



**Football Chickens and Headless Mice:
Ethical Issues in Genetic Engineering**

Dr Gary Comstock

**Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies
Iowa State University
Ames, IA 50011-1306**

Date: Monday, October 16, 2000

Time: 7:30p.m.

**Place: Room 142
Zabel Hall
Eastern Oregon University
La Grande Oregon**

Direction to the meeting: From the TriCities take I-82 and follow directions to Umatilla. Follow I-82 until it intersects I-84. Take I-84 east and follow directions to Pendleton/La Grande. Take La Grande first exit. Follow Adams Ave into town. Turn right onto 4th St. Drive south to K Ave. Take left onto K Ave. Drive one block to Eastern main entrance. Past the entrance, take a left into the parking lot. Parking is free. See campus map for location of Zabel Hall. A copy of the campus map may be found at <http://www.eou.edu/map.html>

Abstract: This lecture uses thought experiments and slides to raise ethical issues in genetic engineering. It begins with the following scenario. Imagine yourself 50 years from now standing in the middle of a huge antiseptic warehouse staring at rows of tan colored objects that look something like

footballs. Shiny stainless steel pipes descend from the ceiling and disappear into mouth-like orifices on top of each object. Black rubber tubes are attached by suction cups to the bottoms. You are staring at thousands of living egg machines, transgenic animals genetically engineered to convert feed and water into eggs more efficiently than any of their evolutionary ancestors, layer hens. Should scientific research aim to create this kind of science fiction farming? Professor Comstock will raise these types of questions.

About the Speaker: Professor Comstock has published more than 50 articles and book chapters in his areas of interest, life science ethics and philosophy of religion. He is currently finishing a manuscript on ethical issues associated with biotechnology. Comstock is a member of the Center of Theological Inquiry at Princeton, past president of the Society for Agriculture and Human Values. Recently, he has been developing an extensionist theory of environmental ethics. Comstock received his Ph.D. from the University of Chicago in 1983.

If you wish to have dinner with the speaker before the meeting, please contact Brian Rapko at Brian.Rapko@pnl.gov or at (509) 376-1571. Dinner will be at 5:30 at Ten Depot Restaurant. To find the restaurant follow Adams street into town. After passing Safeway, drive one more block and turn right on to Depot St. Go one more block. Ten Depot will be on the right.

Brian is also coordinating rides down to the meeting. If you either need or can offer a ride to La

Grande from the Tri Cities, give Brain a call at 376-1571 and he will act as a clearinghouse for those requests/ offers.

The La Grande contingent of our Section has been very active and supportive of all the activities we hold in the Tri Cities. Since we don't hold many meetings in La Grande, it would be a good show of support and appreciation to have a good turn out for this one meeting.

Volunteers Urgently Needed for Family Affair

If you have thought about helping out at one of our community outreach events, but have hesitated to get involved, this is your chance. Our big annual Event is coming up and we need your help! The event is, of course, Family Affair, which will be held Oct 21-22 at the Pasco TRAC building. We will be helping young chemists-to-be to make slime, putty, etc. Perhaps you have some ideas for other demos? To volunteer, please give Steve Krogsrud a call at 372-2302, or call Rich Lucke at 375-6847.

November Events

- **Social for 50 Year Members; Friday November 3, 2000.**
- **Election for Next Year's Section Officers**
- **ACS Meeting, Wednesday November 8, 2000; Dr. Robert Bates, "The Chemistry and Alchemy of Brewing"**

Q: What did one titration say to the other?

A: Let's meet at the endpoint!

Nominations for Section Officers for 2001

It is time again to hold elections for next year's local section officers. Anna Cavinato is soliciting nominations for the various elected offices. Candidates are sought for chair-elect (3 year term – chair elect, chair, and immediate past chair); secretary (1 year term), and treasurer (1 year term).

If you are interested or want to nominate a qualified candidate, please contact Anna Cavinato. Anna can be contacted by email: cavinato@eou.edu or call (541) 962-3561.

Section News from the 220th National ACS Meeting in Washington D.C.

For the year 2001, the registration fees National meetings for ACS members will be \$255. For graduate student members the fee is \$45 and for undergraduate members or student affiliates, the fee is \$35. These increases are results of a resolution passed a year ago to help Meetings and Expositions to at least break even in their finances. The annual membership fee will not change for the 2001 year. There is a surplus of funds in the ACS for last year.

The Board of the ACS has appropriated \$129,000 to promote Landmarks. The Hanford site is one of those and it would certainly place our local section on the map if we were the leaders in promoting this.

At the Chicago ACS National Meeting scheduled in the fall of 2001, they will be accepting posters with the theme "Looking Back: What a Future it has Been". This theme will also fit the Hanford history. Some of the history was available at the NORM our section sponsored. Perhaps a poster can be ready by next fall.

