EDITORIAL

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LETTERS

Dear Editors:

With respect to Dr. Bernard Rollin and his comment on telos and genetic manipulation (*Between the Species*, Spring 1986), I wish to express my whole-hearted disagreement with his altruistic implications of applying genetic engineering to make animals "happy in the environments in which we put them." This, as I see it, is one of the fundamental flaws of the genetic engineering technocrat who would indeed engineer animals to make them adapt (i.e., happy) to "factory" farming and other environments that are not conducive to their overall well-being. Furthermore, using biotechnology to make humans, animals, and agriculturally plants more adaptable to increasingly pathogenic (stressful and disease-enhancing) environmental conditions is the kind of interventive, yet profitable, approach that is the hallmark of ecologically unsound agriculture and a medical and veterinary approach to human and animal health problems that ignores the importance of prevention and focuses primarily upon treating the individual and not the whole or system.

In sum, my concern is that genetic engineering will probably be applied as a technological fix to help humans and other living organisms that we value adapt to an increasingly unliveable environment. It is for these reasons that the new biotechnology industry should not be heralded as our salvation.

Michael W. Fox
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BETWEEN THE SPECIES

SUMMER 1986
Vol. 2 No. 3

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*BETWEEN THE SPECIES* is published quarterly by the Schweitzer Center of the San Francisco Bay Institute/Congress of Cultures. We encourage readers to send us philosophical essays, reviews, interviews, poetry, stories, and art for possible publication. Materials submitted for publication must be accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed mailing envelope. *BETWEEN THE SPECIES* is primarily a journal of moral philosophy, but activists' and scientific contributions are also welcome. Inquiries, letters, manuscripts, books, and subscription orders should be sent to:

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Subscription rates: individuals (real persons) $12 annually (single copies, $3); institutions: $20 annually. A 40% discount on the institutional price is given to humane societies and animal protection and welfare organizations. All institutions by direct order (no discount): $12 annually. Orders from outside the U.S. and Canada are sent by surface mail; if air mail is preferred, please include an additional U.S. $10 when subscribing, U.S. $2.50 on single copy orders. If ordering from outside the U.S., please arrange for your remittances to be payable in U.S. dollars drawn on a bank located in the U.S., or send an international money order or bank draft in your currency at the current rate of exchange.

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