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## New heart poses ethical questions

United Press International  
Questions triggered by the first permanent implant of a man-made heart in a human being go like this:  
— Are the clicks from the plastic heart in 61-year-old Barney B. Clark's chest the first ticks of an immortality clock?  
— With science promising more man-made parts to replace worn out human ones, is the conquest of mortality a dreamable dream?  
— Or is the truly bionic human—a

merging of person and machine — still just fantasy?

The questions were put to experts in bioethics and medicine in the wake of the historic heart operation in Utah this week.

"We have not crashed the old-age barrier," said Dr. Amitai Etzioni, founder of the Center for Policy Research and professor at George Washington University in Washington, D. C.

Life extension through bionic

parts such as an artificial heart is possible but don't look for anything beyond about 120 years, Etzioni says.

"We are a long way from replacing or rejuvenating the slow decline of the brain," he said. "But I would not want to have doctors stop experimenting."

Dr. Paul Beeson, professor of medicine, University of Washington Medical School, Seattle, said the world's first implanted artificial heart did not persuade him of man's event-

tual immortality.

Beeson, a distinguished geriatrician and editor of the Journal of the American Geriatrics Society, said:

"The body ages and dies. Eighty-five years seems a reasonable goal. Probably no one lives beyond 115 years."

Beeson said the heart implanted the other day would be looked on as primitive 10 years from now.

If it should become widely available, he saw no ethical problem with its use in appropriate cases.

"It really is no different than a hip replacement," he said. "The question on use should be — does it better the quality of life?"

"The man who had the first artificial heart implant knew the many risks and took the step because he wanted to live on for a few more months or years."

To Prof. Robert Paul Ramsey, emeritus professor of religion, Princeton University, the triumph that took place in a surgical suite in a Utah hospital did not signal victory over mortality.

The idea that a person was dead

when his heart was no longer beating in his chest was confronted years ago, Ramsey said.

That was when people undergoing heart surgery were put on heart-lung machines so their bad hearts could be stopped, fixed, then started again. The heart-lung machines were performing the work of the stopped heart.

Besides, Ramsey said, the life center has shifted from the heart to the brain. That is a result of the widely accepted Harvard Criteria for Death. This holds that brain death — flat brain waves on a brainwave machine — is death, even though a person's heart may still beat.

What bothers Ramsey is spending hundreds of millions of dollars to develop the artificial heart.

Ramsey said he had a doctoral student who argued the money could be better spent on health promotion — selling people on the idea of jogging, for example.

"She argued," he said, "that this would produce more healthy hearts."

At the Kennedy Institute, George-

town University, the Rev. Richard McCormick, S.J., said perfection of an artificial heart to the point where it would be available to just about anyone who could afford it raised serious social justice questions.

McCormick, Rose Kennedy professor of Christian Ethics, said the question was — with finite resources, how should national funds be divided.

"How should this pie be split between health care and other priorities," he said. "And within health care, how much should be spent for prevention and how much for crises. And, in the case of exotic, expensive technologies such as the artificial heart the question is — who gets what when all cannot get it?"

"We don't know how to handle our technology," he said. "Take the respirator as one example. Some are kept on respirators far longer than needed."

On the immortality question, McCormick said:

"Where I come from, we're on a pilgrimage and death is not an end."

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staff photo by Octavio Garcia

### A chair for Monday night

Julia Sullivan, a sophomore majoring in English from Humble, is not sitting on a real helmet. Instead, this is one of the Aggie chairs for sale in the MSC Bookstore.

The chairs are made one at a time upon request by a California company especially for Texas A&M. The price of this one is \$425 and it has already been sold.

## Justice gives views on abortion decision

United Press International  
WASHINGTON — Justice Harry Blackmun, in an unusual television interview broadcast Saturday, said he presented being called a "butcher" and "murderer" for the historic 1973 decision legalizing abortion.

