, answer questions, and take suggestions regarding consumer affairs.

"I am coming at the invitation of OTIS to try and make more personal contact with the State College area," Sobel said. "We serve 22 counties, and with our office being located in Harrisburg, it is difficult for us to circulate. We are trying to get out to other areas."

Sobel said he hopes to give consumers with complaints information on where to channel their gripes.

"I want to give the people the capabilities and legal jurisdiction of the bureau," Sobel said. "I want to give some background and the most constructive path to follow with complaints."

"I think it is important that people supply us with information to do our job."

Jeremy Abrams, OTIS president, said the program is not just for students, but for all Centre County residents.

"We hope to get all the concerned consumers in for any specific gripes they have," Abrams said. "We hope both students and town people will attend."

Cathy Poole, head of the "Gripe Day" project, said the program formerly was held in Bellefonte, but was generally ineffective.

"We hope having the 'Gripe Day' at this location will get more people out," she said. "More people will also come out because this year, instead of having just an investigator from the bureau, we have an attorney."

Poole said it is an important project for the whole community, especially the long-range residents.

"The major purpose of this project is to make sure people are aware that there is somewhere to complain," Poole said.

—By Harry Glenn

# Candidates 'square off' tonight

A candidate's night will be held tonight at 7:30 in Simmons Lounge. Mayoral candidates Gregory Stewart and Arnold Addison will speak.

All interested in forming a new fraternity, Sigma Alpha Mu, should meet tonight at 10 in the 4th floor McKean study lounge.

The following Free U courses meet today. New members are welcome.

—Frisbee at 5 in the Women's Athletic Field

—Bicycle Repair and Maintenance at 7:30 in 367 Willard

—Mormon Doctrine at 7:05 in 207 Chambers

—Disco dancing at 7:30 in the HUB Ballroom

—Volleyball at 6 in the south gym of White Building. First come, first served.

—Softball at 4:30 on the HUB lawn, weather permitting

The Volunteer Service Center is recruiting people from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. today in 203 HUB to tutor, and to work

with the elderly, the handicapped, children, young adults and others.

Persons wishing to register for the Bloodmobile may do so in the ground floor HUB between 2nd and 5th periods today and tomorrow.

The following Japanese films will be shown tonight at 7:30 in the HUB Assembly Room. Admission is free:

—"Touring Japan."

—"Japan Today."

The Metropolitan Community Church is sponsoring a coffee house tonight at 9 at 415 E. Foster Ave.

The College of Science Student Council will meet tonight at 7 in 106 Boucke.

The Canoe Division of the Penn State Outing Club will meet tonight at 7:30 in 214 Boucke.

The GSA workshop committee will meet tonight at 6 in 305 Kern. The GSA programming-planning

committee will meet tonight at 7:30 in 305 Kern.

Nittany Divers will meet to discuss the SCUBA familiarization program tonight at 7 in the 1st floor Natatorium.

Froth Magazine will hold a staff meeting for all business and editorial staff tonight at 8 in 320 HUB. New members should attend.

Stewart Putnam will speak to the Health Planning and Administration Club tonight at 7:30 in the Living Center of the Human Development Building.

Mary K. Johnston of Birthright, Inc. will present a film and will answer questions tonight at 7:30 in the HUB reading room.

## Correction

The listing of Free U-courses in yesterday's Collegian Notes section was incorrect. Contact the Free U office for correct listing of Wednesday night classes.

# Senate okays GI benefits hike

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The Senate voted unanimously yesterday to increase veterans' GI Bill educational benefits by 6.6 per cent and to extend coverage to women who ferried military aircraft during World War II.

The bill, passed 91 to 0, would increase the monthly payment for a single full-time GI student from \$292 to \$311 and for a veteran with two dependents from \$396 to \$422.

An amendment by Sen. Barry Goldwater, R-Ariz., to bring the World War II

women pilots — the WASPs — under the GI Bill was passed by voice vote over the opposition of Sen. Alan Cranston, D-Calif., chairman of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee.

Cranston, the floor manager of the bill, said the WASPs were civilian employees of the government and got all the benefits of other civil servants. To bring them under the program, he said, might pave the way for demands for similar treatment of merchant sailors and other civilians involved in the war.

Goldwater, who reminded the Senate that 39 of the women pilots were killed while ferrying military aircraft, suggested that sexual discrimination was the only reason they were not brought into the Army Air Corps.

The Senate rejected by 73 to 18 an amendment by Sens. Jacob Javits, R-N.Y., and Daniel Patrick Moynihan, D-N.Y., that called for the government to pay 70 per cent of a GI student's tuition if it exceeded \$400.

# Psychic researcher is a natural for supernatural

By ANNE CLIFFORD  
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

An eerie old woman in glowing white, a four-foot humanoid covered with short red hair, a faceless figure clothed in black, and other assorted creatures go bump in the night . . . Or do they?

That's what David Hufford, a doctor of folklore in the behavioral sciences department of Hershey Medical Center, is trying to find out.