The theme for National Chemistry Week for the year 2000 is "Kitchen Chemistry".

ACS National elections will be under way next month. The two candidates for president-elect are Glenn Crosby, emeritus from Washington State University and Eli Pearce, of the Herman Mark Polymer Institute. When you receive your ballot, exercise your right to vote and please mark the candidate of your choice. A good leader of the ACS is what we want.

Q: What do you pay a policeman attending evening chemistry classes?

A: Copper Nitrate

Tim Hubler Wins Fitzner-Eberhardt Award

We were remiss in not mentioning last month that Tim Hubler was chosen by PNNL for one of three prestigious Fitzner-Eberhardt awards. The award honors scientists who have distinguished themselves in educational outreach activities. Tim was awarded \$1500 and a beautiful plaque this past May. He won the award for all his chemical educational work in connection with the Richland ACS Section and his collaboration with CBC on undergraduate research.

He is currently teamed with Karen Grant and Sam Bryan on a Sigma Xi/CBC project that would improve undergraduate science education.

Other Professional Society Meetings

The Columbia Chapter Health Physics Society is hosting Dr. Mel Sikov, who will speak on "Controlling Radionuclide Exposures of the Embryo/Fetus." The talk will be on Tuesday, October 10, 2000, at the Richland Tower Inn. Please contact: Deborah Brown by e-mail(deborah.brown@pnl.gov), or phone (376-4596) not later than October 6th for details.

II The Tri-Cities Chapter of the International Council of Systems Engineering will be touring the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO) facility at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, October 10, 2000. Please contact Renee Bellack at 376-3810 for details.

II The Eastern Washington Chapter of Academy of Certified Hazardous Materials Managers (ACHMM), invites you to a joint meeting scheduled for October 12, 2000 in Richland, Washington to be held at the Washington State University Main Auditorium (Tri Cities Campus) from 6:00 to 8:00

p.m. Mr. Keith Klein, General Manager, Department of Energy, Richland, has kindly agreed to address this special assembly. For additional information about the meeting contact: RS Viswanath, WSCF/Analytical Services Project/Fluor Hanford at 373-7189.

New Members!

We would like to welcome the following new ACS members: **Debra L. Burnet, L. Odoms and Dr. Li Qiong Wang.** We would also like to welcome **Michael B. Goshe**, who has recently joined the Richland Section, and welcome back **Dr. Jon Karl Magnuson**, who reinstated his membership. We look forward to seeing each of you at future Richland Section Functions!

GOODBYES!

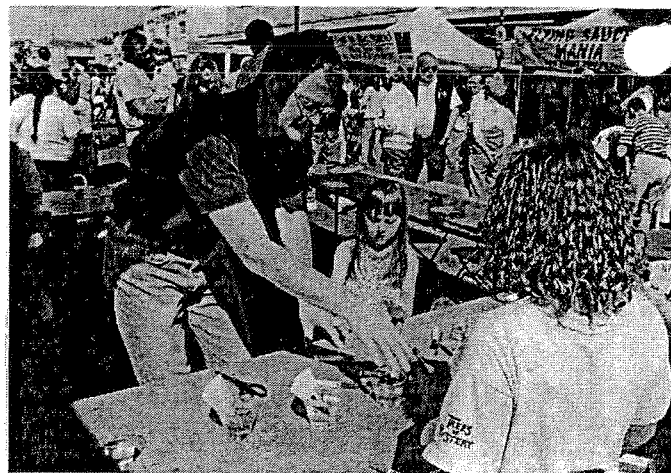
We would like to wish the best to the following members who have transferred out of the Richland Section: **Gayle Barnes Broom, Therese Clauss and Thomas A. Lane**

NEW WEBSITE FOR C&EN EMPLOYMENT CLASSIFIEDS

Finding the position that is right for you has just gotten easier. Just log on to C&EN Online at <http://pubs.acs.org/cen> and click on ACS Job Bank at the top of the home page. At the heart of the new website are the most recent listings from C&EN print classified ads as well as access to the ACS Career Services Professional Data Bank. The page also features free career articles from the magazine on topics ranging from salaries to starting your new laboratory. There are links for both job seekers and employers looking to match talented chemists with their dream jobs. Searching the classifieds is free to all ACS members.

Q: What do you call a synchronized swimming team, all named Jennifer?

A: Hydrogens



Pictures from recent PNNL-Richland ACS Section activity at the Pasco Fiery Food Festival on September 9th.

A young woman learns about pH (left). Sam Bryan helps demonstrate paper chromatography (right)



Richland Section
American Chemical Society
P.O. Box 999
Richland, WA 99352
Dennis Wester
MIN K7-74