"You can think of any name to call someone, and I have been called it — Butcher of Dachau, murderer, Pontius Pilate, King Herod — you name it," said the author of the decision.

Blackmun made the comments in an interview with Cable News Network as the court began its first sweeping review of the abortion controversy in a decade.

Blackmun said he agonized over the decision that legalized abortion in the first three months of pregnancy. He noted he was denounced afterwards in an avalanche of mail. The

ruling became the prime target of the anti-abortion movement.

The interview was the first inside a justice's office on court matters; O'Connor gave a brief interview last year on another topic.

Giving a glimpse into the secret workings of the court, Blackmun said the justices, including himself, are "prima donnas" and admitted "there are times when it gets a little tense."

"I'm sure that we all play hardball a little too much on occasion," he said. "But if someone's going to play hardball with me, I'll play hardball back."

Blackmun, 74, was appointed by Richard Nixon in 1970. He has been edging toward the liberal wing of the court.

In recent months Blackmun has clashed with Justice O'Connor, appointed by President Reagan as the

court's first woman and newest justice.

Blackmun noted O'Connor appears to have joined the conservative wing. "The justice is able, articulate," he said. "She gives no quarter, she asks no quarter and she's a fine justice."

Blackmun recalled accidentally brushing his hearing aid and causing a beep to go off during the court's secret weekly conference.

"I did it a second time and Justice O'Connor said, 'I think the room is bugged.' And Justice (John Paul) Stevens immediately supported her."

Blackmun said he mischievously said nothing until another justice saw him brush the device during courtroom arguments. "Then, of course, the secret was out and we all laughed about it."

United Press International  
SALT LAKE CITY — Artificial heart recipients will be given keys to turn off their life-support pumps in case they decide against living tethered to machinery, bionics pioneer Willem Kolff said.

Such a key will be given to Barney Clark, 61, a retired Seattle dentist who became the first recipient of the permanent, plastic replacement heart Thursday.

"If the man suffers and feels it isn't worth it any more, he has a key that he can apply," said Kolff, head of the University of Utah's Artificial Organs Division, inventor of the artificial kidney, and founder of the artificial heart program.

"I think it is entirely legitimate that this man, whose life has been extended, should have the right to cut it off if he doesn't want it, if life ceases to be enjoyable," he added.

"The operation won't be a success unless he is happy. That has always been our criteria — to restore happiness."

But Kolff predicted that Clark and future patients will find life enjoyable.

"My guess is if they feel well, they will be delighted," he said. "They will enjoy life possibly more than they have done before when they were ill. If you should be dead and you are given another lease on life, you look at that life with quite different eyes."

When Clark signed the consent form for the operation approved by the Food and Drug Administration, he was specifically given the right to withdraw from the experiment at any stage, including after the surgery.

"Of course the only way to make the decision afterwards is to have the option of turning the juice off," said Dr. Robert Jarvik, developer of the Jarvik-7 heart placed in Clark.

Jarvik and Kolff discussed the philosophical implications of the life-extending heart replacement surgery in interviews Friday.

Jarvik said the philosophers argued it would be impossible to fully inform a patient prior to the operation about all of the ramifications of living

tethered to a 375-pound power unit that will severely limit mobility.

"There are people who would say that for us to have a program that condones suicide is morally wrong," Jarvik said. "But in practice, of course, the key has nothing to do with it. People can die in many ways and they are amazingly creative about it."

"There is no way we could deny that patient his basic capability and, as far as I am concerned, his right to choose for himself," said Jarvik.

## Rape, assaults reported

by Patti Schwierzke  
Battalion Reporter

A rape and two assaults were reported on the Texas A&M campus Sunday night and early Monday morning.

One student reported that she was raped about 11:15 p.m. near All Faiths Chapel. The suspect was described as a white man with dark hair between 30 and 35 years old. She said he was about 6 feet 1 inch tall, weighed about 230 pounds and was wearing dark pants, a dark windbreaker and cowboy boots.

