

Cornell scientist suggests compromise on abortion

United Press International
WASHINGTON — Cornell University scientist Carl Sagan says a better understanding of brain development in the unborn child might offer a compromise solution to the abortion controversy.

Sagan suggests the time at which it might be agreed that aborting a fetus is permissible is before it acquires the intelligence that makes man unique.

The fetal brain seems to reach that point of development, he said, toward the end of the first three months of pregnancy or near the beginning of the second trimester. Sagan emphasized, however, that more must be known before legal guidelines are based on such an idea.

Sagan is an astronomer, director of the Laboratory of Planetary Sciences at Cornell and a leader in the search for extraterrestrial life. He

turned to life on Earth in a new book, "The Dragons of Eden," discussing the evolution of human intelligence.

Some of the ideas he developed in the book led to his entry into the abortion debate.

Sagan said on one side of the debate, the phrase "right to life" is designed to inflame rather than illuminate.

"We gratuitously slaughter many animals that are capable of feeling

deep emotions as far as we can tell. And no one seems tremendously concerned about that. So it can't really be just a right to life.

"Now on the other side is the idea that there are no moral or ethical consequences of abortion," Sagan said. "That's clearly mistaken also because a prematurely born baby, let's say in the eighth month, is identical to a fetus in the eighth month except one's inside and one's outside. Why should it be permissible to kill one and not the other?"

What is that uniquely human quality that makes murder impermissible?

He suggests it is intelligence — "something we do not share with the other animals."

Sagan said the brain of the very young human fetus is much like that of a fish or an amphibian. The human brain seems to develop as it evolved over the ages. Sagan said it is the massive outer layer of the brain, called the neocortex, that provides "the essential human quality."

It seems to me," he said, "that a possible compromise would be to find out precisely when is the time when the fetus develops this uniquely human part of the brain."

"At that point we might say it becomes human. And at that point our ethical considerations apply and not earlier."

Sagan also expanded the question of ethics to the great apes and dolphins and whales which research has shown "are much more intelligent than in general we have given them credit for."

Recent experiments, for example have shown that chimpanzees and gorillas are capable of learning to communicate with humans in sign language.

"They can put together hundreds of words into new sentences, new compound words, new syntaxes, all done correctly in a creative way. If that were translated to, let's say writing, and you were in another room listening to what the chimpanzee was saying, I don't think you'd be able to tell that that was a chimpanzee and not a 4-year-old child."

"Now, if that's the case, don't we have to reconsider our idea that it's all right to kill chimpanzees, that it's all right to lock them up in cages in zoos?"

Campus Names

Scholarship set up by Bracewell

Houston Attorney Searcy Bracewell has donated \$25,000 to Texas A&M University to establish a President's Endowed Scholarship. Wednesday, university officials presented him with a plaque recognizing his contribution.

Texas A&M Chancellor Jack K. Williams bestowed the honor on Bracewell during a meeting of the Texas A&M Research Foundation which Bracewell chairs.

Also on hand to express appreciation was Robert L. Walker, development director for the university.

Dr. Hall appointed to department post

Dr. Charles F. Hall has been appointed head of the Veterinary Microbiology Department at Texas A&M University effective Wednesday, said Veterinary College Dean George C. Shelton.

Hall, 54, succeeds Dr. Leland C. Grumbles who is leaving his post of 20 years to return to full-time teaching and research.