Hufford has been researching first-hand experiences of supernatural phenomena during the past six years. He explained his work yesterday in the HUB at Colloquy's week-long "Wide World of Health" program.

Hufford is investigating a nightmare folklore tradition called "the old hag" and also the "out of the body experience" some persons claim to feel when near serious injuries or death.

The individuals involved in these phenomena say they have experienced terrifying or calming "presences" near them, Hufford said. Some have even claimed to see and hear them, he said.

In his presentation, Hufford said he was not trying to explain the nature of these occurrences. Rather, Hufford said, he wanted to present his research and leave it to the individual to draw his own conclusions. His work, he said, involves considering the most scientifically probable hypotheses for the causes of these occurrences.

In Newfoundland, Canada, Hufford discovered the tradition of "the old hag." This phenomenon usually strikes a person when he lies on his back in bed, he said. It involves a feeling of paralysis, an inability to make any sound — such as a scream for help — and an impression of being attacked by something.

Hufford said that in Newfoundland there is a strong traditional belief in "the old hag," so named because after a few attacks a person becomes a bit "hag"gard.

He conducted tests among several hundred people at Memorial University in Newfoundland and found about one-sixth of them had experienced "the old hag." He also found that

knowledge of tradition had little influence on occurrence of their attacks. Half of those attacked had not heard of the belief before, he said.

Hufford then tested people in California, Nebraska, Kentucky and Pennsylvania and found the frequency of "old hag" attacks varied little from the Newfoundland results.

Hufford also said he conducted interviews of persons who had experienced "the old hag." Hufford said one man described an incident that occurred when he was 15 years old. He said that while waiting to fall asleep, he heard footsteps gently coming up the stairs. He said he later saw an old woman in a very loose fitting garment and a large hat, glowing white and gliding in his room.

According to the man's account, Hufford said, he tried to scream and jump up, but he couldn't speak or move. He said he was terrified, when the figure stood beside the bed. Then it changed its shape into a creature that was "more head and less body." By analogy, the man called it a "white elephant," Hufford said.

Hufford said that another individual told him that after about five years of hearing what she described as "snuffling," a bloodhound-like noise, outside her bedroom. She said her door opened one night and there stood a short re-haired humanoid creature, with red eyes and a very short neck. It stood there, she told Hufford, and after that, she had no more supernatural experiences.

Hufford has studied the phenomenon of "out of the body experience," in which an individual who has had a close brush with death or serious injury feels he is outside of his body.

The person may sense or even see others in the same state as he, perhaps religious figures or pre-deceased relatives. Often, Hufford said, the individual claims to have had a review of the events of his life.


Hufford said many people who claim to have undergone this experience say they feel very comfortable and pleasant during and after it. A connection between "the old hag" and this

experience may exist, he said. He cited one interview in which an individual described an old hag experience, but at the end of the occurrence, the presence she sensed "went into" her and disappeared.

Other experiences — neither "old hag" nor "out of the body" — from patients at Hershey Medical Center have been comfortable and soothing, according to Hufford's interviews. Patients in traction or on their backs have heard, in different cases, "swishy" footsteps, felt a kiss on the forehead, or seen a cloaked, faceless figure. But when they look to see who is there, the sense of a presence disappears and the feeling of peace remains for a while.

Hufford said there is not yet enough information to explain these phenomena. Scientific experiments with laboratory controls are difficult to perform with supernatural events. Hufford said. He said he advocates a use of "design features," such as traditional beliefs and how widespread they are, to discover the cause of these phenomena.

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**SPECIAL EVENTS**

ASA Budget Committee meeting, noon, Room 307 HUB.  
STS-Two Cultures Dialogue. Rustom Roy and Robert Heinsohn on "The Nature of Technology and Its Societal Effects, noon, State College Hotel.  
"DIP" seminars. "Resume Preparation," 5th period; "Job Search Strategies," 6th period, Walnut conference room.  
Free U, frisbee, 5 p.m., women's athletic field.  
Free U, volleyball, 6:30 p.m., 1M Bldg.  
Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship, 6:30 p.m., Room 318 HUB.  
Alliance Student Fellowship, 7 p.m., Room 319 HUB.  
Tau Beta Pi meeting, 7 p.m., Room 104 Osmond.  
Free U, mormon doctrine, 7:05 p.m., Room 207 Chambers.  
Focus on Sweden lecture, "Swedish Parliament," 7:15 p.m., Room 314 Boucke.  
Birthright, Inc., lecture and film, 7:30 p.m., HUB reading room.  
Free U, bicycle repair and maintenance, 7:30 p.m., Room 367 Willard.  
Free U, disco dancing, 7:30 p.m., HUB ballroom.  
Free U, yoga, 7:30 p.m., Room 225 HUB.  
Japanese language and literature films, 7:30 p.m., HUB assembly hall.  
P.S.O.C. Canoe Division meeting, 7:30 p.m., Room 214 Boucke.

Fred Curdts (formerly of Morning Song), Larry Bish (formerly of the Rounds Bros.), Terry Witlock, Wayne Addleman (pedal steel), and Andy Jackman (formerly from Muggin)

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