There are no suspects in the case.

Another female student reported that she was assaulted about 1:25 a.m. in a dorm room in the basement of Mosher Hall by a black man about 25 years old. She described the suspect as being about 6 feet 2 inches tall, weighing about 175 pounds and wearing a beige sweater with rust stripes, tight black pants

and thick high-heeled shoes.

Another Texas A&M student, who delivers pizza for Domino's Pizza, reported that he was assaulted in Cain Hall about 1:10 a.m.

When the student arrived at room 306C Cain Hall to deliver a pizza, he discovered that it was a custodial closet. As he left, two black men assaulted him. They both had cloth bags over their heads and wooden clubs in their hands. One man was about six feet tall and weighed about 190 pounds. The other suspect was described as being about 6 feet 4 inches tall and weighing about 240 pounds.

A police officer walking in the parking lot of Cain Hall said he saw the Domino's Pizza box and insulation thrown out of a window in Cain Hall. The University Police are now examining the box for fingerprints.

## Minorities underrepresented at A&M

by Donn Friedman  
Battalion Reporter

The story of minorities at Texas A&M University is one of differing perspectives. Some say the University is doing everything it can to recruit minority students. Others say programs to recruit minorities aren't working fast enough.

University officials said they are working to recruit more black and Hispanic students.

On Dec. 2, 1980, Acting University President Charles H. Samson released a memo that outlined ways to increase minority enrollment at Texas A&M.

Three days later, the Board of Regents held a special meeting. During that meeting, they passed a resolution that said:

• The University System has been, and will continue to be oper-

ated in such a way as to help overcome the effects of past racial discrimination.

• The University also should strive to maintain an annual increase in the number of minority students, and submit a plan that will tell how this can be done.

In his book "Minorities in Higher Education," education researcher Alexander W. Astin said the percentage of Hispanic undergraduates at Texas A&M makes it the most underrepresented university in the nation.

According to Astin's figures, 12.4 percent of all students in Texas colleges and universities are Hispanic. At Texas A&M, only 2.3 percent of the students are Hispanic.

Blacks are underrepresented at Texas A&M by 9.1 percent, Astin said. His figures show that 9.8 per-

cent of all students in Texas are black, while only 0.7 percent of the Texas A&M student body is black.

Astin's figures include only universities that he designated as flagship institutions — those that receive a large amount of research grants and place many of its graduates in powerful government or industry positions.

In most cases, Astin chose one flagship institution per state, with the exception of California, where he included three, and Texas, where he included Texas A&M and the University of Texas.

But Astin's figures are at least three years old — the Texas A&M student body is now 3.75 percent Hispanic and 1.25 percent black.

Some of that increase may be attributed, at least in part, to compliance with a report from the De-

partment of Health, Education and Welfare that outlined conditions that minority students face in the South.

The HEW report was released in the summer of 1981, after the regents' plan was released. The report said Texas didn't comply with Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Acts, which stated that discrimination in federal programs is prohibited on the basis of race, color or national origin.

Texas was required to submit a desegregation plan for the state's universities. Each university system within the state was asked to submit its own plan.

Texas A&M's plan called for an increase of 105 black and 135 Hispanic students in 1982, and 525 black and 675 Hispanics by 1986.

The state plan, which was submit-

ted to the Department of Education in the spring of 1981, has not yet been approved, but Texas A&M already has started to implement its part of the plan.

The ethnic enrollment for the 1982 fall semester included 441 blacks and 1,355 Hispanics. The figures were compiled by the registrar's office from admission application forms that usually are filled out by students. The results show an increase of 58 blacks and 178 Hispanics over 1980 figures.

The increased enrollment of black and Hispanic students is largely a result of efforts by the Office of School Relations, the director of the office said.

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forecast

Today's Forecast: Clear skies through today.  
High of about 65, with tonight's low in the 40s.