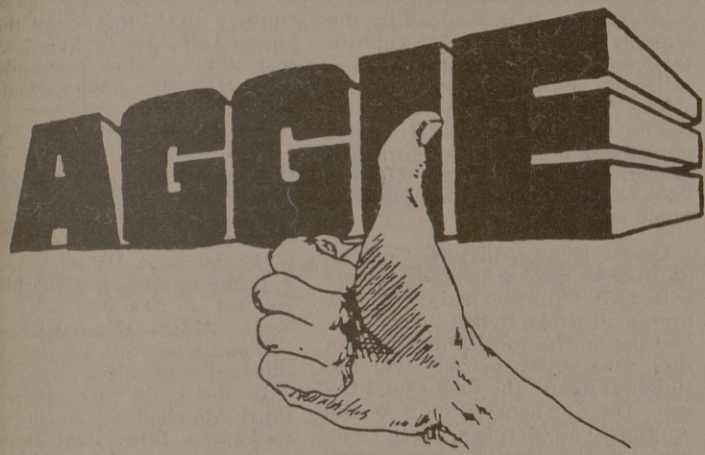
Hall first joined the College of Veterinary Medicine in 1959 after teaching at Michigan State University and the University of Arkansas, Shelton said.

Engineering prof gets excellence-in-teaching award

Dr. Ralph J. Vernon of Texas A&M University this week received the 21st Annual General Dynamics Corporation Award for excellence in teaching.

Dr. Vernon is a professor of industrial engineering and former head of the Industrial Hygiene and Safety Engineering Division of the Department of Industrial Engineering.

The \$1,500 check which goes with the General Dynamics Award was presented by Engineering Dean Fred J. Benson.



Discount
1/2 price

students, faculty & staff
for only \$4.60 you can have

The Houston Chronicle

delivered to your dorm, apartment or house every day
for the entire summer semester

June 1 - Aug. 13 — \$4.60

or

June 1 - Aug. 31 — \$5.70

Just call 693-2323 or 846-0763

PHOTOGRAPHERS NEEDED!!!!

The Aggieland '78 is currently accepting portfolios and applications for photographers. To apply simply submit a MAXIMUM of ten (10) black and white 8 x 10 or 11 x 14 MOUNTED photographs. All photos are to have name of photographer, address, and phone number where you can be reached during the summer.

DEADLINE FOR
SUBMITTING IS MAY 30,
1977

No color transparencies, or
prints PLEASE.

ALL PHOTOGRAPHS WILL
BE RETURNED WITHIN
SIXTY DAYS AFTER THE
MAY 30 DEADLINE.

SEND PORTFOLIOS TO:
EDITOR, THE AGGIELAND
'78
Reed McDonald Building
Room 216
College Station, Texas
77840

Get into some
great pants!

TOP DRAWER
Culpepper Plaza

Knowledge is your best
protection.

Carl Bussell's
DIAMOND ROOM
3731 E. 29th 846-4708
Town & Country Center
MEMBER-AMERICAN GEM SOCIETY

EPISCOPAL STUDENT CENTER

902 Jersey
(adjacent to southside of campus)
846-1726

Tuesdays, 5:30 p.m.:
Eucharist & Supper

Sundays, 6:30 p.m.
Fellowship & Eucharist

Fr. James Moore, Chaplain

SHEAR CLASS

for super hair



College Station, Texas
209 E. University
846-4771

abc INTERSTATE Theaters
846-5714 & 846-1151
UNIVERSITY SQUARE SHOPPING CENTER
Bargain Matinees Daily until 5:00 p.m.

CINEMA I
DAILY AT
3:10, 5:15
7:30, 9:35
WOODY DIANE
ALLEN KEATON
TONY CAROL PAUL
ROBERTS KANE SIMON
Directed by WOODY ALLEN

"ANNIE
HALL"
PG LAST 4 DAYS United Artists
CHECK EAGLE CLASSIFIED
FOR FREE TICKETS!!!

CINEMA II
PAUL NEWMAN
ROBERT REDFORD
ROBERT SHAW
DAILY
2:45
5:00
7:20
9:45
TECHNICOLORS PG
A UNIVERSAL RELEASE '76

Welcome

Summer School Students

Lou has a complete supply of
used books for your
summer classes

Lou also has a complete stock of calculator supplies

— Your Complete Bookstore —

Loupot's Bookstore

Northgate—
Across from the
Post Office