Kimberly Smith

Biology 1090

Issue 8

Jeffery Hart

Thesis: Hart’s point of view on Stem Cell research, written by the National Review, supports the issue mainly because of the many medicinal benefits provided by harvesting a “single –cell organism” and any implication of it being the same as a fully grown human being is not only wrong, but scientifically inaccurate.

1. The fact that there are about 100,000 fertilized cells frozen in maternal clinics, due to the process of in vitro fertilization, used by women unable to conceive children on their own. They claim the cells are human beings but they are actually “Blastocyst” which is the size of a pinhead. This is the size needed for researchers need to harvest them. Hart explains how President Bush was misinformed about the facts of the current research and how the National Institute of health claims Bush was wrong in stating that 60 lines of stem cells already exist are adequate for research, when in fact there are only 15 lines which is not enough for research.
2. Hart disagrees with the concept of single fertilized cell is human being. He uses the analogy of apple versus tree, so the definition should be “potential child” and even a potential child is not yet a human being. Hart also talks about how the leading schools and universities in this country are not only open to this research but like Harvard are taking steps to help fund further research. Hart explains the controversy as being between idea and actuality, stating that the idea of a single-cell human versus the actuality has not defined life forming at conception is unsustainable.
3. Hart explains the National review as having a political agenda because they insist that human beings are created at conception. He says the articles are used to influence political parties and a conservative agenda.
4. Hart bring up the idea of idea versus actuality and its influence on shaping the magazine and based on examples of how the National Review has written articles around conservative political influences of the time. The idea of stem cell research being morally unjust is a weak theory and opposition to the research is becoming irrelevant in practice and is going forward without government funding.
5. Yes. The idea versus actuality argument is convenient for a society to believe and the consensus would be the result of those who have morally invested ideas compromising the actuality in the turn of events as well as the being pushed by popular demand.
6. A. statement “such human being s is being destroyed all the time and such mass homicide arouses no public outcry” Harts makes this statement to prove that this is only political propaganda anis distorted. B. “But just as a seed a potential apple tree is no orchard a potential child is not yet human being.” Harts analogy is faulty because the single fertilized cell has the potential of growing into a human to be rejected by the mother as a way to figure out how to heal mankind of it incurable diseases. C. “The National reviews case against stem cell research lies on the assertion that single cells are human being.” This is oversimplified in the fact that it’s not about cells being human or not but about doing the research on humans. D. Buckley has defined the conservatism as the politics of reality. Harts states that all conservatives play the politic of real life issues regardless of the merit and the anti-utopian society where their agenda wins of logic or actuality. E. Hart faulty generalization of what our rights are or would be in the wake of a fully legalized stem celled research in incomplete in reasoning.
7. Hart is fairly credible he is a senior editor at the National Review and his article gives references to scientific research of the past. Hart describes information about the basic functionality of stem cell research and the reason for the research which help to understand the issue of both scientific and researched based information as well as social and moral issues’.